

PATH

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM



LIGHT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN HANDBOOK 2018-2019



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LIVING FAITHFUL LIVES

At Light of Christ, we call our confirmation ministry "PATH," which indicates we are on a journey.

The goals of **PATH** are to:

- Disciple middle school students in understanding, owning, and living out what it means to be baptized (or become baptized).
- Follow Jesus as Leader and Savior of their lives using the Bible and Catechism as primary resources.

We believe that faith is best taught in the context of Christ-centered relationships with other youth and adults on this faith journey with Jesus. We work to build trust. We strive to create a safe space to talk about life and faith; the joys of being a middle school student as well as the challenges.



*Sidebars contain results of surveyed middle school students, parents, and leaders across five denominations in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Light of Christ participated in 2015.

THE BASICS

Wednesday Nights:

This year we are moving all grades to the same time, will meet in the LOC Annex and will run September through early May.

6th, 7th, and 8th graders meet from 6:30–8:00PM

Please plan to have your student arrive 10 minutes before the session begins to sign in and get settled. Punctuality is important!

Large Group:

The evening begins with 45 minutes of large group time and includes worship, prayer, music, a movie clip, a skit or a game led by the pastors and other lead teachers and participation by students. The remainder of the time is spent meeting and learning the lesson of the week.

Small Groups:

Each student is placed in a small group of 6–8 students that are grade and gender specific. They are guided by 2 leaders. We hope that these small groups meet together for the entire three years.

Small Group Time Is...

- Where students develop a sense of belonging
- Where material from the large group time is discussed and further unpacked
- Prayer is shared

What is shared of a personal nature in small groups is confidential except when a student is being harmed, harming others, or harming themselves. Leaders are instructed to bring those situations to the attention of PATH staff members.



Growing, friendship, serving on the journey with Jesus.

WHAT IS TAUGHT OVER THREE YEARS?

Word and Sacrament: Leaders Emphasize Theology & Doctrine

When leaders were asked the question, "How important is it to you that these 25 topics be covered in confirmation?" the greatest percentage of them responded positively to these 3 topics.

- 97%** Baptism
- 96%** Lord's Supper or Holy Communion
- 97%** The Bible

It is noteworthy that these three topics align with the Protestant doctrinal emphasis on Word and Sacrament.

INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE?
 Keep up to date with the latest at:
THECONFIRMATIONPROJECT.COM
 and on Facebook and Twitter:
FACEBOOK.COM/CONFIRMATIONPROJECT
TWITTER.COM/CONFIRMATIONPROJECT

The curriculum follows a **THREE** year cycle covering the following topics:

- **YEAR A:** Knowing God: focusing on the Apostle's Creed
- **YEAR B:** Life as a Follower of God: focusing on the Ten Commandments
- **YEAR C:** Growing as a Disciple of God: The Lord's Prayer, Sacraments, Marks of Discipleship

Specific topics covered are:

- The Old Testament
- The New Testament
- The 10 Commandments
- The Apostles' Creed
- The Lord's Prayer
- Sacraments of Baptism & Communion
- Prayer
- Worship
- The Church
- Living Lives of Faith
- Lutheran Basic Beliefs

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

PURPOSE OF Confirmation: A TIME TO ASK QUESTIONS

- 97%** of PARENTS said it's very or extremely important that students should "get to raise questions concerning faith"
- 98%** of LEADERS said it's very or extremely important that students should "get to raise questions concerning faith"
- 85%** of STUDENTS somewhat or strongly agreed that "It is important for me to have my questions concerning faith taken seriously."

FIND OUT MORE AT theconfirmationproject.com

We have one rule... **BE RESPECTFUL!**

It covers every situation. We respect each other by:

- not interrupting
- not having side conversations while someone else is talking
- respecting other people's opinions which includes not telling others what was shared in small group of a personal nature
- respecting property- our own, other's and the church

When problems arise these are the steps our leaders are trained to take:

1. Address the issue with the student
2. Involve a staff member
3. The staff member will email or call parents

GROWING, FRIENDSHIP, AND SERVING...

PATH Bash:

In the fall, students and leaders come together for fun to help students live into the mark of discipleship of Connect with Other Christians. They build community and connection in their small group through fun, faith based activities led by volunteers, and culminates at an LOC member's farm with hay rides, food, music, prayer and worship. This is a day where students grow more confident in their connection with each other and with God.



