

Discipleship Training, Grades 7&8

Participation Expectations 2021-2022

Welcome to Discipleship Training Confirmation Ministry and Middle School Youth Ministry at St. Luke's Lutheran happen 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 1, 2021. The link to the registration form is on DT website page (<https://stlukeslutheran.org/discipleship-training/>)

Discipleship Training Fee The fee for our confirmation ministry is a freewill donation. This fee helps to cover supplies used in class. There will be times when we do special events that there will be additional costs to each family. (Example: Lutherdale Retreat in January 2022 - estimated cost \$175) 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 an 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 Bogie or Cari. 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 a

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 as well as available on the Discipleship Training page of the church website. Completed reflections are to be placed in the tray on the backside of the Welcome Station.

Service Hours Christians are encouraged to live a life like Jesus Christ. Jesus was a servant leader and incorporated serving others into his daily activities. To help encourage making service to others part of their daily lives, Discipleship Trainees are asked to find service opportunities that interest them, volunteer and to reflect on the experience using *Service Hours* sheets. It is expected that each youth will complete at least 20 service hours before May 15. When a form (including a signature from the person in charge) is completed, the youth is to have a conversation with a parent about the service opportunity and the student's reflection. Then, parents are to sign the reflection. Blank *Service Hours* sheets are kept at the Welcome Station as well as available on the Discipleship Training page of the church website. 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 snack to be served at DT events.
- 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.
- Model the faith by active participation in service opportunities with your youth.

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

- Those in Grades 7 and 8 will normally meet regularly on Sundays during the Education Hour (9:15am - 10:15am) in the Youth Room starting September 12th.
- ***Masks will be required for all youth and adults - regardless of vaccination status - attending and participating in DT.*** As the situation surrounding COVID-19 and its variants continues to evolve, this requirement may change during the year. As staff, we will continue to monitor the situation and follow the CDC guidelines and direction from the church council. The health and safety of our youth and larger church family is very important to us.

- Community, service and social events for Grades 7 and 8 will be offered, as extensions to Sunday gatherings. These will be outside the Education hour and are an important part of DT.
- Third year DT students will meet Sundays in the Youth Room from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 pm beginning September 12 thru October 24. Faith Statements are due October 10 by 12 noon. Each confirmand will meet individually with the Pastor and Cari discuss your Faith Statements before affirming their baptism. SignUp Genius will be utilized to facilitate scheduling. The Affirmation of Baptism service is currently planned for Sunday, October 31 with practice on October 30 at 10:00 a.m.
- 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. We are planning to incorporate service opportunities, a retreat, visits to other faith denominations and Christian fellowship into our curriculum
- 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 snacks for the group and 2) to participate as guides/mentors for the group.
- This year's theme will focus on relationships and the foundations of Lutheran Faith. We will start with Luther's Small Catechism. We will be utilizing the CoLABorate curriculum as well as outside resources.
- During the Lenten Season we plan to continue with Sunday gatherings while also pairing youth with mentors and mid-week Lenten Worship as we've done before.

Serving as an Acolyte Since we are able to return to a more traditional service structure, Discipleship Training youth serve as acolytes. Two youths 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 may have already received login credentials for Ministry Scheduler Pro. If you do not have login credentials already, please let Cari know so that she can work with the church office to get you credentials as soon as possible.

I highly encourage you to schedule yourself or you will be assigned. Serving as an acolyte is a requirement of DT.

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 welcome to bring a friend.