

August 21st, 2020

Dear Ninth Grade Confirmation Students,

At Immanuel, 9th grade is the year of Affirmation of Baptism. This is when you complete your confirmation learning and affirm your faith. In doing so, you become an adult member of the congregation who can now fully participate in leadership at Immanuel including voting at congregational meetings and serving on council. This year will look a little different than other years for obvious reasons, but we still hope it will culminate with an Affirmation of Baptism service of some sort next spring or summer. More information on possible dates will be available in 2021.

Ninth grade students will meet once a month via Zoom with Pastor Jamie or their mentors from October-April. Each student will choose a mentor to engage in faith discussions. Near the end of the year you will write a faith statement that summarizes your faith journey and what you have learned along the way. Thankfully, much of this work can be done at home or virtually!

Our mentoring program at Immanuel has been in progress for over two years. Typically, we have had each student choose an adult who is a person of faith from the Immanuel congregation, but not a relative. We work through a series of questions that helps you reflect on your faith and it culminates in writing a faith statement to be shared on Affirmation of Baptism weekend. This year, we will be more flexible with your mentor. If you can think of a mentor that fits the traditional mold whom you could meet with outdoors or via Zoom or phone, that would be great! If not, you could choose a family member. If these options don't work for you, Pastor Jamie and Alyssa will work with you to find a mentor or a small group to work with. Please let us know your mentor by October 1st.

Our first virtual meeting will be Wednesday, October 7th at 6:30-7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Look for the link in an email from Alyssa early that week!

God's peace,

Pastor Jamie Brieske

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