

**Confirmation Covenant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

**Student:**

As a child of God, I look forward to renewing my baptismal promises through the Service of Confirmation. I also wish to grow in faith as a follower of Jesus, to be the Salt and Light the world needs. To these ends I hereby promise, by God's grace, to follow the expectations of the Wednesday Night Workshop Program of Central Lutheran Church, including: attendance at Lesson Nights, Fellowship/Servant Events, and retreats; regular worship; acolyting; worship notes; small group participation; pastoral interview; faith statement paper; and the marks of discipleship outlined on page 2 of the WNW handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's signature

**Parent:**

At my child's baptism I promised to bring her/him to worship, to teach her/him the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed, to place a Bible in his/her hands, and to provide for her/his instruction in the faith so that s/he may lead a godly life. By enrolling him/her in the WNW program I agree to support her/him by: making sure that s/he fulfill all expectations of the program; praying for him/her regularly; and participating with him/her whenever possible.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

**Small Group Guide:**

As the Small Group Guide I promise to walk with this student on his/her journey of faith by leading the small group with all of those expectations, by praying for her/him, and by supporting him/her in any way possible.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Small Group Guide Signature

**Pastor:**

As the lead pastor of WNW I promise to provide fun yet challenging experiences that will assist the Confirmand in his/her faith walk. I also promise to support the Small Group Guide in their efforts and to assist the Parent in the faith development of their child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor's Signature

Welcome to

**Wednesday  
Night  
Workshop**

**Catechism Studies for 2009-10  
Leading to the Service of Confirmation  
(Affirmation of Baptism)**

*“Salt of the Earth  
Light of the World”  
Becoming the  
“Mmmm and the Ahhhh”  
the world needs.*

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Central Lutheran Church  
Catechism Information Manual

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**“What My Faith Means to Me” - The Faith Statement Paper**

Prior to the Confirmation Pastoral Interview each Confirmand is to write a paper on the topic, “What My Faith Means to Me”. The paper is to be at least two pages in length, typed and double-spaced or neatly handwritten and single-spaced. It is due at least one week prior to the interview, preferably in a MS Word file. To help you get started, we suggest you put some thought into answering the following questions. If you write three or four sentences for each, you can easily turn your answers into paragraphs; your paper will almost write itself.

1. My Christian faith is an important part of my life.
  - a. In my family it helps me by...
  - b. When I'm with my friends it helps me by...
  - c. When I'm at school it helps me by...
2. Without God's presence in the world I believe the world would be different in the following ways...
3. Without God's presence in my life, I believe my life would be different in the following ways...
4. One person who has been especially helpful to my faith has been...  
This person has helped me by...
5. There was a time in my life when I felt especially close to God or saw God working in my life. What happened was...
6. One questions I have about God, Jesus, or my faith is...
7. When I think about Christ dying on the cross I think of...
8. There was a time in my life when I really needed Jesus' presence.
  - a. What happened was...
  - b. While I was going through this I prayed for...
  - c. It turned out by...
9. The three darkest areas in the lives of people my age are...  
God can use me to bring some light into these areas by...
10. Looking back on my Wednesday Night Workshop years, I learned...  
Also, as I look back, I wish I would have/wouldn't have...
11. If I were to give some advice to someone coming into Wednesday Night Workshop, I'd want to tell them...
12. At this point in my life I would like to become a...  
In this career I'll be serving God by...

## Camp and Retreat Opportunities

In the past, youth were expected to attend at least one retreat per year. This expectation is currently under review. Instead, additional enrichment events may be occasionally offered to help the young person grow in her/his faith. Listed below are some of the possibilities offered. There may be others which come to light as the year goes on.

1. CLC Retreat  
Cost: Free  
Date: March  
Place: Central Lutheran Church
2. Summer Mission Trip  
Cost: Varies with fundraising  
Date: TBD  
Place: TBD
3. Mini-retreats  
Cost: Free  
Dates: Mid-January and mid-April  
Place: Central Lutheran Church
4. Good Earth Village Camp  
Cost: \$185-\$200 (fund raisers help defray this cost)\*  
Date: Various  
Place: Spring Valley, MN

\*Note: No youth shall be denied a camp/retreat experience because of lack of funds. See a pastor privately for your needs.



## The Goal of Central's Catechism Studies

To establish, encourage, and strengthen a life-style of discipleship to Jesus among our young people as  
"Salt of the Earth and Light of the World."

