

INTRODUCING THE DISCIPLESHIP MODEL FOR “CONFIRMATION/AFFIRMING FAITH”

Hello Youth & Parents!

In Lutheran Churches, there has always been a process for transitioning a baptized member to being a confirmed member. The details of the process, the length and content of classes, and other requirements as well as the age at which it takes place has varied over the years.

The intended purpose has always been to help children transition from being baptized members, which means ones who receives grace from the church, to being confirmed members, which means ones who now gives grace to the church! Thus, it is really about growing up spiritually. While kids are under our roofs, they go to school because we make them. When they get to college or start their careers, they go to school or work on their own because they are following their own career dreams. The same is true spiritually. One who is confirmed, or Affirming their Baptismal Faith should be one who now goes to church and participates in the life of the church on their own, because they are following Jesus as a personal friend and savior!

To this end, we are shifting the preparation process to align with the goal of integrating our growing youth into active participants in a collective walk with Jesus. Instead of having additional classes each week, youth and parents will be able to work through the “confirmation” materials together at their own pace at times of their choosing on the go, at home, etc. These materials will be called “Foundations Materials” because they are the beginning of the process, not the end of it. They will be given out to 8th graders (and older youth who missed this earlier). When each Foundation sheet is completed as best as you can, you will be able to sign up for 15 minute 1-1 sessions with Jenny Nieman, Minister of Faith Formation. These will be available on Wednesdays from 6p-6:30p and need to include the youth and a parent! The sign-up link is in Google and can be found on our website, Wednesday emails, and monthly Newsletter and a paper copy is on the bulletin board. The purpose is to provide answers to the questions that stumped you, practice praying in the safety of a smaller group, and discuss applications of the content through opportunities to try out serving in various ways. There are 8 sheets in total.

This is a discipleship model that is relational rather than academic. When youth are showing initiative over time, then it will make sense for them to formally Affirm their Baptismal Faith (Confirmation) once they reach the age of 16 or older. Currently, we plan to have this opportunity each Spring. The LIVE sessions on Wednesday nights during their high school years provide learning, training, and community building opportunities to build on what they learned through the Foundation Materials. Youth are encouraged to continue participating in the LIVE sessions after they Affirm Their Faith. Opportunities for leadership will be available for those interested! Youth can serve during any church service at our two congregation sites.

Thanks for partnering with us for the spiritual wellbeing of your youth as we adapt to the scheduling challenges of our modern times,
Thanks,

Jenny Nieman, Minister of Faith Formation (715) 613-3636

FOUNDATIONS PART 1 - What is the source of our faith & what is the message?

BIBLE: (Source of Our Faith)

II Timothy 3:16-17

- Whose breath is in the Scriptures? _____
- What are the Scriptures to be used for? _____

Matthew 4:4 & John 6:63 (Ps.119:105)

- What do the Scriptures provide your soul? _____

John 5:39-40, John 3:16, and Mark 1:14-15

- How is coming to Jesus different than knowing what the Bible says?

- What is the main message of the Bible?

- What 2 responses do the Scriptures require of us to come to Jesus?

_____ and _____

Heb. 8:13 (Hebrews 10:1, 9-10)

What is the difference between the Old Testament & the New Testament?

How many Books are in the Old Testament? _____ New Testament? _____

How many Apocrypha books are there? _____ Are they Scripture? _____

During which years were the Bible books written? _____ BC to _____ AD

How were copies of the Bible made & were they reliable in ancient times?

Which 2 Historical finds confirm the reliability of our OT & NT scriptures?

OT _____ **NT** _____

APPLICATION: *What do I let shape my beliefs, actions & relationships?*

SALVATION STORY IN THE OT (Old Testament) & NT (New Testament):

Genesis 2:7, Genesis 2:8, Genesis 2:20-23, Genesis 2:16-17

Where was Adam made? _____

Where did God put Adam? _____

How was Eve made & Why? _____

What did God give Adam & Eve? _____

Genesis 3:16-24

How did things change after Adam & Eve sinned & came under the **curse**?

