

# 9th Grade Confirmation

## Faith Journey Conversations

### Overview

Each 9th grade Confirmation youth will meet with a St. Andrew's pastor or youth ministry staff member for a Faith Journey Conversation. The discussion is an opportunity for youth to talk one-on-one with an adult of faith about their Confirmation experience and their continued journey of life and faith, centered on a written Faith Journey Reflection.

Conversations are scheduled during the summer and last approximately 30 minutes. **It is up to the youth to schedule the conversation with the assigned pastor or staff member.** All Faith Conversations are to be completed by August 31, unless scheduled otherwise. Confirmation youth are asked to be respectful of pastor and staff schedules by meeting this deadline.

### Faith Journey Reflection

Each youth is to write a Faith Journey Reflection as an opportunity to thoughtfully reflect on their life of faith – in the past, at the present time, and into the future. It is recommended that you write about a page on each of these three main parts, for a total of three full pages.

The following topics are given as ideas of what can be addressed in your written reflection. Not every topic or question needs to be answered; they are provided as prompts to assist you in reflecting on different aspect of your faith.

#### ***Reflection on the Past:***

- Who or what has influenced your faith in the past?
- When did you first hear about God? When did you first learn about Jesus?
- What was a significant moment in your life growing up that you later realized had an impact on your faith?
- Who have you admired who lives out their faith? What have you learned from this person?
- When have you felt the closest to God? When have you felt the furthest from God?
- What has been the most significant part of your Confirmation experience? What did you like the best?
- What part of Confirmation challenged you the most?
- Ask one of your parents/guardians why they wanted you to participate in the Confirmation program. Share their answer and what you think of this reason.

#### ***Snapshot of the Present:***

- Where are you in your faith journey right now?
- How do you “live in faith?” Where have you done this in your life?
- What are some of your certainties about your faith? What can you say you are certain and sure about in terms of understanding God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, faith, grace, or the church?

- What is your relationship with Jesus Christ like right now? How does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection make a difference for you?
- What do you understand about being a Lutheran? How do you explain the difference between being a Lutheran and other religious traditions (such as Catholic, Baptist, or other faiths)?
- As you are nearing the end of your Confirmation experience, what questions do you have about faith, about God, or about how God works in the world? (Please note there are no right or wrong questions to have. Feel free to be honest with what you think or wonder about!)

***Looking to the Future:***

- How do you want to grow in faith in the years ahead?
- Who are people you can look to for support in your growing in faith in the future?
- How can you use your gifts in the church, the world, or for the sake of others?
- How do you want to be involved in our church after Confirmation?
- What about the church would you like to see changed?

You are invited to add other topics besides those listed above, but what you write should be centered on your personal faith life.

**The reflection should be typed, double-spaced, and in a 12-point font.** It should be approximately three complete pages in length (generally about one page for each of the three sections). Be sure to include your name at the top and your Confirmation Bible verse at the end (see below). **They should be given or emailed to the pastor or staff member at least 48 hours before the scheduled conversation to provide them time to read it.**

**Confirmation Bible Verse**

Each youth picks a Bible verse that they will read at the Confirmation Celebration Service. The verse should be reflective of their faith, be significant to them or a member of their family, portray an emotion or feeling toward God, or is an encouragement in times of challenge. The verse must be more than five words long. **The verse should be written or typed at the end of the Faith Journey Reflection.**

Youth should be prepared to discuss their chosen Bible verse during the Faith Journey Conversation:

- Why did you select this verse?
- How does relate to your faith life?
- How might this verse continue to guide you in the future?

**High School Ministries**

The Faith Journey Conversation will close with a discussion about how the youth can continue to be involved in St. Andrew's high school ministries. Confirmation is not a "graduation" or an end to one's faith involvement, but rather marks the affirmation of one's faith in Jesus and a commitment to continued involvement in the life of the church as a family of faith!