Serving Events:

Serving Joyfully is a fundamental mark of being a Christ follower. Each of these events are to take place at Light of Christ, three at home, and three in the larger community. A Service Reflection form needs to be filled out for each serving opportunity; they are located at the Connection Center in the Welcome Center. There are weekly opportunities to serve at Light of Christ in the nursery, FaithLand (Sunday School), or other ministries. Service at home and to the larger community is expected to be unpaid and help others in need. The experience of serving others and the opportunities that appeal to your student will evolve over their time in PATH.

...ON THE JOURNEY WITH JESUS.



Mini-Mission:

A mini-mission event is a grade specific one day serving event in the community that is another way your student will learn to Serve Joyfully. We have partnered with the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva, IL for our 8th graders. For all grades, we have also partnered with Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg to provide students the opportunity to work together in a positive, team-focused environment while packaging food for starving children. For more information, visit fmsc.org.

LOC Serve:

LOC provides your student a one day opportunity to serve in grade specific groups at Light of Christ. This has often involved grounds clean up and beautification projects in the fall and spring. Serving at this event fulfills one of the three church serving opportunities expected.

SERVE

one another humbly in love. Galatians 5:13

GROWING, FRIENDSHIP, AND SERVING...

Fun Day:

This is a not to be missed family event where students, parents and leaders can connect with other Christians. They will interact with your student's small group and with others at this interactive and highly participative fun day.

PATH Retreat:

Something powerful happens when we get away from our daily environment and spend time together as a community of fellow believers.

Our small groups gather for a little less than twenty hours each year, while our annual retreat lasts Friday night through Sunday morning. So it's not surprising that group dynamics, relationship building, and spiritual development can surpass in one retreat what might otherwise take a year to accomplish.

The PATH Retreat is an event that is held in the spring at a Christian camp. This retreat is led by Pastors, leaders, speakers, workshop leaders, and includes music by LOC Praise Team members. Each retreat theme is chosen to be an expanded, relevant, and creative application of the key focus teaching of the year. There is also time for fun and team building in a beautiful out of doors setting.



...ON THE JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

Faith Expressions:

Through prayer, thought and assistance from small group leaders and parents, 8th grade students select a Bible verse that helps them individually express who they understand God to be in their lives. This verse is then presented at an event known as Faith Expressions. Using the Bible and PATH journal notes from large group times and retreats, each 8th grader expresses their faith in a variety of ways including many creative arts, writing and performing a song, creating a video, poetry, drawings and paintings, to sharing how they have seen God at work in their lives.



CONNECT

Registration:

All registration is done through the LOC website or the church app and is complete with a \$60 registration fee payment. Medical forms are downloadable to be completed and turned into Kim Carrera. There will be separate registration and additional expense for the PATH Bash and the PATH Retreat. Contact Pastor Sharon to share need based requests for full or partial scholarship for PATH events.

Stay connected to the PATH page of the church app by downloading the Light of Christ app on your smart phone. Information regarding serving events, PATH Bash, the PATH Retreat will be available under the PATH button on the app.

Absences:

Absences from PATH should be emailed to kimc@locchurch.com by 5:30pm on Wednesdays. If your child cannot attend a PATH event (i.e. mini-mission, PATH Bash, etc.) please communicate that with Kim as well.

Emergency Closings:

Weather related or other closings can be found by:

· Watching for an alert from the LOC app (see downloading the app below)

· [Download Light of Christ Algonquin in your App store](#)



· Checking the Light of Christ website (locchurch.com)

· Listening to WGN Radio 720-AM or WBBM Radio 780-AM

· Watching Channels 2 (CBS), 5 (NBC), 7 (ABC) or FOX 32

We also respect the judgment of parents with regard to the safety of their children and driving in bad weather. If you choose to stay home, please send an email to Kim.

Weekly Emails and Facebook:

Each lesson night an email will be sent to parents. These will include the lesson focus and upcoming events. Please read these, as it is important information and will keep you up to date with us. Please request to be added to the PATH Facebook page. It is called [PATH \(Light of Christ Confirmation Program\)](#).

eNewsletters:

You can subscribe to receive Light of Christ's weekly pastoral communication by going to locchurch.com and scrolling to the Quick Link at the bottom of the home page. Then select "Join Our Mailing List" and complete the information.

PATH STAFF



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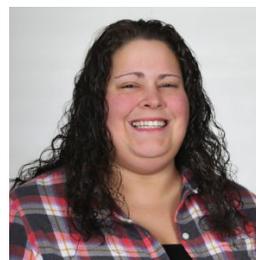
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PATH & Event Registration, Attendance, Worship Reflections, Serving Reflections, Volunteer Opportunities

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.