Genesis 3:15

What did God **promise**? _____

Galatians 3:10-14 & 4:4-7

Who was Eve's Seed & how did He redeem us from the **curse**?

Romans 16:20, Revelation 20:7-10

When will God *fulfill* his **promise** to crush & cast Satan into the eternal fire?

Revelation 22:1-5 & 21:1-4

In the **end**, where will believers be & will they be under the **curse**?

APPLICATION: *How can the promised future change your life now?*

AS A DISCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO:

Explore these questions about the Bible:

Explore these questions about the Salvation Story in the Bible:

FOUNDATIONS PART 2 - CREATION & IDENTITY!

CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2 (CREATION & being made in the IMAGE of God)

- What 3 things describe the earth in the **beginning**?

-
- What 4 **creation actions** happened each day during days 1-6?

-
- How did these actions **change** the earth from its **beginning**?

-
- What was God's **last** creation on the 6th Day & how was it **unique**?

-
- How were humans to image God's **changing** of the earth?
-

Genesis 3:21-24

- How did Adam & Eve change after they sinned?

-
- Where were humans sent after sinning? Could they return to Eden?
-

IDENTITY

Psalm 139:13-14

- How does the Bible describe your personality, body, & talents?
-

Ephesians 2:1-3

- What does the Bible call our natural *desires*? Are we *spiritually* dead?
-

Colossians 2:13-15

- How does God restore friendship with him / **make us alive** spiritually:
-

John 1:12-13

- What new identity does God give us when we believe in Jesus?
-

Galatians 3:26-29

- In Christ, are Jews & Gentiles **both** *Abraham's seed & heirs* now?
-

Romans 2:28-29

- Are true Jews simply biological descendants of Abraham or ... ?
-

I Corinthians 3:16 / I Peter 2:4-6, 9-10 / II Peter 3:13

- In Christ, who is the temple? Who are the priests, the new Jerusalem, the chosen people, the nation of God? Where is the promised land?
-

APPLICATION: *Whose view of me is most important & why?*

AS A DISCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO:

Explore these questions about Creation:

Explore these questions about my new identity in Christ & his people:

FOUNDATIONS PART 3 - LAW & GOSPEL + SANCTIFICATION

Why preach Law (repentance) AND Gospel (forgiveness)?

- Luke 24:45-47
-

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 5:1-22

- What is the LAW of God?
-

Romans 3:20

- What is the purpose of the LAW of God?
-

Matthew 7:3

- Why do we need the LAW of God to show us our sins?
-

Ps. 119:97 & 105

- Why do we LOVE the LAW of God?
-

THE GOSPEL

I Corinthians 15:1-5

- What is the GOSPEL?
-

Romans 1:16-17

- What is the **power** or **purpose** of the Gospel?
-

II Corinthians 4:4 & 6

- **Why** do we need the GOSPEL to show us God's righteousness?
-

I Corinthians 15:50-58

- Why do we **love** the GOSPEL?
-

SANCTIFICATION

Ephesians 5:1-2 / John 17:17

- What is SANCTIFICATION & What does God use to sanctify us with?
-

II Corinthians 3:17-18

- What does our SANCTIFICATION **reflect**?
-

John 13:34-35

- **Why** do we strive to be sanctified more and more?

Romans 7:18-20

- Will our sanctification be **100%** in this life?

I John 1:8-2:2 / Galatians 6:1-5

- **What** do we do if we sin as Christians or, if another Christian sins?

APPLICATION: *When do I need LAW & when do I need GOSPEL?*

AS A DISCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO:

Explore these questions about the LAW:

Explore these questions about the GOSPEL:

Explore these questions about SANCTIFICATION:

FOUNDATIONS PART 4 - The 10 Commandments!

WHY ARE THE 10 COMMANDMENTS NUMBERED DIFFERENTLY?

LET'S LOOK AT EACH OF THE COMMANDMENTS:

The 1st Commandment: (Deuteronomy 5:7-10)

- How do we break and how do we keep this commandment?

