

8th and 9th grade Confirmation Students and Parents,

Grace and peace to you! We are very excited to welcome you back for another year of learning and growing together in our faith journey. We are writing to let you know about a significant change we are making to the schedule for 8th and 9th grade confirmation.

In prior years, 8th and 9th graders have met for their class from 4:30-6pm one Wednesday per month. There were a few downsides to this schedule: the earlier start time could make drop-off challenging for parents, it limits us to only 8 meetings per year, missing just one class means the student misses a significant portion of the year, diminishing their experience of confirmation overall. We have also consistently heard from our students over the past few years that they want more: more Bible study, more time together, more opportunities to go offsite, etc.

We simply cannot do more without more time. Given this reality, and the real hunger we sense in our students for a more robust confirmation experience, we have decided to change 8th and 9th grade confirmation to every Wednesday from 6-7pm, following the church school schedule. We are hoping this makes coordinating rides easier for families as well as giving us so much more opportunity to learn and grow together with our 8th and 9th graders. We also hope this makes it easier for students to attend worship on Wednesday nights, which will happen directly after their class from 7:00-7:35pm.

The 8th and 9th graders will meet for their class in the Gathering Place or the Sanctuary (6th and 7th graders use the East Room for their class). Confirmation will be taught on a rotating basis: Pastor Derek and Pastor Sylvia will be teaching approximately every other week, and then we will have another leader along with small group leaders on the weeks where we are teaching parent-student classes or are otherwise unavailable. Dinner will continue to be available before class starting at 5:30pm downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

We hope that this change will help our young people deepen their faith and grow in relationship with God and each other. We are so thankful for the commitments of our small group leaders and other leaders who are making this change possible. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns. We are so looking forward to seeing your student in confirmation this year!

Please make sure to register for confirmation by visiting faithbismarck.com/forms and selecting the "Confirmation Registration" form.

In Christ,
Pastor Derek Harkins
Pastor Sylvia Bull
Kenny Opsal, Director of Education and Youth