



Firmly Planted is a partnership between the church and the home which produces disciples who follow and serve Jesus in the world. Together, we learn to live & love like Jesus.

Firmly Planted is a faith formation program. Through stirring a deep faith in God, forming a stronger identity in Christ, and developing meaningful relationships with Christian community, our young people grow. At Prince of Peace, this is the path to Confirmation, a special time where students affirm their baptism.

Please read through this packet and attend our orientation and Family Dinner on Sunday, August 27 at 6:00pm.

Confirmation has been an important ministry of the church for many years, even as it has changed recently. We continue to emphasize depth in teaching while still providing a highly relational, fun, and supportive environment for our young people to develop a lasting faith.

There are 4 pieces of this program: courses for students and parents to attend – some together, some apart. This includes a total of 9 hours each year of instructional catechism time, service and worship throughout both years, and a Faith Fold project to complete your time in confirmation. Over the last two years we have updated our model for this program, some of the reasons include:

1. **Parents are the primary influencers in the faith lives of their children.** We value the connections made between parents and students around their faith and know that this is how faith is passed on. Some of our courses will be for parents and students to attend together, some will be just students, and some will be a mixture – learning together. When parents show that investing time and energy into faith formation matters, students see this priority.
2. **Time is valuable.** In 1997, we asked families to dedicate every Sunday night to catechism, and at the time it was highly successful. As other time commitments have increased, we have attempted to maintain the same type of program on fewer and fewer nights which has become unsustainable for the future. In response, we have created a new model that is cognizant of family time constraints, but maximizes our impact in teaching and building community among our students.
3. **Building relationships remains an important objective of Middle School Ministry at Prince of Peace.** By moving to a course model, we also realize that we need to increase the opportunities for fellowship and fun for these students so they can connect with their peers. We are adding opportunities for connection and fun regularly throughout the year. This will also help because we understand that not every middle schooler is ready for the educational portion of catechism, but we do not want to leave them or friends they may invite out of middle school ministry at Prince of Peace.

I hope this clarifies some of the reasoning behind the changes that we are making to the catechism program at Prince of Peace. **We look forward to sharing more at a Family Dinner & Orientation night on Sunday, August 27 at 6:00pm in the Parish Life Center.** Incoming 7th Grade Students are asked to bring a side dish and 8th grade students are asked to bring a dessert to this potluck dinner. Please RSVP for dinner online at <http://popluther.org/event/firmly-planted> or on the bulletin board at Prince of Peace.

Partnering with you in your student's journey of faith,

Mary Ellen Helms
Director of Youth and Family Mission
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
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Firmly Planted

There are 4 main components to the catechism program at Prince of Peace.

COURSES:

The educational portion of Firmly Planted includes students taking **six three-week courses over two years** (usually throughout 7th and 8th grade). Courses with an * are to be attended by a student and at least one parent for cooperative learning.

These courses include some of the building blocks of our faith:

1. Old Testament
2. New Testament
3. Worship & Sacraments
4. Life of Discipleship*
5. Identity*
6. Difficult Faith Questions*

Each course is offered twice yearly on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Pick which courses work best for your family's schedule, but aim to complete three courses both years.

This is a cornerstone of the Firmly Planted program because we want our young people to be deeply rooted in firm theology and we want to encourage families to grow in faith together. Students and parents will be equipped through their participation. From these two years, we seek to help our students grow in breadth and depth of faith so they can stand firm in their beliefs for years to come.

WORSHIP:

One of the strongest indicators for our young people to develop a lasting faith that joins them in Christian community in adulthood is when a family prioritizes worshiping together. It is this finding that has us emphasize worship as a priority for the Firmly Planted program.

1. Students are expected to complete **two worship summaries per month** during the program year (September through May). Completing these worship summaries helps them make meaning out of what is happening in worship and how it connects with their day-to-day lives.
2. Students learn by doing, so we ask that each participant find a way to **serve in worship at least 4 times throughout each year**. Students can serve in any position in worship services. More information is included on a handout in this packet.

SERVICE:

Another way we pass on faith to our young people is by giving them active ways to live & love like Jesus throughout our church and community through service projects. Each year, you are asked to **find a way to serve in the community for at least 8 hours**. Middle School students are invited to many POP Service Projects and these will be highlighted in email communication.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Matthew 25 Ministries
- Trunk or Treat
- service projects with Girl / Boy Scouts
- helping with LIFE Food Pantry events
- God's Work Our Hands
- Vacation Bible School

Students will be given a tracking sheet to submit each year.

FAITH FOLD PROJECT:

As a culmination of the two year Firmly Planted path to confirmation, students complete a Faith Fold Project. Confirmands share their faith in a visual and verbal presentation. This act of articulating their beliefs is a developmental stepping stone that strengthens faith.

Students receive more information about this project the spring of their 8th grade year. They work on the project as they prepare for confirmation in the fall of their 9th grade year.

