

Dear Catechism Families of Calvary Lutheran Church,



We look forward to working with you and your 7th and/or 8th graders toward their confirmation.

The Rite of Confirmation is a major milestone in the faith journey of our young people. Most of them were small babies when you brought them to the baptismal font. At that time, they didn't understand what baptism meant, what wonderful grace it bestowed on them, and what the life of a baptized child of God should look like. Through years of worship and Sunday school, their understanding of faith has deepened. The time of catechism classes is a further, intense period of learning about God, the church, and our calling as Jesus' disciples. It culminates with the Rite of Confirmation: The youth will say "Yes!" to their baptism before God and the whole congregation. After that, they will be adult members of the congregation.

Catechism is an important time of faith formation for your child. When you brought your child for baptism, you promised to raise your child in the faith, to bring him or her to worship, teach the commandments and the creeds, read the Bible, and to nurture him or her in faith and prayer. Bringing your child to catechism classes is part of that promise you have made.

At Calvary we teach catechism on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM. Classes start on September 14th and go through the end of March of the following year. The confirmation service for the second-year students is scheduled for Sunday, March 26th, 2023. We will be teaching in person in the spacious youth room. Masks are optional at this time; this might change if COVID infection rates rise.

Catechism teaches involvement in the life of the church. Our students learn that being a follower of Jesus means worshiping and serving him in the life of the congregations. Catechism students serve as acolytes and crucifers. We also encourage them to help with Calvary's ministries, e.g. the Fall Festival, Trunk or Treat, Vacation Bible School, or worship (such as lector, usher, or communion server).

Another part of our confirmation program is an annual retreat. We participate in our synod's middle school retreat, the FreeRide. The dates for this retreat have not been set yet, but it usually takes place in October. We will inform you as soon as we find out.

At this time, please do the following:

Talk to your child about the importance of catechism and confirmation.

Keep Wednesdays open from September through March, 6:30 – 7:45 PM.

I look forward to working with you and your child/children towards a deeper faith life.

Blessings,

Pastor Anke with the Education Team