

Hope

CHANGES EVERYTHING

August 18, 2017

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." — Philippians 1:9-11

To Hope middle school students and their parents:

Fall is upon us and with it, the commencement of our **QUEST** (Confirmation) program! We're excited to grow together in faith, develop relationships with one another, and discover God's plan for each of our lives in His Kingdom, especially here at Hope Lutheran Church!

Confirmation is one of the most significant seasons of growth for you — both parents and students. Youth, you are in the midst of learning about your faith, even as you are discovering more about what it means to own your personal faith in Christ. But that doesn't happen in a vacuum. Parents, you are watching your son or daughter mature, ask questions, and at times struggle with issues of faith... and maybe discovering you have questions or struggles of your own. Together you are on a **QUEST** to discover more about discipleship habits, what your faith means in 'real life', and your place and purpose in God's Church.

God's early church knew the importance of regular fellowship and worship (Acts 2:42). We would like to remind you that **being in worship and study is an expectation** of all **QUEST** students. We are uplifted, encouraged, taught, and brought closer to God through worship. In study on Sunday mornings, we focus on Scripture and the application of it to our daily lives. We desire for each student to be in a growing and lasting relationship with our Savior, Jesus. We believe that in order for that to happen, **QUEST**, worship, and study need to be a regular part of the life of the student.

In our effort to better walk with you through this season of growth, we made some changes to our program last year. The changes are primarily in the structure of the Year 2 (7th Grade) Program, our confirmation year. These include:

- TEACHING in a monthly seminar-style format for both students AND parents
- Twice-monthly LIFE GROUPS for students and their Life Group Leaders
- A Faith Project (confirmation stole & display board) where students explore their personal faith
- A Celebration Dinner and "Faith Fair" where students can share their Faith Projects and celebrate their growth in faith

Parents, please read the enclosed information carefully. *NOTE: ONLY THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY OR SUNDAY! Sunday Quest 1 students and all other

middle school students are invited to be a part of the Junior High Bible study and All Youth Fellowship from 6:30 to 8:30 on Wednesdays starting September 20. (During the upstairs renovation this fall, we'll meet in the Family Life Center.) As part of the QUEST Program, your child should attend worship with you and Jr. High class Sunday mornings at 9:45 (in the Gathering Place during fall renovations of the upstairs.) Please also encourage them in the completion of the work for **QUEST** classes, including the memory verses and community service hours. Please let us know if there are any special needs or learning issues that we should be aware of and how they are best handled.

*NOTE: Once winter arrives, we will follow the Greece Central School District for any cancellations. If they cancel school/evening activities, there will not be **QUEST** that night.

Students, please make every effort to be in worship and Jr. High study on Sunday mornings and to grow in your relationship with Christ as you move toward the completion of the **QUEST** program and the day that you confirm your faith before family, friends and the congregation of Hope.

Everyone, specifics of the Faith Project, Celebration Dinner, memory verses, service hours, class materials and any other items will be handled at the September 13 Parent Meeting and first session of your class. **As the year begins, I would like to meet with each Year 2 student and their parents to get to know them, pray for and with them, and answer any lingering questions. Please look for us to begin scheduling those meetings as soon as your Year 2 student is registered for QUEST.**

Significant Dates:

- **PARENT MEETING for YEAR 1 & 2 QUEST CLASSES** — Wednesday, September 13th, 7:00-8:30pm in the Gathering Place
- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE** — Monday, September 18th. (Year 1 class and Year 2 Life Group assignments will be emailed out after this date.)
- **YEAR 1 CLASSES with MR. ROGER DAHL** — begin Sunday, September (6:00-7:00pm) in Room 110 or Wednesday, September 27th (6:30-7:30pm) in Gathering Place North
- **YEAR 2 TEACHING SESSION 1** — Saturday, October 14th 9:30-11:30am in the Gathering Place
- **CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL** — Wednesday, May 2nd, 6:30-8:30pm, in the Worship Center
- **CELEBRATION DINNER & FAITH FAIR** — Friday, May 4th, 6:00-8:00pm, in the Family Life Center
- **CONFIRMATION** — Saturday, May 5th during 5:00pm Elevate Worship
Sunday, May 6th during 11:15 Worship

Please feel free to contact me or Diana Strand, the Youth Ministry Assistant (and my wife!), if you have any questions.

In His service and on this **QUEST** with you,



Pastor Greg Strand
Youth Pastor
cell: 541.231.8166
pastorgreg@sharethehope.org