

**St. John's Confirmation Calendar
2011-2012**

*This fall we will learn about the Ten Commandments and God's law.
Some are big, some are old, and some are weird. How do we know what God wants?*

September 11: Introduction (Parents Attend)

October 2: Ten Commandments: Part One

November 6: Ten Commandments: Part Two

December 4: Ten Commandments: Overview and Quiz Bowl

*Our January retreat will include confirmation groups from other congregations.
We'll learn about our Lutheran roots, play broomball and have lots of goofy fun together.
"Alums" are welcome!*

**January Retreat: Saturday, January 14- Monday, January 16
Re:Form Traditions Curriculum**

Did Martin Luther really call the Pope the Anti-Christ?
How can Lutherans believe in "grace alone", "faith alone" and "word alone"?
Do I have to memorize the Small Catechism to be Lutheran?
What's a synod and why are there so many different ones?

*We say the Apostle's Creed so often, most of us have it memorized. Where does it come from and
why do we say it? What does it mean to confess that God creates, saves and sanctifies us?*

February 5: God the Father

March 4: God the Son

April 1: God the Spirit

May 6: Overview and Quiz Bowl

**May 27: Confirmation and Pentecost Sunday
Confirmation Students All Help Lead Worship**

St. John's Confirmation Requirements 2011-2012

1. **Confirmation class** will meet after worship on the first Sunday of each month.
2. The **winter retreat** continues to serve as an important and required time for learning and fellowship. We cover a lot of curriculum during this retreat. Mark your calendar this fall before that weekend fills up!
3. The 2011-2012 **acolyte** schedule has already started and another copy is included in each student's binder. Acolytes are expected to robe and meet in the sacristy at 9:45am the mornings they are scheduled. Finding and confirming a substitute is important and the pastors appreciate advanced notification if you are unable to secure a substitute.
4. A new **stewardship assignment** invites students to interview their parents before writing a brief 'money autobiography'. This is due on or before November 23.
5. Eight **worship notes** are required this year. Students can find all eight forms in their binders, which will help them track their own progress. The worship notes have been updated from last year. Each one has two unique questions that help the student consider a variety of worship elements.
6. One of these worship notes (printed on purple paper) is to be completed during a service of **evening prayer** during the season of Lent. Consider making plans to attend the simple supper, too.
7. Students will be offered several opportunities to **serve the community** this year. Each student is required to attend one event and to fill out the corresponding form from their binder to turn in.
8. **"All Together" events** occur every few months at St. John's. Students are required to connect with their prayer partners and attend at least one of these events together. Their binders contain a corresponding form to turn in.
9. **Sunday, May 27** is Confirmation Sunday. All students are required to attend and participate as a leader during the worship service. Invite family members, god parents and prayer partners to attend, too!

See reverse side for other fellowship opportunities and traditions.

If you are unable to attend one of these requirements, please contact Pastor Mark or Pastor Meta in advance. **We appreciate your communication**, understand your family schedules and thank you for making confirmation an important priority this year.

OTHER ST. JOHN'S TRADITIONS

Confirmation students and all youth also have a history of helping during certain events throughout the year:

- Serving pie on Thanksgiving Eve (November 23)
- Narrating the Children's Christmas Program (December 18)
- Hiding eggs on Easter Sunday (April 8)

TRUST YOUTH EVENTS

The tentative TRUST Youth calendar is included in this binder. TRUST Youth is big youth group made up of lots of little congregations in south Minneapolis. We'll participate in their group activities whenever you want to attend, so contact Pastor Meta with your interest.

If you have questions about TRUST Youth, talk to the Hurbanis family. Jack went to Washington D.C. on the TRUST Mission trip and Julie is our CYF Committee point person for TRUST Youth.

These events are not required, but they *are* great opportunities for our youth to spend time together serving other ages in the congregation. Students will receive invitations to participate as these dates approach and we hope they'll continue to be involved after confirmation, too!

All Together Fellowship

*“They spent much time together in the temple,
they broke bread together and ate with glad and generous hearts.”
- The early church described in Acts 2:46*

You are required to participate fully in at least one All Together event together with your prayer partner. These events are celebrated seasonally and encourage people of all ages to spend time together. So contact your prayer partner as you hear about events throughout the year. Find one you can attend together and share about it here:

Describe the All Together Event:

My prayer partner and I chose this All Together because:

Something that surprised me about this experience was:

Something I didn't like about this experience was:

Something about this experience I enjoyed and will remember:

If you were in charge of planning an All Together, what would it look like? What food or activity would be involved? What season in the church year would it connect to and why?

Signature of Pastor or Prayer Partner

Date

Service Experience

*“Now get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this reason.
I am appointing you to serve and share the things you have seen.”*

– Jesus’ words to Paul in Acts 26:16

You are required to participate fully in one service project through St. John’s during the 2011-2012 school year. Consider bringing your family to Feed My Starving Children on our winter or spring group outing. Serve at the Community Meal, Loaves and Fishes or another feeding ministry.

We’ll help you come up with other ideas and we’re eager to hear about your experience:

Describe your service project:

I chose this experience because:

Something that surprised me about this experience was:

Something that made me nervous about this experience was:

Something about this experience I enjoyed and will remember:

Would you participate in something like this again? Why or why not?

Signature of Pastor or Event Supervisor

Date

Stewardship Assignment

God is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. –Ephesians 3:20

Stewardship is much more than one Sunday each year or balancing a church budget. It's an attitude nurtured in families. Stewardship grows out of practices, values and traditions witnessed from one generation to the next.

PART ONE

Choose 7 questions from the list below and interview your parents. Instead of taking notes, simply circle the questions you talk about. Together, find out how your parents learned about money and how that affects the ways they are teaching you about money.

1. What are your earliest memories of money?
2. What attitudes did your parents or grandparents have about money?
3. Did you know how much your parents gave to the church or charities when you were growing up? Did they ever talk about the importance of being generous?
4. How did each of your parents save, spend and share? Were they different from each other? If so, how were decisions made?
5. Did you ever worry about money when you were growing up? Why or why not?
6. How did you acquire money? (Share about allowance, first jobs, rewards, loans, memorable purchases or efforts to save and share.)
7. How has money influenced your relationships with other people? Name some good ways and some not-so-good ways.
8. Ask your parents to explain how they balance money today. How do they keep track of the money they make? What bills always stay the same and what changes from month to month?
9. How do you decide to donate money and how much to give?
10. It's stewardship season at St. John's. How does your household decide whether to pledge giving or how much to give to the church?

PART TWO

Now it's your turn. You've learned a little bit about your parents' relationship with money and where your family values come from. Time to answer some questions about your own relationship with money and what it means to be a good steward.

1. What are your earliest memories of money and what did money mean to you? (*Sunday school offering, birthday checks from grandparents, piggy banks, finding loose change, allowance, etc.*)
2. The very first Christians started taking an offering during worship services to help the poor and to send to other churches that needed help surviving. Why do you think the church takes an offering today? What does the church do with the money collected?
3. It's easy to think of ways to spend our money. As you get older, there will be more things to save for, too. Why do you think God calls us to share our money in addition to spending and saving?
4. If you were going to start a charity, what would it support? Does a charity like this already exist? Look online to find out how you can support a cause you care about.
5. Read 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 with your parents. Paul is encouraging the church at Corinth to give generously because other churches and the poor need their help. While someone reads the chapters out loud, write down all the words Paul uses to describe good stewards. Use your list of words to create your own definition of a good steward here: