

Kings Kids and Confirmation Handbook

The Confirmation Ministry of
Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran
820 River Road, DeForest, Wisconsin
(608) 846-9711

Welcome Families and Students:

We are excited to be working with you this year! The Education Committee has spruced up the Kings Kids and Confirmation Program with a few changes. We use the Here We Stand curriculum.

Our emphasis remains focused on Christian faith, Christian living, and Christian community. Kings Kids will meet according to the enclosed calendar on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m., and will include a snack, music, large group, small groups, and service projects. Confirmation will also meet according to the enclosed calendar on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and will include a meal, music, large group, small groups, and service projects.

Please take time to review the Kings Kids & Confirmation Handbook. It will provide you with an overview of the program, scheduling information, requirements and how the various pieces of the program fit together.

We review and update our program each year, in an attempt to continue meeting the needs of our youth and families. Your feedback and involvement is critical to its continued success. Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns and even when you really appreciate an event or activity.

We appreciate the commitment you have made to our Kings Kids & Confirmation Ministries here at NGMLC. You play an integral role in sharing God's love and promise with the young people of our church. It will be challenging, but will also be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Thank you.

God's Blessings!

Tom Kreis, Troy Janisch and Pastor Kathy

WHAT IS KINGS KIDS?

Kings Kids is designed with 5th and 6th graders in mind.

The primary grade pattern of Sunday school reflects a 5th grader status as a middle schooler and the meeting time is scheduled Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

As a warm-up to confirmation, Here We Stand curriculum from Augsburg Fortress is used, but the main focus is mainly on learning Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments, instead of on Luther's Small Catechism.

Kings Kids will include times of worship, special small group learning sessions during Lent, music, prayer, faith sharing, humor, fun service projects, learning from others, and games. Getting comfortable with growing in faith for a lifetime is a goal.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is designed with the 7th & 8th Graders in mind. Confirmation may take a different form from the confirmation classes most parents were a part of years ago, but the purpose is the same - to bring the students to

the place where they can say with confidence, "Yes, I believe" on that day when they affirm their baptismal vows first made by their parents. We are seeking to plant the seeds of faith, and water them, and nurture them so that each student will develop a strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Confirmation is the fulfilling of a vow:

When our children are baptized, parents make a promise or vow:

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship p. 228)

Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran also makes a promise or vow:

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The confirmation program is another opportunity, in addition to Sunday school, and home learning, for parents to fulfill that promise to teach their children the faith. The program also provides an opportunity for Norway Grove Memorial to teach them more about being a vital part of the body of Christ.

Confirmation teaches the basics of Christian faith:

In the course of a two-year program, we will be covering the traditional topics in the Luther's Small Catechism including:

Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

Baptism

Holy Communion

Lord's Prayer

History of Martin Luther and the Lutheran Church

Of course we'll use the Holy Bible as the basis for all of the teachings.

The Lutheran Handbook I & II are also used.

Confirmation teaches the basics of Christian living:

Each student is part of a small group led by 1-2 adult mentors (guides). Through the mentors' guidance and example, students will learn up close what it means to live out the life of faith. Confirmation will include times of worship, prayer, music, faith sharing, and humor, service projects, learning from each other, games and fun outings. The life of faith will be lived out through our work and time together.

Confirmation provides Christian community:

It is our hope and prayer that each small group, and the entire class, will be a place where each student feels accepted for who they are, supported and encouraged through difficult times. We also seek to celebrate the successes of each student as well.

John 13:34-35

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Jesus teaches that the most distinctive mark of Christian community is love. We want Confirmation to be a place where Christian love abounds.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."

Paul saw that a mark of a healthy Christian community was encouragement. We want Confirmation to be a place where our students are encouraged in their faith walk.

Confirmation is NOT a requirement for salvation:

Confirmation is Norway Grove Memorial's effort to assist parents in providing instruction for their children in the Christian faith. You are welcome and encouraged to also instruct your child in your home environment. Participation in Confirmation is a choice. If you decide to enroll your child in Confirmation, you will sign a covenant that lays out our expectations for the participants in the program. If you are not able to be supportive of the covenant expectations you may want to consider some other option for your child. We truly hope that we can be a helpful part of your child's growing in faith.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM?

