**Confirmation Requirements**

**2021-22**

**Preamble: a note on the word “Requirements”**

Today’s families are busy. Sports practices, rehearsals, homework, long days, long commute times – we know the drill. Epiphany confirmation students often have longstanding conflicts on Wednesday evenings during some seasons, particularly with sports practices and rehearsals, and do not attend confirmation class for weeks at a time.

If this will apply to your family this year, I would appreciate if you would let me know via email, phone, or in-person conversation about your schedule. I like to know what’s going on when I won’t be seeing a student for a while. I will also do my best to send discussion questions via email before class each week so that students who miss a class can talk about each week’s topic at home.

**Ultimately, the confirmation experience is about what each family, and especially each student, puts into it. If participants engage in the experience with open hearts and minds, participating actively in confirmation class and worship when they are present, we expect that they will feel accomplished and ready to engage in the next step in their faith as full-fledged church members by the time Confirmation Sunday comes**.

**I do keep track of attendance and the number of WOW sheets (see below) and service projects completed by each student.** I will provide a mid-year (January) update on number of WOWs and service projects completed. We ask students to complete these for a reason – we believe that the life of a disciple, of a Christian, is about so much more than sitting in church for an hour on Sunday morning. It’s about how we reflect on and engage with our faith, and how our faith can be a source of life for us every single day. These reflection and engagement skills are what we are hoping confirmation students develop during their time in confirmation at Epiphany. As parents, you are partners with us in their faith development and formation, and we thank you for your participation in this partnership.

For more specifics, read on:

***Regular Worship Attendance***

We expect that families who have confirmation students will commit themselves to regular worship attendance. What does “regular” mean? We will let you determine that for your own family. We simply hope that each member of our confirmation families will participate meaningfully in the life, especially the worship life, of the congregation. Worship services at Epiphany are held at 5:30 pm on Saturday evenings, and 8:00 am and 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. Read on for more information about completing WOW sheets and serving as an acolyte, which may help you determine when your family might attend worship this year.

***Wonderings on Worship (WOWs)***

In worship, students think about what it means to be a part of the Christian community and reflect on what they’ve been learning in class about the Bible and Lutheran traditions. This year, I am asking that each student complete and turn in ten (10) WOWs (“Wonderings on Worship” sheets - formerly known as worship worksheets) in total during the 2021-22 school year. If a student attends

another church on a Sunday or holiday, they may complete a WOW sheet for that service as well. Finally, WOW sheets can be completed if participating in worship by watching the live-stream or previously recorded worship service at home at <YouTube.EpiphanyElmhurst.org>.

Look for the “WOW” sign on the short front pew on the south side of the sanctuary to find blank WOWs and turn in completed ones. You may also mail, or scan and email, these to me – mail to Epiphany attn: Pastor Anna or email anna.ernst@epiphanyelmhurst.org.

***Regular Confirmation Class Attendance***

Regular attendance at weekly classes is the most important and meaningful part of Epiphany’s confirmation program. Students sit with their small groups and small group leaders during our large group activity and discussion and then break into smaller groups for the last 20-25 minutes. It’s a thought-provoking, meaningful, fun time!

We ask that students make every effort to come to confirmation class, with the goal of missing no more than 4 classes per year. We simply cannot replicate the class experience. Again, if you have special circumstances, please speak with me.

If you know ahead of time on a given week that your child will not be attending confirmation class, please email me. This helps me be better prepared for each week’s class.

***Serve as Acolyte***

Students are asked to help lead worship by serving as acolyte during worship approximately 4-6 times per year. Training for new acolytes will take place during the first confirmation class on Wednesday, September 15. ***This year, we are only scheduling acolytes at 9:30 am on Sundays.*** Pastor Anna has gone ahead and scheduled acolyte dates through the beginning of December, and will share the schedule with families via email. If a Sunday does not work for your student or family, please try to switch with another student via email.

***Service Projects***

Students are expected to complete 2 service projects per year—participating in Epiphany’s activities, participating in special activities that Pastor Anna will organize with other confirmation students, or coming up with ideas or on their own. A list of Epiphany service project opportunities and other ideas for individual service projects will be presented at the Confirmation Parent Meeting. I know that there are many Elmhurst-area service project opportunities, and participating in one of these is a great way to serve as well.

I also ask all students to write a reflection paragraph (handwritten or typed) after they complete each service project, telling me what they did, what they liked and/or didn’t like about it, and telling me how their project was a reflection of their Christian faith in action (or,“how they showed God’s love”). Once I receive the paragraph from your student, I will note that they have completed a project.