

# Catechesis Handbook

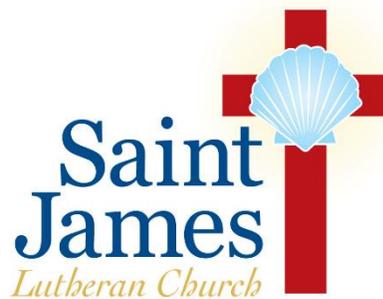
2020-2021

St. James Lutheran Church

*Updated 9/22/20. Subject to change.*

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## Introduction: What is Catechesis?

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“Catechesis” means: “religious instruction given in preparation for confirmation.” This lively, three year process begins in the 6th grade. Why do we do it? Well, as they approach adolescence, a child’s faith transitions very significantly, from mirroring what they see in their parents, to something they own for themselves. Catechesis informs and empowers this transition.

You may be thinking, “Wait, I thought I was signing my child up for Confirmation – what is this ‘Catechesis’ word?” Don’t worry, you’re not in the wrong place! We used to call our classes “Confirmation classes.” However, “Confirmation” is actually the culmination of this whole process, and we thought it would be best to keep the terms clear and separate.

The “Rite of Confirmation” is a time for people to confirm or affirm the promises made to them by God in their Baptism. This is also a time to publicly announce the understanding of our responsibilities as Christians, knowing that we live under the forgiving power of the risen Christ and how we are called to spread the good news of God’s love in Christ by loving and serving others.

Finally, Confirmation is not a “graduation” from the Church. Unfortunately, many view the Rite of Confirmation as “the end” of their regular interaction with the church. This is the opposite of the goal! Rather, the Rite of Confirmation is more of a “launching point,” into a closer relationship with God through Jesus, and into a greater participation in the community of faith known as the Church. The goal of these classes is to help make faith a firm foundation in your child’s life, and help them realize that life lived with God and the Church is how it was designed.

## Overall Program Summary

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Our program has three main components. Think of a Three-Legged Stool – it’s a very sturdy seat that won’t wobble, so long as all three legs are in place. However, if you remove even just one of the legs, the stool will definitely wobble and fall over. In the same way, our program works best if all three components are present.

1. **WORSHIP LIFE:** Students are required to regularly worship with their families throughout the year. Regular worship attendance is **vital** for spiritual life as we try to help young people know the love of God. We have 3 worship services per week, and families are strongly encouraged to attend whichever service works best for their schedule!
2. **TEACHING:** Regularly during the school year, lessons will be uploaded to the internet for students to complete at home (this is an adaptation made due to the COVID-19 pandemic). There will also be times for students to meet together in person, in a safe, socially-distanced way. Students will also break into small groups of 5-6 and have an assigned Faith Mentor (Small Group Leader). They will discuss the theme for the day, pray together, review scripture, and share with each other how God is working in their lives. Your student will be part of the same small group throughout Catechesis.
3. **SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP:** We ask each student to choose an area in the church they would like to serve in (more on that later). Also, throughout the year there will be planned fun, fellowship events as well as events to serve together. These are designed to foster relationships within the group and help build the community of God into a family. (As of 9/18, very few events are planned, and we are playing it by ear as we move forward.)

These three “legs” of our program all support the other, and so it is important to participate in all three regularly. Each will be explained in more detail for each class on the following pages.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: “The Year of Going to Church”

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### Overview

Our Catechesis program begins in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. Up until this point, many students will have been enrolled in our Sunday School program. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes will feel very similar to that – they will take place on Sunday mornings at 10:30am, during the church service. Currently (as of 9/22/20), we are beginning and ending our in-person meetings in the Multipurpose Room of the church (red door off the big parking lot). You can drop off and pick up your child there.

The theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum is “The Year of Going to Church.” Since 6<sup>th</sup> grade class happens during the Sunday School hour, and Sunday School happens during church, it is only natural that the 6<sup>th</sup> graders take advantage of this opportunity to be in worship more. The goal is to have them learn more about the worship service – why we do the things we do, what the different elements of the service mean, and how they can be involved.

The program is set up like this: One week, your 6<sup>th</sup> grader will be in worship with you, and be observing everything that goes on during the service while participating. (Attending online worship also counts!) The following week, they will come to class, where we will discuss different elements of the service that they will have observed the previous week. For example, one week we will focus on Confession and Absolution. Another week we’ll discuss the hymnal and the music of the service.

