

## **Confirmation Curriculum 2021 – 2022**

**Objective:** To foster within the youth of American Lutheran Church (ALC) – ELCA of De Smet, SD a basic understanding of how the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit interacts with human beings through the story of faith found in the Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew Bible. Further, to show that within this interaction, God had chosen the Ancient Israelites to be the Lord’s people. Though the Ancient Israelites teeter back and forth between following God and turning away from God, the Lord remained ever faithful to them. Finally, that God used the prophets of old to foretell of the coming Messiah. The Messiah, though never explicitly named in the Old Testament is revealed to be Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

### **Means used to accomplish objective:**

- 1) New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible with the Apocrypha
  - a. The NRSV is the most commonly used English translation of the Bible in academic work because it was translated by a team of nearly 30 Bible scholars and linguists who were both men and women. The NRSV carries the distinction of being an officially recognized translation of the Bible by the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and nearly every Protestant Church. (At both Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary I was required to purchase this translation.)
  - b. To be sure, when the youth of ALC were in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, our congregation, living into its baptismal identity of supporting those who have been baptized into our family of faith, gifted the Spark Bible: New Revised Standard Version. Our youth, if they have this Bible should bring it to class and can most certainly use it during Confirmation.
- 2) The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church written and catalogued by over 150 second and third-generation Lutheran Christians in 1580.
  - a. While I won’t pull very many things out of the Book of Concord, when relevant to our discussion or lesson, I will.

- 3) Here We Stand Curriculum (Hard Copy) written by Augsburg Fortress Press, the ELCA publishing house.
  - a. This will be my primary resource for individual sessions. Here We Stand came out almost 20 years ago and is likely the most commonly taught Confirmation curriculum in our denomination. (Out of the 5 congregations I have taught Confirmation in, 3 of them used it as their primary source.)
- 4) Here We Stand Student Handbook written by Augsburg Fortress Press.
  - a. This resource is a companion book to the “Here We Stand” curriculum, but it can also be used with any of the others. Its goal is to provide Confirmation aged youth with more “down to earth” examples of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
  - b. This resource was formerly known as the “Lutheran Student Handbook” and “Lutheran Student Handbook II.” If you have children who have already been confirmed, they may have one of the predecessor books.
- 5) Re:Form Ancestors Curriculum (Hard Copy and DVD) written and produced by Augsburg Fortress Press.
  - a. This will be my secondary resource for individual sessions. Re:Form Ancestors came out about 10 years ago. (Out of the 5 congregations I have taught Confirmation in, 2 of them used it as their primary source.)
- 6) Echo the Story Curriculum (Hard Copy and DVD) written and produced by Augsburg Fortress Press.
  - a. I will primarily use this resource for its videos which are highly engaging for youth.
- 7) The Bible Project (Online and Videos) written and produced by a multi-denominational team of over 70 women and men. Its content is entirely free.
  - a. I will primarily use this resource for its videos which are highly engaging for youth.
- 8) Other Unnamed Resources
  - a. Including this as I’m sure there will be some other resource, video, piece of art, etc. that I will occasionally use. E.g. I like to find paintings on the internet depicting religious scenes and analyze them as a group or sometimes I’ll find a clip from a movie that is relevant to our topic.

## **Fall 2021 Syllabus (Tentative):**

- All readings are expected to have been completed prior to class.
- Wednesday/Sunday – The first time the lesson is taught will always be the Wednesday class. If there isn't class on Wednesday, we will not have class on Sunday (unless otherwise noted through official communication). When there is a long weekend, class on Sunday will still take place. You are expected to be there (unless otherwise noted through official communication).
- Wednesday: 3:45 – 4:45 pm
- Sunday: 10:45 – 11:45 am

**Sept. 22/26 – Session 1: How to Read the Bible** – What to expect in the Bible; What to look for in the Bible; How to speak about God and humanity using inclusive and expansive language

**Sept. 29/Oct. 3 – Session 2: An Overview of Genesis and Exodus** – Creation; Fall; Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel; Noah; Abraham and Sarah; Hagar and Ishmael; Isaac and Rebekah; Esau, Jacob, Rachel and Leah; Joseph; Slavery in Egypt; Moses and Aaron; The Plagues; The Wilderness Journey; The Ten Commandments and the Promised Land

**Oct. 6/10 – Session 3: Creation** – reading the Two Accounts of Creation in Genesis 1 and 2; who did the creating; why include this in the Bible; what does it teach us about the diversity of God; talk about Creation and Evolution

**Read: Genesis 1 and 2**

**Oct. 13/17 – Session 4: The Human Condition and the Fall** – reading the story of Adam and Eve and the Serpent in Genesis 3; reading the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4

**Read: Genesis 3 and 4**

**Oct. 20 (Only Wed...No Sunday) – Session 5: The Flood** – reading the story of Noah and His Family and the Ark found in Genesis 6 – 9

**Read: Genesis 6 - 9**

**Oct. 27/31 – Session 6: Abraham and Sarah and Hagar** – reading the story of the Call of Abram and Sarai in Genesis 11 and 12; hearing the promise of people and land and learn about the importance of Hagar and Ishmael in Genesis 12 – 17

**Read: Genesis 11 - 17**

**Nov. 3/7 – Session 7: Finish Hagar; Lot; Abraham and Isaac** – if we have not finished the story of Hagar then do so; briefly discuss Lot and his daughters; read the story about Abraham and Isaac; special attention given to the “sacrifice” of Isaac in Genesis 22

