

August 27, 2020

Dear 9th Graders and Parents:

First of all, we will be having a Confirmation Service on Sunday, October 25th, at 3:00 PM in the afternoon. Please note that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we moved the timing of this service from Sunday morning during our regular worship service to Sunday afternoon to reduce the number of people attending the service. This service is scheduled to take place in the Sanctuary with strict social distance rules applied.

Also because of Covid-19, we will not be able to have a Confirmation banquet and rehearsal as in years past. We will still be able to have Confirmation pictures taken before the service on October 25. Please arrive by 2:00 PM to take both individual and a socially distanced group Confirmation picture.

In preparation for October 25, there are some important classes to attend and assignments to be completed. First of all, we will be meeting in person outside on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 8:00, September 16 to October 7. Please bring your own chair and mask. We will start out with a time of worship and move into our 9th grade group to review what we have learned in Confirmation and prepare for our upcoming Confirmation service.

A registration form is enclosed. A fee of \$20.00 is charged to all 9th graders for the robes, stole supplies, and miscellaneous curriculum expenses.

Assignments to be completed before Confirmation Sunday:

- Faith Statement (enclosed with this mailing)
 - This is a series of questions about faith to be answered before their faith interview can take place. There are no right or wrong answers! We just ask that the kids try to think about and reflect on the questions and write down their thoughts.
- Intergenerational Interview (Instructions enclosed)
 - This is an interview with someone from another generation. The student can interview a grandparent, neighbor, member of the church or other relative. Students are to do the interview and write a reflection on their experience.
- Faith Interview with a Pastor or Brad to be scheduled in October
 - This year we will do the faith interviews remotely via zoom or the phone. This is not a test of any kind, but a conversation about life and faith. Some of the discussion will be based on the student's faith statement. Time slots will be available starting October 7.
- Completion of your very own Confirmation stole!
 - Materials for your stole will be available at the Wednesday night classes. Instructions are enclosed. This year, we will work on the stoles at home and we are hoping parents will take an active role in helping to complete them. We encourage parents to make one or more items for their child to add to his/her stole.

Pictures will be professionally taken at 2:00 on Sunday, October 25, prior to the Confirmation service. Everyone will be in the group picture, but you do not need to purchase any photos. Individual photos will be taken as well for those who wish. Order forms will be provided closer to October 25.

Each Student will also be choosing a Confirmation Bible verse. If your child would like help choosing a verse, they can talk to one of the pastors or Brad.

If you have any questions about the schedule or format for these last weeks of confirmation for the 9th graders, please contact Pastor Ryan. We look forward to celebrating Confirmation Day with you!!!

Sincerely,

Pastor Ryan, Pastor Lisa

9th Grade Confirmation Schedule
 September 13th – October 25th, 2020
 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Day	Date	Topic ~ Activity	Location
Wednesday	September 16	<i>"What is Faith?"</i>	Church Backyard
Wednesday	September 23	<i>"Luther and Lutheran Theology"</i>	Church Backyard
Wednesday	September 30	<i>"Ten Commandments"</i>	Church Backyard
Wednesday	October 7	<i>"The Bible"</i>	Church Backyard
Sunday	October 25	3:00 PM Confirmation Service	Sanctuary



Summary of all activities

- **Stole Design and Creation**
- **Make up all uncompleted work** – service projects, sermon notes, etc.
- **Bible verse selection** – each student selects a verse to be used during the service. You can pick your verse on your own, or, we will give you a list with dozens of possibilities.
- **Faith interview** with a pastor – the Faith Statement will be reviewed as part of the interview. The thirty minute interview will take place during the final two weeks before confirmation.
- **Reconnect with your mentors** as part of this experience *{a mentor is a good candidate for your Intergenerational Interview}*.
- **TWO WRITING ASSIGNMENTS** – these are your personal Faith Statement, and an Intergenerational Interview, **DUE BEFORE YOUR FAITH INTERVIEW!**

YOUR STOLE



It has been the tradition at ASLC that each confirmation student designs and makes a stole that is presented to the student on Confirmation Day.