The 2nd Commandment: (Deuteronomy 5:11)

- How do we break and how do we keep this commandment?

The 3rd Commandment: (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

- How do we break and how do we keep this commandment?

The 4th Commandment: (Deuteronomy 5:16)

- How do we break and how do we keep this commandment?

The 5th Commandment: (Deuteronomy 5:17)

- How do we break and how do we keep this commandment?

The 6th Commandment: (Deuteronomy 5:18)

- How do we break and how do we keep this commandment?

The 7th Commandment: (Deuteronomy 5:19)

- How do we break and how do we keep this commandment?
-

The 8th Commandment: (Deuteronomy 5:20)

- How do we break and how do we keep this commandment?

The 9th & 10 Commandments: (Deuteronomy 5:21)

- How do we break and how do we keep these commandments?

APPLICATIONS: *(Some practical ways I can keep commandments)*

AS A DISCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO:

Explore these questions about the following commandments:

Explore these questions about the following moral issues:

FOUNDATIONS PART 5- APOSTLES CREED

GOD THE FATHER

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven & earth

I Corinthians 8:4-6 + Romans 11:33-36

Does God see himself as unique among all things people call god?

What are some of the attributes of God the Father?

GOD THE SON

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord

John 1:1-3 + Colossians 1:15-20

How is Son the same as and how is he different from God the Father?

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

Matthew 1:20-23

What was unique about Jesus being conceived in Mary's womb?

Hebrews 4:15-16

How is Jesus like us and how is he different from us?

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;

I Corinthians 15:1-5 + John 3:16

What is the gospel, the good news, that is the message of Christianity?

Matthew 27:24-26

Why is it significant that Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilot?

he descended into hell (hades) or he descended to the dead

I Peter 3:18-20a + Hebrews 9:27-28

In what way and for what purpose did Jesus descend to the dead or hell?

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

Luke 24:36-44

What was Jesus' resurrected body like and why is that important?

he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

Ephesians 1:18-23

Does Jesus have more authority than any spiritual or earthly being?

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead

II Timothy 4:1 + Luke 1:32-33

Who will Jesus judge and how long will his kingdom last?

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

John 16:5-16

Who is the Holy Spirit and what is his purpose?

Ephesians 2:11-22

How are the catholic church, the communion of saints and the forgiveness of sins connected?

John 5:28-29 + II Peter 3:13 + Matthew 25:34,41,46 (v.31-46)

When will humans get resurrected bodies & where will they go?

APPLICATION:

- What questions do I have about the Apostles Creed?
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-
-

FOUNDATIONS PART 6 - SACRAMENTS

HOW MANY SACRAMENTS & WHY?

- Specific words of Jesus connected with tangible signs:
-

- Whose action is the sacrament? Who receives it & how?
-

- Sacred Actions or Rituals that are similar to sacraments:
-

BAPTISM

Mathew 28:18-20

- What is a **disciple** & how does that impact who should be baptized?
-

I Peter 3:18-22

- What gives baptism the power to save us?
-

Acts 2:37-39 (Luke 11:13)

- What promise does Christian water baptism provide us?
-

I Corinthians 12:7 (8-11) & Galatians 5:22-26 / I Corinthians 12:29-14:1

- How does the promised Holy Spirit **manifest** in our hearts & lives??
-
-

BABIES & BAPTISM

Matthew 19:14 (John 5:39-40 / Psalm 22:9)

- Does Jesus see little ones having faith, being able to come to him?
-

- Other reasons why babies are baptized?
-
-

COMMUNION

I Corinthians 11:23-26

- Why do we recite the words of Jesus & what do they do?
-
-

I Corinthians 10:14-17

- What does the word **koinonia** (*communion/participation in*) mean?
-

Hebrews 10:19-25 / John 6:55 (53-56 & 60–64)

- What do bread/wine & Jesus' body/blood give each other?
-
-

Luke 22:15-18 & Revelation 19:9

- Does Jesus promise another meal to follow communion & why?

I Corinthians 11:27-34

- How do you partake worthily or unworthily? Why does it matter?