Regular Worship Attendance - worship is the central expression of our

faith in God through Jesus Christ. People who believe that you can have faith in God and not worship in Church are mistaken. Christian fellowship is vital for growing and being supported in our faith journeys. When we believe and see Jesus as Lord of our lives, we see worship as a privilege and an obligation. Certainly there are times when we are not able to attend, but that doesn't change God's command that we remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

The centrality of worship as the foundation of our relationship with God is one of the most important principles that we strive to teach during confirmation. That is why worship is a requirement of our program. Furthermore, we ask that parents model this priority in their own lives as well. Remember, your example will have the greatest influence upon your child's faith.

Starting last year, confirmation worship attendance included having the students filling out **Worship Reflections**. This helps the students gain a better understanding of worship and assist in helping them to focus on key parts of worship. At least 15 worship reflections are required per year from both 7th and 8th graders.

The Worship Reflections sheet is a tool for Confirmation students to fill out during worship time to help them have a better and deeper worship experience. It will ask things like 'what was your favorite song and why?' and ask them to share a prayer concern that they may have. Also, we'd like them to explain, in their own thoughts and words, what the sermon was about that day. Worship Reflection sheets are located on the shelf under the Youth Info bulletin board. Following worship, the Reflections sheet may be placed in Pastor Kathy's mailbox, located in the church office.

Worship attendance (Sundays and Lenten services) will be monitored. At worship, there will be an attendance sheet (also located on the shelf under the Youth Info bulletin board) for students to sign each week. When attending another congregation, providing a bulletin is sufficient for attendance credit. It is the student's responsibility to sign the worship attendance record each week. Failure to show a pattern of regular worship attendance could result in a student not being recommended for confirmation.

Every family is encouraged to worship together as regularly as

possible. Every year, parents and students ask the question, "How many Sundays can I miss?" As staff, we don't want to quantify this because there are too many unique situations that we deal with each year. Two challenges that we face regularly are situations of divorce where the student is with a non-member parent on weekends and that parent doesn't support the program. It is hard to penalize a child for something they have no say over. Secondly, every year we have some students who come as friends and whose parents do not necessarily support the program. It is the child's choice to participate, but satisfying the worship requirement can, in some situations, be a sincere challenge. **Please note: Athletic events scheduled for Sunday mornings ARE NOT considered unique situations.**

Class Attendance - Attendance at Confirmation is required and will be monitored. Failure to show a pattern of regular attendance on Wednesday evenings could result in a student not being recommended for confirmation.

Service Projects - There will be a variety of service projects scheduled for the entire class during the year. In addition, small group may be asked to come up with their own service project. These times of working together on a common project can provide priceless opportunities for faith to grow. We are always looking for new ideas on service projects. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

5th and 6th Grade responsible for the Acolyte Program* -The Kings Kids acolyte (light and extinguish the candles before and after worship, assist with communion and help out during baptisms) as a service to the congregation. New students will be trained as acolytes in the fall and will receive a review on the day they acolyte for the first time.

7th and 8th Grade participate in worship by serving as Ushers, Greeters, Screen Operators and Assisting Minister* - The confirmation students also participate in these worship assistant areas as a service to the congregation as well.

*The Worship Assistant schedule is printed in the Norway Grove Newsletter each month, two months at a time. Students are expected to find their own substitutes when they know they will be

absent on a particular Sunday.

7th and 8th Graders participate as Sunday School Teacher Helpers on Sunday mornings, from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. on a rotating basis.

Youth Quake - Each year we encourage our students from Kings Kids and Confirmation to participate in the "Youth Quake" - a retreat for middle school age kids that has music, worship, workshops and free time. This retreat is at the Wilderness Resort in the Dells. Deposits for this event will be collected starting on orientation evening, with final payments due in October. This is a tremendous faith building experience for our kids. We cannot recommend this event highly enough.

Confirmation Camp (Individual or Group) Each summer, an option is to go as a group of confirmation students (7th & 8th graders) to Confirmation Camp. This also is an amazingly faith stirring event. There is also much free time for the students to enjoy the camp facilities and activities provided at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Look for registrations to arrive at church late January.

We ask that your child participate in either the Youth Quake or Confirmation camp at least once during their four years. We strongly encourage students to do both, if at all possible.

Ropes Course - This event requires participation from our 8th grade students.

The Ropes Course is held at the beginning of the year in late September or early October to bring a new level of trust and awareness of each other to this group of young people. It will be an experience they will share and talk about for the whole year.

10 The 8th Grade Confirmation Kids will also meet at the end of the year in a question-and-answer session with the current church council.

