

CONFIRMATION DISCIPLESHIP  
TRAINING (CDT)

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

HONEY CREEK

FOR GRADES 7-10

<sup>19</sup>“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
<sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## *Prologue*

***Welcome to CDT [Confirmation Discipleship Training]. I pray that your son/daughter will be blessed through this intensive program of Bible Study and preparation. Confirmation has been a longstanding tradition in the Lutheran Church. However there is no Biblical mandate for this practice. There is no command in the Bible which states that those aged 12-14 must go through confirmation. In fact, the word confirmation does not appear in the Bible.***

***God, in his word, does command that we teach children the scriptures. Our Lord does command us to make disciples—not Christians—not church members. We are called to make disciples of all nations, including children. Discipleship training does not begin in 7<sup>th</sup> grade nor does it end in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Discipleship training is indeed a lifelong venture. It is to this that we are called that we would take up our cross and follow Jesus.***

***What we hope to do, with God's help, is to aid our parents in making disciples of our children. To do this we will teach them to obey everything Jesus has taught us that they may walk with their Savior all the days of their lives and enter into eternal life.***

# **An explanation and rationale for Confirmation Discipleship Training in grades 7-10**

## **What is CDT?**

CDT is Confirmation Discipleship Training for grades 7-10. CDT is the result of a series of meetings with parents, the board of education, the elders and Pastor during the winter and spring of 2008, with hopes of addressing some growing concerns with the youth ministry of our congregation.

These concerns were over the loss of many of our congregation's youth in the years after 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation. There was a great deal of concern that many kids were not prepared for the difficulties that awaited them as young adults. In the post confirmation grades (9-12) we offered very little formal structure to help those youth continue to grow spiritually and mature as Christians. There were many practical and social issues that these kids face that were not being addressed because there was no avenue by which the church could address them.

Furthermore, studies show that to present complex theological concepts at grades 6-8 can be detrimental for many kid's spiritual development. Below is a quote from a study conducted in 1970:

"The research indicated above supports the contention that inability to handle high level abstractions is characteristic of the majority of young people of the average ability at grades 7-8. For most of them such ability is not fully developed. At least they are unable to cope well with the highly abstract, logically structured, and doctrinal instruction typical of a religious education and confirmation instruction given at that age. **The research indicated that an expected outcome of such instruction is a kind of learning that fixes immature, concrete and rigid conceptualization that is highly resistant to later influences and developments necessary for the maturing of an articulate adult faith.**"

In order to curb losses and to better serve our young people, CDT was created. CDT is discipleship training for junior high and high school age kids.

## **Specifics of CDT:**

1. **Grade 7:** Early communion class. Seventh graders receive instruction on Holy Communion. These classes will either be held on Sunday Mornings in September or in a retreat setting on one Sunday afternoon. Upon completion of the class, Pastor will meet with parents and child in the

home to review. Upon successful completion of communion class the seventh graders will have first communion on the last Sunday of October, Reformation Sunday.

2. **Grades 7 & 8 Basic Training:** In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade the children receive basic catechetical instruction from Luther's small catechism.
3. **Grades 9-10 Advanced Training:** Emphasis is on application/practical teaching. We do two things. First we will learn and know the Bible. Second we deal with relevant issues in their daily lives as they learn to relate to Christian beliefs. After completing 10<sup>th</sup> grade and confirmation class these students would be confirmed on Reformation Sunday in the fall of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**A word to parents:**

*The absolutely critical element in CDT is parental support. As a parent your child's spiritual growth and well being is your responsibility. There are many distractions in our world that take kids and adults away from the Savior. It takes commitment on your part as parents to see that your son/daughter grows up to maturity in Christ. We ask that you support your son/daughter in the following ways:*

*Encourage them in Church attendance and attendance to the Lord's Supper by **your own faithful attendance. If it is in not happening at home, nothing we do here will help.***

*Encourage their attendance to classes on Wednesday night.*

*Be sure they are current in sermon reports [7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade]. 20 are required.*

*Help them with memory work.*

*Be sure they are present when it is their turn to usher, acolyte or have any other responsibilities pertaining to worship.*

*Encourage them to participate in MAIC activities [Youth Group] which meets the first Sunday of each month.*

*Encourage them through prayer—praying for them is essential*

# Confirmation Discipleship Training (CDT) Covenant

To be signed each year Grade 7-10

As a parent, I will:

1. Pray for, encourage and support my child(ren) receiving CDT instruction.
2. Take the responsibility of teaching the Christian faith as one of my primary duties as a parent.
3. Work together with my child on all the assignments that are given. By doing this, I recognize that it is a vital part of my child's faith development to see that we need to continually learn about our faith in Jesus Christ as a family.
4. Make worship a priority for me and my family by worshiping weekly (with a minimum of 75% attendance.)
5. Communicate with the CDT teacher any concerns or questions I may have.

**I/We understand that Christian Discipleship Training (Confirmation) is a steppingstone toward maturity in faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and that not fulfilling the minimum requirements of this Covenant will result in our CDT student not being confirmed.**

Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

As a student, I will:

1. Pray that I will learn more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, knowing that the Holy Spirit is daily at work in me creating that faith.
2. Complete the assignments as given by the teacher, with the help of my parents.
3. Make worship a priority by attending a church service weekly (minimum of 75%)
4. Participate in, but am not limited to, three hours of service projects during the school year [through MAIC].
5. Attend all Lenten midweek services while class is in session.
6. Fulfill my acolyte responsibilities when I am assigned to do them. When I am unable to be at my assigned time I will find a substitute to be there for me (CDT 2 only).
7. Bring my bible, a pen or pencil, workbook and catechism to class weekly in order to be able to participate fully in class discussions.
8. Attend CDT or MAIC retreats as they are scheduled.
9. Complete and turn in 20 Sermon Notes by May 1<sup>st</sup>
10. Make a public testimony to my faith at the end of CDT [fall of Jr. year ]

Student \_\_\_\_\_

As a teacher, I will:

1. Pray for your family, as they grow closer to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2. Provide assistance, guidance, and support for your family as you continue to learn more about your faith and how it affects your family.
3. Assist your family in understanding the material covered in class and through weekly Bible studies.
4. Communicate with the parents on a regular basis regarding the progress of your CDT student. In addition, I will contact you with any immediate concerns or questions regarding his/her progress.

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_