A couple of points to note:

- We will alternate like this throughout the year, with a couple of minor schedule changes around holidays – you will receive a full calendar so you will always know what we will be doing.
- On weeks where you attend worship, you certainly don’t have to go to the 10:30am – pick which service you would like (including online)!

## Schedule

Date	Topic
09/18/20	Catechesis Orientation - Intro Video uploaded to Google Classroom
9/20/20	Attend Worship
9/27/20	Attend Worship
10/4/20	In-Person Class: Confession/Absolution
10/7/20	Confession/Absolution Video uploaded to Google Classroom
10/11/20	Attend Worship
10/18/20	In-Person Class: Martin Luther and the Reformation
10/21/20	Martin Luther and the Reformation Video uploaded to Google Classroom
10/24/20	Trunk-or-Treat
10/25/20	Attend Worship (Reformation Sunday)
11/1/20	In-Person Class: Kyrie/Prayer of the Church
11/4/20	Kyrie/Prayer of the Church Video uploaded to Google Classroom
11/8/20	Attend Worship
11/15/20	In-Person Class: Hymn of Praise/Church Year
11/18/20	Hymn of Praise/Church Year Video uploaded to Google Classroom
11/22/20	Attend Worship
11/29/20	Attend Worship
12/6/20	In-Person Class: Pageant Practice
12/13/20	In-Person Class: Pageant Practice/Filming
12/20/20	In-Person Class: Pageant Filming (if needed)
12/24-25/20	Christmas Services
12/27/20	Attend Worship
1/3/21	Attend Worship
1/10/21	In-Person Class: Scripture Readings
1/13/21	Scripture Readings Video uploaded to Google Classroom
1/17/21	Attend Worship
1/24/21	In-Person Class: Hymns and Hymn of the Day

<b>1/27/21</b>	Hymns and Hymn of the Day Video uploaded to Google Classroom
<b>1/31/21</b>	Attend Worship
<b>2/7/21</b>	In-Person Class: Sermon
<b>2/10/21</b>	Sermon Video uploaded to Google Classroom
<b>2/14/21</b>	Attend Worship
<b>2/21/21</b>	In-Person Class: Creed/Lord's Prayer
<b>2/24/21</b>	Creed/Lord's Prayer Video uploaded to Google Classroom
<b>2/28/21</b>	Attend Worship
<b>3/7/21</b>	In-Person Class: Holy Communion I
<b>3/10/21</b>	Holy Communion I Video uploaded to Google Classroom
<b>3/14/21</b>	Attend Worship
<b>3/21/21</b>	In-Person Class: Holy Communion II
<b>3/24/21</b>	Holy Communion II Video uploaded to Google Classroom
<b>3/28/21</b>	Attend Worship (Palm Sunday)
<b>4/1/21</b>	Maundy Thursday
<b>4/2/21</b>	Good Friday (Walkaround?)
<b>4/4/21</b>	Attend Worship (Easter Sunday)
<b>4/11/21</b>	Attend Worship (1st Communion for 7th Grade)
<b>4/18/21</b>	In-Person Class: Post Communion Canticle/Nunc Dimittis
<b>4/21/21</b>	Post-Communion Canticle/Nunc Dimittis Video uploaded to Google Classroom
<b>4/25/21</b>	Attend Worship
<b>5/2/21</b>	In-Person Class: Final Review
<b>5/5/21</b>	Final Review Video uploaded to Google Classroom
<b>5/9/21</b>	Attend Worship
<b>5/16/21</b>	In-Person Class: Test/Wrap-up
<b>5/19/21</b>	Test/Wrap-up Uploaded to Google Classroom

*\*Please note that the schedule is subject to change. All changes to the schedule will be communicated beforehand if they become necessary.\**

## Additional Requirements

- **“Getting Started”** – This is a 4 week class for parents with Pastor beginning on **[TBD]**, taking place on Sunday afternoons for 1 hour and 15 minutes. By attending this class, you will be able to form relationships with your fellow 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents, as well as get a primer on what your kids will be learning throughout Catechesis, which will help you in the inevitable family conversations that will take place. We want to help equip you to be there as a spiritual guide for your child as they go through this process. At least one parent must attend this class.
  - **Due to COVID-19, no Getting Started class is currently planned, but we will have one in the future. Please stay tuned.**
- **Service and Fellowship** – All catechesis students are required to participate in fellowship events and service activities (see pages 20-21).