“In Protestant churches, the stole is most often seen as the symbol of ordination and the office of the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Stoles are often given by the congregation {sometimes handmade or decorated} as a love gift at ordination or at other life milestones. Generally, Protestant clergy wear the stole in the same manner as Anglican or Roman priests – around the back of the neck with the ends hanging down the front {and not crossed}. Stoles are commonly worn by ordained ministers in Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Christian Church {Disciples of Christ}, and other denominations.” {Wikipedia}

One suggestion about the origin of the stole as a liturgical vestment has to do with its similarity to the yoke, which is commonly used in an ox hitch. A stole around one’s neck is thought to symbolize work, service and labor on behalf of another – as a yoke of oxen serves their master’s needs.

Thus the stole is not mere decoration or ornamentation. It is a symbol of service, and should be worn in a spirit of humility. Parents are expected to help with the Stoles.

Notes on creating Confirmation Stoles:

1. Put together sets of felt pieces in envelopes.
2. Place reworked version of instruction sheets in envelopes.
3. Maybe start with “friends and family” symbols.
4. Have a time on a Wednesday night to review meanings of “faith” symbols.
5. Listen to instructions on how to “check out” 3-4 symbols each week to take home.
6. Include a piece of paper cut to appropriate width of stole for a guide.
7. Figure out a special time when gluing, adding sparkle or puffy paint, finishing stoles can take place – with parents helping out!
8. “Extra time” on Wednesdays can be used to work on stoles.

Intergenerational Interview

{talking about faith with an older person}

The Intergenerational Interview is a chance for you to talk with someone from another generation about faith – both yours and theirs. You are asked to prepare a summary of the interview and turn it in to Pastor Ryan. Reflect on what you have learned and why that is important. It should not just be a page of questions and answers. Please complete your summary and turn it in to Pastor Ryan or Pastor Lisa **on or before October 18th**.

WHO SHOULD I INTERVIEW?

Any person who is at least your parent's age is fine – but the **best** interviews will be of persons who are even older. A person who is the age of your grandparents would be terrific, and grandparents make wonderful candidates. If your grandparents are not available, a family friend or neighbor can work well. There are people at Abiding Savior that you know, or your family knows, who would be wonderful to interview. They don't have to be Lutheran, but they should be practicing Christians. If you cannot find someone, please talk to Pastor Ryan or Pastor Lisa and they will help you find someone.

WHAT SHOULD I ASK?

1. Did you go to Confirmation class? What was it like? What did you do? How many years did you go? How many students were in your class? What did you learn? What difference did Confirmation make in your life?
2. What was a church service like when you were my age?
3. Have there been times in your life when your faith has been very, very important? When and why?
4. What are some of your favorite hymns?
5. Did you go to Sunday school? What was that like?
6. Did your parents go to church? Did you go with them as a child? Did you ever stop going to church? Why?
7. Have you ever felt that God didn't care about you, or about what happened in your life?

These are sample questions. You may be able to think of better questions yourself, or you may decide to expand on these questions in your own, personal way. You don't have to ask all of these questions. These are meant only to help you get a start on your interview.

Personal Faith Statement

NAME: _____

Please answer the following questions. We would like you to spend this time thinking about the meaning of your faith and considering what it is that you believe.

Please turn in this Faith Statement before your Faith Interview with Pastor Lisa or Pastor Ryan and no later than October 14th.

1. What do you believe about God? (list characteristics, qualities, personalities, emotions, . . .)
2. What does God's love mean to you?
3. If you were to tell someone about Jesus who had never heard of Jesus, what would you say?
4. What is your favorite Bible passage and why?

- c. To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
 1. To you, what is the “good news of God in Christ?”

 2. What are some ways in which others have proclaimed this good news to you in word and deed? Give specific people and examples.

 3. How can you proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed as a high school student?

- d. To serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all of the earth?
 1. Give some examples of how Jesus served all people, strove for justice and peace.

 2. What are some ways that each of us could follow Jesus’ example.

 3. How do you plan to follow the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all of the earth?

