

August 21st, 2020

Dear confirmation families,

I write to you in this uncertain time with a message of hope! God is with you. Whether I see you in person, or whether you see my face on a screen, our spirits are connected and unified in God's love. I don't need to tell you that this year's learning at Immanuel will look a little different this year. Of course it will. But some things will never change: you have a place at Immanuel, you are a beloved child of God, and your Immanuel family is walking with you as you learn and grow in faith.

This year in 6th-8th grade confirmation we will have a Lutheran Learning year! We will learn about the life and lessons of Martin Luther as well as some basic elements of our Christian faith including The Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, and The Apostles Creed. After we work our way through these basic parts of our faith, we will look at what it means to live a life of faith every day.

To engage in this learning we will have a workbook from *FaithInk*. This faith journal, *Luther & The Catechism* will make our learning easy to follow and adaptable to all learning scenarios. Immanuel will try to follow the ECASD model of learning which could be all virtual, a hybrid model, or completely in-person. ECASD is hoping to start with a hybrid model and we will follow suit.

### **Hybrid model for Immanuel Confirmation**

Wednesday Sept. 16th, 23rd, & 30th WoW Outdoors at 6:00-6:30 p.m. in Immanuel Parking Lot, followed by Small Group Fellowship and Orientation for MS & HS outside from 6:45-7:30 p.m. (No meals are planned at WoW this year. If the weather is bad, we will do a livestream with a Zoom orientation meeting afterwards. Watch your email, Facebook, or the website for updates.)

In October we will move to a WoW livestream that you could watch from home or from your car at 6 p.m. Each student will be assigned one Wednesday a month that they will be meeting in person inside the building with masks on from 6:45-7:30 p.m. (Groups will be 10 people or less.) When your small group is not meeting in person you will have a virtual option, or an option to do the workbook on your own with a parent, or another mentor in your life. Those who do not want to be a part of the hybrid option, can simply do the workbook at home and follow along with worship and learning online!

### **Virtual Only Model**

In the virtual only model, Worship will be livestreamed at 6:00-6:30 p.m. and there will be a Zoom class from 6:45-7:30 p.m. some Wednesdays of the month. (Students who do not attend the Zoom classes would be expected to email Pastor Jamie a picture of their completed assignments.) There will be an assigned pick up time to come and get your workbook and Bible if you left it at the church. If you need to purchase a Bible, email Alyssa or myself.

**FAITH5 always!** In this uncertain time, we will be encouraging families to engage in the FAITH5 in a consistent manner. More than ever, your family needs you to engage in faith practice at home. Parents need to be guiding and caring for their students' faith at home. *The Luther & The Catechism* workbook has a place to record a daily FAITH5 update. See the following page on the FAITH5 model.

**Confirmation faith expectations:**

Watch or attend a weekly worship service

Complete the weekly lesson in the Luther & The Catechism learning journal

Attend regular in person or Zoom classes, or email Pastor Jamie your completed work

Service opportunities will be suggested throughout the year

I hope it is helpful for you to have an overview of what confirmation learning may look like this year. Of course, we will work to make it better every week and try to adapt to current health recommendations. That means it is subject to change! We all need to show and receive extra grace this year.

Most of all, I hope you all know that the council, Alyssa, and I are all praying for you during this uncertain time. If there are other ways we can meet your spiritual needs or simply help your family, don't hesitate to reach out. If we don't hear from you otherwise, we will assume all of our students will engage in the hybrid model to begin with. If you would like to participate all-virtually, there will be times suggested where you can pick up your workbook, so please make arrangements with Alyssa or myself. Please make sure every student has a Bible at home to use for their journal. You will also need to complete a participation form and COVID release form this year. They are included. Please email them back to Alyssa or mail them to the church.

Holding you in God's Peace,

Pastor Jamie Brieske

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## **About FAITH5**

*Faith Formation Every Week at Church and Every Night in Every Home*

When modeled every week at church and practiced every night at home, FAITH5 carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, and promote mental, and spiritual health.

The five steps are:

STEP 1: SHARE your highs and lows

STEP 2: READ a Bible verse or story

STEP 3: TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

STEP 4: PRAY for one another's highs and lows

STEP 5: BLESS one another

**(Name), Child of God, May God surround you with love, and fill your heart with love for others. Amen.**