APPLICATIONS: How can sacraments & related rituals help my faith?

AS A DISCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO:

Explore these questions about the BAPTISM & COMMUNION:

FOUNDATIONS PART 7 - SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS!

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

My relationship with God is that of a priest offering what to God?

- I Peter 2:4-5
-

SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES are my loving responses to his love for me!

What is a daily sacrifice I can give to God?

- Romans 12:1-2 + Proverbs 21:3
-

What is PRAISE & why offer it to God continually?

- Hebrews 13:15 (Psalm 9:1-2 & Psalm 92:1-4)
-

What sacrifice can I offer God when I sin?

- Psalm 51:17
-

How can expressing thanks to God be a sacrifice & how can it restore me?

- Psalm 116:16-17
-

Why is sharing my money, things, skills, etc. a pleasing sacrifice to God?

- Hebrews 13:16
-

Whose sacrificial action do I imitate when I stretch out my hands in prayer?

- Psalm 141:2 (*John 12:32-33*)
-

Are praying for others & myself a part of my relationship with God?

- Acts 12:5-17 (funny story!) & Psalm 116:1-7
-

What can hinder my prayers?

- Proverbs 21:13

LIVING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Where & when does the Holy Spirit dwell in the current age?

- John 7:37-39 + Ephesians 1:13-14

Does Jesus want us to ask for the Holy Spirit when we pray & why?

- Luke 11:13

I Corinthians 12:7 + 12:8-31 (*check out v.26*)

- What are spiritual gifts & do all believers have the same gifts?

Ephesians 4:11-16

- What is the purpose of the spiritual gifts?

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

- What will happen if we all use our spiritual gifts for the good of all?

**APPLICATION: How can I practice my priesthood &
live as a part of the living body of Christ?**

AS A DISCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO:

Explore these questions about my priesthood before God:

Explore these questions about my relationship with church:

FOUNDATIONS PART 8 - THE KINGDOM / THE DAY OF THE LORD

THE KINGDOM

What did Jesus give the disciples as an antidote for their distress?

- John 14:1-3
-

How is his kingdom different from the earthly kingdoms (nations)?

- John 18:36 (*Colossians 3:1-17*)
-

Why is the kingdom the antidote for all our distresses?

- Revelation 22:1-5 (*Revelation 21:1-4*)
-

How long will his kingdom last?

- Luke 1:31-33
-

Why do you think Jesus taught us to pray for the kingdom to come?

- Matthew 6:9-10
-

Can we experience or glimpse the eternal kingdom now?

- Luke 17:20-21 (*Ephesians 4:17-5:20*)
-

How do we enter the kingdom of God now?

- John 3:3 (*Matthew 18:3 / I Peter 1:22-2:3*)
-

APPLICATION:

- **How does the coming kingdom call me to live my life now?**
-
- **Have I been born again?**
-

THE DAY OF THE LORD

Who knows the date when the Day of the Lord will come?

- Matthew 24:36
-

What will happen before Jesus returns / the Day of the Lord comes?

- II Thessalonians 2:1-4 (*Matthew 24:10-25*)
-

Who will see Jesus return & can anyone miss it?

- Revelation 1:7 (*II Thessalonians 2:1-2 / Matthew 24:27, 30*)
-

What will happen to the enemies of God on the Day of the Lord?

- Revelation 19:19-21 (*II Thessalonians 1:3-10 / 2:8*)
-

What will happen to Christians on the Day of the Lord?

- I Thessalonians 4:13-18 (*Matthew 24:30-31 / I Corinthians 15:50-58*)
-

What will happen to the present earth on the Day of the Lord?

- II Peter 3:10 (*Hebrews 12:26-29*)

Who will be judged by God & what will the outcomes be?

- John 5:28-29 (Matthew 25:31-34, 41 / Revelation 20:11-21:4)

APPLICATION: *Imagine what eternal life on the new earth will be like!*

AS A DISCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO:

Explore these questions about the Kingdom of God:

Explore these questions about the Day of the Lord:
