



June 19, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians of First Year Confirmands,

It's time for an exciting period of growth and learning in the lives of Hope's 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders! Our Confirmation Program will be offered over the next two years. Classes, retreats, and special events will prepare students to personally affirm their baptismal faith, to receive Holy Communion, and to live as adult members of the church. These are crucial years for spiritual formation for the youth of our church, and we ask you to make Confirmation a priority in your family.

Over the next two years, we'll be sharing the basic doctrines and teachings of the Christian faith from our Lutheran perspective. Students will use the Bible as a foundational resource in Confirmation classes, along with Luther's Small Catechism.

Please read the enclosed "Information Sheet" carefully, and let us know if you have any questions. Note especially these important highlights!

- Complete the online Confirmation Registration immediately
- Youth and parents/guardians should plan to attend the Orientation Session August 22th.
- Reserve September 21-23 for your child to participate in the Fall Confirmation Retreat.

We are eagerly looking forward to exploring the Scriptures and growing in faith with your child over the next two years!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Wayne Puls

Pastor Lew Upchurch

Lead DCE Beth Agner

DCE Steve McCarthy

DCE Wesley Spottiswood

Enclosures

*Information Sheet*  
*Registration Instructions*  
*Preliminary Schedule*



# **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**

## **Information Sheet (First-Year) 2018-2019**

### **REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS**

- Attend all scheduled Confirmation classes, retreats, and special events. Contact Small Group Guide in case of absence for illness or emergency.
- Attend weekly worship services. Attendance will be tracked through the blue pew pads found in the worship pews. Please use them every week.
- Complete seven worship summary sheets per year (one for Advent, one for Lent, and five weekend services). Summaries should be turned into Small Group Guides on: September 19, October 17, December 12, January 9, February 13, March 20, and April 10. Discuss these summary sheets with your child and fill them out together.
- Complete all assigned Confirmation memory work. In the 2018-19 year, students are responsible for memorizing the three articles of the Apostle's Creed (and their meanings), The Lord's Prayer and a few relevant bible verses. Dates for these memory assignments will be on the Final Calendar, which will be distributed at the Confirmation Orientation Session, will be in your Student Booklet, and will be on Hope's website.
- Additional Expectations:
  - Attend weekly Sunday School and Youth Ministry activities. Attendance will be tracked through sign-up sheets in the classroom.
  - Create time at home to discuss lessons, worship summaries, and memory work with your child.

### **REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Confirmation at Hope is normally a two-year program, beginning in Grade 5 and concluding in Grade 6. The online registration is online at [www.hopelutheranwf.org](http://www.hopelutheranwf.org), selecting "Ministries → Youth → 5-6 (Confirmation)." Please register immediately.

Parents/guardians of older students should speak with Pastor Wayne Puls, Pastor Lew Upchurch, or Lead DCE Beth Agner for program and registration details.

### **ORIENTATION**

An important Orientation Session for all Confirmation students (first-year and second-year) and parents/guardians will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 6:30-8:00 PM, in the Sanctuary. This meeting is mandatory for all Confirmation students and parents/guardians. Please make sure your calendar is clear for the Orientation Session.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Class sessions are normally held from 6:30-7:30 PM on Wednesdays. Attending all class sessions is required. A Preliminary Schedule for the 2018-19 year is enclosed with this mailing. The Final Schedule for classes will be distributed at the Orientation Session on August 22, will be in your Student Booklet, and will be on Hope's website.

## **CLASS MATERIALS**

A Student Booklet with worksheets and supplementary materials will be provided for each student at the Orientation Session on August 22.

Each student should bring a Bible to every Confirmation class session. Any modern Bible translation will be appropriate, but we strongly encourage students to use the New International Version (NIV) or the English Standard Version (ESV). No King James Version (KJV), please. An ESV Teen Study Bible will be available for purchase (\$25) at the Orientation Session.

Confirmation students will be provided with a paper copy of Luther's Small Catechism for class and study use. A hard-cover version of the Small Catechism, with excellent supplementary materials, will be available for purchase (\$15) at the Orientation Session.

## **RETREAT**

All Confirmation students (first-year and second-year) are expected to participate in the Confirmation Retreat at Camp Willow Run, in Littleton, NC, September 21-23. This will be a perfect opportunity for our youth to establish and grow Christian friendships, and to get the year off to a fun start.

Camp Willow Run has lots of great outdoor experiences for the kids to try, including a rock climbing wall and a "giant swing" (both run by a certified camp employee). Each cabin holds 11 people, is equipped with AC/heat and bathrooms, and will include at least one adult leader from Hope.

Lead DCE Beth Agner, DCE's Steve McCarthy & Wesley Spottiswood, and other adults from Hope will be providing careful leadership of the Retreat participants at all times.

To reduce any possible anxiety for the Confirmation youth, please know that if your child would feel most comfortable picking out one friend to make sure he/she is bunking with, we would gladly arrange for this to happen.

The Retreat cost is \$130. If this is a financial hardship, do not hesitate to reach out to Lead DCE Beth Agner directly, and she will work out a way to ensure all kids get to attend this amazing weekend.

Please register ASAP at [www.hopelutheranwf.org](http://www.hopelutheranwf.org), selecting "Ministries → Youth → 5-6 (Confirmation)."

## **QUESTIONS**

Please call Pastor Wayne Puls, Pastor Lew Upchurch, or Lead DCE Beth Agner in the church office (919-554-8109) if you have any questions about Hope's Confirmation Program. We are looking forward to helping your child grow in the Christian faith, and establish a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ!