

St. Peter Lutheran Church and School

“Sharing the Heart of the Savior in the Heart of Macomb

“Some Scenarios” for Junior Confirmation Instruction (2008-2009)

Dear Parents and Confirmands:

Thanks for your partnership in our Junior Confirmation instruction. We are looking forward to our time together in the fall and winter/spring as you journey toward Confirmation Day. May God bless you richly!

To help you decide which track is best for you, we’ve described some scenarios that families may face in the year ahead. Please read through the scenarios and feel free to apply the suggestions to your situation.

1. My 8th grader has a sports commitment on Sunday morning; we can’t be at church then. What are our options?

Monday evenings (6:30 – 6:55) will give you the same presentation on the Bible and Catechism. You can join with other families in the library and take the “Faith Talk” materials with you for use at home.

The “Family Portfolio” is also available, and you can make arrangements with the pastors to receive a packet and schedule an in-home visit. The packets (two 5-week “sections”) will cover all the material presented in class.

2. We’d like to make Sunday morning classes... but what if we can’t make every one?

For those Sundays you can’t be at church and class, Monday is the best option. You’ll get the same “look and feel” as the Sunday morning classes, but we will not have time for small group discussion.

If the Monday “make up” also proves impossible to make for the week, you can drop by Pastor Ken’s office and pick up the handouts for use in your home. We’re also planning to have the Power Point presentations on the Church Web site.

3. Because of our family schedule, we must choose the Family Portfolio. Will we be “shortchanged” in any way?

Absolutely not! We believe the material in the Family Portfolio will be both solid and helpful to you and your Confirmand. The 10 learning “units” will cover the same material as in class, and we trust that you’ll benefit as a family from the “Faith Talk” questions.

Even if you do the Family Portfolio, you are welcome to attend any Sunday or Monday class as your schedule permits. You’ll have a chance to preview or review the lesson, and you’ll get to meet and spend time with other Confirmands and their parents.

4. I have my Confirmand in my home every other weekend. She’ll likely miss some Sundays. What do you recommend?

You can “mix and match” Sunday mornings and Monday evenings. If you make five Sunday mornings and four Monday evenings, that’s fine! If she attends worship at another congregation on Sunday, you and your Confirmand can come just for the class on Monday evening. Otherwise, Monday class will let out just in time for Monday worship. You can learn and worship together.

Any time you miss your regular Sunday or Monday class because of a family emergency or unavoidable conflict, please see Pastor Ken for suggestions on how to keep up the learning during Confirmation.

5. *We plan to attend Monday evening... but can we join the Sunday morning class if we need to?*

Yes! In addition to the presentation, you'll be able to join in the small group discussion around tables.

6. *We can't make classes in the fall; we're doing the Family Portfolio. Can we sign up for class in winter/spring?*

Yes! You can join the Sunday or Monday classes for either "season" or for both seasons.

7. *Where can my other elementary age children go on Monday evenings?*

Since we gather **in the library** on Monday evenings, younger children may want to bring homework or books for the half hour. They are welcome to sit at the tables and work quietly. In addition, the nursery (next door to the library) will be open, and children can sit and talk and/or work in there.

8. *My Confirmand does not have a Bible. Should we buy one for her or him before September?*

We'd like all our 8th grade Confirmands to have a *Faith Alive* Bible. In classes, we'll refer to certain parts of the *Faith Alive* Bible, and we believe it will be a valuable tool as your student continues to read God's Word. For the Family Portfolio, the *Faith Alive* Bible will also be a great source of information and spiritual insights. Families can draw on many features of the Bible in their home learning.

We suggest that you wait until our Orientation in September. We'll have *Faith Alive* Bibles available for purchase for our Confirmands.

9. *Will we be out of class on Sunday morning in time to worship at Amplified?*

Yes! Sunday morning class ends around 10:30 a.m. It will be just a walk down the hall from the gym to Kaiser Hall and worship at Amplified!

10. *What about Confirmands taking the Lord's Supper early—sometime in November, as we've done in the past?*

Both the class setting and the Family Portfolio will focus on the Lord's Supper in November. Instead of a Saturday "retreat," we'll cover the meaning and significance of Holy Communion for our Confirmands in class or at home. When Confirmands and their families have completed this section of our instruction, they are welcome to begin communing. For families who complete the Family Portfolio, the pastors may follow up with a personal visit to answer any questions and to welcome the Confirmand personally.

In sum, when Confirmands complete the material on the Lord's Supper, they will be welcome to commune at St. Peter.