



Confirmation 2016-17 - Shaped to Serve

O Lord, you are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
—Isaiah 64:8

What is Confirmation? This tradition goes back to the beginnings of Protestant denominations when Martin Luther wrote the small catechism as a way for the head of the household to teach the basics of the faith to the family. We believe that talking about faith in the home is important, but also believe fellowship and learning with other young disciples is an important factor in growing up as a disciple. This is why there are parts of Confirmation at Gloria Dei that occur at church, as well as parts in the home and around the community.

What is required? *Required* is not really the word we want to be emphasized. Confirmation at Gloria Dei is meant to give students a broad *experience* of what discipleship may look like in a variety of contexts while equipping our youth with the knowledge of the basics of faith. Overall, this a 150 hour program that takes place of two years. Fifty hours are dedicated to learning, fifty to service in worship and the community, and another fifty in fellowship with other disciples.

Learn. *50 hours of classroom and at home learning.* Each lesson is 45 minutes, with a 15 minute “take-home question.” Students respond to these questions on the Confirmation website (listed below). There are about 30 lessons offered each year, and lessons can be made-up online as well. These are also posted on the website, but unfortunately, videos cannot be posted. Students are encouraged to attend classes as peer-connection is important in the faith journey.

Serve. *50 hours of service in worship and the community.* This means that 25 hours are meant in service in worship leadership. 15 of these hours should be as a youth worship assistant (formerly called the “acolyte expectation”), and 10 of these hours are counted up for leading worship in some other way (music, reading, usher, greeter, etc.). Sign-up sheets for several of these opportunities are available. The other 25 hours are concerned with service out in the community. These activities may include serving at FMSC, PADs, an animal shelter, community clean-up, children’s ministry, or other events. Service hours are logged online via the Confirmation website.

Share. *50 hours of fellowship with peers.* This expectation is a little more loosely satisfied as this can be done through church events like the Laser-tag Lock-in, bowling outings, retreats, summer trips, or even attending an event with friends at another faith community. There will also be the opportunity for students to hangout on Wednesday nights once a month during the spring as we are working to create a more all-encompassing youth ministry program.

What is a regular class like? Confirmation classes meet from 10:05-10:50AM on Sunday mornings, starting September 11. There is also a fifteen-minute “take-home” question that accompanies the lesson each week. All lessons are posted online, and as needed lessons can be done in the home as well. The class will meet in two small groups in room 116 and 103. The focus for the 2016-17 year is on Bible stories, while we look at specific characters as “flawed but called” people of God. The focus for the following year will be on Catechism and the tough questions that come with being a person of faith.

Who teaches Confirmation? At Gloria Dei we believe that every youth and child should have at least five adult mentors that know them by name, are praying for them, and are genuinely invested in their lives. This is why parents and the pastors/youth director teach confirmation classes on a regular basis. Don’t worry. Teaching is easy, and you will learn along the way. Usually, if you take just 20 minutes to look through the lesson plan just once, you are more than ready to teach. The most important part is loving the young people you will be with and to be willing to hear about their lives and pray with them along the way. No expertise is required to teach!

NOTES:

My student is assisting with worship on the following dates:

My student is a reader in worship on the following dates:

I am teaching confirmation on the following dates:

Upcoming Events

Laser-tag Lock-in: October 14-15, 9:00PM-6:00AM. All students in confirmation or high school are encouraged to attend. We are limited to just 30 spots, so sign-up as soon as possible. Cost is \$20 per student/\$30 max for family (scholarships are available). We will be meeting at the church for some worship and group-building. Following that, we will head on over to Laser Quest in Downers Grove for fun, pizza, and probably no sleep. Students will need to be picked up from Laser Quest at 6:00AM. *We need willing adult leaders to help make this event possible. Friends are always welcome!*

Youth Feed the Hunger: Following on the heals of a very successful mission trip to San Diego where we worked with the homeless, we are making food and shelter a focus for youth this year. We will have a friendly competition between our middle school and high school groups to see who can raise more support for the CROP Walk (October 16) and Souper Bowl of Caring (February 5). These are two great ways to support food pantries around our nation and in our own community. We will also have opportunities for learning and engagement with our sisters and brothers living on the street through events like Sleep-Out Saturday, special lessons during confirmation and high school group times, and various service projects/special collections throughout the year.

Weekly Opportunities

Confirmation Classes start Sunday, September 11, from 10:05-10:50. For younger students, Sunday School starts that same day and time. This is also the start of our regular worship schedule. We have five worship services each weekend. There is a 5:00PM spoken service on Saturdays, and on Sundays a 7:30AM spoken service, 8:30AM traditional, 9:43 contemporary, and 11:00AM blended.

Kids of the Kingdom Choir has its first rehearsal on Wednesday, August 31 at 5:00PM. This is a choir for students in 2nd-8th grade. This group leads a song at worship one Sunday each month, and puts on a musical each year. During this time together, students will learn to read music, understand note values and rhythm, play instruments as part of anthems, learn to focus, and understand how the songs we sing tie into the worship service. There will be plenty of fun as well. If your child is interested in joining the choir, or for more information, please contact Sue Scharping via email at suescharping@comcast.net.

Interested in more than singing? Gloria Dei offers a *hand chime choir* for anyone 3rd grade and older and this happens from 4:30-5:00PM. This begins on August 31st, and no prior experience is necessary. *Hope Handbells* for youth and older also starts that day and goes from 6:30-7:00PM. Both groups meet in the nave (main worship space). Contact Sue Scharping for more information, or to sign-up.

Church Night Supper is the best deal in town to feed busy families on Wednesday nights. The menu is printed in the Messenger, online, and in weekly worship bulletins. Cost is \$3 per person. It all starts Wednesday, August 31, from 5:45-6:30PM in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs).