

CONFIRMATION

Fall 2017

Christ Church Confirmation Ministry
Information Packet

→ **Register by October 8th!** Registration form included with this packet.

Important Dates:

- **Grounded Starts!** *(Our High School Wednesday Night Ministry)*
Wednesday, September 13
- **Confirmation Information Meeting for Parents & Students**
Sunday, September 10 at 12:00-1:00pm in the Chapel
- **Confirmation Registration Form Due In Church office by**
Sunday, October 8 (NOTE: the form is the last page in this packet)
- **High School Fall Retreat Oct 27 – Oct. 29, 2017**
Trout Lake Fall Breakaway!
- **Class 101 Dates** *(choose one):*
Monday, October 23 from 6:15-8:00pm in the Chapel
Thursday, November 2 from 6:15-8:00pm in the Chapel
Call the church Office (441-5097) to register. Class space is limited.
- **One-to-One Meeting with Pastor Sean or Teri**
Call the church office (763-441-5097) to sign up for a time. We can be flexible with times if you call early.
- **Confirmation Service: Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 3:30-5:30pm**

Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation can be a very important milestone in a young person's life. Through the confirmation experience, individuals "confirm" the promises made in faith at the time of their baptism. At a Confirmation service individuals are standing up and publicly proclaiming that they have a **personal relationship** with Jesus and that they are making their own choice to follow Him. Our ministry is designed to help youth discover this personal relationship with Jesus and better understand how they can live as a whole-hearted follower of Jesus.

Choosing to follow Christ is the most important commitment we can make. While that commitment is between us and God, confirmation is meant to be a **public profession** of this commitment. We desire that when youth stand up to confirm their faith at a confirmation service, it has become their own faith. We can't, with integrity, put students in the awkward position of being asked to confirm a faith they may not understand or even possess.

Confirmation isn't graduation; it's a significant mile marker in a Spirit-filled life. Every one of our Confirmation commitments is designed to help youth get to know God better and to help youth develop godly values and habits that will help them to **continue to grow spiritually** and experience God long after they make their public commitment to Christ. We believe each of our core commitments are not only reasonable; they are vital for a vibrant and growing faith. Our hope is that a public profession of faith signifies a **lifestyle**, not merely a label or an event.

If you are in the 9th grade and you find yourself in a hurry to get confirmed "just to get it over with", maybe this is not the right time. That's O.K.; you don't have to be confirmed right now. We encourage you to still be involved in any and all youth events and to be a part of a High School small group. You'll have tons of fun, develop more friendships and grow closer to God at your own pace. You can be confirmed later on when you are ready.

Our confirmation ministry is designed to come alongside parents and reinforce what is taught at home. Parents are the primary faith trainer of kids. In reality, there is very little the church can do to teach faith in 60 minutes each week if that faith is not being reinforced in their home the other 10,020 minutes per week. Our Youth and Family Ministry seeks to help parents to raise their children in the Christian faith and to reinforce what is taught at home. That is why we desire your involvement in our youth ministry.

At Christ Church, youth may be confirmed as early as their 9th grade year. Youth in grades 6th – 8th can begin working on their commitments at any time. This packet will help you gain an overview of our Confirmation ministry.

We're here to help you on the journey. After reading through this packet, if you still have questions please contact Pastor Sean Nelson at 763-441-5097.

The Core Commitments of Christ Church Confirmation Ministry

Baptism – Since Confirmation is confirming the promises made in baptism, each student should be baptized prior to Confirmation Sunday. For many, this took place when they were infants or small children. If you have not yet been baptized contact Pastor Sean Nelson. We can make arrangements for a special baptism service for teens on a Saturday evening or a Wednesday.

Attend at least two Retreats or Christian Camps between 6th grade and Confirmation – Retreats and camps are often referred to as *impact events* because of the powerful positive impact these events can have on student's lives. For many students this is a highlight in their spiritual journey and where significant commitments are made. Because of this, we place a high priority on having students fulfill this commitment. (If special reasons exist that make attending camps or retreats an impossibility contact Pastor Sean Nelson) You have lots of options to choose from each year.

- Fall High School Retreat (*see the front page for dates*)
- High School Winter Retreat
- Primetime Lake Beauty Retreat (each February)
- Summer Bible Camps - Big Sandy Camp, Camp Shamineau, Trout Lake Camp are all excellent options
- Summer Mission Trips

Active Participation in Primetime and Grounded– God never intended Christians to live their Christian life alone. He desires that we have support and encouragement from other believers. It is important for students to build relationships with other Christian students and caring Christian adult role models. It is in these small groups that they encourage and hold each other accountable for spiritual growth as they study God's Word together. During their 6th – 8th grade years, students are involved in **Primetime** Small Groups. Starting in 9th grade students are involved in **Grounded**, the high school ministry. **You must be registered for Grounded and actively attending in order to be confirmed.**

Worship – We were made to worship. It is in worship that God often touches our hearts. From the beginning of time God has given us one day each week to focus on Him through worship. Worshiping together as a family is the single greatest indicator of future involvement in a church. We expect all students desiring to be confirmed to worship regularly.

