

2008-2009 Saved By Grace/ Confirmation Registration

Please return this registration form to the Hospitality Center or
send to Joni Grundman at Bethany.

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7th and 8th Grade Confirmation and Sunday school Registration 2008-2009

Youth's Name: _____
(First, middle, last)

Grade and School: _____

Parent(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone#(H) _____

Cell or Pager #: _____

We are using email more and more often to communicate with our families. Also, make-up homework is done electronically and your correct e-mail address is required to access the site. Please print your email as clear as possible. All e-mail addresses are kept confidential and used for Bethany purposes only.

Parent's Email: _____

Youth's Email: _____

Youth's Date of Birth: _____

I have been baptized: Date (mo. /yr.) and place: _____

I have not been baptized and would like to talk to someone about that: _____

I have taken my first communion: yes no

Name of one person you would like in your small group: _____

As part of Confirmation, you become an adult in the congregation and we ask that you take your adult responsibility seriously by assisting during worship services. Youth will be trained for all aspects that they are asked to help with. Please indicate which worship service you attend most often so that we can schedule for acolyting.

The Worship service that we most often attend is the: 8:00 _____ 9:00 _____ 10:30 _____

Parent Opportunities for Service:

Parents are the primary faith formers in their child's life. Through your living example, they see and learn what priority you place on your faith and theirs. We, the church staff, are here to help and equip you to teach faith to your children. One of the ways we do this and a way in which you illustrate the priority of their faith education, is to serve in ministry. It takes Christian adults to raise Christian youth. Below are several options to volunteer in confirmation ministry.

Name: _____

Check the box where you are called to serve in this ministry.

Administrative Team

When needed- especially at the end of August. This job entails photocopying, assembling mailings, sorting through closets, and assembling information to be distributed, etc. This commitment is on an as needed basis.

Bulletin Board Updater

Every other month- We all are visual people and the youth love to see themselves. We take pictures at all the events, but like many people, they stay on the computer. We are looking for a few people who would like to come in every other month and update the bulletin boards with pictures.

Acolyte Updater

A year long commitment starting in October. This person, through email and phone calls will remind the youth when they are acolyting. At the beginning of the month, they will send out an email to those who are acolyting and then make phone calls each week to remind the youth which Sunday they are to acolyte. **This person is not responsible for finding subs!**

Retreat Chaperone

One evening or a couple of hours on various weekends. We have various retreats, Lock-Ins, gatherings and trips scheduled through out the year. We need parents to help on these weekends by spending the night and participating at the gatherings or being behind the scenes at the retreats.

The dates and events scheduled are:

- 7th Grade Retreat- September 19th-20th
- 8th Grade Retreat – October 17th-18th
- Rocky Mountain Synod Youth Gathering January 16th-18th

Mentor

— **Wednesday Nights March 4th - April 1st** - The Lenten Mentor Ministry is a wonderful ministry in which confirmation youth ask an adult of the Christian faith to walk alongside them and have guided conversation with them. This ministry takes the place of Wednesday night Confirmation during Lent. Not all families know someone from the Bethany community to ask to be their mentor. We are always looking for adults who are willing to be a mentor to a youth.

Sunday School Assistant

— **September thru May, Sunday mornings, 9:00-10:15.** Adults are crucial to implementing our middle school Sunday School experience which seeks to bring the Word of God to youth through a variety of activities appealing to different learning styles. We are looking for seven assistants to help lead small group discussions (with leader notes provided), supervise games, crafts, skits and other activities, engage in some visioning and planning, and have once a month opportunities to lead and teach all or part of a session. All you need is a heart for youth and a desire to work with them. We will work with you on plugging you in wherever you feel your gifts are and help you to discover new gifts within yourself.

Confirmation Guide

— **September thru May, Wednesday nights, 6:30-8:00.** Guides are small group leaders for our confirmation program. As a guide your job is to spark conversation based on the nightly teaching of the Pastors. All materials will be given to you and your child will not be placed in your group unless you request it. This is a rewarding and transformational experience.