Question-And-Answer Session - The 8th Grade Confirmation Kids will meet at the end of the year in a question-and-answer session with the current

church council.

This event is required for participation in the rite of Confirmation. If you have any questions or concerns, please discuss them with Pastor Kathy, your student's Guide, or with Confirmation Large Group Leaders Tom Kreis or Troy Janisch.

Faith Portfolio - Our children are wonderful gifts from God and God has given us the awesome responsibility to raise them up in God's love and word. We want to help each student celebrate their individual lives and gifts as they live them out in the Lord. Each student will be given an outline to use in putting together their individual portfolio. We will discuss it in class. Parents are needed to ask about and assist their student in completing their portfolio throughout the two years they are in Confirmation. Each student's portfolio will need to be completed by April 1st of their 8th grade year, so it can be presented to the Church Council. The Church Council will review each portfolio prior to recommending the student for the rite of Confirmation in May.

WHO CAN COME TO CONFIRMATION?

All 7th and 8th grade members of our congregation are invited to participate in Confirmation. Friends are welcome. Relatives are welcome. Believe it or not - parents are even welcome!

While friends and relatives are welcome, they must still observe our basic requirements, guidelines, and rules established within the program or your small groups. If you have a visitor attending regularly (more than a month), please let Pastor Kathy know. This may be an indication that this visitor wants to see Confirmation through to actually affirming their faith, and needs to be attended to.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL CLASS NIGHT LOOK LIKE?

On Wednesdays - 6 p.m. (6:30 for Kings Kids) to 8 p.m., as indicated on the calendar:

6:00 p.m. Activity, Prayer, and Dinner in Small Groups (For Confirmation Students only)

Each night will begin with a team building type activity to help the kids transition from the school day to Confirmation time. This helps everyone reconnect and gets them focused on working together.

Pastor Kathy or another leader will prepare us for dinner with a brief prayer.

We will dismiss one table at a time to get dinner to avoid crowding in the food line. Dessert will be put out after everyone is through the line. Please remind help us to help the students remember that one piece of dessert is enough and ensures everyone gets one.

This is a great time to ask each of your students what their "high" was for the week and what their "low" was. If you don't get through each student before dinner is over, you can continue with this in small group. Use your judgment.

Each individual will be asked to clear all their own trash from and around the table and each group will need to wash down the table before going upstairs for music. It works best to ensure each student has a turn at this task to be fair.

6:30 p.m. Music

Our Music Director, Jill Buchheim, leads us in this event. This is a time to worship God through music. We encourage everyone to participate. If a student does not wish to sing, they should be reminded not to be disruptive while others are trying to participate. This is not a time for socializing, but for worship and praise.

6:45 p.m. Large Group Learning

Tom Kreis and Troy Janisch (Confirmation), David Midthun (Kings Kids) and or Pastor Kathy will lead us in our Large Group Learning and setting up our lesson for Small Group Learning. This is where our curriculum will be introduced to the students.

7:15 p.m. Small Group Learning

Small Group will begin and end with prayer. The repetitious and consistent use of prayer helps the students become more comfortable with talking to God.

Guides will be asked to use Small Group to go deeper into the lesson shared in Large Group. This time together is for discussion and helping the students understand the lesson better.

7:50 p.m. Closing Thoughts & Prayer

The evening will wrap up with a few final thoughts while asking students for their reflections about what was discussed and studied during the evening. Some evenings, we will even do "Stump the Pastor." Get those questions ready! We will also close with prayer.

8:00 p.m. Dismissal

Parents are asked to come inside to pick up their student. Guides, be aware of anyone who is still lingering in case they have unexpected transportation issues. A parent may need to be called to find out how long it will be before they arrive. There is usually someone in the Guide and Volunteer group that can give someone a ride home if need be.

8:05 p.m. Guide Huddle

This is intended to be no longer than 10 minutes in length. We want to get your perspective on how things went throughout the evening and if there are any challenges, question, or concerns that need to be addressed before our next night of class. We also want to celebrate the good things that occurred in the evening.

Parents are welcome to join us any time we gather for group learning, service projects, and fun events. This year, parents are specifically invited to attend one class session. November 11th is the date set aside for 5th & 6th grade parents to join in class. November 18th is reserved for 7th & 8th grade parents.