**IMPORTANT!** Obviously the program we have laid out will not work out perfectly for everyone – I know all families are extremely busy in this day and age (and especially with the pandemic). If you have trouble meeting these requirements for whatever reason, please reach out – we are willing to work with you to set up the best way to make sure your child can receive their proper religious instruction.

## 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade: “My Christian Faith/My Journey in Faith”

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### Overview

Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet together every other week on Sunday nights from 6-7pm beginning October 4<sup>th</sup>. The material taught alternates every other year, so no matter which material is being taught when your child begins 7<sup>th</sup> grade, they will be taught both of them.

- Year A: “My Christian Faith” – this curriculum explores the Small Catechism. This was a book written by Martin Luther in order to help explain the major parts of the Christian Faith in a way that was easy for families to understand. Topics covered include the 10 Commandments, the Apostle’s Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, Baptism, and Confession/Absolution.
- Year B: “My Journey in Faith” – this curriculum walks through the Bible and explores God’s plan as revealed in His Word. Each lesson also connects to material explained in the Small Catechism, to help connect it to the other year of material and to further solidify the lessons taught. (For example, the lesson about Creation connects to the 1<sup>st</sup> Article of the Apostle’s Creed, which talks about God as Creator.)

As mentioned before, the teaching will be uploaded online. We will use any creative way we can present the theme for the lesson, plus discussion in small groups when we do meet together. When students meet together, they should bring their Bible and a writing utensil. (More on that later.)

**Homework:** Everything that the students will need to do will be uploaded to Google Classroom. (More on that on page 18.)

## Schedule

Date	Topic
09/18/20	Catechesis Orientation
9/23/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Creates
9/27/20	1st Communion Make-Up Service for 8th Graders
9/30/20	Lesson Uploaded: The Fall into Sin
10/4/20	In-Person Meeting 1
10/7/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Saves Noah and His Family
10/14/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Blesses Abraham with Faith
10/18/20	In-Person Meeting 2
10/21/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Blesses Jacob
10/24/20	Trunk-or-Treat
10/28/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Cares for Joseph
11/1/20	In-Person Meeting 3
11/4/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Calls Moses/Delivers His People
11/11/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Leads His People to the Promised Land
11/15/20	In-Person Meeting 4
11/18/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Brings Ruth into His Family
11/25/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Promises David a Kingdom
12/2/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Blesses Solomon
12/6/20	In-Person Meeting 5
12/9/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Empowers Elijah
12/16/20	Lesson Uploaded: God Restores His People
12/20/20	In-Person Meeting 6/Test 1 Uploaded
12/24-25/20	Christmas Services
1/6/21	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus' Birth
1/10/21	In-Person Meeting 7
1/13/21	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus is Baptized
1/20/21	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus is Tempted
1/24/21	In-Person Meeting 8

<b>1/27/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus Calls His Disciples
<b>2/3/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus Teaches Nicodemus
<b>2/7/21</b>	In-Person Meeting 9
<b>2/10/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus Teaches in Parables
<b>2/21/21</b>	In-Person Meeting 10
<b>2/24/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Peter Confesses Jesus
<b>3/3/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus Raises Lazarus
<b>3/5-6/21</b>	1st Communion Retreat (7th Grade)
<b>3/7/21</b>	In-Person Meeting 11
<b>3/10/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus Enters Jerusalem
<b>3/17/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus the Servant
<b>3/21/21</b>	In-Person Meeting 12
<b>3/24/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus Gives the Lord's Supper
<b>3/28/21</b>	Palm Sunday
<b>4/1/21</b>	Maundy Thursday
<b>4/2/21</b>	Good Friday (Walkaround?)
<b>4/4/21</b>	Easter Sunday
<b>4/7/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus is Condemned and Crucified
<b>4/11/21</b>	1st Communion for 7th Grade
<b>4/14/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus Rises from the Dead
<b>4/18/21</b>	In-Person Meeting 13
<b>4/21/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus Ascends into Heaven
<b>4/28/21</b>	Lesson Uploaded: Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit
<b>5/2/21</b>	In-Person Meeting 14
<b>5/5/21</b>	Test 2 Uploaded
<b>5/16/21</b>	In-Person Meeting 15
<b>5/19/21</b>	All Work Due