Didn't see a place where you are gifted or being called? Let us know what other gifts you have and would like to offer and we will find a place for you:

Saved By Grace- Registration Packet

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Ministry at Bethany Lutheran Church 2008-2009

We, at Bethany, are so excited to be joining you and your family on this journey of faith through the rite of passage known as Confirmation. In the Lutheran Church, we are baptized once, usually as babies, and brought into the family of God. Parents, grandparents, sponsors and friends are to bring their children to church and raise them up in the faith, place the scriptures in their hands and talk with them about the story of God's people, in which we are a part. There comes a time in the lives of the youth, usually 7th and 8th grade, where the church formally steps in to help facilitate the journey with the help of parents. Confirmation, or Affirmation of Baptism, is a time when the church helps the families learn the central teaching of the church which include; the Lord's Prayer, 10 Commandments, Apostle's Creed. Other subjects taught include; worship, sacraments, Lutheran theology, and the Old and New Testament.

As Martin Luther became a preacher and teacher traveling around Germany and surrounding areas, he was astonished and outraged at the lack of knowledge the lay people had about their own faith, God and what they were not teaching their children. He wrote the Small and Large Catechism with families in mind. It is written in a question and answer form. Children were to ask the questions and the parents, grandparents and other adults were to answer those questions.

In today's world with the various talents and gifts given to us by God we, the church, have created formal programs to help instruct the youth in the ways of the faith. Through media, interactive lessons, small groups, peers, retreats and large gatherings with music and speakers Bethany teaches the youth the core of our faith.

Yet, one thing that has not changed since Luther's time is the home is the primary faith former in a child's life. Through life at home, watching and learning where family priorities lie; youth begin to form their own values, morals and faith. How you talk or not talk about your faith shows your youth what is acceptable and not. When you make decisions in your life that either reflect your faith, or go against your faith they notice and will do the same. If you give them \$10.00 for the movies and \$1.00 for offering at church they see where your treasure goes and so follows your heart and theirs. If you do not go to worship, Sunday school or Bible study then they will see that you do not value it for your own life, and why then should they?

For these reasons we ask that you join your children on this journey. We provide many chances to volunteer in this ministry. Enclosed is a parent volunteer sheet with a variety of opportunities with different commitment levels. If you are not able to volunteer to work within the ministry, then we ask that you worship with your youth either on Wednesday evenings or on Sunday mornings. We pray you go one step further and attend an education option either on Wednesdays while your youth is in Confirmation or on Sundays while your youth is in Sunday School.

Included in this packet is a registration form. All 7th & 8th grade youth, are to return the **registration form**. The registration form will help us create small groups, establish an acolyte schedule and make sure we have the appropriate contact information. Also enclosed is **Parent Team sheet**. Please prayerfully consider how you can be active in this ministry and return the Parent Team Sheet with your registration form. Finally, in this packet is a detailed sheet that you are to keep that outlines the ministry, touches on the requirements of the program and gives significant dates that you need to know for the future.

Thank you so much for your time, energy, prayers and faith. We look forward to being in ministry with you and your family.

Confirmation Staff,

Pastor Ron Gluskamp, Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry, Joni Grundman and Kirsten Nelson-Roenfeldt

Important Dates for Confirmation 2008-2009

September 10th, 2008

Confirmation Orientation for all Confirmands and their parents. We will be going over the particulars of the Confirmation program, expectations, important dates and the youth will find out what small groups they are in.

September 17th-December 10th, excluding November 26th, January 14th- May 13th, 2009

Regular Confirmation Class with worship starting at 6:30 followed by large group and small groups. Confirmation ends at 8:00 pm.

September 19th-20th, 2008

7th Grade Retreat. This is a **required retreat** for all 7th graders. At the retreat, they will get a chance to become better acquainted with their classmates, learn in-depth about the 10 commandments, and be trained as acolytes.

October 3rd-4th, 2008

9th Grade Retreat. This retreat is all about Confirmation and is also **required for Confirmation.** The youth come back together after being apart all summer to re-connect with one another. They write their faith statements, choose their confirmation verses, are interviewed and rehearse for the actual confirmation service. It lasts from 8:00 pm Friday – 12:00p.m. Saturday.

October 12th, 2008

Confirmation at the 10:30 Service

October 17th-18th, 2008

8th Grade Retreat. At this **required retreat**, the youth come back together as a class, learn in-depth about the Lord's Prayer and worship, and bake communion bread to be used the following Sunday.

