



Class Format:

Class Gatherings: Wednesday Evenings: 7pm-8pm
Class Gatherings will be in-person in the Martin Luther Room at OSLC. All youth will be issued key fobs to enter the building each Wednesday and head upstairs.

Mentor Nights: Dinner: 6:30 p.m. & Inter-Generational Gathering: 7pm-8pm
Gatherings will include all youth and their mentors. In the case of inclement weather mentor nights will be rescheduled and a regular class session via Zoom will take place instead.

Confirmation: A Promise Fulfilled – At baptism, parents promise to raise their child in the Christian faith and the congregation promises to pray and support those parents and the newly baptized. Confirmation is a fulfillment of that promise on the part of both parents and the congregation. Together we will teach and encourage so that young people can develop as the spiritual beings God created them to be and grow into their calling to follow Christ. At the end of their training, students will be confirmed within worship, claiming a living faith in Jesus Christ as their own. They are propelled forward in their continuing, lifelong journey with Jesus.

Training in our Spiritual Identity: Bearers of the image of God – Confirmation trains students to grow into a deeper understanding their spiritual identity. The world does a fine job, through various media, teaching our kids about the worldly priorities of selfishness and greed. Our calling is to teach them about the spiritual reality of hope and life that is at hand in Jesus. Jesus came that we might have abundant life. It is the vision of this program that all our students know that truth... that the abundant grace of God is overflowing for them.

We Train Together – When children are training to become baseball players, good coaches expect parents will play catch with their child and make sure they get the rest and nourishment they need. Students training in understanding their spiritual identity need the help of parents and “coaches.” We expect you to:

- Worship with your child every Sunday.
- Help your student participate in the confirmation and mentor programs.
- Pray to God about your child’s faith development and your own parenting.
- Make weekly classes a priority and inform us if there are scheduling problems.
- Be in conversation with Pastor Tony as you seek to draw from the power of grace as a family.

Welcome Statement – All youth ministry that takes place at Our Savior’s, including Confirmation, follows our congregation welcome statement which reads:

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God’s children, and all are welcome here.

Our ministry together allows youth to enter this place as their full selves – no matter what. Questions are ok. Being different is ok. Not knowing what you believe or who you are yet is ok. Come and experience a place of judgment-free community that embraces the love that God gives freely to all.

Weekly Confirmation Attendance – All students are required to be present and to participate in the Wednesday, 7pm confirmation classes. During Lent, attendance at the 7pm worship services are also required along with completing a project during the season of Lent.

Mentorship – Each student connects with a mentor, who will walk along side of them during their time in the program. It is up to you to ask a member of Our Savior’s to be a mentor, with the goal of having your mentor selected by the first Mentor Night on October 12, 2022. Mentors should be willing and able to be a positive presence for the youth. They should attend worship regularly and be available to help youth during their faith formation journey. More information will be provided on the role of mentors and how mentors may be selected for the new students each fall.

Mentor Nights are held five times on Wednesdays, instead of regular class time and will begin with a meal followed by a time of learning together. All mentors are asked to be present during each of these give gatherings. During Lent students will engage in a weekly Bible study following the midweek worship services. Mentors are welcome and encouraged to worship and attend the Bible study with their youth.

Worship Attendance & Sermon Notes – Students are required to attend worship at least three times a month and to take at least 12 sermon notes before Labor Day 2023. Livestream worship services can be found on our YouTube channel, “Our Savior’s Beloit.” Students will complete a sermon notes “form” which are in the information rack on the wall outside the sanctuary. Completed forms must be signed off on by another adult who is not part of the student’s family or their mentor; students should reach out and introduce themselves to new people each week as a way of connecting with the OSLC community. Completed sermon notes should be turned in upon completion to the appropriate place on the information rack – do not hold onto completed sermon notes.

Service Projects – Alongside their mentor, each student is expected to complete 12 hours of service to our neighbor in community across three different projects. These hours and projects may be completed anytime between now and Labor Day 2023. This year we will provide opportunities for students to sign-up to participate in throughout the year. As students complete service projects, they are to complete a service project “form” and turn it in signed off on by an adult leader other than their mentor or a family member. These forms are in the information rack on the wall outside the sanctuary and complete forms are to be turned in to the same place as sermon notes.

Some service project opportunities have been scheduled and are listed below along with the person who you can contact for more information.

- **Family Promise:** Week of October 16, 2022. Contact Jane Lang for more information. Sign-up sheets will be available at church in October.
- **Project C.U.R.E.** in Woodridge, IL on Saturday, November 5, 2022, as part of our Fall Retreat.
- **Family Promise:** Week of December 18, 2022. Contact Jane Lang for more information. Sign-up sheets will be available at church in late-November.
- **Second Harvest:** Saturday, January 14, 2023. Sign-up will be available in November.

Acolytes – All students will be regularly scheduled to serve as acolytes in worship. Generally, they will serve about once-a-month. Sign-up is done online, and dates are chosen by families to make it as convenient as possible. A training for all youth will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 9:30am immediately following the 8:30am worship.

Bibles – We will be using Bibles in Confirmation class on a weekly basis and youth should bring their Bibles to class every week. New confirmation students will receive their new Student Study Bible in September. This year we will be using two different translations of the Bible to demonstrate the different interpretations in learning.

Grace Alone Book – This year as we study our Lutheran faith, we will be utilizing a book called *Grace Alone*. A copy of the book will be provided to each student and there will be light reading (4-5 pages) that is to be done prior to each class gathering that will help provide some background to what we will be discussing and allow more time for conversations.

Communication – Please be in communication with Pastor Tony if you have questions or a scheduling conflict. You can also find more information on our website at <http://www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/youth/>.

Pastor Tony Dusso

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Winter Weather – In the case of weather where schools are closed, we will evaluate based on current conditions and communicate the status of class gatherings by 5:30 p.m. via text and email. A “snow day” will not automatically cancel confirmation. ☺