Ministry Service - We want youth to experience the joy of serving Christ through the church. We ask all youth to **complete at least 20 hours of service before they are confirmed.** The following are some possibilities: serve on the Youth Worship Team, assist with Sunday School, volunteer in the Nursery, help with VBS, ushering, or other church ministries. If you have been involved in all of the Primetime Service projects or *Super Summer Serve* you have probably completed this commitment already! **In the fall you can also help with the Christ Church booth at the Otsego Festival, or at Trunk or Treat or with our Pre-school Country Fair.**

To be completed in the three months prior to being confirmed (in the Fall):

Class 101 – This class should be completed in the year in which you want to be confirmed. The class is to prepare students for becoming an adult member of the church and helps them to take ownership of their faith. *See the class schedule on the front page and sign up for one of the times.*

Writing a Faith Statement and Life Story Paper - This is one of the last commitments for students. It should be completed and turned in during the year in which a student desires to be confirmed. ***It must be turned in before the One-to-one meeting and at least two weeks prior to the Confirmation service.*** *See page 4 for more details.*

One-To-One Meeting – Each student who desires to be confirmed meets one to one with either Pastor Sean or Teri. This is a chance for us to get to know each other better and to have a friendly and helpful spiritual dialogue.

Faith Statement & Life Story Paper

The *Faith Statement & Life Story Paper* is an opportunity for you to reflect on your personal relationship with Jesus Christ, what you believe in and how you plan to continue to grow in your faith. It will also give us an opportunity to get to know you better and know how we can encourage you in the coming years.

Your paper should be a minimum of two typed pages, but you're welcome to have as many as you need. It should be turned into the church office 2 weeks before your interview.

The paper should include the following sections: **Life-Story**, **Statement of Faith**, and **What's Next**. More information of these sections is listed below.

Life-Story

A life story helps us to get to know you better and how God is involved in your life. Here are the sorts of questions you can respond to:

When did you first discover that Jesus was real and wanted to be part of your life?

If you grew-up in a Christian home, when did your faith move from being your parent's faith, to being your own?

What events or people have had the biggest influence on your faith and how?

How has your faith been challenged?

What is God teaching you in your life now?

What is your relationship with God like now? In what ways would you like to change?

Statement of Faith

Your statement of faith is a short summary of what you believe. Some questions you should answer include:

How does a person get to heaven?

Who is Jesus and why is he important?

Explain the Trinity (God is one and yet is in 3 different forms)

Are you going to heaven? How do you know?

Complete these statements using 1-3 sentences for each.

I believe in God the Father...

I believe that Jesus Christ...

I believe that the Holy Spirit...

I believe that the Bible is...

I believe that the church is...

What's Next?

Our faith is a life long journey and confirmation is just one milestone along the way. How do you plan to continue to grow in your faith? The following questions may help you reflect on this section:

How do you see yourself using your talents and abilities to serve God and others in the future?

If you could do anything for God, what would it be? What's holding you back from doing it?

What are you doing now to help you grow in your faith?

How will you continue to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ?

Are there things you could do to help you grow even more?

Confirmation Checklist

The following checklist can help you stay on track with your Confirmation commitments. If you have questions, ask your small group leader or give Pastor Sean Nelson a call.

_____ Confirmation Registration form turned in

_____ Registered for Grounded and attending my High School small group

_____ Attended at least two Christ Church sponsored retreats, mission trip, or Bible camps (*If you go to the High School Retreat this Fall it will count toward this requirement*)

_____ Regular worship attendance

_____ I have been baptized

_____ Complete 20 hours (*total*) of ministry service - from 6th grade to present

_____ Attend Class 101 (Sign up ahead of time for this class. Call church office)

_____ Turn in your Faith Statement and Life Story paper at least 2 weeks before one to one interview

_____ Have a one-on-one meeting (Call church office to schedule at 763-441-5097)

_____ Choose a Bible verse that will be read at your confirmation, and give it to Pastor Sean.

You may email it to sean@christchurchotsego.org

2017 Confirmation Registration Form
Due in the Church Office by October 8th

Full Name _____ Grade _____
(as you want it to appear on your certificate)

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Parents Names: _____ E-mail _____

During the Confirmation service we will read a Bible verse for each student. Please choose a Bible verse that is particularly significant to you (the student) **verse:** _____ Bible version: _____

Core Commitments (*fill in as much as you can now – this will be updated at the one-to-one interview.*)

• **Baptism.** Have you been baptized? _____ Date of baptism _____
____ I have not been baptized. Please contact me to discuss options

• **Regular participation in a small group.**

Primetime Small Group Leader _____ High School Small Group Leader _____

• **I participate in worship regularly:** Yes No

• **Retreats, Camps and/or Mission Trips** attended. Please list:

• **Ministry Service (at least 20 hours)** (*continue on the back if necessary*)

Date _____ What _____ Hours _____

Date _____ What _____ Hours _____

Date _____ What _____ Hours _____

Date _____ What _____ Hours _____

OR Still Working on it – Here's my plan: _____

Here are some service opportunities this Fall (*check them if interested*):

____ Otsego Festival (Sept 16) ____ Trunk or Treat (Oct 31) ____ Preschool Blue Jeans Ball (Nov. 11)

Class 101 that you will attend (circle one): Monday, October 23rd OR Thursday, November 2nd

• **Call the Church Office to schedule your 1:1 meeting**

• **Turn in your *Faith Statement & Life Story paper* at least one week before your 1:1 meeting**

I certify that my son or daughter has (or will) complete the Core Commitments as we indicated above.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____