

# Discipleship Training, Grades 7&8

Participation Expectations 2019-2020



## Welcome to Discipleship Training

Confirmation Ministry at St. Luke's Lutheran happens under the name "Discipleship Training." It is a ministry of the congregation for youth in grades seven and eight and those in the fall year of their ninth-grade year. Discipleship Training helps youth engage scripture and topics of faith, using a Lutheran lens to help youth grow as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Goals of DT

Discipleship Training operates with the following goals in mind:

1. Assisting youth to make life-changing commitments with Jesus Christ
2. Encourage youth to deepen their involvement in this faith community so that they might connect, grow, and serve in and through St. Luke's.
3. Provide opportunities for youth to explore the Christian faith.
4. To encourage youth to develop life-long faith practices
5. To assist parents in the on-going commitments made in Holy Baptism: "to teach [the newly baptized] the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments... to nurture them in faith and prayer... to place in their hands the holy scriptures."

## DT Registration

Each youth registers using the DT Registration Form, due September 15, 2019. Place your completed form, along with a check for the DT Fee in an envelope on which you write "Discipleship Training" and your name and send to the church office. You can also slide it under the office door.

## Discipleship Training Fee

There is \$40 fee for our confirmation ministry. This fee only partially covers supplies used in class. There will be times we do special events that there will be additional costs to each family. The regular generosity of our members, shown through the Sunday offering, supports the biggest costs of this ministry: pastoral and church staff time, building costs, and other support. Please remember that your ongoing commitment to the ministries of St. Luke's helps cover this ministry – and to do so much more. So, please continue to give regularly and generously to God's work through St. Luke's Lutheran. Fees can also be paid using a new online-tool called Omella. You can access it at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3a6lsxy>

St. Luke's is committed to supporting families needing scholarship help. If you need assistance in covering fees for DT or youth ministry events, please speak to Pastor Jordan. Because of the generous support of the congregation, scholarship assistance is available for youth and families in need.

## Worship Attendance

Christians attend worship regularly. In Holy Baptism, parents promise to "bring [their baptized children] to the word of God and the holy supper." Discipleship Trainees are to reflect on the experience using *Worship Reflection* sheets. It is expected that each youth will complete 20 reflections before May 15. When a form is completed, the youth is to have conversation with a parent about the service and the student's reflection. Then, parents are to sign the reflection. Blank *Worship Reflection* sheets are kept at the Welcome Station and in the Robing Room. Completed reflections are to be placed in the tray on the backside of the Welcome Station.

### **Parental Involvement**

Parents always have the most influence on a child's faith development. Therefore, we encourage you to be engaged in the faith and to practice discipleship in meaningful and tangible ways. Parents are specifically asked to be involved in the following ways:

- Hosts: Each family is asked to share in the joy of hosting days of DT. Hosts join DT youth in the classroom as full participants in the day's lesson. Hosts also provide a meal to be served at DT events. See handout.
- Need: DT Coordinator. See handout.
- Encourager of youth to grow in the faith.
  - Encouraging youth to be present and active in worship, youth activities, and more.
- Model the faith by active participation in worship and discipleship as a way of life.

### **Confirmation Update**

Our confirmation ministry continues under a new name: Discipleship Training. Our new name helps us remember our focus: growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. Here are basics about Discipleship Training you need to know:

- There will be a parent/youth meeting for those entering grades 7 and 8, Sunday, September 8.
- Those in Grades 7 and 8 will normally meet regularly on Sundays, 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Monthly social events for Grades 7 and 8 will be offered, as extensions to Sunday gatherings!
- Third year DT students will meet Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. beginning September 11, until the Wednesday before Affirmation of Baptism, which is on October 27, 2019. Parents, please attend on September 11.
- DT will have occasional Road Trips, allowing youth opportunities to grow through a variety of experiences. We will utilize Parents to help us get to and from these events.
- Our Pastors will be regularly involved in Discipleship Training.
- We are incorporating Host Parents into the Discipleship Ministry. Host Parents have two roles: 1) to provide meals for the group and 2) to participate as guides/mentors for the group.
- This year's theme will focus on Old Testament stories, providing an overview of important narratives that shape the Faith. Later in the DT season, we'll look at Luther's Small Catechism.
- During the Lenten Season we will continue with Sunday gatherings while also pairing youth with mentors and mid-week Lenten Worship as we've done before.

### **Serving as an Acolyte**

Discipleship Training youth serve as acolytes. Two youth are scheduled for each service. St. Luke's uses Ministry Scheduler Pro to schedule acolytes and other worship volunteers. This tool allows you to manage your acolyte schedule via a web-based tool. Many of you have already received login credentials for Ministry Scheduler Pro in an email sent out by Katie in our church office. She will be sending out additional invites in the next week.

### **What to Bring to DT**

Each week you should bring your Bible and a writing instrument. Come prepared with a spirit ready to learn, and an open heart. You are always welcomed to bring a friend.

### **DT Blessing in Worship**

Youth engaged in our Discipleship Training (confirmation) Ministry will be blessed for learning at the late Service, Sunday, September 15. We will pray for the Holy Spirit to guide them in their exploration of the faith and remind one another that this is an important ministry in which we are engaged.