A life-style of discipleship is characterized by these faith practices:

- ◇ An appreciation of worship shown through regular attendance and involvement
- ◇ An active prayer life
- ◇ Familiarization with the Bible and the Lutheran tradition
- ◇ The ability and willingness to talk about one's faith
- ◇ Involvement in service to others
- ◇ Active fellowship with peers and adults in the congregation
- ◇ The ability to make decisions based on Christian values

The catechism program develops this life-style of discipleship through these components:

1. Wednesday Night Workshops
2. Fellowship and Servant Events
3. Worship Participation
4. Special Events
5. Lenten Worship Participation
6. Pastoral Interview (Pre-Confirmation)
7. Faith Statement Paper (Pre-Confirmation)
8. Small Group Participation

Catechism at Central is a 2+ year program that traditionally begins in the fall of the 7th grade year and ends with the Service of Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism) in the fall of the 9th grade year. The program offers a wide variety of learning experiences and has built-in flexibility to meet a diversity of learning styles. It is a covenantal partnership between student, parents, pastors, and church (see Page 15).

## SPECIAL NOTE:

The Service of Confirmation is not a sacrament in the Lutheran Church and therefore it is not required. It is an optional series of lessons, music, Christian fellowship, and fun which leads to an Affirmation of Baptism by our young people.

## HOWEVER:

If a young person registers for Central's WNW, the program and its requirements are no longer optional. The staff and Ministry Teams have a well-conceived and highly integrated program, of which WNW's are a part. To preserve the integrity of this system, and WNW in particular, all parts of the program should be completed.

As with any set of expectations involved in a church function, the purpose of completion is not to finish, but to learn from the experiences that lead up to completion. Nothing is absolute, and special arrangements can always be made, but we **need and expect** the cooperation and support of parents and guardians to help their youth meet the expectations thereby helping us reach our mutual goal of faithful youth who are genuinely excited about Christ and the church leading them to be "Salt and Light" for the world.

To this end, and to underscore that this is a cooperative effort, we ask that each youth and parent, along with the small-group guide and pastor, sign a covenant to this effect (see page 15).

Please feel free to discuss any of this with Pastor Olson.



## Worship Leadership The Acolyte

Followers of Jesus are privileged to serve one another, especially in the life of the church. Youth are encouraged to do this in various ways but are particularly asked to serve as an acolyte.

Therefore, all young people will assist in worship as an acolyte each year during their catechism studies. The number will vary depending on the number of students enrolled in WNW but will be approximately six times.

The acolyte is a critical member of our worship team. Failure to serve at the appointed time results in a burden on the pastors and other worship leaders. Please be on time (15 minutes before worship starts) and ready to go.

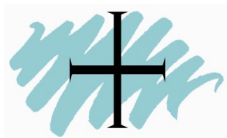
Parents will help their young person sign up during the acolyte training session in early September. Youth who need to change times during the year are responsible for finding their own replacement and should notify the church office of that change no later than the Tuesday prior to the scheduled date.

On the assigned date the acolyte is asked to report to the robing area (near the pastors' offices) 15 minutes before the service. The pastors will be available to help them robe and will give any necessary instructions for the day. The acolytes will light the candles, lead the procession if there is one, help with serving Holy Communion, and assist with Baptisms (if asked). At the conclusion of the service the acolytes will extinguish the candles. Full training will be provided for all acolytes at the beginning of each school year.

We trust that the youth will take his/her participation in the worship service with appropriate diligence. We depend on the acolytes to be present but attendance is on the honor system. Please make sure you honor your commitment to serve.

## Worship Notes

As a follower of Jesus Christ, it is assumed that each young person will regularly (weekly) attend worship services. However, we only expect him/her to fill out worship notes 20 times a year. Blank notes can be found on the shelf in the coat closet in the main narthex and are self-explanatory (see below). After attending a service and filling out a note, it can be put in the return holder located next to where the blank forms were found. Youth may fill out a note when attending another church service elsewhere but need to include a copy of the bulletin from that church's service.



## Central Lutheran Church Worship Notes

Name	Group #
Sunday or Special Day of the Church Year	Date
Preacher	
<b>Church Day or Season</b> (circle one):	
Advent (blue)	Christmas (white)
Lent (purple)	Easter (white)
Special Day (White/Red/Black/)	
Epiphany (green)	
Pentecost (green)	

What were the most important things you heard in today's sermon?

