

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 2009-2010 HANDBOOK



Holy Cross Lutheran Church - ELCA

A PLACE WHERE WE **WORSHIP** WEEKLY, **PRAY** DAILY, **GIVE** JOYFULLY, **STUDY** THE BIBLE AND **SERVE** THE LORD IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

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GROW IN FAITH! SERVE THE LORD!

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM HANDBOOK

2009-2010

OUR PURPOSE AND MISSION

- To support parents in their role as primary faith educators in the development of their children.
- To support our members as they strive to mature in their faith, grow in their understanding of the promises God made to them in their baptism and strengthen their commitment to live as children of God.
- To offer our members an opportunity to be a part of a community of believers who are encouraged to live out their faith in lives of service.

OUR VISION

Is for the young people and adults involved in AOB to develop a relationship with Christ and with each other. Through those relationships, individuals will grow in their understanding of God's boundless love and grace for each of them.

OBJECTIVE

To provide instruction in the Christian Faith through:

- The study of the Holy Scriptures
- The study of Lutheran Doctrine and Luther's Small Catechism
- Participation in a small group study with an adult guide
- Participation in music and drama
- Participation in service projects, both in our church home and throughout the community

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WEDNESDAY CLASSES

The Affirmation of Baptism ministry is for seventh and eighth grade students. Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 until 8:30pm, September through the last week of April. Each student is placed in a small group that meets together for the entire two years. All students and guides meet in the sanctuary promptly at 7:00pm for a large group presentation taught by Holy Cross staff. Punctuality is important! The large group presentation includes Bible study, prayer, Martin Luther's Small Catechism, music, a movie clip, a skit or a review game. The curriculum encourages student participation. The large group presentation lasts approximately 60 minutes. The remainder of the

time is spent with students meeting in small groups with their guide. The small group then reviews the material that was presented in the large group. The small group is encouraged to share each member's high and low for the week and to pray for each other.

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

These course requirements have been set by the Christian Education Ministry Team to help each child grow in their faith. Worship, servanthood, and class attendance are all equally important areas of faith development. The Christian Education Ministry Team expects the youth of Holy Cross to attend Affirmation of Baptism classes during the seventh and eighth grade and take the responsibility of their Christian Faith by publicly professing that faith in the spring of their eighth grade year. Some students may not be ready to take on the responsibilities of their Affirmation of Baptism at the end of eighth grade. The Christian Education Ministry Team, Pastors, Director of Family Ministries and parents will determine the readiness of a child's Affirmation of Baptism. A child's confirmation may be postponed to allow extra time for preparation.

The Christian Education Ministry Team, Pastors, Director of Family Ministries and parents will use the following criteria to determine each child's fulfillment of the objectives of their faith development for Affirmation of Baptism. We will use positive reinforcement by recognizing and rewarding students who are conscientious and take responsibility for fulfilling these requirements.

- 1) Worship Attendance: Each student is expected to worship weekly.
- 2) Sermon Notes: Each student is responsible for filling out sermon notes for 18 of the worship services that they attend. These notes are collected, read and recorded by the Director of Family Ministries. Students that have a difficult time fulfilling this requirement can be assisted in a number of ways. Parents or students should alert the Director of Family Ministries if extra help will be needed.
- 3) Acolyte: Seventh grade students are assigned to an acolyte team. Their team will be responsible for acolyting at one worship service per month. An orientation will be held at the beginning of the school year for training. **There will be four acolyte training sessions for all seventh grade students to choose from. They will be held on Tuesday September 8, 2009 at 6:30 or 7:15pm or Thursday September 10, 2009 at 5:00 or 5:45pm.**

******Parents are encouraged to meet with Pastor David during the time their children are attending the acolyte training sessions.******

- 4) Service Projects: Each student is required to complete four service projects per year. Each project should take at least one hour to complete. Two service projects should be a part of the ministry of Holy Cross and two should be done in the community. Possible projects include:

- Faith Development Teacher Assistant
- Help watch the children in Little Lambs during worship
- Northwest Trading Post
- A nursing home visit
- Food Pantry
- Spring/Fall property cleanup at Holy Cross
- Clothing/book/toy drive assistance
- Church office help
- Eighth grade students may count acolyting as a service project, however seventh grade students may not.

Service project opportunities will be available for students AND PARENTS to attend worship and serve lunch at Hephatha Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. The dates are Sunday October 11, 2009 at 8:00am along with preparing the meal on Saturday October 10 at 9:00am, Sunday January 31, 2010 at 8:00am along with preparing the meal on Saturday January 30 at 9:00am and Sunday April 25, 2010 along with preparing the meal on Saturday April 24 at 9:00am.

5) Class Attendance: Students are expected to attend AOB classes regularly. Four Wednesday absences will be allowed. All absences should be called into the church office by 6:30pm on the day of class.