2017-2018 Firmly Planted Course Planner

	Choose three 3-week courses this school year	Day of the Week	Time	#1	#2	#3		Course Title	Parent/Student Course
October									
	<input type="radio"/>	Sundays	12:30pm	10/1/2017	10/8/2017	10/15/2017		Old Testament	
	<input type="radio"/>	Wednesdays	7:00pm	10/4/2017	10/18/2017	10/25/2017		Difficult Faith Questions	x
November									
	<input type="radio"/>	Sundays	12:30pm	11/5/2017	11/12/2017	11/19/2017		Difficult Faith Questions	x
	<input type="radio"/>	Wednesdays	7:00pm	11/1/2017	11/8/2017	11/15/2017		Old Testament	
January									
	<input type="radio"/>	Sundays	12:30pm	1/7/2018	1/21/2018	1/28/2018		Identity	x
	<input type="radio"/>	Wednesdays	7:00pm	1/10/2018	1/17/2018	1/24/2018		New Testament	
February									
	<input type="radio"/>	Sundays	12:30pm	2/4/2018	2/11/2018	2/25/2018		New Testament	
	<input type="radio"/>	Wednesdays	7:00pm	2/7/2018	2/21/2018	2/28/2018		Identity	x
March									
	<input type="radio"/>	Sundays	12:30pm	3/4/2018	3/11/2018	3/18/2018		Lives of Discipleship	x
April									
	<input type="radio"/>	Sundays	12:30pm	4/8/2018	4/15/2018	4/22/2018		Worship & Sacraments	
	<input type="radio"/>	Wednesdays	7:00pm	4/4/2018	4/11/2018	4/18/2018		Lives of Discipleship	x
May									
	<input type="radio"/>	Wednesdays	7:00pm	5/2/2018	5/9/2018	5/16/2018		Worship & Sacraments	

Courses are intended for 7th and 8th grade students. Please note that parents and students to attend some courses together.

All sessions are one hour and are held at Prince of Peace.

Keep this course planner as a guide for your family.

Serving in Worship

Pick a time to serve and sign up online or contact the coordinator for more information.
Trainings will be available this fall!

Acolyte – help lead worship by lighting the candles, assisting with communion, and sitting up front on the chancel with the pastors

Contact: Sara Waple sarajwaple@aol.com

Altar Care – help set up for and clean up after communion

Contact: Robin Stevenson rstevenson@popluther.org

Bread Baker – make bread for the communion meal for all weekend services

Contact: Marti Kelley kelmar46@yahoo.com

Children's Worship – during Sunday morning services. After the children's sermon through the prayers, assist an adult with a children's activity for kids in pre-k through 2nd grade

Contact: Mary Ellen Helms mehelms@popluther.org

Communion Assistant – help with passing out the bread during communion and telling people "The Body of Christ, given for you" (Video training online at www.popluther.org)

Contact: Toby Lyke tlyke@popluther.org

Crucifer – bring the processional cross into and out of our worship space on festival weekends.

Contact: Joe Mandl jmandl4osu@aol.com

Greeter – welcome others to worship by saying 'hello' and shaking hands at the front door

Contact: Laura Moore lauramoore@fuse.net

Lector – read the first and second lessons of the day during worship

Contact: Karen Skarda kskarda@popluther.org

Music – be a part of the music team be a: cantor, member of Teentinnabulation, instrumentalist, and more!

Contact: Toby Lyke tlyke@popluther.org & Robin Stevenson rstevenson@popluther.org

Usher – help others as they arrive to worship, hand out bulletins, collect the offering, release people for communion

Contact for 5:00 pm: Vicki Overbeck overbeckv@sycamoreschools.org

Contact for 8:45 am: Carrie Tuli carrie.tuli@yahoo.com

Contact for 11:00 am: Karen Skarda kskarda@popluther.org

Welcome Center – sit at the Welcome Center before or after worship services and answer questions for people as they come to worship.

Contact: Laura Moore lauramoore@fuse.net

NAME _____

Firmly Planted Worship and Service Tracker

This tracker should be kept up to date by students and parents and turned in by July 1, 2018.

- Complete 2 worship summaries each month (September through May). Turn in completed summaries to the silver mailbox outside of Mary Ellen’s office in the youth room (129).
- Find a way to serve in worship: at least 4 times throughout the year
- Find a way to serve in the community: at least 8 hours
- Examples include but are not limited to:
 - Matthew 25 Ministries
 - Trunk or Treat
 - helping with LIFE Food Pantry events
 - service projects with Girl / Boy Scouts

Worship Summary Tracker

List dates completed in the box. Complete 2 per month.

September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May

Serving in Worship Tracker (at least 4 per year)

Description of serving in worship (acolyte, usher, Children’s Worship, etc.)	Dates Served

Service Tracker (at least 8 hours per year)

Description of Service and Dates	Hours Served	Adult Signature