Catechesis Handbook

2019-2020

St. James Lutheran Church

Updated 9/5/19. Subject to change.

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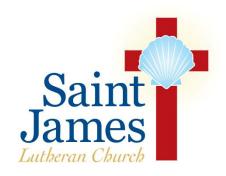


Table of Contents

Title Page	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction: What is Catechesis?	3
Overall Program Summary	4
6th Grade: "The Year of Going to Church"	
Overview	5
Schedule	6
Additional Requirements	8
7th /8th Grade: "My Christian Faith/My Journey in Faith"	
Overview	9
Schedule	10
Additional Requirements	11
The Rite of Confirmation	
Overview	13
Additional Requirements	14
Confirmation Capstone Project	15
For Everyone	
Worship	19
Service	20
Fellowship	21
Fourth Fridays (NEW)	22
Parental Involvement	23
Contact	24
Calendar	

Registration Form

Introduction: What is Catechesis?

"Catechesis" means: "religious instruction given in preparation for confirmation." This lively, three year process begins in the 6th grade. Why do we do it? Well, as they approach adolescence, a child's faith transitions very significantly, from mirroring what they see in their parents, to something they own for themselves. Catechesis informs and empowers this transition.

You may be thinking, "Wait, I thought I was signing my child up for Confirmation – what is this 'Catechesis' word?" Don't worry, you're not in the wrong place! We used to call our classes "Confirmation classes." However, "Confirmation" is actually the culmination of this whole process, and we thought it would be best to keep the terms clear and separate.

The "Rite of Confirmation" is a time for people to confirm or affirm the promises made to them by God in their Baptism. This is also a time to publicly announce the understanding of our responsibilities as Christians, knowing that we live under the forgiving power of the risen Christ and how we are called to spread the good news of God's love in Christ by loving and serving others.

Finally, Confirmation is not a "graduation" from the Church. Unfortunately, many view the Rite of Confirmation as "the end" of their regular interaction with the church. This is the opposite of the goal! Rather, the Rite of Confirmation is more of a "launching point," into a closer relationship with God through Jesus, and into a greater participation in the community of faith known as the Church. The goal of these classes is to help make faith a firm foundation in your child's life, and help them realize that life lived with God and the Church is how it was designed.

Overall Program Summary

Our program has three main components. Think of a Three-Legged Stool – it's a very sturdy seat that won't wobble, so long as all three legs are in place. However, if you remove even just one of the legs, the stool will definitely wobble and fall over. In the same way, our program works best if all three components are present.

- 1. WORSHIP LIFE: Students are required to regularly worship with their families throughout the year. Regular worship attendance is **vital** for spiritual life as we try to help young people know the love of God. We have 3 worship services per week, and families are strongly encouraged to attend whichever service works best for their schedule!
- 2. CLASSES: Every week during the school year we will hold Catechesis Classes in the Parish Hall of the Church. These classes include music, stories, skits, projected video, and any other creative way we can present the theme for the night. Also, at certain times in the class, students break into small groups of 5-6 and with their assigned Faith Mentor (Small Group Leader). They will discuss the theme for the day, pray together, review scripture, and share with each other how God is working in their lives. Your student will be part of the same small group throughout Catechesis.
- 3. SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP: Throughout the year there will be planned opportunities for youth to be involved in acts of service. These events are designed to foster group building and also reveal the value of servanthood to the students. Additionally, we ask each student to choose an area in the church they would like to serve in (more on that later). Also, throughout the year there will be planned fun, fellowship events. These are designed to foster relationships within the group and help build the community of God into a family.

These three "legs" of our program all support the other, and so it is important to participate in all three regularly. Each will be explained in more detail for each class on the following pages.

6th Grade: "The Year of Going to Church"

Overview

Our Catechesis program begins in 6th Grade. Up until this point, many students will have been enrolled in our Sunday School program. Our 6th grade classes will feel very similar to that – they will take place on Sunday mornings at 10:00am, during the church service. Just like the Sunday School classes, we will begin in the Sanctuary with the Opening. Then, when all the Sunday School classes leave, the 6th grade class too will leave and head to the Youth Room across the street for class. You can pick them up in the SJ Café in the Parish Hall when service is over.

The theme of the 6th grade curriculum is "The Year of Going to Church." Since 6th grade class happens during the Sunday School hour, and Sunday School happens during church, it is only natural that the 6th graders take advantage of this opportunity to be in worship more. The goal is to have them learn more about the worship service – why we do the things we do, what the different elements of the service mean, and how they can be involved.

The program is set up like this: One week, your 6th grader will be in worship with you, and be observing everything that goes on during the service while participating. The following week, they will come to class, where we will discuss different elements of the service that they will have observed the previous week. For example, one week we will focus on Confession and Absolution. Another week we'll discuss the hymnal and the music of the service.

A couple of points to note:

- We will alternate like this throughout the year, with a couple of minor schedule changes around holidays you will receive a full calendar so you will always know what we will be doing.
- On weeks where you attend worship, you certainly don't have to go to the 10am pick which service you would like!

