

2015-2016 COVENANT
for DISCIPLESHIP and AFFIRMATION of FAITH
at Bethany, St. Paul, and Zion Lutheran Church

RATIONALE: Catechism in the church is the extension of the baptismal promises we as parents and the church made to you, our children, when we baptized you into Christ's body. It is where we have an opportunity to deepen our understanding and life of discipleship together, and begin a process of equipping you for life-long following and growing in Jesus, and active participation in His body, the church.

Catechism is NOT primarily informational, though you will learn a ton over two years. It's primarily relational...it's about you and God, you and other disciples, and you and the world that you live in. Because of this, catechism takes contact time and requires your showing up. Just like you can't make up practices on the volleyball or football team where you learn plays as a team and their execution, discipleship is not an individual sport. It's always done in conjunction with others. In the process of your catechetical instruction, your team will be your fellow faith journeyers in catechism, your teachers, your small group leaders, your parents, and all the other Saints of the church at Bethany, St. Paul, and Zion.

OBJECTIVES: Our objectives with catechism are simple...

1. That you become passionate lovers and followers of Jesus.
2. That you become passionate about his Church and active in its worship.
3. That you become passionate about the world he loves.
4. That you become active pray-ers.

EXPECTATIONS: What we want to see is active participation. We believe that 99% of life is showing up, and this especially in the life of faith—that it is critical to your formation as disciples. Because of this our expectations are participation oriented.

1. Participation in Wednesday classes from 5:00pm—7:00pm. Fellowship is from 5:00-5:30pm, class time and meal is 5:30pm – 7:00pm. Our classes involve videos, hands-on projects, small groups, and interaction, so being in class is very important. We understand all dates will not work for all students, so if you have to miss a class, please contact Kiesha Priem at 830-997-2069 or 512-921-1356. We are not recording classes this year.
2. Participate in Regular Sunday Worship. Just as we need regular meal times to feed and nourish our bodies, we gather regularly as Christians to nourish our faith in song, fellowship, hearing the Word of God, and in receiving God's promises in the sacraments. So, parents and students, we encourage you to seek out ways to participate in worship, be it reading lessons, or helping plan worship, assisting with communion, or acolyting. Be creative! You have many gifts, so please share them in our weekly worship.
3. Sermon Notes. Over the course of the Fall and Spring, we ask that students fill out and turn in 20 sermon reports. The sheets can be found and turned in at the entrance to the sanctuaries of each church.
4. Memory Work. During the course of our time together, we have our students memorize the books of the Bible, the 10 commandments, other

Biblical verses, and at times take quizzes to assess your learning and material presentation.

*****BLC Students: see additional form for specific requirements.**

I understand that I am responsible for this journey of faith leading up to the Affirmation of Faith rite, and choose to actively engage in and participate in catechism at Bethany/St. Paul/Zion Lutheran Church. I understand that I do not HAVE to do this, but it is a privilege to do so at this time. I promise to be accountable to my parents, my church's leadership, and my adult mentors for my participation in Confirmation and the meeting of the expectations above, and understand that my non-participation will mean that I won't be confirmed.

CONFIRMAND SIGNATURE:

Date: _____

I understand as a parent that it is my responsibility to encourage my child through this catechetical process, and that this encouragement is an extension of the promises I made to my child at the time of their baptism. I understand the objectives and expectations of the Confirmation journey at Bethany/St. Paul/Zion Lutheran Church, and commit to making this journey not only a priority for my child, but for our family. I realize that in doing so my child will get infinitely more out of this journey than they would otherwise. I also understand that my child's failure to meet the expectations of this congregation with regards to Confirmation will mean that the church council will not approve my child for the Rite of Affirmation of Faith.

PARENT SIGNATURE:

Date: _____



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

BEING, LIVING AS, AND MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

2015-2016 Confirmation Covenant Addendum BLC Specific

Participation in Wednesday classes: Participation in and demonstrating an understanding of each lesson is mandatory. If you must miss a scheduled class you will need to do the following:

- 1. Contact Kiesha Priem at 997-2069 or 512-921-1356 the let her know you will miss a class.**
- 2. Complete the worksheet for that week's lesson.**
This year we will not be posting videos online

Participate in Regular Sunday Worship: Becoming an active member of the worshipping community at BLC is a major part of Confirmation instruction. There are several ways that students can participate/assist with worship. In an effort to emphasize the importance of participating in worship the following will be required.

- 1. Each student will be required to acolyte once per quarter. Quarters are September-October, November-December, January-February, and March-April. Sign-up sheets will be available.**
- 2. Each Student will be expected to participate in another role as worship leader (usher, reader, greeter, etc.) once per semester. Semesters are September-December and January-April. To sign up for this you must contact Kiesha Priem.**

Participate in Committee Meetings: BLC has several committees that help to make sure the different ministries offered at the church run smoothly. These committees are made up of volunteers and meet monthly to discuss their specific ministries. Each student will be required to attend one committee meeting during the year and fill out a committee report form (Available from Kiesha). Committees of BLC are CYFM, Worship, Fellowship, Social Concerns, Evangelism, Stewardship, Property & Management. Students may choose which committee they would like to attend and make arrangements to attend the meeting with Kiesha Priem.