



FAITH
INKUBATORS

HEAD TO THE HEART
CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

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Dear Parent,

Whether you are a parent of a returning confirmand or your child is starting their first year in confirmation, this letter is intended to provide you with an overview of the 2011/2012 program, requirements, costs and answer frequently asked questions. We will be having an orientation meeting August 28th, 5:30pm at church, for confirmands and parents.

What is Confirmation?

Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church has developed a comprehensive confirmation program for 6th -8th graders. The confirmation program prepares young people for the affirmation of their baptism and lifelong commitment to their faith. The program's objectives are to understand the Christian faith and Lutheran beliefs, to develop a relationship with God and develop a relationship with the Church as a whole. The students are instructed in the Luther's Small Catechism with emphasis on the following areas:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) The Ten Commandments | 4) Baptism |
| 2) The Apostles Creed | 5) Confession |
| 3) The Lord's prayer | 6) Holy Communion |

At the end of the instruction period, the student can participate in the Rite of Confirmation, a public affirmation of their Baptism and commitment to the Lutheran faith during a worship service (currently scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2012). This rite also confers adult membership at Royal Redeemer. The decision to be confirmed is based upon participation in three years of instruction and their personal beliefs at the time. Students and parents are asked to reflect together regarding this decision. Your child is not required to participate in Rite of Confirmation.

How is Royal Redeemer's confirmation program structured?

The confirmation program is based on a three part model which includes learning, serving and playing. The confirmation program runs from August 28th to March/April each year.

Learning (Sunday evenings):

- 5:30 – 6:00 – Social meeting time. A pot luck dinner will be served seven times.
- 6:00 – 7:00 – Large group teaching. The students are instructed in a topic for the evening, the memory verse and Bible Book reports
- 7:00 – 7:30 – Small group break outs. Students break out with an adult guide. The small group discusses their “highs and lows” and homework which includes thought time questions based on the theme for the evening.
- 7:30-7:45 – Prayer time – large group setting

Servant Events

The program establishes two community servant events for the students to participate. The events in the past have included Random Acts of Kindness for Local Seniors (RASKALS) and working at Matthew 25 ministries.

Social Events

An integral part of this program is to develop a sense of community among the students by providing fun social activities in a caring Christian community. During the year we offer the following activities for students:

- Lazer tag/Paintball
- Christmas party
- Super bowl party
- Red’s game

What are the requirements of the program?

Each year students enrolled in the program agree to the following basic commitments:

First year – 6th grade	Second Year – 7th grade	Third year – 8th grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular attendance at the Sunday night classes • Complete weekly homework with parent signature* • Attend both service activities (or equivalent) • Write and present your Bible Book Report • Regular attendance at church • Worship summaries** • Serve as an Acolyte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular attendance at the Sunday night classes • Complete weekly homework with parent signature* • Attend both service activities (or equivalent) • Write and present your Bible Book Report • Serve as an Acolyte • Worship Summaries** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular attendance at the Sunday night classes • Complete weekly homework with parent signature* • Attend both service activities (or equivalent) • Write and present your Bible Book Report • 3 Worship summaries with the grade of A** • Serve as an Acolyte • Sermonette (for those students intending on participating in the Rite of Confirmation)

*** For homework completion credit a parent’s signature is required!**

**** Students will be required to complete a total of 30 Worship Summaries during their entire three confirmation years. Students can complete these summaries anytime of the year including summer.**

Why have the homework and worship summary requirements changed?

Spiritual growth happens best through a team effort with parents. In reality, only so much learning can happen in the time allotted for confirmation. We’re asking parents to discuss homework assignments with your teen to help prepare them for their small group discussion, as

well as to encourage dialogue on faith topics at home. Your signature affirms that you have reviewed and discussed the lesson with your teen.

We have changed the worship summary requirements for greater flexibility and accountability. Worship summaries are not intended to torture junior high students. The purpose of these summaries is to encourage worship attendance, active listening in the service and participation in worship. We also encourage worship servant participation which includes ushering and reading the lessons. Students will be provided credit in lieu of a worship summary for completing being a reader or usher.

Special Note for the second/third year students: Since this requirement has changed, third year students will be permitted to obtain three A's unless the student completed fewer than 10 summaries during their second year. The student must complete a total of 10 summaries and then proceed with the third year requirement of three A's.

Second year students will need to complete a total of 20 summaries prior to confirmation with 3 A's.

How is our Head to the Heart confirmation program structured?

The Head to the Heart program at Royal Redeemer is a large confirmation program with the expected enrollment of over forty students this year. To successfully conduct a program of this size requires staff and volunteers. The program staff and responsibility of the staff is as follows:

Pastor Joel: Pastor provides all curriculum and spiritual guidance to the program. Any spiritual concerns should be directed to Pastor. In the past, Pastor Joel conducted all large group instruction. As the church and program has grown Pastor oversees the teaching content working with the confirmation staff to assure the instructional material is presented consistent with Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) doctrine. In addition, he will personally many of our classes this year, be present for the retreat, and join our social and service opportunities to maintain contact with confirmands. His son, Garrick, is a third-year student in the program.

Brian Highland: Brian is the "heart" of this program and the kid coordinator. He has been volunteering his time to the Royal Redeemer confirmation program for the past thirteen years. Serving as an adult guide and providing consistent structure by being the "Master of Ceremonies" each Sunday night. Brian provides continuity to the program each year. Also, Brian has taught Sunday large group sessions with guidance of Pastor Joel. Brian's oldest daughter Abby will be a second-year confirmand this year.