Schedule

Date	Торіс
9/15/19	Introduction Part I – Overview
9/22/19	Introduction Part II – Bulletins and Hymnals
9/29/19	Attend Worship (Service of Promise 10am)
10/6/19	Confession/Absolution I
10/13/19	Attend Worship
10/20/19	Confession/Absolution II
10/27/19	Attend Worship (Reformation Sunday)
11/3/19	Kyrie/Prayer of the Church
11/10/19	Attend Worship
11/17/19	Hymn of Praise/Church Year
11/24/19	Attend Worship
12/1/19	Pageant Practice
12/8/19	Pageant Practice
12/15/19	Pageant Practice
12/22/19	Christmas Pageant 10am
12/29/19	Attend Worship
1/5/20	Scripture: Old Testament/Epistle Readings
1/12/20	Attend Worship
1/19/20	Scripture: Holy Gospel
1/26/20	Attend Worship
2/2/20	Hymns/Hymn of the Day

2/9/20	Attend Worship				
2/16/20	Attend Worship				
2/23/20	Sermon				
3/1/20	Attend Worship				
3/8/20	Creed/Lord's Prayer				
3/15/20	Attend Worship				
3/22/20	Holy Communion I: Preface/Sanctus				
3/29/20	Attend Worship				
4/5/20	Holy Communion II: Words of Institution/Agnus Dei				
4/12/20	Attend Worship (Easter Sunday)				
4/19/20	Attend Worship (1st Communion for 7th Grade)				
4/26/20	Attend Worship				
5/3/20	Post Communion Canticle/Nunc Dimittis				
5/10/19	Attend Worship (Mother's Day)				
5/17/20	Final Review				
5/24/20	Attend Worship				
5/31/20	Test				
6/7/20	Attend Worship				
6/14/20	Wrap-up (Last Day of Sunday School)				

^{*}Please note that the schedule is subject to change. All changes to the schedule will be communicated beforehand if they become necessary.*

Additional Requirements

- "Getting Started" This is a 4 week class for parents with Pastor beginning on September 15th, taking place on Sunday afternoons for 1 hour and 15 minutes. By attending this class, you will be able to form relationships with your fellow 6th grade parents, as well as get a primer on what your kids will be learning throughout Catechesis, which will help you in the inevitable family conversations that will take place. We want to help equip you to be there as a spiritual guide for your child as they go through this process. At least one parent must attend this class.
- "Luther Lock-In" This is a one-night retreat at the church (where your children will be "locked in"), October 18th-19th. It's a night of fun and fellowship, and also of learning! The topic is focused on Martin Luther (for whom the Lutheran Church is named) and what he did 500 years ago to kickstart the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther helped to explain many of the things we believe about God from the Bible, and his work has shaped Christianity for a long time.
 - If for some reason your child cannot attend this retreat, a make-up assignment will be required.
- **Service and Fellowship** All catechesis students are required to participate in fellowship events and service activities (see pages 20-21).

IMPORTANT! Obviously the program we have laid out will not work out perfectly for everyone – I know all families are extremely busy in this day and age. If you have trouble meeting these requirements for whatever reason, please reach out – we are willing to work with you to set up the best way to make sure your child can receive their proper religious instruction.

7th/8th Grade: "My Christian Faith/My Journey in Faith"

Overview

Our 7^{th} and 8^{th} graders meet together on Sunday nights from 6:30-8pm beginning September 15th. The material taught alternates every other year, so no matter which material is being taught when your child begins 7^{th} grade, they will be taught both of them.

- Year A: "My Christian Faith" this curriculum explores the Small Catechism. This was a book written by Martin Luther in order to help explain the major parts of the Christian Faith in a way that was easy for families to understand. Topics covered include the 10 Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Confession/Absolution.
- Year B: "My Journey in Faith" this curriculum walks through the Bible and explores God's plan as revealed in His Word. Each lesson also connects to material explained in the Small Catechism, to help connect it to the other year of material and to further solidify the lessons taught. (For example, the lesson about Creation connects to the 1st Article of the Apostle's Creed, which talks about God as Creator.)

As mentioned before, the classes contain music, stories, skits, projected video, and any other creative way we can present the theme for the night, plus discussion in small groups. Each student must bring to each class their Bible, their Catechism, their Student Book, a pencil, and a highlighter.

Homework: Each student will receive a student book that matches the curriculum we are studying. Every week there will be extra material in the books called "The Growing Family," which are activities and discussions for the family to do during the week. These will not take very much time at all, and should be completed each week.

Schedule

Lesson #	Date	7 th /8 th rotation A My Christian Faith	7 th /8 th rotation B My Journey in Faith	
1	9/15/19	The Christian Faith: Intro	God Creates	
2	9/22/19	Priority One: 1st Commandment	The Fall Into Sin	
3	10/6/19	A Name and Time for God: 2 nd and 3 rd Commandment	God Saves Noah and His Family	
4	10/20/19	God's Representatives: 4th Commandment	God Blesses Abraham with Faith	
5	11/3/19	Life Matters: 5 th Commandment	God Blesses Jacob	
6	11/17/19	Faithful for Life: 6 th Commandment	God Cares for Joseph	
7	12/1/19	Possessions: Yours and Mine: 7th Commandment	God Calls Moses/God Delivers His People	
8	12/8/19	A Good Reputation: 8th Commandment	God Leads His People to the Promised Land	
9	12/15/19	God Provides: 9th and 10th Commandment	God Promises David a Kingdom	
10	1/5/20	Law and Gospel: Close of Commandments	God Empowers Elijah	
11	1/12/20	Review/Test 1	Review/Test 1	
12	2/2/20	I Believe/My Father's World: AC 1st Article	Jesus's Birth	
13	2/23/20	Who is Jesus Christ?/My Redeemer: AC 2 nd Article	Jesus is Baptized	
14	3/8/20	I Believe in the H.S./New Me: AC 3 rd Article	Jesus is Tempted	
15	3/15/20	A Conversation w/ the Father: LP Intro/1st Petition.	Jesus Calls His Disciples	

