

2017-2018 INCARNATION IGNITE 9 CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

WHAT IS IGNITE CONFIRMATION?

IGNITE Confirmation is a 3-year program that begins in the fall of the 7th grade year with IGNITE 7 and concludes with a 3-part Celebration of Confirmation in the spring of their 9th grade year. At the Service of Confirmation those students who have chosen to be Confirmed will publicly affirm their faith as they respond to the following question:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear God's Word and share in God's supper
- To proclaim the Good News of God in Christ, through word and deed
- To serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus
- And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Confirmation is a process of learning and preparation that is structured around this promise and Incarnation's Mission, Vision, and Values. The goal is to equip young people so they can answer this question of Confirmation faithfully. More than that, the goal is to nurture these young people in their faith development as they explore what it means to live as followers of Jesus Christ and discover the gift of living in God's abundant and forgiving love. We also want to introduce them to some of the essential practices of faithful living, including: reading and studying the Word of God found in the Bible, prayer, service to others, sharing our gifts, talents, and resources, and expressing our faith through words and actions.

As leaders at Incarnation, we have worked hard to build a strong Confirmation ministry for the sake of your child's faith. **Confirmation is a voluntary program, not a sacrament.** By registering your child, you are making a commitment to support them through this process. This handbook is your guide to the elements and expectations of this program. It will help you understand how things work and what is expected of your child and of you as a Confirmation parent. Your child's experience depends on how well we partner together as parents, Confirmation Guides, and Incarnation staff.

THE PURPOSE OF IGNITE 9

The purpose of IGNITE 9 is to help young people begin to learn what it means to have a meaningful faith that translates into their daily lives. We are giving high school freshman opportunities to engage in a new way, learn about High School ministry opportunities, ways to stay connected to the church and be a lifelong learner while still staying connected to their small group. We hope that on their Confirmation day, they are confident in making the promise to continue in their faith journey and to live in the promises made at their baptism.

ELEMENTS OF THE IGNITE 9 PROGRAM

When you look at the Confirmation calendar, you will see that there are three types of events that make up our IGNITE 9 Confirmation ministry.

Small Group Meetings

It is our desire, when the small groups are working, we will keep them together for the 9th grade year. It is our plan that each small group will meet together at least once a month (generally on the second Wednesday of the month, all dates are indicated on the IGNITE 9 calendar). Groups will meet from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and will use that time to check-in and build relationships and continue conversations based on their Confirmation curriculum. Small group time will start in either Incarnation Hall or Grace Hall for an opening and then divide into small groups for the remainder of the evening.

IGNITE 9 Youth Group

IGNITE 9 students are required to attend FLAME Youth group four (4) times, from September 27, 2017 to April 4, 2018. They are encouraged and welcome to come as often as they like.

Special Events/Retreat

Every IGNITE 9 student and at least one of their parents will participate in the High School Stepping Stone on September 24th from 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. All IGNITE 9 Students are required to participate in the "I Believe" Retreat January 19-20, 2018. Retreats are a more intensive time of connecting and learning. It is a chance to break out of the normal routine and focus on a particular aspect of our relationship with God.

Called to Serve Service in Support of the Ministries of Incarnation

One of the ways that we express our faith as Christians is through service. We want IGNITE 9 students to find ways that they can stay engaged in the church beyond Confirmation. For that reason we ask students to choose one area to participate in that supports the ministries of Incarnation. Students are also asked to do two hours of service in the community.

There are many different ways to serve and we want to help your student find an opportunity that fits. Opportunities include: acolyting, working in the nursery, family events, ushering, Sunday treat server, participating in music, Preschool carnival, summer treat server, audio/visual technician on Wednesday nights, assist with Confirmation registration, SPARK small group leader, SPARK Sunday or Wednesday music leader, summer camps for children's ministry, Summer Stretch, middle or high school mission trip, TIM Team. Please note that some opportunities are limited and assigned on a first come, first served basis. For descriptions, read the Called to Serve registration form and have your child choose one area in which they will participate. Students select their service opportunity at registration on April 26th. In the fall you will receive the schedule of your service assignments, the contact person for your area, and a list of others who are serving in that way. *We depend on our Confirmation students in these important service/leadership roles. If your child is not able to serve on their assigned day(s), you are responsible for finding a substitute from your list.*

Additionally, Confirmands are expected to do at least two hours of service outside of Incarnation. Like volunteering for school events or local community events. To receive credit for service in the community, students will write a paragraph about what they did and have parents or service coordinator sign it.

To receive credit for service hours for music, ushering, acolyting, Sunday treat serving, nursery or Sunday School, students must sign the clipboard located on the Information Center in the Atrium (near the Sanctuary).

Expectations and Requirements

Because Confirmation is a voluntary program, by registering your child you are committing to the following expectations for yourself and your child. In the fall you and your child will receive a form to help you keep track of your student's progress.

All requirements must be completed by April 5, 2018.

Regular Participation

Regular attendance and participation in all IGNITE 9 Confirmation events is so important for your child's faith development and bonding within the small group. They need to be ready with their Bible, pen or pencil.

Worship Attendance/Reflection Sheets

Gathering in worship is central to our faith and life. Because we want to help students develop the practice of worshipping regularly, IGNITE 9 *students are expected to turn in 12 reflection sheets* that indicate their attendance in worship.

