



IGNITE

confirmation & middle school ministry

Normandale Lutheran Church

www.normluth.org

Hello Confirmands and Families!

I hope this letter finds you well. I am excited that you and your family will be participating in Ignite during the 2024-2025 program year!

For many ELCA congregations this type of program is called “Confirmation”. As a result, it is appropriate to take a moment to consider **“*what is confirmation?*”** Well, it is a great question and one that many ELCA Congregations wrestle with.

The phrase “confirm” is what makes things tricky: it implies a sense of completeness. When I receive a “confirmation email” from a business it is usually to a notification to indicate that the purchase I made online was successful and no further action is required from me. While the time that you and your family spend in Confirmation will culminate, or end, in a Service of Affirmation of Baptism, the process of Confirmation does not mark an ending. Instead, Confirmation is a time set aside to prepare for a life that is continually formed and reformed by God’s grace.

At Normandale, Confirmation is a space to wrestle and wonder about the Gospel, the Christian Story, and how we can live in the world grounded by the baptismal promise that God calls us, and all the world, into new life.

Our Confirmation curriculum is designed to take place over three years (7th-8th Grade plus the Fall of 9th Grade). Each year will at once individually address all the educational objectives of the program and build on one another. In this way, participants who miss a session or join the program later will be able to engage at the same level as their peers.

Below you’ll find our program’s goals, objectives, and expectations. I encourage you and your family to review them together and reach out with questions as they arise. I am excited to enter this process with you!

Best regards,

Jacob Boettcher

Director of Youth Ministry

Welcome!



Normandale Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. What does this mean? We affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all people into full participation in the life and ministries of Normandale Lutheran Church.

We celebrate that there are differences among us, and believe that we can love one another, even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.

Normandale Lutheran Church is committed to a ministry of reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, socioeconomic status, physical and mental ability. We embrace this diversity as a gift from God, and invite ALL into a faithful journey toward greater love, understanding, and reconciliation.

Program Goals

As Confirmation Participants – or “Confirmands”, youth and adults alike, will:

1. **Grow** in their understanding and awareness of Christian belief, our Lutheran Tradition, ecumenical belief, and the ways God is still speaking in the world today.
2. **Discern** how God can be found and Christ can be proclaimed in love, learning, worship, and service.
3. **Join in the mission** of the body of Christ and form meaningful intergenerational relationships.
4. **Be equipped with tools** needed to form and reform a vision of living by grace during a lifelong journey with Christ.
5. **Build reflexes** that encourage investigation of faith, theology, and the consequences of our beliefs.
6. **Prepare to proclaim** a Christian faith that is at once their own and is held by the whole Church.
7. **Have fun**, by creating new relationships, participating in off-campus activities, and experiential based classroom lessons.

Notice, none of these Goals says that by participating in Confirmation that you have to (a) get confirmed or (b) memorize, adhere, or perform anything to be welcome here. Together we join in discerning the mysteries of our faith and trust in the grace and love of our God.

Program Objectives

Ignite will:

1. Teach what it means to live in meaningful community with one another.
2. Provide a clear articulation of God’s baptismal promises to us as God’s people
3. Equip young people to live in relationship with God and the Church, and all of creation.
4. Develop young leaders who thoughtfully examine, question, and investigate biblical passages, theological ideas, and identify when God intersects with the world (spoiler: always!)
5. We will ask questions and discern answers to questions like:

What’s the Hebrew Bible?	Why did Martin Luther write a Small Catechism?
Do the Ten Commandments matter after Jesus?	As a Christian I am free! Does this mean I can do anything?
Is there a central theme to the Bible?	Does God think about the health of our planet?
What was the Reformation? What did we reform?	What does God think about my body?
Why do we say the “Lord’s Prayer” in church?	Can we be both Saints and Sinners?
How do I relate to people of other faiths?	The Apostle’s Creed seems LONG....
Why did I get Baptized? What does it mean?	How can I connect with God more?
Why do we eat bread and wine in Church?	How do I relate to people of other faiths?

Expectations for 7–8th Grade Participants and Families

1. As a 7th and 8th grader, Ignite requires an additional level of commitment, as it is a preparatory time intentionally set aside for you and your spiritual discernment. **As such, we ask that you make a commitment to attend 80% of confirmation classes.** This works about to being about eight absences throughout the year. If you are unable to attend, we ask that you provide notice to us by email. Ignite meets weekly following the Edina Public School’s (EPS) calendar. If EPS does not have school, or classes are cancelled, our schedule will follow accordingly. These classes will be held on Wednesday nights from 6:45-7:45pm. Exceptions to this timing are noted on the schedule and occur near Advent and Lent.
2. To accomplish our program goal of “Discern how God can be found and Christ can be proclaimed in love, learning, worship, and service” we ask that each **Confirmand make a yearly commitment to attend six community events outside of regular programming.** These events allow for Confirmands to build intergenerational relationships, participate in the mission of our congregation, and witness what is possible when we come together. [See the calendar for event options and dates.](#)
3. Eighth grade students will complete a **Faith Embodied Project** between the end of their eighth-grade year and before Confirmation Sunday in Ninth Grade. This project will be a physical representation of faith and can include: an art project, a writing sample, a liturgical dance, service project leadership or creation, etc. Further guidelines will be provided to eighth graders the January prior.
4. **Meet monthly with your faith mentor!** This is an adult member of the congregation who you’ve either selected or sought support to be matched with. Further guidance about this monthly meeting will be provided.
5. **Write or speak a reflection on three faith practices.** During your two years of confirmation, you will be asked to either (a) write a reflection or (b) schedule thirty minutes with Jacob for a spoken reflection on three separate experiences of worship. Of these three reflections, one must be on a worship experience had here at Normandale, one must be of your experience at another ELCA congregation, and one must be of your experience of worship at another faith tradition other than the ELCA. This can include worship at other Protestant denominations, a Catholic Mass, a Quaker Gathering, a Shabbat Service, a B’nai Mitzvah celebration, Kwanza gathering, Eid al-Fitr celebration or any other religious service/ceremony/celebration/festival.
6. **We are committed to your full participation in Confirmation! This means:**
 - a. **If you have a learning difference that should be accommodated,** please talk with Jacob! We will adjust programming to support you and meet those needs.

