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 <u>receives grace</u> from the church, to being confirmed members, which means ones who <u>now gives grace</u> 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 <u>rather than</u> academic. When youth are <u>showing</u> <u>initiative over time</u>, 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

| BIBL | FOUNDATIONS PART 1 - What is the <u>source</u> of our faith & what is the <u>message</u> ? BIBLE: (Source of Our Faith) II Timothy 3:16-17 | | |
|--------|--|--|--|
| • | Whose breath is in the Scriptures? | | |
| • | What are the Scriptures to be used for? | | |
| Matthe | ew 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 | | |
| | :13 (Hebrews 10:1, 9-10) | | |
| What i | s the difference between the Old Testament & the New Testament? | | |
| How n | nany Books are in the Old Testament? New Testament? | | |
| How n | nany Apocrypha books are there? Are they Scripture? | | |
| During | g which years were the Bible books written? BC to AD | | |
| How v | vere copies of the Bible made & were they reliable in ancient times? | | |
| Which | 2 Historical finds confirm the reliability of our OT & NT scriptures? | | |
| ОТ | 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:

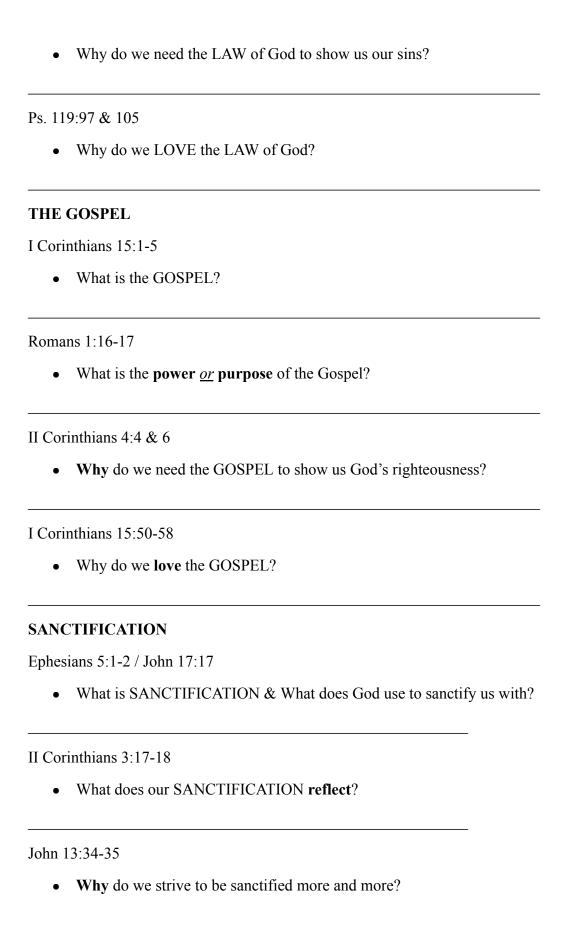
| Explo | ore these questions about the Salvation Story in the Bible: |
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| FOUN | NDATIONS PART 2 - CREATION & IDENTITY! |
| CREA | ATION |
| Genes | sis 1:1-2 (CREATION & being made in the IMAGE of God) |
| • | What 3 things describe the earth in the 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 & <u>how</u> was it unique ? |
| • | How were humans to <u>image</u> God's changing of the earth? |
| — Genes | sis 3:21-24 |
| • | How did Adam & Eve change after they sinned? |
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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 <i>desires</i> ? Are we <i>spiritually</i> 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 the nation of God? Where is the promised land? | n people, |
| APPLICATION: Whose view of me is most important & why? | |

| AS A D | ISCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO: |
|--|---|
| | these questions about Creation: |
| | |
| | |
| Explore | these questions about my new identity in Christ & his people: |
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| | |
| FOUNI | DATIONS PART 3 - LAW & GOSPEL + SANCTIFICATION |
| | DATIONS PART 3 - LAW & GOSPEL + SANCTIFICATION reach Law (repentance) AND Gospel (forgiveness)? |
| Why pr | |
| Why pr | each Law (repentance) AND Gospel (forgiveness)? Luke 24:45-47 |
| Why pr • 1 - THE L. | each Law (repentance) AND Gospel (forgiveness)? Luke 24:45-47 |
| Why property of the Land Control of the Land C | each Law (repentance) AND Gospel (forgiveness)? Luke 24:45-47 |
| Why property of the Lagrangian | Luke 24:45-47 AW nomy 5:1-22 What is the LAW of God? |