*\*Please note that the schedule is subject to change. All changes to the schedule will be communicated beforehand if they become necessary.\**

## Additional Requirements

- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade – “1<sup>st</sup> Communion Retreat”** – this is a two-day retreat that takes place March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The focus of this retreat is instruction in preparation to take Communion. In the Lutheran Church we believe that everyone must be properly instructed before receiving the Lord’s Supper. Each student and at least one parent must attend both sessions (Friday night and Saturday morning) to prepare the student for taking Communion. The class will receive Communion for the first time the Sunday after Easter, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
  - *If your child is unable to attend this retreat, they will be unable to take Communion until they have been instructed, either via home visits or by waiting until the retreat the following year.*
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Confirmation Capstone Project:** Each student will be required to complete a final project before the Rite of Confirmation. This is a creative perspective on what their individual faith means to them. See page 15 for more details.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Home Visit** – Before being confirmed, each student receives a visit from the DCE or the Pastor, to ensure that they are ready to go through the Rite of Confirmation, and to discuss continued church involvement in the future. More on that on page 14.
- **Videos** – Students and their families will be assigned various videos to watch throughout the year, either online or on a rented DVD from church.
- **Worship Attendance** – Students are still required to attend worship services throughout the year. There are sign-in sheets in the Narthex – please sign in when you attend worship. We will be checking attendance on a regular basis. (See page 19)
- **Service and Fellowship** – All catechesis students are required to participate in fellowship events and service activities (see pages 20-21).

## The Rite of Confirmation

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This process culminates in what is called the “Rite of Confirmation.” This is a wonderful day when your child will stand before God and our Congregation and “Confirm” his or her faith in Jesus. It is the point at which he or she says, “I believe this, not simply because I’m following my parents, but because Jesus has given me His Holy Spirit and the gift of faith.”

Here is a graphical representation of the “Path to Confirmation” as it looks like beginning in 8<sup>th</sup> grade:



## Additional Requirements Explained

- **Confirmation Capstone Project** – Every student seeking Confirmation creates this Project before the Rite of Confirmation. Pages 15-17 explain this project in more detail.
- **Home Visit** – Before the Rite of Confirmation takes place, each student will be visited by the DCE or the Pastor at their home. The purpose of these visits is twofold: First, it allows the student and their parents to ask any lingering questions they might have, and to clarify anything they might be still struggling with. It is a visit focused on YOU and making sure you are ready to take the next step in your faith. Secondly, it allows the staff to evaluate what they have been teaching over this entire process, and make sure that the information they wanted to communicate has actually been taught. This consists of just a few simple questions – it’s not a “test,” as you cannot fail, but it’s more of a conversation. These visits will be scheduled in late August/early September.

### **The Rite of Confirmation – October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

12:30pm – Confirmation Luncheon in the Parish Hall

*This luncheon is FREE to Confirmands, family, and friends, and is a nice way to celebrate together. All attendees must RSVP by October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

2:00pm – Service with the Rite of Confirmation – Sanctuary

*The service can last from an hour and a half to two hours, depending on the size of the class. After the service, a group photo is taken.*

# Confirmation Capstone Project

Welcome to your final year of Catechesis! I am sure it is hard to believe that you have made it to this point, but indeed you have! Now as you are getting ready to finish up this phase in your Christian life, I am interested to know how your faith has been impacted by what you have learned these few years. This Capstone Project will be an opportunity for you to demonstrate this to me as well as to the St. James Lutheran Church Community.

## Requirements

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- We want you to make something **creative** that is a personal expression of what your faith means to you. This could look like any number of things. For example:
  - A written essay, poem, or short story.
  - A painting
  - A song
  - A creative video
  - A sculpture
  - A scrapbook
  - Etc. – the only limit is your imagination!
- No matter what you decide to make, your project must contain the following elements:
  - It needs to be related to your faith in some way. Maybe there's a particular symbol of Christianity that you like. Maybe there's a Bible verse that's meaningful to you. Maybe you have a favorite hymn or a Christian song. Find some creative way to communicate that to us!
  - It must be able to be **displayed** for many to see and appreciate your fine work!
  - It needs to have some work put into it. Please don't just throw like 6 pictures into a Powerpoint and call it a day. It's hard to put a minimum on something that you come up with, but I will be checking in with you periodically throughout the year, and I may ask you to come up with more if I feel as though there is not enough in your project.
  - Again, the only real limitation is your imagination – make this project as personal as you want it to be!