How might these affect what you **think**, who you **are**, or what you'll **do**?

What are some of the things we prayed for today?

This week I will continue my worship by praying for:

## Program Components

1. **14 Lesson Workshops**  
About twice a month youth participate in the WNW where there will be music, fun, topical presentations, and small group discussion time. (Discussed more fully on page 8 in this manual.)
2. **Fellowship and Servant Events (5 fellowship, 4 servant)**  
Group service and fellowship events are a major part of the program. Each monthly event will be planned and carried out by each small group. The servant/fellowship event normally takes place on Wednesday evening, but timing may vary according to the group's decision. At least four service and five fellowship events occur throughout the year.
3. **Worship Participation**  
Each young person assists with worship as an acolyte at various times throughout the year, including the summer. Parents will sign up the youth at the Acolyte Training Session (early fall). Youth are expected to arrange for their own substitutes if there is a scheduling conflict. In addition, each small group will sign up to help with ushering and altar guild duties at a worship service during the year.
4. **Sermon Notes (20)**  
As a disciple of Jesus Christ it is assumed that the young person worships weekly. We expect them to fill out a sermon note at least 20 times each year as a way to help them learn what that means. Notes can be turned in for worship at other churches. However, the note should be accompanied by a bulletin from the congregation of attendance. Worship notes are available in the main narthex coat room. Completed notes should be turned in to the "return box" also located in the main narthex. Youth who turn in notes when worshipping at another congregation or listening to Central on the radio/TV should turn them in no later than the Wednesday following the weekend worship.
5. **Mission Trips, Camps, and Retreats**  
Youth are encouraged to participate in additional faith growing experiences, such as mission trips, camps, or retreats. Scholarships are available. Other special events may be offered as they become available.

6. Pastoral Interview (August before Confirmation)  
Each Confirmand (young person preparing for the Service of Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism) will have an interview with one of Central's pastors prior to Confirmation. The purpose of his visit is to affirm the Confirmand and allow an opportunity for questions and feedback regarding the Confirmation program.
7. Faith Statement Paper (August before Confirmation)  
Each Confirmand will be asked to explore his/her faith journey and experiences in a two-page paper. Outlines will be provided. This paper will form the basis for the Pastoral Interview. (See above).
8. Final Examination (September of Confirmation)  
Confirmands will be examined by a parent in a small group setting at the Final Examination night. Parents will help discern their child's readiness for the Service of Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism).

**Parents' Part:**

As it has been indicated, parents are the primary faith developer of their child. We invite all of you to be involved, but we especially have needs for Small Group Guides. (See next page).



Those parents who are not Guides are encouraged to attend the Lesson Nights, use the take-home devotion sheets, be involved in the planning of special events, and pray for their child.

**2009-10 Schedule (tentative)**  
**Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm (except where noted)**

September	10 (Thursday) 16 23 30	Acolyte Sign-up and Training 6:00 – 8:00 pm WNW Kickoff (Fellowship Event) 6:00-7:30 pm Lesson 1 – Luther Network Night (Youth with HS Group 7:15-8:00)
October	4 (Sunday) 7 14 21 28	Servant Event - Crop Walk (12-3 pm) - tentative Lesson 2 – Baptism I Servant Event (if didn't do Crop Walk) Lesson 3 – Baptism II Network Night (Youth with HS Group 7:15-8:00)
November	4 11 18 25	Lesson 4 – Communion I Fellowship Event Lesson 5 – Communion II Thanksgiving – no WNW, worship at 7:00 pm
December	2 9 16 23 30	Lesson 6 – Lord's Prayer: Our Father Network Night (Youth with HS Group 7:15-8:00) Lesson 7 – Lord's Prayer: Hallowed Servant Event Christmas Break – no class
January	6 13 20 27	Lesson 8 – Lord's Prayer: Kingdom Come Fellowship Event Lesson 9 – Lord's Prayer: Will Be Done Network Night (Youth with HS Group 7:15-8:00)
February	3 10 17	Lesson 10 – Lord's Prayer: Daily Bread Lesson 11—Lord's Prayer: Forgive Ash Wednesday: Lenten break begins; worship 5:30 & 7 pm
<i>No WNW during Lent but please attend Wednesday Worship (6:30 pm) and do one Fellowship/Servant event</i>		
April	7 14 21 28	Servant Event Lesson 12 – Lord's Prayer: Trials Network Night (Youth with HS Group 7:15-8:00) Lesson 13—Lord's Prayer: Deliver Us From Evil
May	5 12 26	Enrollment Night (8 <sup>th</sup> Graders only) Lesson 14 – The Doxology Year-end Party (Fellowship Event) 6:00 – 7:30 pm