Reflection sheets are available on the Information Desk in the Atrium outside the Sanctuary and on a table inside Incarnation Hall. Your child should pick one up before worship and return it to the same location after worship. Please encourage your student to respond thoughtfully. Each sheet will be read and recorded. You can check our website (<http://incarnationmn.org/youth/ignite-confirmation-7-9/reflection-sheets-service-hours/>) weekly to check on your child's progress. You can also download a reflection sheet for use when you are worshipping elsewhere. There are two options for Reflection Sheets, one can be done by your child alone and asks three reflective questions and is worth one sheet. The other invites you and your child to have a conversation about your experience in worship. Since this requires more effort it is worth two reflection sheets. **Of the 12 required reflection sheets, 8 must be from worship at Incarnation.** Worshipping here at Incarnation is important for the consistency of the theological message between Confirmation and worship and for how we participate in the life of this community of faith. If worshipping on Sunday morning is a challenge because of sports schedules or other family commitments, remember that Incarnation also has a Sunday evening worship service at 6 p.m. in Incarnation Hall.

If your child is worshipping away from Incarnation, they still need to complete a reflection sheet to get credit. Have them save a bulletin and use it to complete a reflection sheet downloaded from the IGNITE 9 web page. Please attach the bulletin to the reflection sheet when you turn it in.

During the season of Lent, Confirmation small groups will not meet so that families can worship together during mid-week Lenten worship. Lent is a great time to get caught up on reflection sheets if your child has fallen behind. IGNITE 9 students will also complete their faith statement interviews during Lent.

If your family situation (i.e. shared custody) makes it difficult for you and your child to worship regularly on Sundays, please connect with Shawna so that we can develop an alternate plan together.

Parent Partnership Service Hours

At least one parent is expected to support Incarnation ministry by serving in one of the following ways this year:

Guide – Background check is required.

Substitute Guide – Background check is required.

Serving Sunday Treats – This service is done with your child on a Sunday morning. Families will be assigned two, three, or four Sunday shifts, depending on registration, to help serve cookies and provide hospitality for Incarnation families enjoying coffee/cookies after worship services on Sunday morning. You will receive your schedule in the fall.

Serving Summer Treats – This is similar to Sunday treats as parents and children serve together. This service begins on Memorial Day weekend. Typically you would serve two or three Sundays during the summer and fulfill your service requirement.

Assist with Confirmation Registration for April 25, 2018 – This is a one-hour commitment on April 25th. The time frame is generally 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. but the specific times/dates will be determined next spring.

Robe Laundering in Preparation for Celebration of Passage – Wash 10-20 Confirmation robes in March before the Celebration of Passage. This opportunity will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Please note that some service opportunities will be scheduled after your child is Confirmed.

Please prayerfully consider your gifts and skills as you choose among these opportunities. Make your selection on the same "Called to Serve" registration form where your child chooses their service opportunity.

NUTS & BOLTS

Meals

Meals will be offered in Grace Hall to students and guides wishing to participate from 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Fees for the meals will be \$90 for one person for the entire year. Family meals are \$125 per family per semester. Registration and fees for meals will be taken at the Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, September 13th and at the fall kick-off on Wednesday, September 20.

Discipline/Classroom Control Issues

We expect students to be respectful of guides and one another at all times. Our practice for discipline and for managing classroom control dynamics is to first speak

with the student about the offending or disruptive behavior. If the behavior persists, the student will be referred to Shawna Berg. Parents may be asked to attend classes with the student for a period of time. If the behavior still persists, the student may be removed from the IGNITE 9 program.

If you are concerned about your child and classroom dynamics, please contact Shawna. We want to work together to create a good learning environment for all participants in the group.

Fees \$100.00

Fees include all necessary materials, books, activities, and retreats.

Faith Statement Project/Interviews

All students are required to complete a Faith Statement Project. The January retreat focuses on preparing them for this project, the small group class in February will be devoted to giving students time to brainstorm and work on their projects. All students will need to have projects completed and schedule an interview with a Pastor or CYF Staff person during Lent. IGNITE 9 Faith Statement interviews are 30 minutes in length.

3-Part Celebration of Confirmation

All students will be invited to participate in our 3-part Celebration of Confirmation in the spring of 2018.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

April 8, 2018 - Parent Presentation of Confirmands in All Worship Services
(Choose which service to attend)

April 23, 2018 - Celebration of Passage - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

May 6, 2018 - Rite of Confirmation 1:30 or 3:30 p.m.

CONTACT US

The staff members responsible for IGNITE 9 are:

Pastor Joel Vander Wal

Pastor for Children, Youth & Family
jvanderwal@incarnationmn.org

Shawna Berg

Director of Confirmation and Middle School Ministry
sberg@incarnationmn.org

Kristin Bloxham

Director of High School Ministry
kbloxham@incarnationmn.org

Julie Durbin

Confirmation Support Staff
jdurbin@incarnationmn.org

All of us can be contacted by email or through the Incarnation Office by calling 651-484-7213.

I have read the IGNITE 9 Confirmation Handbook and understand what the basic elements, requirements and expectations are for the Confirmation program at Incarnation. We have prayerfully considered our enrollment in this program and we are excited to be involved and participate.

I, _____ (Student Name) understand the expectations of being involved in IGNITE 9 Confirmation ministries at Incarnation. I am excited to continue on my faith journey and will do my best to have a willing spirit, to fulfill the expectations and continue to learn and grow.

Student Signature _____

I, _____ (Parent Name) will support my child in their Confirmation journey by helping them to fulfill their requirements, encouraging them in their faith journey and supporting the IGNITE 9 program at Incarnation in any way I can. I am eager to continue to fulfill the promises I made when this child was baptized (if you or child has not yet been baptized, feel free to speak to a staff person).

Parent Signature _____

Please sign and return this page with your completed registration forms when registering your child(ren) for IGNITE 9 Confirmation at Incarnation.