

Faith Formation at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth Program Year 2017-2018

FAITH FORMATION

John Roberto says that faith formation informs, forms and transforms people in a robust, vital, and life-giving faith. It is a faith that is holistic: a way of the head, the heart, and the hands.

Children and Youth Faith Formation at Mount Olivet has these five distinct elements:

LEARN *how to interpret the story and beliefs of our faith (see attached sheet for yearly topics).*

Program component: ***NEW!*** Learning on Wednesday nights DURING WORSHIP from 6:15-7:00 pm.

Expectation: Attend 70% of weekly sessions (20 Wednesdays per program year)

CONNECT *with your small group and your parent(s) over shared faith experiences and questions.*

Program components:

- a) Small group time on Wednesday nights from 7:00-7:45PM
- b) Shared times with your family during the week, and
- c) Yearly retreats.

Expectation: Participate weekly in small group and on an annual retreat.

WORSHIP *our living God by gathering with your whole faith community.*

Program component: Worship on Wednesday evening or Sunday morning.

Expectation: Attend worship 70% of the program year (20 Wednesdays or Sundays). Participate in worship as assigned with the small group.

SERVE *God by engaging in relationships with our neighbor and the world. This is a walk of both charity and justice.*

Program component: Participate in missional action events at Mount Olivet and elsewhere.

Expectation: Show up! Participate! Engage!

IMAGINE *what it would look like to live in the promises and callings of your baptism and what that means to you. THEN, make a promised intention!*

Program component: publicly affirm your baptism in worship in the spring of 9th grade.

Expectation: Complete faith project, 9th grade retreat and confirmation interview with pastors/staff.

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WORSHIP/LEARNING FOCUS FOR GRADES 5-9

Grades 5 – 8: with Pastors, Staff and Guest Presenters

Theme 1: Practices of Faith:

This theme is grounded in God's promised and faithful relationship with creation. Some of the topics in this theme include: the history of God's promises in scripture, the daily promise of God's presence in the sacraments, and the theological understanding of promises from the Lutheran perspective.

Theme 2: Living Your Faith

This theme will focus on three aspects of relationship we experience: God's relationship with us, our relationship with the world, our relationship with creation. Additionally, the living word, made known in Jesus and examining the concepts of tension in faith will guide this theme. **The content for this theme will center on the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and the life of Jesus.**

Theme 3: God's Story, Your Story

This theme will engage in the examples of faithful storytellers from scripture, in the world, and in this congregation. Young people will be nurtured to develop a language and practice of faithful living that not only connects with congregational identity, but makes sense to them in daily life. **The content for this theme is the living examples of faith in Old and New Testament, examples of faith in the world, and congregational stories.**

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NEW “Normal” Wednesday Schedule

Worship/Learning:	6:15-7:00 pm
Dinner on the Go:	7:00pm (Eat in small group)
Age-Specific Small Groups:	7:00pm- 7:45pm (Adult groups also meet)
Extended Care Time	7:45pm-8:00pm (Youth Room)

Small Group Locations

5-8 Grade Faith Formation:	As assigned
9 Grade Faith Formation:	As assigned
Adult Faith Formation:	Conference Room

Retreats and Events:

5th/6th Grade: Moonlight Madness (November 10-11, 2017) (Cost: \$40)

MOONLIGHT MADNESS is a Twin Cities event with over 500 middle school students from all over the metro coming together for fun, food and connecting with others in a Christian environment. Think about it as a “lock-OUT” instead of a lock-in. We meet at Mount Olivet at 9PM on a Friday and return at 7AM on Saturday. In between young people will experience a youth rally, recreation time at a fitness club or Grand Slam, a movie, and bowling. It’s a can’t miss event for your student! Cost includes program fee and transportation.

7th & 8th Grade Retreat: Urban Immersion (October 27-29) (Cost: \$120)

7th and 8th graders will take a deeper dive and immerse themselves into organizations and communities that fight hunger, homelessness, and racial inequity. This retreat will include hands-on service learning in partner organizations in the Twin Cities. This is a two night retreat beginning on October 27th and ending on Sunday morning, October 29th. Cost covers food, lodging, and program/staff fee.

9th Grade Retreat: Growing a Personal Theology (February 23-24, 2018) (Cost: \$110)

The 9th grade Confirmation retreat takes place at Camp Courage in Annandale, MN on February 23-24, 2018. During the weekend, young people will focus on developing a personal theology which will allow students of different back-grounds and faith experiences to:

- Understand their strengths, talents that are a gift from God
- name their beliefs about God,
- connect their personality and life experiences to their understanding of faith,
- reflect on how their theology affects the way they live, and
- claim their identity as theologian.

In addition to that work, 9th grade students will do the practical work of gearing up to the Rite of Confirmation May 6, 2018. Students will make stoles, write “I Believe” statements, and pick a Bible verse for the confirmation service.