

Dear Confirmation Class Families:

King David by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote: *“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122:1).’”* The new creature of God in us, born by the Spirit, has a deep desire to hear God’s Word faithfully both in the home and church. Unfortunately, until we get to heaven we will still have a sinful nature that wants nothing to do with worship or the treasures of God. As we contend with the sinful nature within us, we sometimes make unwise choices. One of those perilous choices is to ignore God’s Word.

St. Paul’s pastors, the called shepherds of this congregation’s sheep, cannot know how often families are using the Word in their homes. We pray it’s a lot! But we can know who is attending worship with their fellow Christians here in *“the house of the Lord.”*

Confirmation is a proclamation of both one’s faith and the intention to be faithful in receiving the means of grace (the Gospel in Word and Sacraments) in the future. In order to present to the congregation, with a clear conscience, the students in confirmation class as those committed to the means of grace, we need to have a good record of their past actions. In other words, have they been faithfully worshipping alongside their fellow believers during their careers as confirmation students?

In order to assure this is so and take God’s scriptural encouragement to heart, we have decided to have each family make a commitment in writing. It may help some students understand the importance of confirmation. In order to be confirmed, students must have attended worship regularly – that is, “more often than not” (at least 50% of the time). The bar we are setting is not impossible nor is it even high. Our aim is to put more young people under the guiding influence of the Holy Spirit. That can only bring blessings. Attendance will need to be at a WELS or ELS church (cf. Catechism page 203-212 [old version 201-209]). If visiting another WELS or ELS church, please bring a copy of its bulletin to the pastor.

Taking the 3rd Commandment to heart is vital for every child of God. The Lord speaks it to us because He loves us. He wants what is best for us for eternity. As He says in His Word: *“This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome (1 John 5:3).”* Worshipping regularly is never a burden or hardship, but a wonderful gift and privilege held out to us by God Himself. For this and all His gifts, we praise Him!

I am committed!

I will attend congregational worship at least 50% of the time prior to being confirmed.

Student’s signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent(s) signature: _____

Date: _____

_____ Date: _____