

CHRIST CHURCH

470 Maple Street
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The Rev. Joshua D. Walters
Associate Rector



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June 1, 2009

Dear Parents of Rising Eighth Graders,

It's hard to believe that even as this school year is not quite finished, and we're already talking about next school year at Christ Church! While folks are still in town, we wanted to share with you the exciting news about next year's program for Confirmation.

Next year's program for Confirmation will be dramatically different from the past couple of years. This year, the Confirmation preparation will take place outside of the Sunday morning Christian Formation Hour. Instead, we will be offering three sessions that will last for six-week sessions on Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00pm. To be confirmed, your student will need to sign-up for one of the class offerings and attend all six-week sessions. In addition to full participation in class, students in each session will be required to cook for and serve at the Good News Community Kitchen, attend BOTH overnight retreats (October 2, 2009 and April 30, 2010), and participate in the Confirmation Sunday Service.

You may ask: Why the changes? For the past three years, confirmation class sizes have been in the mid-twenties, and your child's class is no exception. It is a proven fact that smaller classes allow for a more fruitful experience for both student and teachers. For eighth graders, instructors recommend groups of not more than 8 peers. The other reason is that our time on Sunday morning is limited as Service times tend to run over and Sunday morning extra-curricular activities begin. Sunday afternoon is ideal because the time-slot does not conflict with most activities and kids can be home by Sunday dinner and homework. Finally, this reconfiguration of our program towards Confirmation will allow for a deepening of relationships between the Confirmands and the teachers.

We have an excellent curriculum in place already entitled: *My Faith My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church*. Changing how it is that we offer our class, will allow we teachers to utilize it fully.

What about Sunday morning? It will be understood that during the six-weeks that your Child's Team is in-session, that they will be at Church. There will be a Sunday School offering for Eighth Grade that is not part of the Confirmation program and will be offered for those who are at Church on Sunday morning, those who have completed their preparation, or those Eighth Graders who have decided not to go through the Confirmation Program.

Enclosed in this letter you will find a registration form. Please fill it out, list your order of preferences for sessions, and mail or email it back ASAP to: josh@christchurchwinnetka.org, by June 18.

God bless, have a wonderful summer and see you in the fall!

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Joshua D. Walters
Associate Rector

Mr. Jim Harrison
Seminarian Associate

Kim Dougherty
Vestry Member and LayLeader

CONFIRMATION 2009-10

Christ Church Winnetka

Organization: Students enroll in one of the six-week sessions offered on Sunday Evenings from 4pm-6pm.

<u>Session A</u>	<u>Session B</u>	<u>Session C</u>
1.1 September 27, 2009	2.1 January 10, 2010	3.1 March 07, 2010
1.2 October 04, 2009	2.2 January 24, 2010	3.2 March 14, 2010
1.3 October 18, 2009	2.3 January 21, 2010	3.3 March 21, 2010
1.4 October 25, 2009	2.4 February 07, 2010	3.4 April 11, 2010
1.5 November 01, 2009	2.5 February 21, 2010	3.5 April 18, 2010
1.6 November 08, 2009	2.6 February 28, 2010	3.6 April 25, 2010
Soup Kitchen Service*** November 10, 2009	Soup Kitchen Service*** February 2, 2010	Soup Kitchen Service*** April 13, 2010
OVERNIGHT RETREATS*** October 2, 2009 and April 30, 2010	OVERNIGHT RETREATS*** October 2, 2009 and April 30, 2010	OVERNIGHT RETREATS*** October 2, 2009 and April 30, 2010

*The sessions proposed were created in conjunction with the New Trier School Calendar. **Each session has a long weekend.

***MANDATORY

Classes will be taught by Jim Harrison, Rev. Josh Walters and Kim Dougherty.

Curriculum used, will be the 'Six-week Session' curriculum proposed by Jenifer Gamber in *My Faith My Life*.

Classes will have no more than 8 students. Sign-ups will be on a first-come basis with enrollment form listing preferences for classes.

During session three worship sheets will be filled-out.

Students are to participate in Confirmation Sunday, on Sunday following Confirmation in MAY 2010 (Deanery Confirmation Date is determined by the Bishop of Chicago usually in mid-May).

Each session will incorporate a service of Taize or Choral Evensong

Rationale:

- ✦ Smaller classes
- ✦ Quality of time
- ✦ Eliminating competition with Sunday morning sporting activities
- ✦ Deepening relationships with classmates and teachers
- ✦ To fully experience an intensive course of study and lessons proposed by *My Faith, My Life: A Teens Guide to the Episcopal Church*

Requirements:

- ✦ Full attendance at one of the six-week sessions
- ✦ 1 service ministry at the **Good News Community Kitchen** with classmates
- ✦ Two overnight retreats: **October 2, 2009** and **April 30, 2010**
- ✦ Participation in Confirmation Sunday Service

Supplies needed for students:

- ✦ Purchase copy of *My Faith, My Life*
- ✦ Borrow or purchase *Book of Common Prayer*