16	3/22/20	Captured in the Cross: LP 2 nd and 3 rd Petition.	Jesus Teaches in Parables
17	4/5/20	Our Daily Bread: LP 4 th Petition.	Jesus Raises Lazarus
18	4/19/20	Forgiveness is for Giving: LP 5 th Petition.	Jesus Enters Jerusalem
19	5/3/20	Keep Us Safe, Lord!: LP 6th and 7th Petition.	Jesus the Servant
20	5/17/20	Just the Beginning/H20 + God = Awesome: Baptism	Jesus is Condemned and Crucified
21	5/31/20	Gift of Forgiveness: Confession Absolution/Keys	Jesus Rises from the Dead
22	6/7/20	Review/Test 2	Review/Test 2
23	6/14/20	My Christian Faith: Conclusion	Jesus Ascends into Heaven/Sends the H.S.

^{*}Please note that the schedule is subject to change. All changes to the schedule will be communicated beforehand if they become necessary.*

Additional Requirements

- 7th **Grade** "1st **Communion Retreat**" this is a two-day retreat that takes place March 6th and 7th, 2020. The focus of this retreat is instruction in preparation to take Communion. In the Lutheran Church we believe that everyone must be properly instructed before receiving the Lord's Supper. Each student and at least one parent must attend both sessions (Friday night and Saturday morning) to prepare the student for taking Communion. The class will receive Communion for the first time the Sunday after Easter, April 19th, 2020.
 - o If your child is unable to attend this retreat, they will be unable to take Communion until they have been instructed, either via home visits or by waiting until the retreat the following year.

- 8th Grade Confirmation Capstone Project: Each student will be required to complete a final project before the Rite of Confirmation. This is a creative perspective on what their individual faith means to them. See page 15 for more details.
- **8**th **Grade Fall Retreat** this is an overnight retreat that takes place at the church. This retreat will happen next Fall, before the students are Confirmed, to "welcome them back" after the Summer, check in on their project, and serve as a helpful transition into High School Youth Group. See page 14 for more details.
 - If for some reason your child cannot attend this retreat, a make-up assignment will be required.
- **Videos** Students and their families will be assigned various videos to watch throughout the year, either online or on a rented DVD from church.
- Worship Attendance Students are still required to attend worship services throughout the year. There are sign-in sheets in the Narthex please sign in when you attend worship. We will be checking attendance on a regular basis. (See page 19)
- **Service and Fellowship** All catechesis students are required to participate in fellowship events and service activities (see pages 20-21).

IMPORTANT! Obviously the program we have laid out will not work out perfectly for everyone — I know all families are extremely busy in this day and age. If you have trouble meeting these requirements for whatever reason, please reach out — we are willing to work with you to set up the best way to make sure your child can receive their proper religious instruction.

The Rite of Confirmation

This process culminates in what is called the "Rite of Confirmation." This is a wonderful day when your child will stand before God and our Congregation and "Confirm" his or her faith in Jesus. It is the point at which he or she says, "I believe this, not simply because I'm following my parents, but because Jesus has given me His Holy Spirit and the gift of faith."

Here is a graphical representation of the "Path to Confirmation" as it looks like beginning in 8th grade:



Additional Requirements Explained

- **Confirmation Capstone Project** Every student seeking Confirmation creates this Project before the Rite of Confirmation. Pages 15-17 explain this project in more detail.
- **Home Visit** Before the Rite of Confirmation takes place, each student will be visited by the DCE or the Pastor at their home. The purpose of these visits is twofold: First, it allows the student and their parents to ask any lingering questions they might have, and to clarify anything they might be still struggling with. It is a visit focused on YOU and making sure you are ready to take the next step in your faith. Secondly, it allows the staff to evaluate what they have been teaching over this entire process, and make sure that the information they wanted to communicate has actually been taught. This consists of just a few simple questions it's not a "test," as you cannot fail, but it's more of a conversation. These visits will be scheduled in late August/early September.
- 8th Grade Fall Retreat this is an overnight retreat that takes place at the church. Typically scheduled for the first weekend of September (subject to school schedules), this is an opportunity for those soon to be Confirmed to form relationships with the older students in the High School Youth Group, and learn what it is like to be a part of this group and how their faith can continue on into the future. This retreat is required for all those hoping to be confirmed. For those who cannot make it, an alternate assignment must be completed.

The Rite of Confirmation - October 25th, 2020

12:30pm – Confirmation Luncheon in the Parish Hall

This luncheon is FREE to Confirmands, family, and friends, and is a nice way to celebrate together. All attendees must RSVP by October 18^{th} , 2020.

2:00pm – Service with the Rite of Confirmation – Sanctuary

The service can last from an hour and a half to two hours, depending on the size of the class. After the service, a group photo is taken.

Confirmation Capstone Project

Welcome to your final year of Catechesis! I am sure it is hard to believe that you have made it to this point, but indeed you have! Now as you are getting ready to finish up this phase in your Christian life, I am interested to know how your faith has been impacted by what you have learned these few years. This Capstone Project will be an opportunity for you to demonstrate this to me as well as to the St. James Lutheran Church Community.