Michele Febock: Michele is the volunteer administrator of the confirmation program. Michele is in charge of the scheduling and coordination of the confirmation program. Most information communicated from the Royal Redeemer confirmation program will happen through Michele. She can answer most program questions. Also, she is responsible for tracking program requirements of your child(ren).

Linda Ellison: Linda has volunteered her time and knowledge to be in charge of the confirmation budget. Linda will send out invoices for program fees and tracks the money earned from the use of the Kroger card program. Linda will automatically apply any credits to invoices as they are put in (from Kroger card funds) and send out a statement to all parents that have enough credits to cover the costs. Therefore, every parent will either receive an invoice or a statement.

Lynne Joehnk: Lynne is the magic behind the program. Lynne has volunteered to be responsible for organizing all the program materials. Lynne compiles all the binders with course content, schedules, rosters and all important information that allows the parents to easily navigate the program each year. Also, Lynne is responsible for the success of confirmation Sunday. She organizes the third candidate information, certificates, makes the banners, and assures that confirmation day is made special for each and every candidate. She does this every year with grown children simply because she cares!

Adult Guides: The adult guides are a critical aspect to our program! These individuals provide the context of love for the content of the Gospel and lead a small group of junior high youth on the journey of faith. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and begin a dialogue with your child's adult guide.

Boys Groups Adult Guides:

- Brian Highland: See above
- Scott Patschke: Fourth year as an adult guide.
- Dave Hoffmann: Second year as an adult guide. His daughter, Jayde, is a second year confirmand.
- Greg Card: Second year as an adult guide.
- Jacob Wieneke: First year as an adult guide.

Girls Groups Adult Guides:

- Carol Whitman: Fourth year as an adult guide. Her youngest daughter, Katie, is a third year confirmand.
- Susan Kelker: Third year as an adult guide. Her daughter, Emily, is a third year confirmand.
- Melanie Williams: Second year as an adult guide.
- Chris Cooper: First year as an adult guide. Her daughter, Jamie, is a first year confirmand.
- Amy Wieneke: First year as an adult guide.

Will my child be in the small group with his/her friends?

The small groups are established to develop a safe community for the students to share and grow in their faith. These groups are balanced to ensure all students feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings. Your child will be placed in a small group that meets this intent. We cannot guarantee that your child will be placed in the same small group with his/her friends. We will guarantee your child will be made welcome and comfortable in his/her small group. If you have any information that will help us place your child in a group, please fill out a *Confirmand Information Form* or email Michele Febock at rrlcconfirmation@gmail.com.

What is the cost of the program?

The program cost for the year is \$75.00 per confirmand. The cost includes all the teaching materials, binders, and additional resources for the Sunday night events, providing funding for the staffing of all volunteers, the Fall Kick off retreat weekend and all third year confirmation celebrations (banners and robes).

In addition, confirmation participants are **strongly encouraged** to participate in social activities with the group and to attend Youth Quake weekend in January 13-15, 2012. More information on Youth Quake is available <http://www.youthencounter.org/Default.aspx?tabid=395>. These costs are separate. Typically social activities are \$15-20/event. Youth Quake is approximately \$160 including all meals. We have chosen to decouple this event from the fees associated with confirmation as attendance is not mandatory to be confirmed.

A great way to offset the confirmation fee and/or Youth Quake fee is to purchase a RRLC Youth Program Kroger Rewards gift card. This easy fundraising program costs you nothing extra yet earns 4% of everything you spend at Kroger for your individual RR Youth Program (if you use your Kroger reloadable gift card). If you are interested in purchasing a card or obtaining more information please let me know.

What are the parental expectations?

- 1) Encourage active and consistent participation in program. This includes getting your child to the events and reinforcing the lessons at home. Parental involvement is crucial to your child's faith journey. The Faith Five is a great way to enforce the teachings of the program and only takes 5 minutes for your family. Share highs & lows of the day, read and highlight a verse of Scripture in your Bible, talk about how the verse relates to your highs & lows, pray for your highs & lows for your family/for the world and bless one another.
- 2-4 hours of volunteer time per family per confirmation year. Every family has demands but this program's success depends on the each every parent communicating in word and action the importance of the program. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at the orientation.
- Communication for this program is primarily email. Please check emails often, for upcoming event information, reminders.

What if my child is not baptized?

Baptism is not a pre-requisite for this program. However for your child to undergo the Rite of Confirmation they need to be baptized. Please contact Pastor Joel if your child is interested in being baptized.

What if we are not sure about full commitment to program?

We want to encourage you to consider all aspects of this program and recognize that it is a tremendous commitment for both you and your child. Feel free to set up a meeting time with

Pastor Joel to discuss your child's participation. Contact him at the church office 513-779-4740 or by email at pastorjoelrr@gmail.com

What if we are not interested in committing to the program?

You may not be interested at this time in the full program. Royal Redeemer has the following offerings for friends of the program:

- Service events
- Social Activities

What if my child has missed instruction – can (s)he participate with his/her grade level?

Yes! If your child has missed part or all of a year of instruction they can be placed in the appropriate age group and meet those requirements. If your child is intending on being confirmed special work can be arranged to make-up for the late enrollment.

If you are interested in participation or have further questions regarding the program please contact Pastor Joel at 779-4740 or email pastorjoelrr@gmail.com or Michele Febock at 593-5421 or email rrlcconfirmation@gmail.com.

Blessings in Christ,

Michele Febock, Program Coordinator