

August 10, 2017

Welcome 6th grade students and parents to Bethany Lutheran's Here We Stand Confirmation Program! And welcome back to all of our 7th & 8th grade students and parents!

The number one goal of Confirmation is to more deeply develop the foundation for lifelong faith and Christian living. After the Holy Spirit, family is the most important player in faith development. As your child was baptized, a promise was made to put God's Word into his or her hands. Confirmation assists you in keeping that promise. The Confirmation program is important to the nurturing of faith, so by registering for Confirmation, students and families commit to this faith development process.

Here We Stand (HWS)

Our confirmation program is called Here We Stand (HWS) and is for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. This year students will meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30p.m. for Learning Events that utilize both small and large group activities and discussion. Topics of discussion for this year will come from the Old Testament. Each Wednesday, HWS will have a 15 minute ice breaker/introduction, 30 minutes of small group discussion, 15 minute closing. During the year we will also learn ways to respond to God's unconditional love through serving the church, community and the world.

To register your child for Here We Stand, please register online at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/2017hws> or print and fill out the HWS Registration form and return them to Angie Buchli or the church office by Friday, August 31, 2017. All 6-8th students must register each year so we have updated information.

There will be a Here We Stand Orientation /Acolyte Training meeting for all 6th-8th grade parents and students on Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 p.m. It is important that parents attend this meeting with their children as we will be meeting with Pastor Grant and Pastor Luci, previewing the year, covering the requirements and expectations, and fielding your questions. The first Learning Event this year for students will be on Wednesday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Acolyting

As a member of Bethany, your service as an acolyte, begins in the fall of your 6th grade year and continues until you are confirmed in October of your 10th grade year. All 6th-9th grade students are required to acolyte as part of their confirmation journey. We try our best to schedule all new acolytes with an experienced acolyte the first few times you serve.

Acolyte training will take place on **Wednesday, September 6**, immediately after the Here We Stand Orientation meeting and will be held in the church sanctuary (worship area). It is very important that you attend this training so you can understand the role of the acolytes. We would like those in 7th & 8th grade to attend for a refresher course. Parents are strongly encouraged to be present during the training, and are welcome to be part of assisting acolytes. We appreciate the assistance of the parents. Serving as an acolyte is an important and meaningful way to contribute to your church and strengthen your faith.

Wednesday After School Bus/Pizza/Bells

Starting September 13, pizza will be served from 3:30-5:15 p.m. for the cost of \$3.00 per week (or you can get a free week by paying \$30 at one time). Students will have the opportunity to join one of the bell choirs that meet during that time. Rehearsal times will be between 3:30-5:15 p.m. The Martin Looper bus will bring students from the Middle School to the church on Wednesdays. It will be parked in front of the pool building.

We look forward to seeing you at our Here We Stand Orientation/Acolyte Training meeting on Wednesday, September 6 starting at 5:30 p.m. Blessings to you and your family as we continue on this faith journey together!

In Christ,

Angie Buchli
Education & Youth Ministries Lead

Pastor Grant Aaseng
Lead Pastor

Pastor Luci Sesvold
Associate Pastor