Requirements

- We want you to make something **creative** that is a personal expression of what your faith means to you. This could look like any number of things. For example:
 - o A written essay, poem, or short story.
 - o A painting
 - o A song
 - o A creative video
 - o A sculpture
 - A scrapbook
 - o Etc. the only limit is your imagination!
- No matter what you decide to make, your project must contain the following elements:
 - o It needs to be related to your faith in some way. Maybe there's a particular symbol of Christianity that you like. Maybe there's a Bible verse that's meaningful to you. Maybe you have a favorite hymn or a Christian song. Find some creative way to communicate that to us!
 - o It must be able to be **displayed** for many to see and appreciate your fine work!
 - o It needs to have some work put into it. Please don't just throw like 6 pictures into a Powerpoint and call it a day. It's hard to put a minimum on something that you come up with, but I will be checking in with you periodically throughout the year, and I may ask you to come up with more if I feel as though there is not enough in your project.
 - Again, the only real limitation is your imagination make this project as personal as you want it to be!

Process

- The first step is of course deciding what it is you are going to make. In order to help guide your thinking, fill out the attached form. This will help you make sure all of the elements are in place, as well as give me an idea as to what you are making. This form is due to me by **Sunday**, **June 14**th, **2020**.
- Once you have outlined what you are going to make, begin making it!
 - You will be responsible for obtaining the materials you need and scheduling out your work time. I will be available to help clarify any questions you have about what we've talked about in Confirmation or to give suggestions if you get "stuck," but ultimately this project is driven by YOU! My first suggestion is to **PRAY** that God guides you and helps you, as He has promised to do!
 - We will have times set aside during the year for you to come to church and work on your project if that would be helpful for you. It might also be nice to keep each other accountable and to support each other as a class! These times will be announced as they are scheduled.
 - o There will be two "Progress Checkpoints" before the final project is turned in. This will help you not to save everything until the last minute! Trust me, your life will be much better off this way. These will consist of a simple form to be filled out demonstrating the work you have been doing.
 - o The dates of deadlines for this project are as follows:
 - Project Outline Due: Sunday, June 14th, 2020
 - Progress Checkpoint #1: Sunday, July 25th, 2020
 - Progress Checkpoint #2: Sunday, September 6th, 2020
 - Project Due: Sunday, October 4th, 2020
- Once all the projects have been turned in, we will set up a little "art installation" at the SJ Café in the weeks leading up to your Confirmation, so that the Congregation may see and appreciate all the hard work you have done! Your projects will be a blessing to them as they see how your faith has been impacted by the Confirmation process.

It is my prayer that this project will help you to reflect on what God has done in your life over the past few years, and that you will also be able to see how He is going to be with you as you continue to grow in faith and as a part of the Church long after your Confirmation classes have ended!

I am really excited to see what you all will come up with! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to give me a call at 631-584-5212 or shoot me an email at ryan@stjlc.com. God bless you as you work on this!

Ryan

Confirmation Capstone Project Outline

Make a copy of this form to keep for yourself, and turn in a copy to me by Sunday, June 14th!

Name:		Date:
What is something from your fait be a verse, a symbol, a song ly Brainstorm as much as you lil	ric, a personal faith story, or	something else.
Now, what is something creative to be any number of things — a pair Again, brainstorm as much as you back	nting, a sculpture, a song, a vi	deo, an essay, etc.!
Now, choose from your brainstorms above. How are you going to combine those two things? In other words, what are you making?	What do you want to have Progress Check Progress Checkpoint #1 (7/2	kpoint?
	Progress Checkpoint #2 (9/	(6/20):

This page intentionally left blank, with the exception of these sentences. This is just to tell you that I appreciate you for reading all of this! ③

Worship

Worship is a vital part of the life of the Christian. I have heard it said, "You don't have to go to church to be a Christian – you can worship God anywhere!" While it is true that God is everywhere and we can always talk to Him, it is also true that He has promised to be in His Word and Sacraments, which are made freely available to you on a weekly basis at church!

In addition to seeking God where He has promised to be, it is also important to go to church because we are a family! At St. James Lutheran Church, we are a community of believers who care about one another and want to experience life together. We celebrate good things with each other, as well as support each other through the hard times. You have a place to belong here at STJLC.

We have three worship services during the week: **5:30pm** on Saturdays and **8:30** and **10:00am** on Sundays. Our 5:30 and 8:30 services could be described as "Traditional" worship – hymns played on the organ, liturgy from the hymnal, readings from the Word, a sermon to teach from the Word, and Holy Communion. Our 10:00 service is our "Intergenerational" service – it still has those elements from the Traditional service, but also some elements that are geared towards families – worship songs played with a band, occasional puppet shows, and kids' messages.

You are encouraged to choose whichever service works best for your family. When you arrive at church, before you go in to the Sanctuary, have your student stop by the table in the Narthex, where there are sign-in sheets. All they have to do is check off their name in the spot allotted for that week. We also have special services around holidays – don't forget about those!

We require worship attendance as part of our program in the hopes that it will help to build the habit of attending church that will last through the rest of adolescence and into adulthood. While attending every week is ideal, we understand that sometimes this is not realistic. We ask that you aim for attending at least every other week. If quite a few weeks go by without tracked worship attendance, we will follow up with you by phone to see how we can best help you in this important part of your faith life.

Service

God tells us in his Word, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). As members of the family of St. James Lutheran, we also want to use the gifts God has blessed us with to build each other up.