6) Memorization: Each student is expected to recite The Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments and Apostles' Creed to a Pastor during Lent of his or her eighth grade year.

7) Homework: Each family is expected to use the Lutheran Basics devotion to study Lutheran Theology. Students are required to turn in a paper answering questions that are in the Lutheran Basics pamphlet.

8) "Sex Still Has A Price Tag" Study: Each student, along with their parents, are expected to attend two sessions on the physical, emotional and character consequences of sexual activity before they are emotionally and physically ready. In "Sex Still Has a Price Tag," world renowned abstinence educator, Pam Stenzel, combines her personal story and extensive pregnancy counseling experiences in a hard hitting look at the consequences of sexual activity outside of a monogamous, lifetime relationship. In a captivating and inspiring talk, Pam tackles the tough issues of sex with candor, insight and humor while challenging young people to embrace the benefits of abstinence. **The sessions are scheduled for 5:00-6:00pm or 6:30-7:30pm on Mondays October 12 and 26, 2009.** During each session, parents will watch a video with their child, along with other parents and children. After watching the video, each family can go home or out to dinner to discuss the topics presented.

Please make plans ahead of time to clear your schedules for both sessions.

9) Parenting Your Teenager Study: Parents are expected to attend four sessions on a biblical look at parenting. The topics include: Identity, Turmoil, Rebellion and Legacy. This video-based series has been developed by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott. The Parrotts interviewed 24 parents and teens from across the country as they developed this video series. These parents and teens shared openly and honestly about rebellion, conflict, pain and identity. **The sessions are scheduled for 6:30-8:00pm on Mondays January 4, 18, February 1 and 15, 2010.**

Please plan on attending all four sessions.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

If a student's behavior is such that it consistently disrupts either the large group or small group time, the student may be escorted away from the situation and asked to call his or her parents. If behavior issues persist, a meeting with the parents of the student(s) involved, Director of Family Ministries, Pastors and Guides may be requested to work out strategies for making AOB a meaningful and helpful experience for everyone involved.

When students are attending worship either on Sundays or Wednesdays during Lent, they are expected sit in the sanctuary and participate. This is most easily accomplished by having parents worship with their children. Parental support in this is greatly appreciated.

WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP?

Each AOB student will be assigned to a small group of their peers (4-6 students) and one adult guide. Groups will be divided according to grade level. Most groups are mixed gender, but some groups may be only boys or girls, depending on class dynamics. We work to have at least two of each gender in any group. It is our goal to have students stay in the same group for the entire two years. Continuity is important when trying to build community. In extreme circumstances, a student may be changed to a different group, but this is decided by staff on a case-by-case basis. The small group will be lead by an adult guide, usually a parent. The small group time is intended to give students a sense of belonging and a place where issues and questions about the material presented in the large group can be addressed.

WHAT IS A GUIDE?

A guide is an adult (usually a parent) who leads one of the small groups. Guides are NOT teachers who tell students what to do or think. Instead, a guide is someone who is willing to share their faith journey. A guide is willing to listen to the students as they process their growing faith. Guides are willing to allow students to watch them live out their faith day to day. Their role is to provide the love of Christ through the message of

the Gospel. Guides are caregivers, advocates, mentors and processors of material that a Pastor or Presenter has taught. Guide qualities include:

- Youth oriented, warm and caring
- Able and willing to communicate with young people
- Available Wednesday evenings throughout the school year, 7:00-8:30pm
- Positive Christian role model and consistent in words and actions
- Patient, enthusiastic and understanding
- Willing to listen, share and learn
- Not a teacher, but someone who supports learning by reinforcing and processing the information taught in the large group by a Pastor or Presenter
- Team oriented

A Guide training meeting will be held on Wednesday September 9, 7-8:30pm.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to get involved in the AOB program in a variety of ways including: small group guides, substitute guides, open gym helpers, safety team helpers or office helpers on Wednesday nights. Help is also needed to coordinate service projects and chaperone events. Parents should plan on being involved in at least one capacity during the year.

DATE OF THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM SERVICE

The AOB services will be held on Sunday May 2, 2010 at 10:30am and 1:00pm. The class will be divided by small groups with approximately 25-30 students at each service time. This allows for space in the sanctuary so that students, parents, grandparents, Godparents, friends, etc., may enjoy the service. The students will have opportunities in leading the AOB worship service.

There will be a rehearsal for the Affirmation of Baptism services on Saturday May 1, 2010 from 8:00 to 10:00am. This rehearsal is mandatory for both students and parents. A professional photograph will be taken of the AOB class at 8:00am.

