



Firmly Planted



Faith Formation for 7th & 8th Graders

Dear families,

Confirmation has been an important ministry of the church for many years. 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.

We are hope you'll join us on Sunday nights for Firmly Planted (our catechism program). Teaching for students and guides, small & large group interactions, worship, service, culminating in Faith Fold projects are each important components of the Firmly Planted program. We are a church that believes in reformation and we continue to mold this program with the following in mind:

1. Time is valuable. We live in a time when there are simply more demands on families' time and more choices for activities. While we recognize this, we also ask parents and families to prioritize faith during this formative time in the lives of children. We see each other only a couple of times each month throughout the school year. We want to maximize our time for faith development and relationship-building. Doing both during our time together will benefit students and their discipleship.
2. 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. We have parent/adult-led small groups as a part of our catechism program. Parents will be invited to show their investment in the program through a variety of other ways, too (supporting programs, providing meals, etc.). When parents show that investing time and energy into faith formation matters, students see this priority.

We look forward to sharing more at our Firmly Planted Orientation for participants and a parent on Sunday, August 27. Please register your student for Firmly Planted and RSVP for the parent and student orientation at popluther.org/firmlyplanted

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

Tanner T Stinnett

Tanner Stinnett
Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
tstinnett@popluther.org 513-683-4244 or 513-293-1836





Firmly Planted

Faith Formation for 7th & 8th Graders

2023-2024 Information Packet



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 within Christian community,
our young people grow. At Prince of Peace,
this is the path to Confirmation,
a special time when students affirm their baptism.

Parents and Students: please read through this packet and attend our
Firmly Planted Orientation on

Sunday, August 27 at 11:45 am.

We'll have a potluck—7th grade families bring sides and 8th grade families bring desserts.
Our main course will be pizza.

RSVP & Register for Firmly Planted
and fill out a youth permission form online
at popluther.org/firmlyplanted

Firmly Planted 2023-2024

SUNDAY NIGHT EVENTS

Year 1 – Worship & Sacraments, Lutheran Identity, Discipleship, Difficult Faith Questions (2023-2024)

Year 2 – Biblical Background (2024-2025)

We will gather twice monthly (usually) from September to May. During this time we will have time for games, teaching, building relationships, small group mentoring, prayer experiences, and fun activities.

Small groups are a crucial part of the middle school experience and will help students form deeper relationships with new and old friends.

We will meet from 6pm-8pm at Prince of Peace in the Parish Life Center. We understand that families' schedules are complex. Our request is that students participate in at least 80% of our gatherings (missing no more than 2 per year). We will provide make-up material for those who cannot attend, but sometimes we do things that simply cannot be replicated without being present. There are also retreats and social activities that supplement the program throughout the year.

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 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.

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.

WORSHIP

One of the strongest indicators that young people will develop a lasting faith that joins them in Christian community in adulthood is when a family prioritizes worshipping 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. Students can serve in any position in worship services. More information is included on a handout in this packet.

Link for worship summaries:
[www.popluther.org/worship summary](http://www.popluther.org/worship-summary)
(These can be completed online.)

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, students 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:

- helping with LIFE Food Pantry events
- God's Work. Our Hands. weekend
- service projects with Girl/Boy Scouts
- Matthew 25 Ministries

Link for service form:
www.popluther.org/serviceform
(These can be completed online.)



Youth Team Parent Roles with Firmly Planted

We organize all our volunteer roles at Prince of Peace by teams. The Youth Team serves the 7th – 12th grade students of Prince of Peace. Youth Team members are connectors for youth and the church and faith experience. They are spiritual mentors. They are adults who are authentic, affirming and available.

We need at least 6 Firmly Planted Guides (men and women) who will:

- Build relationships with our young people in Firmly Planted and their families.
- Attend Sunday Night Events and serve as an adult leader for 5-7 youth.
- Facilitate small group time (leading highs and lows, lead activities with material & discussion questions provided).
- Participate as an adult leader in the program.
- Check in with these teenagers throughout their middle-school years.

If you are able to help or have questions, please contact Tanner Stinnett to serve or with questions. tstinnett@popluther.org or 513-293-1836

An Effective Adult Guide Will Have...



You are invited to serve in worship. Please contact one of these coordinators who can give you the information you need to sign up and serve. To see current openings check out

popluther.org/serve-here.

ROLE	DESCRIPTION	GREAT FOR...	CONTACT
Acolyte	Help lead worship by lighting the candles, assisting with communion, and sitting up front on the chancel with the pastors	Children and youth grades 3-8	Ginger Tomes gtomes@popluther.org
Assisting Minister	Help lead worship through assisting with the liturgy, offering pre-written (or writing your own) prayers of the day, and assisting with communion	Confirmed youth, adults	Dan Mueller dannomanno033@gmail.com
Audio Visual Slides & Video	Run slides during worship, run video rig for live streaming of services, or help with video editing and production	Youth, adults	Toby Lyke tlyke@popluther.org
Altar Care	Help set up for and clean up after communion	Individuals, couples, families	Robin Stevenson rstevenson@popluther.org
Bread Baker	Make bread for the communion meal for weekend services	Individuals, couples, families	Sharyn Prime sprime53@fuse.net
Children's Worship Activity Leaders & Helpers	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	Youth, adults	Ginger Tomes gtomes@popluther.org
Crucifer	Bring the processional cross into and out of our worship space on festival weekends	Older youth	Toby Lyke tlyke@popluther.org
Flower Guild	Help beautify our worship space	Individuals	Deborah Heuer DHeuer@zoomtown.com 513-919-8253
Music	Be a part of the music team as a: soloist, choir member, member of our many bell ensembles, instrumentalist, and more	Individuals	Toby Lyke tlyke@popluther.org
Reader/Lector	Read the first and second lessons of the day during worship	Children, youth, adults	Dan Mueller dannomanno033@gmail.com
Usher	Help others as they arrive to worship, hand out bulletins, collect the offering, invite people to approach for communion	Individuals, couples, families	5:00 pm—Sheri Evans sherievs@gmail.com 8:30 am—Pat McWhirter mcwhirter.pat@gmail.com 10:30 am—Frank Ackermann fackermannxu@outlook.com
Welcome Center	Sit at the Welcome Center before or after worship services and answer questions for people as they come to worship	Individuals	Laura McDaniel lauramcd0109@gmail.com
Welcome Team	Welcome others to worship by saying 'hello' and shaking hands or waving at the front door	Individuals, couples, families	Laura McDaniel lauramcd0109@gmail.com



Firmly Planted

Faith Formation
for 7th & 8th Graders

2023-2024

Keep in Touch!



Instagram:
@popluthyouth

Facebook:
facebook.com/popluther



Tanner's cell:
(513)293-1836
Tanner office:
(513)683-4244

To receive text updates:
Text 81010 with the message
@pop2028 or @pop2029
depending on your
graduating year.



Tanner Stinnett
Director of
Youth & Family Ministry

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www.popluther.org

Additional Activities

October 22
all students serve at Faith Celebration

October 28-29
Confirmation Weekend
(attend a service)

Overnights!

Lock-In
December 8-9

Great Wolf Lodge Retreat
January 26-27

POP Retreat - Hopewood Pines
April 5-7

more fun stuff scheduled throughout the year!

Sunday
Workshops
September
17
October
1
15
November
12
19
December
3
17
January
7
21
February
4
25
March
3
17
April
14
May
5
all sessions meet from
6:00-8:00pm