**Read: 18 - 22**

**Nov. 10/14 – Session 8: Isaac and Rebekah** – read the story about Isaac and Rebekah’s love for each other and for their love towards Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 22 – 25; the death of Abraham and explosion of Abraham and Sarah’s family through Isaac

**Read: Genesis 22 - 25**

**Nov. 17/21 – Session 9: Jacob and Esau** – read the story about Isaac and Rebekah’s children, Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25 – 36; the feud between them; the story of Jacob stealing Esau’s birthright; the reunification

**Read: Genesis 25 – 36** (skim for stories dealing with Jacob and Esau)

**THANKSGIVING BREAK – No Class**

**Dec. 1/5 – Session 10: The Sons of Jacob Sell Joseph into Slavery and Joseph Becomes the Vizier of Egypt** – read the story about how Joseph is given the gift of interpreting dreams and read how that gift makes him known to the Egyptian Pharaoh; hear how this makes Joseph second in command over Egypt even though he is a Hebrew in Genesis 37 – 41

**Read: 37 - 41**

**Dec. 8/12 – Session 11: Joseph’s Brothers Come to Egypt and Joseph Reveals Himself to his Brothers and Welcomes Them** – read about how Joseph helps his brothers in Egypt during a famine while they are completely unaware that it is he and read the story about how the Israelites come to Egypt in Genesis 42 – 50

**Read: Genesis 42 - 50**

**Dec. 15/19 – Session 12: Recap Test of Genesis** – We will have a full class participation test. In other words, we will do it together, asking the youth to provide the answer and then settle on a collective response. (If you had a child in Confirmation during Spring of 2021, they should remember doing this activity.)

### **Spring 2022 Syllabus (Jan. Dates Only – Released Later)**

**Jan. 5/9 – Session 13: Moses’ Backstory, his Family and the Call of Moses** – read the story about where Moses came from and who he was raised by; learn about why he flees from Egypt and comes into the service of Jethro; hear the Call of Moses in the Burning Bush in Exodus 1 - 4

**Read: Exodus 1 - 4**

**Jan. 12 (Only Wed...Sunday is Annual Meeting) – Session 14: Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh and the Ten Plagues** – read about how Moses and Aaron return to Egypt; hear about how Pharaoh’s heart is hardened while God uses Moses to bring upon the Egyptian people the Ten Plagues in Exodus 5 – 11

**Read: Exodus 5 - 11**

**Jan. 19/23 Session 15: The First Passover, The Escape from Egypt, Bread from Heaven and Water from the Rock** – hear about how the Israelites celebrate the First Passover; read about the escape from Egypt through the Red Sea; learn about how God provides bread and water to the Israelites in the desert in Exodus 12 – 17

**Read: Exodus 12 - 17**

**Jan. 26/30 – Session 16: The Ten Commandments, The Golden Calf, and the Ark of the Covenant** - learn about how God gathers the people to Mt. Sinai and gives them the Ten Commandments; hear about what happens when the people grow impatient and build a Golden Calf while Moses is speaking with God; read about the Ark of the Covenant in excerpts from Exodus 18 – 40

**Read: Exodus 19; 20; 25:1 – 30; 31 – 34; 37 – 40**

## **Confirmation Program & Expectations | Grades 7-8**

At baptism, parents make this promise: "... 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."

During confirmation or affirmation of baptism, confirmands are asked to make this promise for themselves: "...to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

Confirmation is the time when youth declare for themselves that they will live out the promises made for them by their parents and sponsors in their baptism. The program at ALC seeks to continue, more intentionally, the exploration of faith and trust that God will continue to lead and guide them in all aspects of their lives.

### **Classroom Expectations**

- Youth are expected to be at class every week; if gone please email [pastor@americanlutherandesmet.org](mailto:pastor@americanlutherandesmet.org) so that Pastor Jonathan is aware in advance
- Youth are expected to complete assigned readings prior to class
- Youth are expected to turn in their phones at the beginning of class
- Youth may have food or snacks in class, but they must dispose of all trash
- Youth are expected to participate in class; listen to the speaker (whether pastor or one another) and avoid side conversations
- When De Smet is closed or let out early for weather, we will not have confirmation

Throughout the program, students will further develop their faith through a variety of educational and worship activities. While attendance at confirmation classes and worship services are the main priorities, students can earn points toward completion in various ways. The point system was developed in an effort to provide the youth self-accountability along the way towards their confirmation. It is the student's responsibility to pick up, complete, and return the form promptly. Forms are available in the church office, sacristy, and during confirmation class. Return the forms to the sacristy.

	<b>Activity</b>	
1.	Attend a confirmation class	<b>10</b>
2.	Attend a worship service and complete exit slip (turn in at least one slip per month)	<b>10</b>
3.	Acolyte or assist with a worship (special music; usher; lector)	<b>5</b>
4.	Attend confirmation camp	<b>50</b>
5.	Complete a FAITH STATEMENT during YEAR 2	<b>25</b>
6.	Decorate confirmation stole during YEAR 2	<b>10</b>
7.	Volunteer during VBS or Sunday School	<b>5</b>
8.	Participate in a SD Synod/ELCA youth event	<b>30</b>
9.	Volunteer outside of church	<b>5</b>
10.	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>/1000</b>

**Describe Volunteer Activity:**

# AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Worship Service Exit Slip

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Service \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the name of the worship service?
2. What is the Liturgical color of the worship service?
3. Type of participation: in-person/parking lot via FM/on-line
4. What biblical/religious figures did you learn about during this service?
  
5. What did you learn from this service?
  
6. As I leave today, I will remember...

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**Describe Your Volunteer Activity:**