DINNER IN SMALL GROUPS

We are frequently asked by students why they are required to participate in dinner with their small groups. The time we gather for dinner provides us the opportunity to:

Help parents provide a nutritious meal at a busy time of day

Help students shift from the activities of the day to focusing on God and faith

Provide time to socialize with one another outside of class

Give Guides an opportunity to hear what's going on in each student's life

Students may not see the obvious value in these reasons, but in the long run we are confident they benefit greatly from this time together.

PARENTS: We will ask you to provide your time to assist 1-2 times throughout the school year for meal preparation. A schedule will started at registration.

DISCIPLINE

If discipline and/or participation issues arise in class or during a group

outing, it will be addressed directly with the student. If it cannot be resolved, parents will be asked for their help and support. We do not want to send students home, however, disrespectful behavior is a hindrance to teaching and learning for the whole class and cannot be tolerated.

The first night of classes will be focused on getting to know the Guides, helpers and students. In addition, we will conduct an exercise to help the students establish the rules everyone will be expected to live by throughout the year. These rules will help maintain order, but more importantly, will empower the students to hold each other accountable for creating a great community of faith and learning together.

WHAT ABOUT CLASSES DURING LENT?

These classes are for both Kings Kids and Confirmation. We will have an abbreviated class just prior to worship. Our schedule will look as follows:

6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
6:20 p.m.	Small Group Learning
6:55 p.m.	Break
7:00 p.m.	Worship for everyone & worship reflections for 7 th & 8 th graders
8:00 p.m.	Dismissal

In addition to attending supper and group learning time, each 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grade class will be required to be the worship assistants on Wednesday evenings.

Training will be provided to ensure everyone knows what is expected of them. In addition, the Guides will work with their students to determine jobs for their nights as worship assistants.

WHEN ARE STUDENTS CONFIRMED?

At the successful completion of their 8th grade year, students are invited to take part in confirmation services where they will affirm their baptismal vows and confess their faith. Those students recommended and approved for confirmation will take part in the rite on **May 16th, 2010**. On the Wednesday before Confirmation, May 12th, 2010, we will host a special Blessings dinner for Confirmands and their parents. The event is organized and hosted by the 7th grade parents and students.

7th Grade Guides and Volunteers - We need you to take this task on starting right after Lent. More information will be provided later.

FAITH PORTFOLIO OUTLINE

Purpose - The purpose of the Faith Portfolio is to document and celebrate your life up to your Confirmation. The Faith Portfolio will also be used to present you to our Church Council in order to receive their approval for your Confirmation in May. It will help them to get to know you and how you have developed your faith during the last several years.

Resume - The purpose of a resume is to introduce and inform others of your qualifications for being confirmed in May in a summarized format. This should include a purpose regarding your faith development, educational history, work experience, etc.

Letter of Recommendation for Confirmation - Ask an adult you respect to write a letter of recommendation for your confirmation. This person should have first-hand knowledge of your work and involvement in activities leading up to your confirmation.

Achievements - This section should be a celebration of your achievements thus far in your life. Some suggestions for this area of your portfolio could be athletic and academics achievements, service projects and activities, major life events or faith experiences that had a strong impact in shaping who you are as a person.

Family - Tell us about your family. Include pictures that are important to you and use them to tell your story.

Milestones - Describe the important events in your life leading up to your confirmation. (Baptism, Trips, Life Events, etc.)

Essay - What does affirming your faith mean to you? What have been the most memorable experiences? Tell us your highs and your lows. This needs to be a minimum of 1 page long, in 12-point Arial font, single-spaced. Take time to think

about and write this.

Favorite Bible Verse - What is your favorite bible verse? Why?

Feel free to use pictures, graphics and other tools in developing your Faith Portfolio.

A sample portfolio will be available in the Church Conference Room for students to reference throughout the year. More information will be discussed and shared in Large Group to help students get these completed.

CONFIRMATION COVENANT

Confirmation is our effort to assist parents in fulfilling the baptismal promises they made when their children were baptized. This program is NOT essential for salvation, but it is Norway Grove Memorial's effort to help our children to claim their baptism and grow in their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior for their lives. What is most important is that our children hear, see and experience a relationship with Jesus so that they may grow in faith. To this end, we set a covenant in place that spells out the expectations of parents, students, leaders, and pastors.

