



Trinity Lutheran Church



November 21, 2018

Greetings to all potential Confirmation Families,

May the peace of Jesus the Christ be with you throughout this Advent season and as your family celebrates Christmas. We hope to be able to share Christmas worship with your family. We are taking this opportunity to share information about the Confirmation ministry at Trinity Lutheran and to invite you to consider enrolling for the **New Class beginning January 22, 2019**. This new group of kids will join the group who have already finished their first year together and the journey will continue. We alternate the materials taught so that each class covers the material over the two years.

At the beginning of the confirmation study time we stress for families the **commitment** needed to make this journey edifying and real. This **commitment** needs to come on the part of the parents as well as the kids. Over the past several years we have experienced a trend of spotty commitment (kids arriving late for class and/or leaving early) which makes teaching very challenging. After much discussion it seems the best way to address this and any other questions/concerns would be to gather everyone together before classes begin. If you are considering confirmation for your child please join us at a meeting on **WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16, 2019 at 6:30 at the church to talk about expectations for this time of gathering and study.** Youth need parental support, modeling and encouragement as they grow in faith and communion with the church. Regular worship and involvement with your faith family is critical on the lifelong journey of faith for all of us. A short overview of what confirmation involves at Trinity is as follows:

The Confirmation program at Trinity is a two year time of deeper bible study co-taught by Pastor John and Maggie Theiss with assistance from various teachers from our Christian Education volunteers. The classes are held once a week (January to May and September to November). We hold a full week-end retreat on the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion which must be attended prior to their actual day of Confirmation and which we try to offer twice in the two year timeframe. Materials covered in the Confirmation study include the Old and New Testament Bible history, the Life of Christ found in the New Testament, and the remaining sections of Luther's Small Catechism (the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, Ten Commandments and Confession of Sins and Absolution). These are taught along with group building games and devotional time, prayer time and service projects. Videos, books and current news items are woven into the study as they directly apply to our faith journey. We try from time to time to share a meal together as Jesus shared meals with his followers and much fellowship occurs in this setting. We also attempt to have a few field trips as part of our class time to help the kids connect faith with their daily lives and experiences. Past trips have

included Prayer at the Flag Poles around Town, the Food Bank in Brooks, Smiles for Christmas Wrapping, Visiting at the Lodge, etc. Each year we look for opportunities that help make faith and daily living connections for the kids.

During the seasons of Advent (December) and Lent (Feb/March/April) we involve the confirmation students in the planning and leading of these special worships in Lent there is a soup supper at 6 p.m. (for the whole congregation) followed by worship at 7 p.m. for the six weeks of Lent. More information will be given as we draw closer to Ash Wednesday which falls on March 6, 2019.

Class time currently is Wednesdays from 4:30 – 6:00 pm; and as noted above the first class will begin on **Wednesday, January 23, 2019**, at the church. **Trinity will gift your child with a Bible as part of Confirmation and these will be presented in worship on Sunday, January 27, 2019.** This Bible is meant to be a study bible and we encourage them to highlight verses, mark passages and write notes in their margins to enrich their journey of faith as they walk day by day with God.

Please call the church office at **403-362-4259** to talk with Pastor John or Maggie if you have any questions or concerns about any of the above. We would be happy to book a time to meet with your family to talk more about Confirmation if that would be of help as you make prayerful decisions about beginning this study. If you know of any family that might be interested in this program for their child please feel free to direct them to the church and we will make a connection. We have included a registration and medical release form with this letter and ask that you complete them and return them to us at the meeting on January 16th. **You can also download/register online** at www.brookstrinity.ca.

Please know that if this is not the right time for your family to take part in Confirmation you are still very welcome at worship, youth, family, study and mission opportunities at Trinity.

May God surprise us each day with His miraculous love and ever new opportunities to grow in faith and serve others in love! Praying to hear back as to your interest in beginning this ministry at Trinity.

In Christ's service,

Pastor John & Maggie Theiss

Cc: Board of Christian Education members, Charlene Musgrove, Leta Babb, Brandi Mc Cord
"Serve Christ our Lord by welcoming, equipping & sending disciples"

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