Contact info: Pastor Justin Hesterman -Church Office: (218) 738-3912 or Cell Phone: (419) 966-3454

Email: [immanuelstmatthewlcms@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelstmatthewlcms@gmail.com) or [justin.hesterman@gmail.com](mailto:justin.hesterman@gmail.com)

**KEEP THIS SHEET FOR YOUR RECORDS**

**General Confirmation Information**

**What is confirmation?** Many believe confirmation to simply be a process which young people go through in order to come to the Lord’s Supper. Many believe it’s an entrance exam to the Altar. But neither of these views are correct. Confirmation is a continuation of what is hopefully already being done in the home. It is a strengthening of their baptismal faith through the careful examination of God’s Word and the teaching of the church. This is the God-given responsibility of the parents “**Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6** and it is supported by the Pastor. My responsibility is to instruct your children in the faith just as you do. Therefore I rely on you to support your child, be faithful in your teaching of God’s word, be faithful in your attendance at church where the Word of God is rightly taught and the sacraments are administered. I cannot do this without your support at home.

The majority of youth that fall away from the church after confirmation do so because their parents don’t attend regularly especially fathers (**multiple studies have shown a strong connection that if dad doesn’t attend church then 98% percent of the time the kids will never attend and fall away completely even if mom goes to church every Sunday**). Also less than 20% of all Americans attend church regularly and only 45% attend a few times a year and these numbers are growing. This is a huge problem that the church is facing all over.

Many treat confirmation as a graduation from the church but confirmation is simply a stage in our Christian life which bridges young people from childhood to adulthood. It is intended to give them the tools to read and reflect on God’s Word. It is also intended to help them understand their faith as Lutherans and encourage them to be lifelong Christians in an anti-Christian world. The lesson learned in confirmation are intended to be used throughout their entire lives to protect them from false teachings and worse from falling away from the faith completely. I ask you for your prayers, your patience, and your support. Your assistance and encouragement are absolutely necessary to equip your children with the tools they need to understand their faith. May God guide our youth, may He equip parents and teachers to raise up children in the faith and face the challenges that this world presents. In Jesus’ Precious Name. Amen.

**Materials needed:** The first item required is a Bible. We use the Faith Alive student bible for class. If you need one please mark it on the information sheet. The second item is a catechism if you need one please mark it on the information sheet. We are transitioning to the new Catechism from CPH and will be using their new catechism workbook that goes along with it.

**Sermon Summaries:** 10 sermon summaries are due at the end of confirmation each year. There will be sermon summary sheets in the back of the church. You may use them at other churches if you will be out of town. All students are required to turn in 10 a year. If you have not reached that amount the student will not be confirmed until all of them are turned in. Continued on back 🡪

In order to encourage your kids to experience a wide variety of the services we hold I would like at least **One Sermon Summary to be from a midweek Advent Service, One from a midweek Lenten Service, One from Holy Week, One from Christmas or Christmas Eve, One from Easter Sunday.**

**Service Projects:** One of the big projects we do is making tie quilts for various organizations. We also go caroling at the care center and to any shut-ins in December. It is a great way for kids to see members who are unable to worship with us on Sunday Morning. If you have any suggestions for projects please let me know.

**Attendance:**  I fully expect all confirmands to attend class regularly since a lot of material can be covered in one session. **Parents, if your child is going to be absent, please notify me as soon as possible so we can schedule a make-up class or get the materials to you and your child.** Also **Regular worship attendance is extremely important. Even though only ten sermon summaries are required, we expect attendance to be more than 10 times. Remember** You are vital to the church without faithful members the church would fade away.

**Memory Work:**  Throughout the year we will be having memory work. Parents are expected to work with their child on these so that they are prepared for when the day they recite it. 5th and 6th grade will be working on the books of the Bible and the first three chief parts of the Catechism. 7th and 8th grade will be doing the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism: The Ten Commandments with meanings, The Creed with meanings, The Lord’s Prayer with meanings, The Sacrament of Baptism with meanings, the Office of the Keys with meanings, and the Lord’s Supper with meanings. Students will need to complete this before Confirmation Sunday. Any student who does not complete this requirement due to lack of effort will not be confirmed. If the student needs extra help they may schedule extra time to meet with me and I will assist them through it. If there are complications with memorization I will deal with them on a case by case basis.

**Progress:** Parents please feel free to come to me at any time with questions or concerns. I would love to sit down and discuss your child’s progress with you. Also please feel free to attend any class sessions with your child. You are always welcome and even encouraged to sit in with your child from time to time as it may assist you with discussion at home.

**Finally thank you for recognizing this vital part of your child’s spiritual life. My goal is never to make confirmation a burden on families but a blessing. Our goal is simply to grow together in faith and service to one another. I look forward to working with both parents and students this year and may God bless our studies!**