## Process

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- The first step is of course deciding what it is you are going to make. In order to help guide your thinking, fill out the attached form. This will help you make sure all of the elements are in place, as well as give me an idea as to what you are making. This form is due to me by **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.
- Once you have outlined what you are going to make, begin making it!
  - You will be responsible for obtaining the materials you need and scheduling out your work time. I will be available to help clarify any questions you have about what we've talked about in Confirmation or to give suggestions if you get "stuck," but ultimately this project is driven by YOU! My first suggestion is to **PRAY** that God guides you and helps you, as He has promised to do!
  - We will have times set aside during the year for you to come to church and work on your project if that would be helpful for you. It might also be nice to keep each other accountable and to support each other as a class! These times will be announced as they are scheduled.
  - There will be two "Progress Checkpoints" before the final project is turned in. This will help you not to save everything until the last minute! Trust me, your life will be much better off this way. These will consist of a simple form to be filled out demonstrating the work you have been doing.
  - The dates of deadlines for this project are as follows:
    - Project Outline Due: **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
    - Progress Checkpoint #1: **Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
    - Progress Checkpoint #2: **Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
    - **Project Due: Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**
- Once all the projects have been turned in, we will set up a little "art installation" at the SJ Café in the weeks leading up to your Confirmation, so that the Congregation may see and appreciate all the hard work you have done! Your projects will be a blessing to them as they see how your faith has been impacted by the Confirmation process.

It is my prayer that this project will help you to reflect on what God has done in your life over the past few years, and that you will also be able to see how He is going to be with you as you continue to grow in faith and as a part of the Church long after your Confirmation classes have ended!

I am really excited to see what you all will come up with! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to give me a call at 631-584-5212 or shoot me an email at [ryan@stjlc.com](mailto:ryan@stjlc.com). God bless you as you work on this!

Ryan

## Confirmation Capstone Project Outline

Make a copy of this form to keep for yourself, and turn in a copy to me by **Sunday, June 13th!**

Name:	Date:
<p>What is something from your faith that is especially meaningful to you? This could be a verse, a symbol, a song lyric, a personal faith story, or something else. Brainstorm as much as you like! Write on the back if you need more room.</p>	
<p>Now, what is something creative that you would feel comfortable making? This can be any number of things – a painting, a sculpture, a song, a video, an essay, etc.! Again, brainstorm as much as you like. If you need more space, feel free to use the back side of this form.</p>	
<p>Now, choose from your brainstorms above. How are you going to combine those two things? In other words, <i>what are you making?</i></p>	<p>What do you want to have completed by each Progress Checkpoint?</p> <p><i>Progress Checkpoint #1 (8/15/21):</i></p> <p><i>Progress Checkpoint #2 (9/5/21):</i></p>



# COVID-19 Policy

## Google Classroom

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### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Class code: **svaes5m**
- Link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTQ5Mzg4MjU1ODc3?cjc=svaes5m>
- Lessons will be uploaded the Wednesday after we meet in person.

### **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Class code: **7bizdzp**
- Link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTI5MTQxMTM1NTYx?cjc=7bizdzp>
- Lessons will be uploaded every Wednesday.

## In-Person Meeting

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### **For all students:**

- All lessons are going to be online. If you are unable to or are not yet comfortable with coming, you will still be able to complete every lesson online at home through Google Classroom. We do encourage you to come to in-person meetings as you feel comfortable.
- When you do come to in-person meetings:
  - Please ensure that you are not sick. If you are sick, stay home!
  - Meetings will last for an hour. We ask that all present wear a mask for the entire time. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided.
  - We will spread out and maintain space between all students and leaders.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- On in-person meeting days, we will meet at 10:30am (during the service).
- Meet in the Multipurpose Room (red door off the big parking lot).
- Parents will sign out their children from the Multipurpose Room at the conclusion of the worship service (around 11:30am).

