



High School Ministry

Spring Retreat 2017

Registration and Information – 9th grade students

Dear High School Students and Families,

An important part of High School Ministry at Wayzata Community Church is having experiences together outside of Sunday morning. Retreats, trips and special events all provide an opportunity for building our class communities, which adds strength to the time we spend together during our Sunday morning Pathway lessons.

As we continue this Confirmation year, the Spring Retreat is an especially important experience, combining fun and meaningful time as we celebrate each student's work this year, and learn more about what the ministry at Wayzata Community Church has in store for them in the years ahead. It is our hope that each student will join us for this important step in the confirmation year, in preparation for Confirmation Sunday on September 24th, 2017.

As a part of the retreat, **each confirmation student is asked to prepare a faith project** to share about their faith journey. We hope that this exercise encourages personal reflection on their experiences during Confirmation. Each student can be as creative as they like, allowing their project to reflect their individuality and what has been important to them in their faith this year. Past examples of projects have included paintings, essays, photo albums or collages, videos, poetry, dance and original music. We have been discussing these faith projects as a class throughout the year.

The opportunity to take time to celebrate our faith community and allow each high school student to share their commitment to their own faith is profound. We also believe that the support and presence of family and friends is important and vital, as we communicate to each high school student how much we care about the steps they are taking in their faith. **So, we invite you to attend the Celebration Ceremony on Saturday, May 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the DeGross Center at Camp Friendship, where each high school student will be recognized for their participation this year.** The ceremony will begin with the presentation of the 9th-11th grade students at 6:30 p.m., a brief intermission at 8:00 p.m. and closing with a faith talk by each 12th grade student. The whole ceremony will wrap up around 9:30 p.m. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Gabe Flynn by Wednesday, May 3rd.

The Spring Retreat is open to all High School students, regardless of their participation in Sunday Morning Pathways. Only students participating in Pathways and Confirmation are asked to complete a Faith Project. Please contact Gabe or Jordan directly if you have any questions.

In Faith,

Gabe Flynn and Jordan Masters
Director and Associate of High School Ministry

High School Ministry

Block of Wood - Confirmation – 9th Grade

Faith Project Description

The completion and presentation of a Faith Project is a requirement of each Confirmation student.

- What is a Faith Project?

A Faith Project is an expression of your personal belief statement(s). Faith Projects may take whatever form is most personal and representative for each student. Past projects have taken many different forms, including written word (essay, poem, or song), artistic mediums (paint, sculpture, pottery or photography) or musical or dance composition. It is a vehicle with which to communicate the religious and spiritual beliefs, and even questions, that the student has at this time of Confirmation.

- What should my Faith Project be about?

The ideas in your belief statement are more important than the form of your Faith Project. These belief statements should include major topics of discussion throughout the Confirmation year (i.e. the nature of God, the person of Jesus Christ, the Trinity, the Bible, the Christian Church, worship, the meaning of Confirmation, discipleship and membership at WCC, etc.) as well as other stories, religious growth, and influences that are unique to each student.

- How do we share our Faith Projects?

Faith Projects will be presented by each student, to their Confirmation class and leaders, during the class time on the Spring Retreat. In the rare situation that a student is unable to attend the Spring Retreat they will work with Gabe and Hilary to arrange a time to present their project to the class, prior to the end of the school year.

- How long should my Faith Project be?

Faith Projects may take different lengths of time to complete, based on the specifics of the individual project. At a minimum each student should spend multiple hours in contemplation and production of their Faith Project. The focus should be on the depth of thinking, as well as the form and content of the project. In addition, the emphasis is not on a perfect or final project (just as your faith is not "finished" at Confirmation) but instead on a thoughtful, honest and personal representation of each student's faith at this unique time in their life.