Each student must choose a way that they can be of service to the church. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Acolyte Serve as an acolyte (lighting candles) at worship. Receives training. The easiest job, as well as the one where we need the most help! Supervisor: Kim Gillin
- Be a reader at worship. Supervisor: Deacon Jim Lundgren
- Assistant Teach Sunday School Weekly assist a teacher in the Sunday school program on Sunday mornings from 10-11:15 am. Supervisor: Carol Mittelstaedt
- Music Groups Contemporary Worship Band, King's Kids Choir, Handbells, etc. Supervisor: Christine Kenny
- Help with Nursery at the 10:00 am worship service. Supervisor: Carol Mittelstaedt
- Usher —with a parent. Serve as an usher at worship. Receives training. Supervisor: Paul Monthie
- Serve at the SJ Café by helping to set up and clean up. Supervisor: Durinda Dalton

If none of these things work for you, please talk to the Pastor or the DCE to set up an alternate option. Additionally, your service **should not** prevent you from attending worship.

We will also periodically schedule standalone service events throughout the year. Examples include serving at our church's Craft Fair or going to the Smithtown Food Pantry. It is not required that you go to all of these but you are highly encouraged to be involved. (See next page)

Fellowship

Below is a list of all scheduled events throughout the year. There are a total of 25 possible - please attend a minimum of at least **6**. You can use this sheet to keep track. (This does not include required retreats.)

Event	Date	Notes	Attended
Fourth Fridays (Country Fair)	9/27/19		
Fourth Fridays (TBD)	10/25/19		
Trunk-or-Treat	10/26/19		
Craft Fair	11/9/19		
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	11/16/19		
Fourth Fridays (TBD)	11/22/19		
Journey to Bethlehem	12/1/19		
Wreath Making	12/1/19		
Deck the Halls	12/8/19		
"Fourth" Fridays (Christmas Party)	12/20/19		
Christmas Caroling	TBD		
Christmas Pageant	12/22/19	Grade 6 only	
De-Deck the Halls	TBD		
Fourth Fridays (Lazer Tag)	1/24/20		
Youth Quake – Allentown PA	2/7/20-2/9/20	Counts for 2	
Mardi Gras	2/25/20		
Fourth Fridays (TBD)	2/28/20		
Youth Soup Supper	TBD		
Fourth Fridays (TBD)	3/27/20		
Good Friday Walk Around	4/10/20		
Fourth Fridays (TBD)	4/24/20		
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	5/9/20		
Fourth Fridays (TBD)	5/22/20		
Fourth Fridays (Summer Pool Party)	6/26/20		
Summer Mission Trip (TBD)	7/5/20-7/11/20	Register by 11/17/19 Counts for 2 Grades 8+	

FOURTH FRIDAYS

Fourth Fridays is our ***NEW*** event this year, specifically for those in Middle School (6th-8th grade). Every month, on the fourth Friday (hence the name), there will be a Youth Group style event for the 6th-8th graders.

What will we do? Well, it varies from month to month. The first one, on September 27th, will be our annual Country Fair event that we've already been doing. Another month, we might do a service project. Fourth Fridays will be the venue for things like a Christmas Party or a Summer Pool Party. Just remember – on the Fourth Friday, fun things happen!

A couple of things to note:

- This is a Youth Group style event specifically for the 6th-8th graders. The High School Youth Group will also be invited to these events and they will specifically be in a "mentor" kind of role, setting an example for their Middle School brothers and sisters and helping out, forming important relationships.
- Friends are **always** welcome to <u>any</u> event, especially Fourth Fridays ones!
- We at STJLC understand our families are busy, especially once our kids reach middle school. In order to not ask too much of your family's time, we've decided that every week there is a Fourth Friday event will **not** have Confirmation class that Sunday. (So for example, since September 27th is a Fourth Friday, there will be no class on Sunday the 29th.)

We hope you will be able to join us for this fun new event! More information about each month's event will be sent out that month.

Parental Involvement

Cost

There is a \$100 per student fee that helps us cover the cost of materials, supplies, and helps us recognize the volunteers. We will also from time to time ask you to donate items or your time for certain events. Please make checks payable to St. James Lutheran Church. If a family finds they are unable to pay the fee, please speak directly to the Pastor.

Be an ALLY

This program could not happen if we did not have the support of our parents coming alongside our staff. Our Youth leadership team is called ALLY – Adults Leading and Loving Youth. This group of parents and adult volunteers meets regularly (about once a month). This is a team that grows together in the Word, supports each other, and helps to plan and execute the different aspects of our Youth Ministry here at STJLC. No special qualifications are necessary – just a heart for the Youth of the church and a desire to help out! Please speak to the DCE if you are interested in becoming an ALLY.

6th Grade

At least one parent must attend the Getting Started class at the beginning of the year (4 weeks, 1 hour per week). In addition, any help at events is greatly appreciated (chaperoning, driving, just being an adult presence – all very valuable things).

7th/8th Grade

A great way to help is by being a Small Group Leader – you help facilitate discussion and pray for a group of 4-5 students at every class. Anyone can do it! Please speak to the DCE if you would like to help in this area.

Additionally, you are welcome to join us at any class, and you will be a part of the students' homework. And as always, any help at events is greatly appreciated (chaperoning, driving, just being an adult presence – all very valuable things).

Contact

Email

The vast majority of information will be sent out via email. Please ensure that the email address that you provide to us is an active one that you use regularly. Please add the following emails to your address book so that you don't miss an update!

Pastor Neil: <u>pastorneil@stjlc.com</u>

DCE Ryan Howard: ryan@stjlc.com

Texts

Yes, you can receive updates via Text Message! We are using a service called Remind to help keep people up to date with what's going on.