### **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- On in-person meeting days, class will meet at 6pm in the Sanctuary.
- Small groups will break off and head to different areas of the church.
- Our meeting will end at 7pm. Parents will sign their children out from the Sanctuary.

## Worship

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Worship is a vital part of the life of the Christian. I have heard it said, “You don’t have to go to church to be a Christian – you can worship God anywhere!” While it is true that God is everywhere and we can always talk to Him, it is also true that He has promised to be in His Word and Sacraments, which are made freely available to you on a weekly basis at church!

In addition to seeking God where He has promised to be, it is also important to go to church because we are a family! At St. James Lutheran Church, we are a community of believers who care about one another and want to experience life together. We celebrate good things with each other, as well as support each other through the hard times. You have a place to belong here at STJLC.

We have three worship services during the week: **5:30pm** on Saturdays and **8:30** and **10:30am** on Sundays. Our 5:30 and 8:30 services could be described as “Traditional” worship – hymns played on the organ, liturgy from the hymnal, readings from the Word, a sermon to teach from the Word, and Holy Communion. Our 10:30 service is our “Intergenerational” service – it still has those elements from the Traditional service, but also some elements that are geared towards families – worship songs played with a band, occasional puppet shows, and kids’ messages. [Obviously things are slightly different right now due to the pandemic.]

You are encouraged to choose whichever service works best for your family. You can also worship online at home at our website, [stjlc.com](http://stjlc.com). We do ask that you sign in to worship, either in-person or by commenting on the online worship.

We require worship attendance as part of our program in the hopes that it will help to build the habit of attending church that will last through the rest of adolescence and into adulthood. While attending every week is ideal, we understand that sometimes this is not realistic. We ask that you aim for attending at least every other week. If quite a few weeks go by without tracked worship attendance, we will follow up with you by phone to see how we can best help you in this important part of your faith life.

## Service

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God tells us in his Word, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10). As members of the family of St. James Lutheran, we also want to use the gifts God has blessed us with to build each other up.

Each student must choose a way that they can be of service to the church. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Acolyte – Serve as an acolyte (lighting candles) at worship. Receives training. The easiest job, as well as the one where we need the most help! Supervisor: Kim Gillin
- Be a reader at worship. Supervisor: Deacon Jim Lundgren
- Music Groups – Contemporary Worship Band, King’s Kids Choir, Handbells, etc. Supervisor: Christine Kenny
- Usher –with a parent. Serve as an usher at worship. Receives training. Supervisor: Paul Monthie
- Serve on the Altar Guild (with a parent). Helps with preparing things for worship, like candles, communion stations, etc. Receives training. Supervisor: Lois Rudin
- Serve on the Tech Team. Help run worship livestreams, take pictures for social media and our app, and more. Parents also welcome to help. Receives training. Supervisor: Ryan Howard

If none of these things work for you, please talk to the Pastor or the DCE to set up an alternate option. Additionally, your service **should not** prevent you from attending worship.

We will also periodically schedule standalone service events throughout the year. Examples include serving at our church’s Craft Fair or going to the Smithtown Food Pantry. It is not required that you go to all of these but you are highly encouraged to be involved. (See next page)

## Fellowship

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Normally, we have a calendar full of wonderful events. We love to have fun, and we also love to serve others and be shining lights in our Community.

With the rise of COVID-19, we have had to make a lot of adjustments to our schedule, and there are still many restrictions on what we can and cannot do. We are also very committed at STJLC to keeping people safe and healthy – we believe that as God calls us to “love our neighbor,” that includes doing what we can to ensure their continued health and safety.

As of right now, 9/18/20, we do not have very many events scheduled for those reasons. One event that we do want to still do is our “Trunk-or-Treat.” This is an **outdoor** event where we can stay far apart from one another and still enjoy the day. Plus, as it’s Halloween, wearing a mask is natural! This event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>** from **2pm-4pm** in our church parking lot. More information about this particular event will be coming soon.

Other than that, we ask that you please bear with us as we look to our state and county guidelines when planning events. We are hopeful that we will be able to return soon to having big events full of lots of people, but until then, please continue to stay connected with one another as best you can. Call your friends when you haven’t seen them in a while – especially those who are immune-compromised or elderly. Share time together when you can, in small groups and outdoors. Wear a mask to stop potential spread of droplets. We are all committed to keeping people safe, and we thank you for joining us in this.

