

Dear Families,

This has started out to be a fun year of Confirmation/Journey! The students had a fun time getting to know one another a little better at the kick-off. They also really enjoyed being at North Fourth (the old Voices for Youth house next door to the church), as well!

I am hoping that you, as parents, will encourage your child to make confirmation a priority. Building relationships with one another is what Christ calls us to do as we follow Him. Regular attendance will help us build friendships. Ecclesiastes 4 verse 10 says, "If one falls down, his/her friend can help him/her up!" Then verse 12 says, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken"

Our schedule for the year will include two classes a month (meeting on the first two Sundays of the month), after the second service, at North Fourth. Lunch/snacks will be provided. I plan to always involve the students in planning, so they will feel invested! We will also be participating in a social event/service project each month.

In October, our classes will focus around scripture. Our social event will be a "scripture hike". I will have certain verses that fit with nature and faith as we hike around Presque Isle and the shore of Mother Superior.

In November, our classes will center around Faith and doubt. We will listen to some people from our congregation share their faith story. For our additional event I would like to go to Fortune Lake for a retreat. (For more info., see additional pamphlet). The Confirmation class will also be preparing/serving the meal for Wednesday Night Life on November 15.

In December, we will talk about living out our faith. We will look at the connection between Micah 6:8, ("To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God") and the beatitudes from Matthew 5, ("Blessed are the Peacemakers"). For our social event, we will bake and deliver cookies to homebound members. (I hope to sing/carol while we do that :))

January will be the time we talk about vocation. Many of us, at Messiah, view our jobs as our ministry. We will hear from different people with various vocations. The students will be planning a social event for January.

In February, we will look at the Biblical mandate to see ALL people as God's children, regardless of ethnic or racial background. We will explore scripture and meet with people from the African American Community as well as the Chippewa tribe. We will also meet people who are "differently abled".

In March, we will continue to talk about equality, as we focus on gender, sexuality, love and family. As we talk about this subject, we will stress Jesus' openness to all. When talking about marriage, we will have a same sex couple, long established couple, and newly married couple share their stories. I Corinthians 13 will be a guide. Before the regular class, I hope to have a parent meeting.

April is the time I will enthusiastically introduce Bishop Katherine Finnigan to our students. I will also introduce the synod and ELCA. The students will be invited to participate in church activities: Worship leadership, Sunday School, nursery, MOPS, or one of the many different committees.

May 6 is Confirmation Sunday!!!

While participation in the classes is key, we will also be providing "optional" activities throughout the year.

In addition to the regular schedule, I would like all of you to know that North Fourth is open and available to Middle School Students every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30-5:30. Our hope is that the Confirmation Students will feel that North Fourth is a safe, fun place.

Please feel free to come to me with any questions or concerns!

May God Bless our Journey together~~