If you want to receive these messages, you can simply text the corresponding class code to 81010. You'll receive a welcome message, and after a couple of short steps you'll be all set! Standard message and data rates may apply. [Note: If you already joined last year, no need to do so again.]

- 6th Grade: Text @stjlc-6 to 81010.
- 7th Grade: Text @stjlc-7 to 81010
- 8th Grade: Text @stjlc-8 to 81010.

Additionally, you can go to your phone's App Store and download the Remind App. You can sign up for an account and enter the same code (without the @ symbol) to join the right class. Then you will get messages through that app instead of texts.

Social Media

- Facebook: Please "Like" the STJLC Youth Facebook page for updates!
- Instagram: Follow stjlc_youth
- Twitter: Follow @stjlc_youth
- Download the St. James Lutheran Church App from your App Store!

- ♦ Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- ♦ High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- ◆ High School Bible Study—Every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) - Howards' Apartment
- ◆ Fall Kick-off Lock-in (Required Retreat for 9th Grade Confirmands) - Friday, September 6th 6pm—Saturday, September 7th 10am—Parish Hall
- ♦ Rally Day Service—Sunday September 8th 10am—Parish Hall
- ♦ Church Picnic—Sunday September 8th 11:30am—Norway Hall
- ♦ 6th-8th grade Confirmation Orientation— Sunday September 8th 7pm or Friday September 13th 7pm—Sanctuary. (Families should choose only one Orientation session.)
- ◆ Getting Started Class (required for new 6th Grade Confirmation parents) - Sunday September 15th, 22nd, and 29th—11:15am-12:30pm— Church Library
- ♦ 7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #1—Sunday September 15th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ 7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #2—Sunday September 22nd 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ Fourth Fridays—Friday, September 27th 5pm— Country Fair in Medford (Meet at Church)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HSYG 12pm	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	Fall Kick-off Lock-In	7
8 Rally Day Church Picnic Orientation 7pm	9	10	11	12 High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	13 Orientation 7pm	14
15 Getting Started 11:15am HSYG 12pm Confirmation #1 6:30pm	16	17	18	19	20	21
6C 22 Getting Started 11:15am HSYG 12pm Confirmation #2 6:30pm	23	24	25	26 High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	27 Fourth Fridays 5pm (Country Fair)	28
29 6W Getting Started 11:15am HSYG 12pm	30	KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)	



- ♦ Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- ◆ High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- High School Bible Study—Every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) - Howards' Apartment
- ◆ Getting Started Class (required for new 6th Grade Confirmation parents) - Sunday October 6th—11:15am -12:30pm—Church Library
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #3—Sunday October 6th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆ Summer Mission Trip Informational Meeting— Tuesday October 15th 7pm—Parish Hall
- ◆ Luther Lock-in (Required Retreat for 6th Grade Confirmation Students) Friday, October 18th 6pm— Saturday, October 19th 11am—Parish Hall
- ♦ Worship Services in the Parish Hall October 19th and 20th
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #4—Sunday October 20th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆ Fourth Fridays—Friday, September 25th 7pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ Trunk-or-Treat—Saturday October 26th 3pm-5pm— Large Parking Lot
- ◆ Confirmation Luncheon—Sunday October 27th 12:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ Rite of Confirmation—Sunday October 27th 2pm— Sanctuary

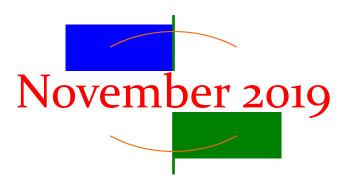


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	1	2	High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	4	5
6C St. James Day Getting Started 11:15am Confirmation #3 6:30pm	7	8	9	High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	11	12
13 HSYG 12pm	14 Columbus Day	Summer Mission Trip Info Meeting 7pm	16	17 High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	18 Luther Lock-In	Worship 5:30pm in PH
20 Worship 8:30 and 10 in PH HSYG 12pm Confirmation #4 6:30pm	21	22	23	24 High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	25 Fourth Fridays 7pm (Halloween Party)	26 Trunk-or-Treat
27Reformation Confirmation Luncheon 12:30pm Rite of Confirmation 2pm	28	29	30	31	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)





- ◆ Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- High School Bible Study—Every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) - Howards' Apartment
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #5— Sunday November 3rd 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆STJLC Craft Fair—Saturday November 9th—Parish Hall
- ◆Applebee's Pancake Breakfast— Saturday November 16th 8am-10am— Applebee's in Lake Grove
- ◆Norway Hall Craft Fair—Saturday November 16th—Parish Hall
- ♦7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #6— Sunday November 17th 6:30pm—Parish Hall



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)		1	2
3 All Saints' Day DST Ends HSYG 12pm Confirmation #5 6:30pm	4	5	6	7	8	9 STJLC Craft Fair
10 6W HSYG 12pm	11 Veterans' Day	12	13	14 High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	15	16 Pancake Break- fast 8am Norway Hall Craft Fair
17Mission Trip Sign-up Deadline HSYG 12pm Confirmation #6 6:30pm	18	19	20	21 High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	22 Fourth Fridays 7pm (TBD)	23
24 HSYG 12pm	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30