## Parental Involvement

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### Cost

There is a \$100 per student fee that helps us cover the cost of materials, supplies, and helps us recognize the volunteers. We will also from time to time ask you to donate items or your time for certain events. Please make checks payable to St. James Lutheran Church. If a family finds they are unable to pay the fee, please speak directly to the Pastor.

### Be an ALLY

This program could not happen if we did not have the support of our parents coming alongside our staff. Our Youth leadership team is called ALLY – **A**dults **L**eading and **L**oving **Y**outh. This group of parents and adult volunteers meets regularly (about once a month). This is a team that grows together in the Word, supports each other, and helps to plan and execute the different aspects of our Youth Ministry here at STJLC. No special qualifications are necessary – just a heart for the Youth of the church and a desire to help out! Please speak to the DCE if you are interested in becoming an ALLY.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

At least one parent must attend the Getting Started class when it is held (4 weeks, 1 hour per week). In addition, any help at events is greatly appreciated (chaperoning, driving, just being an adult presence – all very valuable things).

### 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade

A great way to help is by being a Small Group Leader – you help facilitate discussion and pray for a group of 4-5 students at every class. Anyone can do it! Please speak to the DCE if you would like to help in this area.

Additionally, you are welcome to join us at any class, and you will be a part of the students' homework. And as always, any help at events is greatly appreciated (chaperoning, driving, just being an adult presence – all very valuable things).

## Contact

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### Email

The vast majority of information will be sent out via email. Please ensure that the email address that you provide to us is an active one that you use regularly. Please add the following emails to your address book so that you don't miss an update!

Pastor Neil: [pastorneil@stjlc.com](mailto:pastorneil@stjlc.com)

DCE Ryan Howard: [ryan@stjlc.com](mailto:ryan@stjlc.com)

STJLC News: [stjlcnewsletter@aol.com](mailto:stjlcnewsletter@aol.com)

### Texts

Yes, you can receive updates via Text Message! We are using a service called Remind to help keep people up to date with what's going on.

If you want to receive these messages, you can simply text the corresponding class code to 81010. You'll receive a welcome message, and after a couple of short steps you'll be all set! Standard message and data rates may apply. [Note: If you already joined last year, no need to do so again.]

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Text [@stjlc6](https://www.remind.com/texting/@stjlc6) to 81010.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Text [@stjlc7](https://www.remind.com/texting/@stjlc7) to 81010
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Text [@stjlc8](https://www.remind.com/texting/@stjlc8) to 81010.

Additionally, you can go to your phone's App Store and download the Remind App. You can sign up for an account and enter the same code (without the @ symbol) to join the right class. Then you will get messages through that app instead of texts.

### Social Media

- Facebook: Please "Like" the STJLC Youth Facebook page for updates!
- Instagram: Follow [stjlc\\_youth](https://www.instagram.com/stjlc_youth)
- Twitter: Follow [@stjlc\\_youth](https://twitter.com/stjlc_youth)
- Download the St. James Lutheran Church App from your App Store!

**Catechesis Registration Form 2020-2021**

St. James Lutheran Church

*\*This form is also available online at <https://airtable.com/shrmqotkCxm5hojcO>*

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Guardians' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: 6<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 7<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 8<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Cell 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Cell 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Child Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: Parent/Guardian 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please circle which email you will check most frequently.\*\***

Emergency Contact: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: cell / home \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (Month, Day, Year) \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Received First Communion? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Service Choice (MUST pick at least one):

\_\_\_\_\_ Acolyte\*\*          \_\_\_\_\_ Bells          \_\_\_\_\_ Altar Guild with parent

\_\_\_\_\_ Tech Team          \_\_\_\_\_ Usher with parent\*\*          \_\_\_\_\_ Band @ 10 am

\_\_\_\_\_ Reader\*\*          \_\_\_\_\_ Kings Kids Choir

**\*\* For acolyte, reader, & usher, please state which worship service you will serve at:**

**(circle one or more) Saturday 5:30 pm; Sunday 8:30 am; Sunday 10:30 am. Please note that we really need volunteers at the Sunday 8:30am service.**

Anything else we need to know about your child? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to DCE Ryan Howard with your \$100 registration fee. Make checks payable to St. James Lutheran Church.*