



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

"Soaring to the Future"

*"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength,
they will soar on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31*

September 2020

Dear Catechumens and your parents;

Our faith life is such a blessing to us! To live forgiven in the presence of our Heavenly Father; knowing we are loved and His redeemed children. The joy of the Christian faith is realized daily as He hears our prayers, provides for our daily needs, and blesses us as we live a life of Christian service to the benefit of others and to His glory!

An important part of our faith life in Jesus Christ is preparation for the Rite of Confirmation. In the Christian Church, Confirmation is the public confession of our baptismal faith. Every day, we go back to our baptism and are reminded anew that we have been born again of water and the Holy Spirit. His Holy Spirit lives within us and we are growing as His disciples. Preparation for the Rite of Confirmation is rooted in the study of God's Word with a focus on its application to our daily lives. Preparation for the Rite of Confirmation differs according to the traditions and customs of each parish family.

In the midst of this covid pandemic, Emmanuel will adjust its instruction to try to achieve what is best for each of you and your spiritual development. Confirmation is not graduation! Confirmation equips you for the next steps in your walk of faith.

This year's instruction will be conducted through the blessing of modern technology. Each of you will receive Luther's Small Catechism, a copy of 30 Lesson Catechism Study, and be asked to have available a Bible.

Some of the instruction will be done via Zoom meetings that will be scheduled in advance. Other classes will be recorded ahead of time and put on our church website for you to review. The classes will be no longer than 30 minutes of instruction in one setting. Parents will be encouraged to view the class with their children and work alongside of them in completing the lessons. The 1st Introductory Lesson will be made available for Sunday, September 20th and the following week.

I will ask that the catechumens help in the worship life this year at Emmanuel by coming and reading lessons throughout the year. There will be a schedule forthcoming for this. Also, I would want a prayer from time to time by one of the catechumens for their studies and growth in the faith throughout the year. Finally, I want the parents to faithfully develop a prayer life together with the catechumens. There is a prayer resource I will also make available to help you in this undertaking. In fact, the 1st lesson(s) will be on our shared prayer life as believers in Christ.

I will have an email and text message group put together to keep parents informed and try as best as I can to answer your questions.

Memory work throughout the year will include the following: The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, and the books of the New Testament.

Our faith in Jesus Christ is transformational! We now live knowing we are treasured, forgiven, and loved by Almighty God. We live a life of faith not to ourselves but to the service of others and resulting glory to our Father in Heaven. I look forward and feel privileged to join you in this beautiful time of preparation for your Rite of Confirmation.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Michael McFarland

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