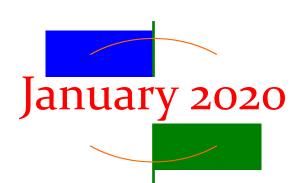
- ♦ Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- ♦ High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- ◆ High School Bible Study—Every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) Howards' Apartment
- ◆ Advent Wreath Making—Sunday December 1st 11:20am—Parish Hall
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #7—Sunday December 1st 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ Deck the Halls—Sunday December 8th 12pm
- ◆ 7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #8—Sunday December 8th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ High School Youth Group Christmas Party—Saturday December 14th 3pm—Ryan and Caitlin's Apartment
- ♦ 7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #9—Sunday December 15th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- "Fourth" Fridays (change due to Holiday) Friday December 20th 7pm
- ◆ Christmas Pageant—Sunday December 22nd 10am— Parish Hall
- ♦ Christmas Eve Family Worship—Tuesday December 24th 2pm and 4pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ Christmas Eve Festival Worship—Tuesday December 24th 8pm and 10pm—Sanctuary
- ♦ Christmas Day Worship—Wednesday December 25th 11am—Sanctuary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6C 1 Advent Wreath Making 11:20am HSYG 12pm Confirmation #7 6:30pm	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 6C Deck the Halls 12pm Confirmation #8 6:30pm	9	10	11	High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	13	14 HSYG Christmas Party 3pm
15 6C Confirmation #9 6:30pm	16	17	18	High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	20 "Fourth" Fridays 7pm (TBD)	21
22 6W Christmas Pageant 10am	23	24 Christmas Eve Family Worship 2pm and 4pm Festival Worship 8pm and 10pm	25 Christmas Day Worship 11am	26	27	28
29 HSYG 12pm	30	31	KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)



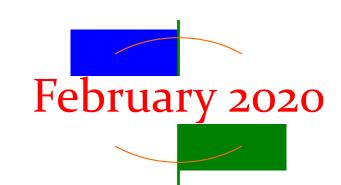
- ♦ Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- High School Bible Study—Every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) - Howards' Apartment
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #10— Sunday January 5th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #11— Sunday January 12th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆ Fourth Fridays—Friday January 24th 7pm—Lazerland in Commack



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	1	2	3	4
5 HSYG 12pm Confirmation #10 6:30pm	6	7	8	9 High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	10	11
12 6W HSYG 12pm Confirmation #11 6:30pm	13	14	15	16 High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	17	18
19 6C HSYG 12pm	20 MLK Day	21	22	High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	24 Fourth Fridays 7pm (Lazer Tag)	25
26 6W HSYG 12pm	27	28	29	High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	31	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)



- ♦ Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- ◆High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- ◆ High School Bible Study—Every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) - Howards' Apartment
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #12— Sunday February 2nd 12pm—Parish Hall (TIME CHANGE DUE TO SUPER BOWL)
- ◆Youth Quake Trip—Friday February 7th—Sunday February 9th—Allentown PA
- ♦7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #13— Sunday February 23rd 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆Mardi Gras Party—Tuesday February 25th— Setup at 4pm, Event 6-8pm—Parish Hall
- ◆Ash Wednesday Worship—Wednesday February 26th 9am and 7pm—Sanctuary
- ♦ Fourth Fridays—Friday February 28th 7pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)			1
2 Super Bowl Confirmation #12 12pm	3	4	5	High School Girls' Bible	7 Quake	8
				Study 7pm		
9 ^{6W}	10	11	12	High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 6W HSYG 12pm	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23 HSYG 12pm Confirmation #13 6:30pm	24	25 Mardi Gras Setup 4pm Event 6pm	26 Ash Wednesday Worship 9am and 7pm	27 High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	28 Fourth Fridays 7pm (TBD)	29





- ♦ Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- ◆High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- ◆ High School Bible Study—Every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) - Howards' Apartment
- ◆Lenten Soup Suppers—Every Wednesday in March 6pm—Parish Hall
- ◆1st Communion Retreat (Required for 7th Grade Confirmation Students) - Friday March 6th-Saturday March 7th—Parish Hall
- ♦7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #14— Sunday March 8th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #15— Sunday March 15th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #16— Sunday March 22nd 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ Fourth Fridays—Friday March 27th 7pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HSYG 12pm	2	3	4 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm	5 High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	6 1st Communion Retreat	7
8 DST Begins HSYG 12pm Confirmation #14 6:30pm	9	10	11 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm	High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	13	14
15 HSYG 12pm Confirmation #15 6:30pm	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm	High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	20	21
22 6C HSYG 12pm Confirmation #16 6:30pm	23	24	25 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm	26 High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	27 Fourth Fridays 7pm (Multi- Church Late Nite)	28
29 HSYG 12pm	30	31	KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)



- Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- ◆ High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- ◆ High School Bible Study—Every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) Howards' Apartment
- ♦ Lenten Soup Supper—Wednesday April 1st 6pm— Parish Hall
- ♦ 7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #17—Sunday April 5th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ Maundy Thursday Worship—Thursday April 9th 7pm—Sanctuary
- ♦ Good Friday Walkaround—Friday April 10th—Setup 9am, Service 11am—Sanctuary
- ♦ Good Friday Tenebrae—Friday April 10th 7pm— Sanctuary
- ◆ Easter Festival Worship—Sunday April 12th 8am and 11:15am—Sanctuary
- ♦ Easter Family Worship—Sunday April 12th 9:30am— Parish Hall
- ♦ 1st Communion—Sunday April 19th 10am—Sanctuary
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #18—Sunday April 19th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ Fourth Fridays—Friday April 24th 7pm
- ♦ Box City—Saturday April 25th-Sunday April 26th



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week		1 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm	High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	3	4
5 Palm Sunday HSYG 12pm Confirmation #17 6:30pm	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm	10 Good Friday Walkaround 9am Setup, 11am Service Tenebrae 7pm	11
12 Easter Worship 8am, 9:30am, and 11:15am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 1st Communion 10am HSYG 12pm Confirmation #18 6:30pm	20	21	22	High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	24 Fourth Fridays 7pm (TBD)	25 Box City
26 ^{6W}	27	28	29	30 High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)