December 1st, 2007

Registration Deadline for Confirmation Camp at Sky Ranch. Youth are expected to attend either Summer Camp Sky Ranch or to attend a Mission Trip the summer of their 8th grade year. The dates for Confirmation Camp in 2009 are July 26th- 31st.

January 14th, 2009

The Lenten Mentor Ministry is a highlight of Bethany's Confirmation Ministry. It takes place during the five weeks of Lent, March 4th – April 1st, 2009. Each youth is paired up with a Christian adult. **Confirmation students must select their own mentors**, someone they know or would like to get to know better. Please fill out a Lenten mentor form and return to Pastor Ruth Ann or Joni **by January 14, 2009.**

January 16th-18th, 2009

Middle School Youth Gathering in Colorado Springs. This event is offered every year and youth are to attend at least once during their confirmation experience. Youth from around the Rocky Mountain Synod gather to find spiritual renewal, hear amazing speakers and bands, and experience unique worship. Many youth who go their 7th grade year want to go back their 8th grade year. Registration will be in the fall.

Additional Confirmation Information

❖ **Parents are invited and encouraged to come to the Large Group**

We invite all parents and guardians to join the large group in the Great Hall. During large group, we give announcements of upcoming events, celebrate things that have happened and introduce the night's lesson through interactive learning. Senior Pastor Ron Glusenkamp, Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry and Intern Kirsten Nelson-Roenfeldt will teach these lessons. Your presence at the lessons shows your child the priority you place on your faith as well as theirs.

❖ **Once a month Family Confirmation**

The 2nd Wednesday of each month is Family Night Confirmation. Faith is caught more than it is taught. Parents are the best and strongest faith educators of youth. This has been discovered through research and going back to the basics of Lutheran Tradition and Biblical teachings. We at Bethany would like to equip you as a family to walk together on your faith journey. On family nights, youth and a parent, grandparent, or are expected to attend confirmation together. Through conversation, activities and experiences the two of you will share your faith, learn and struggle together with what it means to be a Christian at any stage in life. You do not need to have all the answers, or any of them for that matter. The important part will be talking with your youth about your faith together. **Family Nights end at 8:15, not 8:00.**

❖ **Adult Classes on Wednesday Night**

After the large group experience, we will be offering 40 minute classes for the adults connected to the confirmands. There will be a variety of subjects from parenting to walking the Christian walk at home and work. These classes will be taught by Intern Kirsten, We look forward to being with you in this time of faith development.

❖ **Confirmation Fee:** We ask for a Confirmation fee of \$25.00. This fee will cover your New Teen Study Bible, your retreat and supplies that aid in the ministry.

❖ **Memory Work:** When we memorize something, it can become so steeped into our minds that it becomes part of our DNA. When we are in times of crisis or decision, we rely on the things we know and the things that form us. We have several things that the youth are to memorize, not only so that they know them but so that they can live them.

❖ **Worship Diaries:** Youth and parents are to complete 10 worship diaries each year of their confirmation experience. They can do five Wednesdays and five Sundays. It is an opportunity for the family to worship together and also to dialog about their experience.

❖ **Service Hours:** Youth are to complete 24 hours of service during their two years. This helps them embody servant hood outside of their regular schedule. We will give opportunities throughout the year to help them complete this requirement.

❖ **Acolyte:** There are eight faith factors that determine if a youth will be a faithful adult. One of these is to be apprenticed early into the leadership of the church. We do this through youth acolyting for Sunday Service. You will notice a part on the registration form to select which worship service you most often attend. Youth acolyte at all services, but we will attempt to schedule you the most for the service you regularly attend.

❖ **Sunday School:** Sunday School is an integral part of Confirmation Ministry. Youth learn in a relaxed environment about their faith and how it impacts their lives. Fellowship is a part of Sunday School and we highly encourage youth to attend. **We do require confirmands to be active on Sundays.** Youth should either be in worship or in Sunday School.

This may seem like a lot to ask of the youth and their families. We believe it is very reasonable when we look at the scope of material and the importance of their faith. Our goal is to help you and your child continue to walk a life-long journey with Christ. This takes time, patience and practice as we continue to form and create our relationships. We are glad to be with you in this and hope to assist you in any way possible. Please contact Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry if you have any questions regarding Confirmation.

Ruth Ann Loughry
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