



## **Youth Ministry**

**Nathan Engman**

*Director of Discipleship*

**Memorial Lutheran Church**

5810 3rd St.

Katy, TX 77493

**Email:** [Nathan@mlckaty.com](mailto:Nathan@mlckaty.com)

**Office #:** 281-391-0171, Ext. #2

**Mobile #:** 281-795-9844



## **Youth Ministry**



**CONFIRMATION**

**2022-2023**



## **A WELCOMING COMMUNITY**

Where students feel wanted, and where they are excited about God and church.

## **A PLACE FOR RELATIONSHIPS**

Where students develop solid Christian friends that will continue to shape each other as they grow as disciples.

## **A DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE**

Where students will confirm their Christian faith through Confirmation, be prepared to proclaim their faith to others, and where parents feel called and equipped to disciple their kids.

## **A PLACE OF SERVICE**

Where both students and parents can serve God and their community.



## **Ideas for How Parents can Get Involved**

It is our desire to partner with you on this confirmation journey. Please let Nathan know how you would like to serve.

It could be in one of these ways:

- \* Praying for us as Leaders
- \* Memory Work Facilitator
- \* Event Planning Team Member
- \* Making/Bringing Food to an Event
- \* Serving as a Leader/Chaperone on a Retreat
- \* Mentoring
- \* Fundraiser Co-Leader/Helper
- \* Administrative Assistance in the Office
- \* Photography
- \* Other ways (*Let's talk!*)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sep 4th @ 10:30 am**  
All God's Creatures Service Event

**Sep 7th @ 6:30 pm**  
Confirmation Kickoff

## Events in Near Future

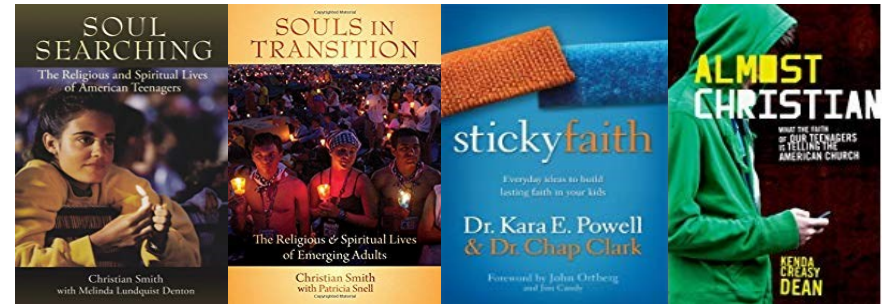
Jr. High Retreat

Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser

Christmas Parties

*And more!*

We send a weekly email newsletter  
just for the youth families.  
If you'd like to receive these emails,  
let us know!  
[news@mlckaty.com](mailto:news@mlckaty.com)



## Research and Youth Ministry

Several people and organizations have been doing youth ministry research over the last several years. Their hope has been to identify what patterns, habits, and experiences youth have that correlate with continuing to live and identify as a disciple of Jesus into adulthood.

### Here are the strongest correlations:

- Parents attended worship with them regularly and a high importance on faith
- The teen had expressed that faith was very important
- The teen had several personal religious experiences
- The teen frequently prays and reads scripture
- The teen had expressed little to no doubts about their religious beliefs
- Teen has many adults in religious congregation to turn to for help and support

# Confirmation

## What is Confirmation?

*“Confirmation is a public rite preceded by a period of instruction designed to help baptized Christians identify with the life and mission of the Christian community.”* -- Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation

## Confirmation prepares our students by

→ **establishing** their Identity as children of God, as members of a greater Christian community, and as disciples of Jesus, which includes good spiritual habits.

→ **teaching** them the doctrine of the Lutheran Church

→ **empowering** them to engage in service and mission in the church and community

## Confirmation is NOT

- A graduation
- Just an academic exercise



## Monthly Opportunities

We strive to have at least one event a month for Junior High. The events/activities will vary from month to month. Examples of events:

- \* Fun and fellowship Events
- \* Spiritual retreats
- \* Community service and missions
- \* Concerts
- \* Other options as opportunities arise

## Summer Opportunities

We take advantage of the opportunities that summers give us such as the ability to have more intensive and week long mission experiences and/or trips that focus on discipleship and serving our local community.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Going Beyond Confirmation

#### Weekly Opportunities:

**Sunday Morning** Community Hour  
at 10:30am  
includes Bible Study, Fellowship, & Service

**Confirmation Classes** — Wednesdays  
at 6:30 pm.

This night includes:

- Fellowship Games
- Confirmation Teaching
- Small group discussion
- Occasional service activities



### What is the process?

Confirmation is a 3 year process that will occur during most students' 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade years.

#### Key Learning Opportunities

Weekly instruction

With Small Group Discussion

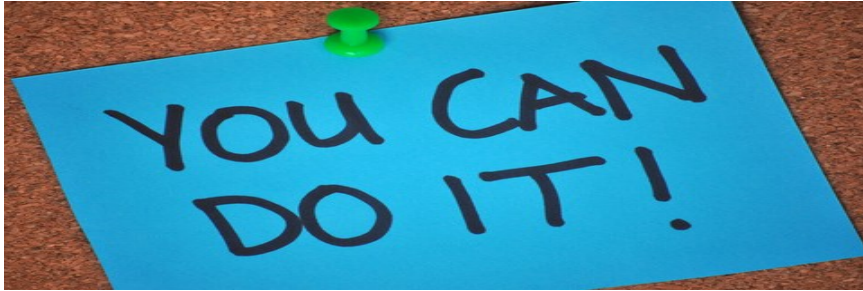
Memory work

Appropriate Assessments/Tests

Final Culmination Interview  
(8<sup>th</sup> grade year)