230 2nd Ave St. James, NY 11780 Phone: 631-584-5212 Fax: 631-584-5742 Email: ryan@stjlc.com

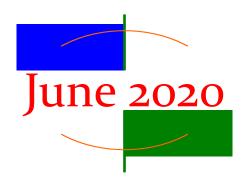
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- High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- High School Bible Study—Every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) - Howards' Apartment
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #19— Sunday May 3rd 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆ Pancake Breakfast—Saturday May 9th 8am-10am—Applebee's Lake Grove
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #20— Sunday May 17th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆ Fourth Fridays—Friday May 22nd 7pm
- ♦7th/8th grade Confirmation Class #21— Sunday May 31st 6:30pm—Parish Hall



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)		1	2
3 HSYG 12pm Confirmation #19 6:30pm	4	5	6	7 High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	8	9 Pancake Break- fast 8am
10 6W Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	15	16
17 6C HSYG 12pm Confirmation #20 6:30pm	18	19	20	21 High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	22 Fourth Fridays 7pm (TBD)	23
24 HSYG 12pm	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28 High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	29	30
31 HSYG 12pm Confirmation #22 6:30pm						



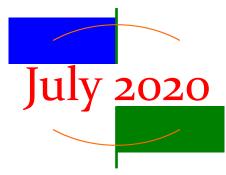
- Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- High School Youth Group—Every
 Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise
 noted—Youth Room
- High School Bible Study—Every
 Thursday 7pm-8:30pm unless otherwise noted (Girls and Boys alternate) Howards' Apartment
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class#22—Sunday June 7th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆7th/8th grade Confirmation Class#23—Sunday June 14th 6:30pm—Parish Hall
- ◆VBS Meeting for NEW Volunteers— Thursday June 25th 7pm—Parish Hall
- Fourth Fridays—Friday June 26th4pm—TBD (Summer Pool Party)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 High School Girls' Bible Study 7pm	5	6
7 HSYG 12pm Confirmation #22 6:30pm	8	9	10	High School Boys' Bible Study 7pm	12	13
14 6C HSYG 12pm Confirmation #23 6:30pm	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25 VBS Meeting 7pm	26 Fourth Fridays 4pm (Summer Pool Party)	27
28	29	30	KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)



- ♦ Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- ◆High School Youth Group—Every Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise noted—Youth Room
- ♦ Mission Trip—Sunday July 12th-Saturday July 18th (TBD)
- ♦ Fourth Fridays—Friday July 24th 5pm—Moriches Park (Youth vs. Adult Kickball)
- ♦ VBS Volunteer Meeting—Thursday July 30th 7pm—Parish Hall
- ♦ VBS Decorating—Friday July 31st 4pm—Parish Hall



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KEY: Orange: Middle School Events (6th-8th Grade)	6W: Worship Week 6C: Class Week	Blue: High School Events (9th-12th Grade)	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Mission Trip	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 HSYG 12pm	20	21	22	23	24 Fourth Fridays 5pm (Youth vs. Adult Kickball)	25
26 HSYG 12pm	27	28	29	30 VBS Meeting 7pm	31 VBS Decoration 4pm	Green: Events for ALL (6th- 12th Grade)



- Worship Schedule: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10am
- ◆High School Youth Group—Every
 Sunday 12pm-2pm unless otherwise
 noted—Youth Room
- ♦ VBS Decorating—Saturday August 1st 10am
- ♦VBS—August 3rd-7th
- ◆VBS BBQ—Thursday August 6th 6pm—Parish Hall



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 VBS Decoration 10am
2	3 VBS —	4	5	6	7	8
	VDS —			VBS BBQ 6pm		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Catechesis Registration Form 2019-2020

St. James Lutheran Church

*This form is Child's Nan				le.com/shrDRPn	-	
Grade:			8 th			
Address:						
Home Phor	ne:			 _ Parent/Gua	rdian Cell 1:_	
Parent/Gua	ardian Cell 2	2:		Child	Cell:	
Email:	Parent/G	uardian 1	l :			
	Parent/G	uardian 2	2:			
	Child:					
	Please o	circle wl	hich email	you will ch	eck most fre	equently.
Emergency	Contact:	Nam	e:			
		Rela	tionship:			
		Phor	ne: cell / hon	ne		
Birthday (N	Month, Day,	Year)				
Baptized?	Ye	s	No.		Date	
If Ye	es, Where? _					<u> </u>
Received Fi	irst Commu	nion? Ye	s	_ No	Da	te
If Ye	es, Where?					<u> </u>
Service Cho	oice (MUST	pick at le	ast one):			
Acc	olyte**		Bells		SJ C	Café
SS .	Assistant		Usher wi	th parent**	Ban	nd @ 10 am
Rea	ıder**		Kings Ki	ds Choir	Nur	sery Assistant
** For acol	yte, reader	, & ushei	, please sta	te which wor	ship service	you will serve at:
(circle one	or more) S	Saturday	5:30 pm; S	unday 8:30 a	m; Sunday 1	o:oo am. Please note
that we rea	ally need vo	lunteers	at the Suno	day 8:30am s	service.	
Anything el	lse we need	to know a	about your c	hild?		

Please return to DCE Ryan Howard with your \$100 registration fee. Make checks payable to St. James Lutheran Church.