

CATECHESIS AND CONFIRMATION AT ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Catechesis for youth is taught, at St. John's, with the goal of providing the very best Christian education that we can for parents and youth who are motivated to grow in the Christian faith. To that end, we maintain high expectations so that our catechumens and families can make the most of the time they invest in catechesis. At every step of the way we are committed to work with and help our catechumens meet these expectations. But it is also critical to have the full support of parents in this process!

Sometimes parents are motivated, but their child is not. (Adolescence has a lot to do with this!) With this in mind we'd like to stress that confirmation at the end of the year is not automatic just because a person attends on most Wednesday nights. We set the 4th Sunday of April as a target date for confirmation. But only those who have satisfactorily met the expectations will be confirmed. It is very important that youth and parents take seriously the expectations that have been put in place by the staff and elders at St. John's.

At St. John's, the pastors and elders have set the following expectations:

- 1. The catechumen will attend both church and Sunday school at least 70% of the time.**
- 2. The catechumen will be present at every class session, unless previously excused.**
- 3. The catechumen will complete two sermon summaries per month (12 total per year) to the satisfaction of the catechist who evaluates them.**
- 4. The catechumen will recite all six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism, each in its entirety, at the times designated on the schedule.**
- 5. The catechumen will recite two Bible verses per month, from the schedule provided, on the same night they recite each chief part of the catechism.**
- 6. During the 2nd year, the catechumen will satisfactorily complete two private interviews with the pastors, one in January and one in April.**
- 7. At the end of the 2nd year, the catechumen will participate in a public questioning just prior to Confirmation Sunday.**

The pastors and elders will visit about the progress of catechumens during the regular monthly elder meetings. Elders will also seek to maintain an encouraging relationship with catechumens. If a catechumen is falling behind on any of these expectations, an instructor will visit with the catechumen and/or parents. At the February Elders meeting, the Elders will discuss the pastors' recommendations regarding the confirmation of each individual student. Persistent negligence in any of these areas may result in a catechumen not being confirmed with the rest of the class.

It is our sincere hope and prayer that instructors, catechumens, and parents will work together in a joyful spirit to grow in the marvelous faith first given in Holy Baptism! God bless your studies!