



Dear 7th and 8th Grade Students and Parents,

August 2008

I hope your summer has gone well and that you're also looking forward to the coming school year.

As a new 7th grader (or an 8th grader new to Resurrection), you are invited to participate in our church's confirmation ministry, a two-year program offered to students (and their parents) during the junior high/middle school years.

What is confirmation? It is a basic course in Christianity and the Bible. Our goal is to teach you as much as we can *about Jesus Christ, the Bible, and our basic Lutheran confessions*, so that, in the end, you will *express your faith in Christ publicly, seek to live a Christian life, and enjoy your participation in each church community of which you are a part.*

In 2008-9, we will study the main confessional statements of the Lutheran church – the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the sacraments. In 2009-2010, we will study the story and teachings of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. In addition, we have new curriculum this year and it comes with an on-line student site, for some of the extra projects.

To help you and your parent(s) make the decision about participation, the following points give the basic schedules and requirements for the course:

- Classes are held on **Wednesdays**, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m., from mid-September until late-April or early-May, though we take some Wednesdays off around holidays.
- In addition to attendance and participation on Wednesdays, we ask for the following to be completed: 40 **worship/message notes** (20 per year), a number of brief **memorization projects** and **faith building activities**, a **written faith statement**, and two **final interviews** (with one of the pastors and with a member of our Mission Leadership Team). More details are given at each fall orientation.
- Confirmation Sunday will be held in the October after the completion of the second year of study.
- Cost: \$30.00/year

This year our Orientation Night is Wednesday, September 17. First year students and their parents meet at 6:30 p.m. and second year students (and parents) have a separate orientation immediately following.

This course, as we have designed it, takes dedication, study, and personal commitment. It is meant to be a challenging program which assists in developing Christian faith. If you would like to participate, please send or bring your completed registration form (with payment) to the church office by Tuesday, September 2. Checks may be written to *Resurrection Lutheran Church*.

If you have any questions or would like to talk further about this course before making your decision, you may contact me at 651-730-1000, ext. 222 or svanderpan@visi.com.

I look forward to this coming year of confirmation, especially with such a large group of first year students. I hope you will join us. If so, I will watch for your registration form and then see you on September 17 for Orientation Night.

Sincerely,
Pastor Sara Vanderpan