#### Class Information

- Classes start on Sept 7th with a meal at 6 pm, and continue until 7:45 pm each Wednesday.
- Class time includes lecture time, small group discussions, and group building activities
- **6th Grade Focus** - Bible, 1-3 Commandments and the 1st Article of the Apostles Creed
- **7th Grade Focus** - Lord's Prayer, Commandments 4-10, and 2nd Article of Apostles Creed
- **8th Grade Focus** - 3rd Article of the Apostles Creed, Baptism, and The Lord's Supper



## For Students

### Students are expected to:

- **be there** at every confirmation class or to provide reasonable notice of an absence.
- **worship on Sunday** mornings and attend Bible study regularly - this is the heartbeat of a Christian's life and the lifeblood of a healthy community of faith.
- **participate**, as you are able, in the overall youth ministry.
- Community is critical to our life and faith as Christians. We are made and designed for community and not meant to be isolated to ourselves.
- **laugh** at all jokes, even if they are spectacularly groan-worthy "dad jokes."

---

***Nobody rises to  
low expectations.  
~Calvin Lloyd***

---



## Materials

The church will provide the items below as part of the confirmation process (*if you don't already have them*). Again, each student is responsible for bringing these to class each week.

- Bible
- Luther's Small Catechism
- Pen/Pencil
- Paper
- Notebook or Binder for notes

### PLEASE NOTE

We desire for every student participating in Confirmation to have their own Bible and Small Catechism. We would prefer them to **not** use an older sibling, parent's, or family member's Bible or Small Catechism.

If you do not have one or have misplaced yours, please talk with Nathan about getting a new one.



## Cost

Rather than ask parents to pay for the various expenses of confirmation throughout the year, we are presenting the combined expenses at the beginning. **The cost for Confirmation is \$50.**

This cost includes the following:

- Catechism (*and Bible if needed*)
- Confirmation Sunday Costs
- Crossing Retreat with High School

## PLEASE NOTE

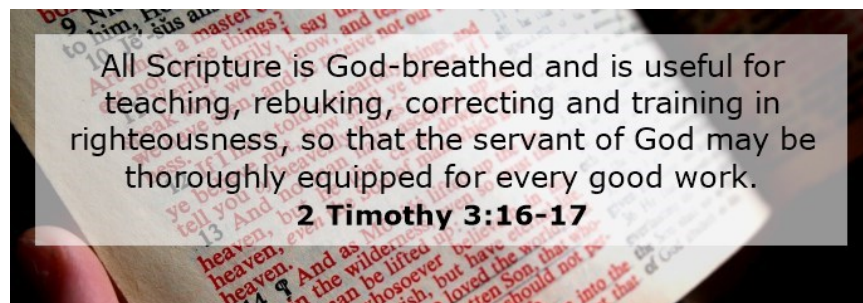
We do NOT want Confirmation expenses to keep people from participating in Confirmation.

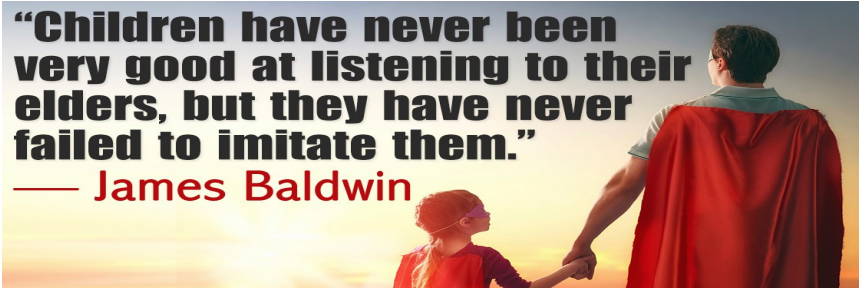
If cost is a concern, please talk with Nathan or one of the Pastors.

You can also contact Nathan if you would like to consider sponsoring with a partial or full scholarship for another student.



- **bring a Bible and Small Catechism** every week. We ask that no confirmation student use a Bible on their cell phone or tablet because the multi-functional use of these devices often proves to be a powerful distraction.
- **bring paper and pen** to class, take notes, and engage in discussion.
- **acolyte** as part of their commitment to God and His church. If there is a legitimate reason that they cannot acolyte (*or if they set Pastor Ben's beard on fire*) then we will work with the family to discover another way to serve in the church.





**“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.”**

**— James Baldwin**

## **For the Parents**

The scriptures inform us that you are the primary spiritual care-takers of your children. This is backed up by statistics and research that points to you being the most influential people in the lives of your children. We can't do youth ministry without you, and we wouldn't want to anyway! We strive to encourage and partner with you as parents in this confirmation journey.

### **Parents are expected to:**

- **model** the life and mission of the Christian Community, and model what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.
- **embrace** the struggle and set appropriate priorities.
- **encourage, pray for, and help** your students throughout the Confirmation process, which includes, but is not limited to, having spiritual conversations at home.



## **For the Teachers & Guides**

The expectations we have for ourselves are very similar to the ones we have for you!

### **Teachers & Guides are expected to:**

- **prepare and teach faithfully** to the Word of God
- **model** the life and mission of the Christian Community, and model what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.
- **encourage, pray for, and help** the students and parents throughout the Confirmation process.
- **care** beyond the classroom
- **partner with you** and walk along side you throughout the Confirmation process and beyond.
- make the occasional “Dad Joke” that is worthy of a good eye roll and/or groan.