Matthew 7:3



| Romans | 7:18-20 |
|-----------|---|
| | Vill our sanctification be 100% in this life? |
| I John 1: | 8-2:2 / Galatians 6:1-5 |
| • V | Vhat do we do <u>if</u> we sin as Christians or, <u>if</u> another Christian sins? |
| APPLIC | CATION: When do I need LAW & when do I need GOSPEL? |
| | SCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO: these questions about the LAW: |
| Explore | these questions about the LAW. |
| Explore | these questions about the GOSPEL: |
| Explore | these questions about SANCTIFICATION: |
| FOUND | ATIONS PART 4 - The 10 Commandments! |
| WHY A | RE 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 Comm | andment: (Deuteronomy 5:20) |
|----------------------|---|
| How do | we break and how do we keep this commandment? |
| Γhe 9th & 10 C | Commandments: (Deuteronomy 5:21) |
| How do | we break and how do we keep these commandments? |
| APPLICATIO | NS: (Some practical ways I can keep commandments) |
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| AS A <u>DISCIP</u> I | LE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO: |
| Explore these | questions about the following commandments: |
| | |
| Explore these | questions about the following moral issues: |
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| FOUNDATIONS PART 5- APOSTLES CREED |
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| 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

| ID (2.10.20) II 1 | | | |
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| I Peter 3:18-20a + Hebrews 9:27-28 In what way and for what purpose did Jesus descend to the dead or hell? | | | |
| in what way and for what purpose and resus descend to the dead of here: | | | |
| 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? | | | |
| ne 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 earthy 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 sain of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen. | nts, the forgiveness | | |
| 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? | | |
| | | | |

| | :28-29 + II Peter 3:13 + Matthew 25:34,41,46 (v.31-46) will humans get resurrected bodies & where will they go? | |
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| APPL 1 | ICATION: What questions do I have about the Apostles Creed? | |
| | DATIONS PART 6 - SACRAMENTS 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: | |
| BAPT | ISM | |
| Mathev | w 28:18-20 | |
| • | What is a disciple & how does that impact who should be baptize | d? |
| I Peter | 3:18-22 | |
| • | What gives baptism the power to save us? | |

| Acts 2 | :37-39 (Luke 11:13) |
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| • | What promise does Christian water baptism provide us? |
| I Corii | athians 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?? |
| BABI | ES & BAPTISM |
| Matthe | ew 19:14 (John 5:39-40 / Psalm 22:9) |
| • | Does Jesus see littles ones having faith, being able to come to him? |
| • | Other reasons why babies are baptized? |
| COM | MUNION |
| I Corii | athians 11:23-26 |
| • | Why do we recite the words of Jesus & what do they do? |
| ——— I Corii | athians 10:14-17 |
| • | What does the word koinonia (communion/participation in) mean? |
| Hebre | ws 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? |
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| | |
| I Corin | chians 11:27-34 |
| • | How do you partake worthily or unworthily? Why does it matter? |
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| APPLI | CATIONS: How can sacraments & related rituals help my faith? |
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| AS A <u>I</u> | DISCIPLE, A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO: |
| Explor | e these questions about the BAPTISM & COMMUNION: |
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FOUNDATIONS PART 7 - SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS! RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

| My | relationship | with (| God i | s 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? |
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| • 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 <i>(check out v.26)</i> |
| • 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? |
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| AS A <u>DISCIPLE</u> , A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO: |
| Explore these questions about my priesthood before God: |

| Explore these questions about my relationship with church: | | | |
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| FOU | NDATIONS PART 8 - THE KINGDOM / THE DAY OF THE L | | |
| THE | KINGDOM | | |
| Wha | t 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?

| APPI | LICATION: | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| How does the coming kingdom call me to live my life now | | | | | |
| • | Have I been born again? | | | | |
| ТНЕ | DAY OF THE LORD | | | | |
| Who | knows the date when the Day of the Lord will come? | | | | |
| • | Matthew 24:36 | | | | |
| What | t 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 | t 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 | t will happen to Christians on the Day of the Lord? | | | | |
| • | I Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Matthew 24:30-31 / I Corinthians 15:50- | | | | |
| _ What | t will happen to the present earth on the Day of the Lord? | | | | |
| • | II Peter 3:10 (Hebrews 12:26-29) | | | | |

| | | | | ation 20.1 | 1-21:4) |
|---|------------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| APPLIC | TION: Imagine wh | at eternal | life on the | new earth | ı will be like |
| AS A <u>DISCIPLE</u> , A LIFE-LONG LEARNER, I WANT TO: Explore these questions about the Kingdom of God: | | | | | |
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