**CONFIRMATION: SEPTEMBER 19, 2010**

## Fellowship and Service Events

One meeting each month is set aside as a bonding experience between Guides and members of their small group. The goal is to build trust, care, and healthy relationships through time spent together in fun, fellowship, and Christian service. This togetherness will create common memories, build positive feelings, and carry over into greater depth of sharing in the small group discussion times as youth come to see their Guide as both confidante and friend.

For the eight months of the program, each group should use their one meeting every month alternating between servant and fellowship events. That means each group will have completed five fellowship and four servant events by the end of the school year.

At the first Wednesday Night Workshop, each group spends time thinking of servant projects and fellowship activities they'd like to do. The youth are to come up with the ideas so they feel ownership.

The guidelines for servant and fellowship events are:

1. Do only events that will build unity, friendship and trust.
2. Involve all the members of the group.
3. Spend a few minutes of the time together asking each youth how they are doing and how their week is going. (Share highs and lows for the week.)
4. Open or close each time with a short "Thanks for these kids and this time" prayer; (if there are specific needs in the group, you may wish to grow toward a deeper prayer time with the youth as the year and the trust level develops.)
5. For service events, no money can be accepted for what your group does. Exceptions may be made for fundraisers for various projects but only by prior approval from the pastor in charge of WNW.

## The Small Group Guide

The Small Group Guides are responsible for the care, support and Christian nurture of 4-6 Middle School youth. A small group is generally made up of two adult Guides (or couple), their child (if applicable), and 4-5 of their child's classmates/friends.



A Small Group Guide is a caring person who wants to be involved in their child's Christian growth and is willing to learn, play, and promote Christian service with young people in their charge. This person will be making the following commitment from September to May:

1. **Wednesday Night Workshops:** Attend a creative learning event twice a month with their small group and facilitate a discussion following each presentation. The Catechism will be taught by Central's pastors and staff, and enhanced through the use of music, skits, and a discussion handout prepared for easy group review. These lessons will be held in the 6:30-8:00 pm time slot. No lesson preparation is needed.
2. **Servant and Fellowship Events:** Assist the small group in planning and carrying out a service project or fellowship event once a month on a rotating basis (four servant and five fellowship events will be completed).
3. **Network Night:** Small Group Guides gather for 45 minutes of sharing, support, and skill-building, where we will use this time to listen, share ideas, brainstorm solutions, and give new tools to use in your small group. The NWN is scheduled about once a month on Wednesday from 7:15-8:00 pm.

## What Is Wednesday Night Workshop?

### 4. Other Care Responsibilities:

- ◇ Encourage worship attendance
- ◇ Help youth plan and create “creative interruptions” as scheduled for WNW Lesson Nights.
- ◇ Collect and record worship notes.
- ◇ Affirm and assist youth in their Christian faith and life through prayer, positive modeling, and an accepting, understanding presence.
- ◇ Arrange for one of the other parents in the group to fill in if unable to attend any workshop, servant or fellowship event .
- ◇ Provide ideas, feedback, and suggestions to improve, enhance and strengthen the program.
- ◇ Keep pastors and parents informed of youths’ progress.
- ◇ Help prepare students for the Final Exam.



The main goal of WNW is to enthusiastically pack up-beat music and interesting presentations, involving art, video, skits, and quality Christian thought, into a whole group presentation which youth will actually look forward to twice each month, and follow it with a personal time of sharing, discussion, prayer, and care in a small group so that Christ's love is experienced in a personal, regular and real way by every youth.



A secondary objective is to plan and present the teaching time in a way that the slowest youth in the group will clearly understand the lesson theme, and even the sharpest will have no time to get bored.

### **Time Layout**

- I. Opening (10-15 minutes):
  - Music and Game Show Style Review
- II. Presentation (30-35 minutes):
  - Lesson (catechism) Content
- III. Small Group Time (45 minutes)
  - Personal Sharing and Processing
  - Checking in (10 minutes)
  - Worksheet (10 minutes)
  - Verse of the week (5 minutes)
  - Terms of the week (5 minutes)
  - Fellowship/Service Preview/Review (10 minutes)