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## **The Confirmation Journey**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

First of all, let me take a moment to congratulate you. You've gotten your kiddo this far in life, and they are at a stage in life where faith conversations and mentors to facilitate those conversations are hugely important...and you've made it a priority in their lives to realize that. So...well done!

Yet, the journey is just getting going.

If your student is in 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade, they have a year or two in Spark to go through going deeper into those Sunday School bible stories they might have heard for the last several years. They also have that time to dig into Martin Luther's Small Catechism and start memorizing things like The Lord's Prayer, The 10 Commandments, and the Apostle's Creed. Your student will also be invited to have more community oriented experiences with Converge Nights (youth group on Wednesdays), Confirmation Retreats (one-day intensive topic studies/practices), and even a one-day special retreat in the spring called The Summit.

If your student is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above, they will take time in O2 to dive really deep into the Biblical narrative, as well as start using Luther's Small Catechism as a practical tool to help not only interpret the Bible but also life events. They will also be invited to more community oriented experiences with Converge Nights youth group on Wednesdays), O2 Retreats (3 days retreats to study, heal, and breath), National Youth Gathering (for 8<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade only), and finally through Mission/Servant Events.

Once you and your student feel like there's been deep enough maturity of the faith, you will express your desire to be "confirmed in your faith" to Pastor Jonathan. At this point, the student will be assigned a mentor, a packet of materials to be worked through at home will be handed out, and Pastor Jonathan will begin guiding you through the final steps that will lead to being confirmed. Eventually, a final meeting between the student, the parent, the student's mentor, and Pastor Jonathan will be set. If everyone feels like the student is ready to be confirmed, then an appropriate Sunday will be selected to perform and celebrate the Rite of Confirmation.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, don't hesitate to email me.

In God's Grace,

Jonathan Brandenburg