REGISTRATION AND PERMISSION FORMS AND FEES

Parents are expected to fill out registration and permission forms for their child in the spring/summer for the following school year. Forms need to be filled out each year. There is a \$70.00 registration fee for each year of the program.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum we use, published by Augsburg Fortress, is called "Here We Stand." This curriculum follows a two-year cycle, covering the following topics:

- YEAR ONE - Apostle's Creed, Ten Commandments, Baptism, Communion, Lord's Prayer and Developing a Faith Statement

- YEAR TWO - Old and New Testaments, World Religions, Going Green and Developing a Faith Statement

OPEN GYM

At 6:00pm, each night before AOB class, students have an opportunity to meet with fellow AOB students in the Trinity Center to play basketball, eat dinner, study, do homework or just hang out. This is a great time for students to enjoy fellowship with one another.

CONFIRMATION CAMP

We encourage attendance at Crossways, Waypost Camp, in August.

- Getdirty4god camp is a week of service projects, worship, swimming, campfires and other fun activities.
- Junior YET is a week-long Youth Enrichment Training in Peer Ministry.
- Junior Adventures is a full week of outdoor adventures including a camp-out, extended off-site bike and canoe trips and a day learning climbing skills.

The Director of Family Ministries will typically accompany the students to camp that week.

LENT

AOB classes continue on Wednesday nights during Lent. All students are required to attend the Ash Wednesday worship service. There is no small group after the Ash Wednesday service. For the next five Wednesdays in Lent, students attend the worship service at 7:00pm and then meet with their small groups until 8:30pm. We expect parents to support their child by attending worship with them. Worshipping together supports positive reinforcement for good worship habits. After worship, parents attend small group time with their child. Small group time during Lent is spent working on Faith Statements which are read during the Affirmation of Baptism service at the end of the eighth grade year.

SNOW DAYS

Our policy states that if the Menomonee Falls School District is closed we will also cancel all classes and events. Worship will not be canceled because of inclement weather. Classes however, classes may be canceled.

- The following TV stations will be notified of our cancellation; WTMJ Channel 4, FOX Channel 6 and WISN Channel 12.
- The Director of Family Ministries will email the notification of the cancelled class.

We always respect the judgment of parents in regard to the safety of their children and driving in bad weather.

2009-2010 AFIRMATION OF BAPTISM CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September 8	Acolyte Training- 7 th grade, 6:30-7:15pm or 7:15-8:00pm
Wednesday, September 9	Small Group Guide Training, 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday September 10	Acolyte Training- 7 th grade, 5:00-5:45pm or 5:45-6:30pm
September 16	Session 1 OLD TESTAMENT CREATION
September 23	Session 2 OLD TESTAMENT THE FLOOD
September 30	Session 3 OLD TESTAMENT ABRAHAM AND SARAH Commissioning with Parents, 7-8:30pm
October 7	GUIDE MTG & SERVICE PROJECTS 7:00-8:30pm, NO CLASS
October 14	Session 4 OLD TESTAMENT JOSEPH
October 21	Session 5 OLD TESTAMENT MOSES AND PHARAOH
October 28	Session 6 OLD TESTAMENT WILDERNESS TO LAND
November 4	GUIDE MTG & SERVICE PROJECTS 7:00-8:30pm, NO CLASS
November 11	Session 7 OLD TESTAMENT RUTH
November 18	Session 8 OLD TESTAMENT KING DAVID
November 25	THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP 7:00pm NO CLASS FOR STUDENTS AND GUIDES
December 2	Session 9 OLD TESTAMENT JOB
December 9	Session 10 WORLD RELIGIONS
December 16	Session 11 NT THE ANNUNCIATION AND BIRTH OF JESUS
December 23	Christmas Eve Story Practice 7pm, NO CLASS FOR STUDENTS AND GUIDES
December 30	NO CLASS FOR STUDENTS AND GUIDES
January 6	Session 12 NEW TESTAMENT JESUS CALLS HIS FIRST DISCIPLES
January 13	Session 13 NEW TESTAMENT THE BEATITUDES
January 20	Session 14 NEW TESTAMENT FEEDING OF THE 5,000
January 27	GUIDE MTG & SERVICE PROJECTS 7:00-8:30pm, NO CLASS
February 3	Session 14 NEW TESTAMENT THE GOOD SAMARITAN
February 10	Session 15 GO GREEN Prep for Lent
February 17	ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP NO SMALL GROUP TIME
February 24	Lenten Worship and Small Group
March 3	Lenten Worship and Small Group
March 10	Lenten Worship and Small Group
March 17	Lenten Worship and Small Group
March 24	Lenten Worship and Small Group
March 31	NO CLASS FOR STUDENTS AND GUIDES
April 7	NO CLASS FOR STUDENTS AND GUIDES
April 14	Session 16 NT THE LAST SUPPER AND CRUCIFIXION
April 21	Session 17 NEW TESTAMENT PENTACOST
April 28	Session 18 NEW TESTAMENT PETER AND CORNELIUS
May 1	AOB WORSHIP SERVICE PRACTICE 8:00am
May 2	AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM SERVICE 10:30am and 1:00pm