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July 6, 2023

Dear Confirmation Families,

It's an exciting time for Confirmation Ministry at Hawley Lutheran Church. The past few years have been filled with learning, growing, adjusting and assessing how to best meet the needs of our kids and teens. We have experienced growth and good things in this ministry. If you are an incoming 7th grade family: welcome to the next stage in your faith journey! If you are an 8th – 10th grade family, thank you for returning for yet another year! God is at work and I am hopeful for the year to come.

PARENT MEETING | REVISED EXPECTATIONS

Part of my hope for the year ahead lies in adjusting our ministry model, expectations and requirements. These adjustments are a response to some of what we know about teens, teen culture, generational shift, church dynamics and how people have changed because of the pandemic. If our goal as a church is to know, grow and go as we welcome all people to lifelong faith in Jesus, then it's important to think intentionally about the "way we do things around here."

My goal as a pastor is to make Confirmation meaningful for teens as they discover their identity in Christ. In Confirmation, we strive to provide a place of belonging, as teens discover their purpose in the church, community and world. I also believe that when the church and family work together as partners in faith development, we have a greater impact and our kids and teens win!

As a result of these goals, we are implementing some changes this year and want to invite all parents and teens to our Confirmation Parent Meeting. **This meeting will be held September 6, 2023, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.**

I get it, I know. I'm with you. Another meeting to attend! Yay! But, as we restructure our ministry, it's a good opportunity to discuss the "why" behind confirmation and related requirements, talk about attendance, service projects and events. It is also an opportunity to share the mission and vision of HLC, share about the future and give you time to ask questions. Please plan on joining us at this meeting.

Beyond the meeting, read on as we prepare for Confirmation 2023 – 2024:

REGISTER PLEASE

Please go to hawleylutheran.org/links and register for Confirmation prior to September 6. The link will be available mid-July.

CONFIRMATION TIME AND ATTENDANCE

Confirmation meets each Wednesday, September 13 – May 15 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Each week, teens and small group leaders gather for large and small group time. Some weeks include service events and opportunities. All Confirmation events are required. This includes fellowship and service events. It is vital teens have a bible for confirmation. Please make sure your teen has a bible and that it's at church. If you'd like suggestions on bible options, contact me. We'll also share some options at the parent meeting.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS (SGL)

A core component of Confirmation is Small Group.

Your teen has been placed in a Small Group, with a designated leader, whose role is to be a mentor, trusted adult and guide. Your teen's SGL has committed to being that "person" for their group for the length of the confirmation experience. As a result, they may text your teen with information and updates. Please encourage your teen to respond to texts out of respect for the SGL. Take time to get to know your teen's leader. Make sure you have their contact information. If possible, offer to provide transportation to special events, send snacks or bring treats. Give them a shout out, because these adults are the backbone, heart and soul of this ministry.

If you are an incoming 7th grade parent who would like to serve as a Small Group Leader, contact me to learn more. If you're the parent of an 8th – 10th grader and would be interested in co-leading a group or subbing, please reach out to me.

(OVER FOR MORE)

Know. Grow. Go.

Welcoming all people to lifelong faith in Jesus.

WEDNESDAY MEALS

Our Wednesday meals are a great service to our church and community. Serving Wednesday meals provides families an opportunity to serve together. Each **family** is asked to help serve Wednesday Meals. Visit hawleylutheran.org/links to sign up for a shift by **September 13**. Thank you.

GET AND STAY CONNECTED

We want all parents and teens to know what's up in Confirmation. Please sure we have your updated email information.

Check out www.hawleylutheran.org for updates and resources you can download.

For weekly updates and communication, be sure to add **HLConfirm** on the Remind App

For occasional updates and news about what our teens are up to, follow us on Facebook and Instagram **@hlcteens**

For news and updates about Hawley Lutheran, follow us on Facebook and Instagram: **@hawleylutheran**

For crazy chaos and stuff that's at the teens level, they can add us on SnapChat: **@hlcteens**

IS THAT ALL?

Just about.

The Confirmation Calendar will be posted shortly. The Acolyte/Tech Schedule will be available September 6. Please look at those and put dates in your calendar. Remember to head over to hawleylutheran.org/links to register for confirmation and meals.

If you have questions, comments, would like to learn more about leading a group and more, please text or email me: andrea@hawleylutheran.org or 701.212.3448

Are you ready? Let's go!

Pastor Andrea Paulson†