- b. **Cost will not be an excluding factor.** Full and Part Scholarships are available to families whose circumstances do not allow them to part a partial or full fee for confirmation.
- c. **You are welcome here!** We affirm, celebrate, and welcome your diversity in sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, socioeconomic status, physical and mental ability.

Confirmation Fee

This year the fee for Ignite registration will be \$200.00 dollars. As noted above, there are full and partial scholarships available should this be a consideration for your family. This fee will be used to fund:

- Study Bibles for all 8th Graders
- Curriculum Costs
- Rite of Confirmation Supplies
- Outreach Dollars to Normandale Partners
- Off Campus Events
- End of Year Party
- A 7th Grade Confirmation Teacher
- Weekly Snacks

Confirmation Schedule 2024–2025

SEPTEMBER	
Sunday, September 8 th	Parents and Students: Confirmation Orientation
Wednesday, September 11th	Who are we? Who is God? Why are we here? Part 1.
Sunday, September 15th	Rally Sunday
Wednesday, September 18th	Who are we? Who is God? Why are we here? Part 2.
Wednesday, September 25th	What do Christians believe anyway? Part One.

September 27th – 29th	9th Grade Retreat
OCTOBER	
Wednesday, October 2nd	What do Christians believe anyway? Part Two.
Wednesday, October 9th	Parents and Students: What is the Reformation? What did we Reform?
Wednesday, October 16th	No Programming , MEA Break, October 17-18
Wednesday, October 23rd	BOWLING Night!
Sunday, October 27th	Reformation Sunday – 9th Graders Confirmed during Worship
Wednesday, October 30th	Trunk or Treat Event
NOVEMBER	
Wednesday, November 6th	Parents and Students: The B-I-B-L-E: Creation
Wednesday, November 13th	The B-I-B-L-E: Poems
Wednesday, November 20th	The B-I-B-L-E: Gospel, God Made Flesh

Wednesday, November 27th	No Programming , Thanksgiving Break
DECEMBER	
Sunday, December 1st	<i>Christmas Bazaar (Confirmand must attend one of two)</i>
Wednesday, December 4th	Advent Worship <i>with Mentor</i> Advent Worship 6:30-7:00, Ignite 7:00-7:45pm
Sunday, December 8th	<i>Christmas Bazaar (Confirmand must attend one of two)</i>
Wednesday, December 11th	Advent Worship 6:30-7:00, Ignite 7:00-7:45pm
Wednesday, December 18th	No Formal Programming, Study Hall space for finals prep
Tuesday, December 24th	No Programming , Christmas Eve Worship
Wednesday, December 25th	No Programming , Christmas Day
JANUARY	
Wednesday, January 1st	No Programming , New Year's Day
Monday, January 6th	Parent Preview Session , These Are Our Bodies 6:45-7:45 in the Chapel

Wednesday, January 8th	These are our Bodies: Session 1
Wednesday, January 15th	These are our Bodies: Session 2
Wednesday, January 22nd	These are our Bodies: Session 3
Wednesday, January 29th	These are our Bodies: Session 4
FEBRUARY	
Wednesday, February 5th	These are our Bodies: Session 5
Wednesday, February 12th	These are our Bodies: Session 6
Wednesday, February 19th	These are our Bodies: Session 7
Wednesday, February 26th	These are our Bodies: Session 8
MARCH	
Wednesday, March 5th	Ash Wednesday Worship <i>with Mentor</i> Lenten Worship 6:30-7:00, Ignite 7:00-7:45pm
Wednesday, March 12th	What does it mean to love our Neighbor? Lenten Worship 6:30-7:00, Ignite 7:00-7:45pm

Wednesday, March 19th	Loving our Neighbor Service Work Lenten Worship 6:30-7:00, Ignite 7:00-8:30pm
Wednesday, March 26th	Where Does God Stand in it all? Lenten Worship 6:30-7:00, Ignite 7:00-7:45pm
APRIL	
Wednesday, April 2nd	No Programming , Edina Schools Spring Break (3/31-4/4)
Wednesday, April 9th	The Cross
Wednesday, April 16th	Parents and Students: Freedom of a Christian
Saturday, April 19th	Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 20th	Easter Sunday
Wednesday, April 23rd	No Programming , No School for EDS
Wednesday, April 30th	The Holy Spirit
MAY	
Wednesday, May 7th	Beloved Child of God

Wednesday, May 14th	Parents and Students: End of Year Party
Sunday, May 18th	High School Seniors Celebrated in Worship
Wednesday, May 28th	Study Hall for Final Projects and Work
Save the Date!	
Sunday, October 26th, 2025	Reformation Sunday, Confirmation Day for Current 8th Graders