

“Head 2 Heart”

Confirmation Class, Messiah Lutheran Church, 2020-21

- *Covid-19 safety option info*

Class Time: Wednesday evening 6:15—8:00 P.M. beginning Aug. 19th

1) (Wednesday attendance is mandatory!) **Every student is expected to have good manners and to listen respectfully during the teaching times or discussion times led by the small-group leaders.** If, after two warnings, a student continues to be disruptive, the teacher will call the parents and ask them to pick that student up. The next week the parents will have to sit with that student in class. Every student is expected to be friendly and welcoming to all other students. **Bring your Bible & Catechism to each class – Mark it up!**

Parent involvement: *Get my student to class early or at least on time (6:15)*

- *We will begin meeting outside (South of the house) and all activities will follow the posted safety guidelines. We strive to provide much needed social connections that will be safer than school, sports or shopping. There is the option to attend via live stream starting at 6:15. There will be one ‘zoom’ small group available ending at 8.*

2) **Each student is expected to participate in monthly activities and shall attend at least one of the following faith building camps/retreats:** Junior High youth events will be posted on the Youth Information Boards, Kiosk, the weekly bulletin, Facebook and MLCJoliet.org. Please help us with our planning and sign-up. You can always email to get on the list too. Watch for details and updates. We have two special youth kiosks with information, forms and a youth payment envelope. This will be where you turn in all payments and forms, so you don’t have to track down YD Brian. **PLEASE DO NOT LET THE COST OF AN EVENT KEEP YOUR STUDENT FROM ATTENDING. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ARRANGE A SCHOLARSHIP OR FUND-RAISING EVENT TO COVER SOME OR ALL OF THE EXPENSE.**

Parent involvement: *Drive my student to church events*

- *We have been meeting with students through the summer and have experience keeping students safe on campus and on trips. On campus: meeting will be conducted outside until further notice following posted safety guidelines. On trips: there is an additional safety waiver to sign and your student is considered part of a larger quarantine family during the trip. Temperature checks and health monitoring are required.*

3) **Each student will complete 25 sermon notes each year.** The forms are self-explanatory and may be picked up in the Narthex. The forms should be returned **with a parent's signature each week** to the wooden box on the west side of the narthex. The last of the 50 notes should be turned in by Labor Day the year the student will confirm his or her faith. Please take notes based on listening to a sermon in person or a recorded service and not from reading a manuscript.

Parent involvement: *Sign Sermon Note after worship*

4) **Each student will attend Sunday Morning Bible Studies (Sunday school) weekly.** This is not an option. SMBS adds to the overall learning experience and create the healthy habit of meeting with friends to study God's Word. September through May offers lecture style classes to help the student learn the Catechism. May-August offers a discussion driven Christian living focus and combines the class with the High School for a more relaxed feel during the summer months. **From September through May parents are expected to volunteer to attend Two (2) SMBS classes per year.** This will give the parents an opportunity to meet the other parents, students in class and to enhance the total spiritual development for all involved in Head 2Heart. Parent involvement: *Sign up for 2 Sunday School Classes*

- *Students are welcome to attend Senior High Bible study upstairs in the large SS gathering area following posted safety guidelines. We hope to offer a 7-8th grade Sunday School option later in the Fall.*

5) **Each student is expected to attend Sunday Morning Worship at Messiah Lutheran Church in addition to Sunday school.** The best way for parents to see that their child is in church worshipping and learning is for each family to worship together regularly. Our 11:00 worship format is geared specifically to families.

Parent involvement: *Plan on a longer commitment Sunday Mornings.*

- *You have 3 options – Online, outside (8 & 11) and indoor (9:30).*

6) **Each student will complete 20 service hours each year.** These volunteer hours should be done as a gift without payment for a non-family member. **10** of the hours should be volunteered at Messiah Lutheran. The other 10 hours can be completed in conjunction with any other service. If you have any questions, contact the pastors. The service hours must be documented, dated, and signed on the provided form by the person served. Parent involvement: *turn in form*

7) **Interviews with the Pastor.** In the spring (April-May) of the **second year** of instruction each student will take a written test to affirm their catechism knowledge. After completing with an 80% score, or better. The pastors will review their results with each student. The student and Pastors will also discuss

ways to stay involved in the church as they become adults in their faith. The Memory test will be in April during Wednesday night class time.

2nd Interview (August-September): At the end of the second year of instruction each student will have a 20-minute interview with the pastors. The student will discuss his or her faith and discuss the challenges and successes they have had over the past few months in staying connected to the church. The parents will receive a postcard announcing the interview dates and will be responsible for arranging interview appointments. Parent involvement: Schedule interview dates

8) **Parent Classes...** In order to help parents be a part of their student's confirmation years we will be having a few Parent classes. This will be a time of fellowship for the parents and instruction. We will review student class content and address passing on the faith to teenagers. The classes will be listed on the syllabus. It is our prayer that these meetings will also help you see you are not alone in this journey and we will become a closer church family.

Parent involvement: Both parents attend Parent classes

9) **IGNITE! Summer... Students are expected to stay plugged in year-round.** Being a part of church and God's family is not a seasonal sport. Your student's relationship with God is directly impacted by how often they and you gather with God's people. Plan to worship together as a family in the summer and find places/ways to worship while on vacation. Attend **IGNITE!** during the summer.

Parent involvement: Encourage students to invite friends. Do they have a ride?

10) **Confirmation is in the fall...** At the end of the **second year** of instruction each student will stay involved over the summer. Sept.-Oct are especially important as this will be the time the students plan their Confirmation service that will take place Reformation Sunday **October 2021 during the 11:00 service.**

Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner 6-8:00 PM the week prior.

Parent involvement: Attend rehearsal dinner

If a student has any learning difficulties, medical conditions, or emotional challenges, please let the Pastoral staff know so that the needs of the student can be met with understanding.

The cost for "Head to Heart" confirmation materials is \$35.00. Checks can be written to Messiah Lutheran. Specify in the memo that it is for Confirmation.

Updated 8/12/2020