Expectations for Parents, Students, Mentors, guides, Volunteers, and Pastors:

RESPECT - this is essential for all of us. Christian community is based upon mutual love and respect for one another, so this needs to be lived out in our class. We will all listen to one another and seek to understand, support, and encourage each other. The place where we meet will be kept neat and orderly out of respect for those who clean our facility.

PRAYER & DEVOTIONS - This time of learning can be fun and inspiring as well as challenging. Prayer, both in and out of class, is an essential part of building a strong foundation for our class. As a help to all, we will learn more about different forms of prayer in our small groups.

TIME - Students are expected to be on time for class and small group gatherings. Guides and pastors are expected to end the class or gathering on time.

PREPARATION - Students will come prepared for class, which means bringing their Bibles, Class Binders, pen/pencil, and any assigned work will be completed and brought back to class. Guides and Pastors will have lessons or service project

materials prepared ahead of time.

PARTICIPATION - We will all seek to fully participate in class activities and learning events. We will make it a priority.

HAVE FUN AND LEARN!

If discipline and/or participation issues arise in class, it will first be taken to the student. If it cannot be resolved, parents will be asked for their help and support. In any given evening, there will be two warnings for disrespectful behavior. On the third infraction, parents will be called to take their child home. We do not want to send students home, however disrespectful behavior is a hindrance to teaching and learning for the whole class.

Participation in Confirmation classes and events is a privilege. All persons who attend are expected to honor and respect all others in attendance and obey the rules as stated. All Confirmation activities and classes are drug, alcohol, and smoke free. Sexual activity is not permitted. Possession of, or being found in the presence of any of these substances/activities may result in removal from the event and/or Confirmation program.

The Confirmation Covenant will be given to each family at Registration. The student, parent, guide, and pastor will all be required to sign it each year.

SERVICE PROJECTS

PROJECT INNOCENT

This is our primary service project each year. The Confirmation Classes have adopted a young boy named Innocent. Innocent is from Uganda and lost both his parents to AIDS when he was a toddler. When the NGMLC Confirmation Classes adopted Innocent, he had never attended any sort of school and lived in an orphanage. The Confirmation Classes committed to paying for his tuition each year so he can go to a boarding school and receive an education. Innocent's tuition is \$900-\$1,000 per year. This includes school tuition, room and board.

BELL RINGING FOR SALVATION ARMY

This service project offers an opportunity for us to work with the greater community in collecting funds for those in need in the Dane County area. Students will be asked to sign up for 1 hour shifts on a Saturday, in

December, at Ace Hardware in DeForest.

SHOPPING FOR D.A.N.N.

D.A.N.N. stands for DeForest Area Needs Network. Annually, D.A.N.N. provides Christmas gifts to families who are not able to do so because a variety of hardships. This is an overwhelming task, so the Confirmation students travel to Wal-Mart with a representative of D.A.N.N. to purchase the items on the "wish lists" they have received. The students pick out the items and the D.A.N.N. representative waits at the checkout with the money to pay for everything. The shopping trip will be scheduled.

OTHER PROJECTS

We encourage each small group to seek out opportunities to reach out to others as Jesus did when he was here on earth. God works through each of us and there is not greater reward than sharing God's love by helping others.

FUNDRAISERS

We will sponsor fundraisers this year to help raise money for Project Innocent, Youth Rock '09 and Youth Quake. Typical fundraisers have included Auction Night, Brownie Sundae and Butter Braids.

CONFIRMATION VOLUNTEER STAFF

Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or needs with our Confirmation Program.

Pastor Kathy	Pastor/Large group presenter	842-0374
Tom Kreis Troy Janisch	Confirmation Large Group Leaders	846-9211 846-7533
Kris Smith Laura McGoveran	8 th Grade Guides - Boys & Girls	846-1680 846-2613

TBA	Guide - 7 th Grade Boys	
Karen Kreis Beth Krey	Guide - 7 th Grade Girls	846-9211 846-3621
David Midthun	Kings Kids Large Group Presenter	846-2777
Beth Staniforth	5 th Grade Guide	332-8392
Jennifer Arndt	6 th Grade Guide	219-8230
TBA		
Lori Fons Heidi Van Beek	Meal Planning & Preparation	846-8703 837-2947
Jill Buchheim	Music Coordinator	825-8670
Lori Fons	Fundraising Coordinator	846-8703

We would like to thank all our volunteers for participating in the ministry of our youth members. Your experience, love, and dedication to this program and these children of God are greatly appreciated every day! May God Bless You Always!