



**Sheridan Lutheran Church**  
Wednesdays @ the Well  
**Course Book**

**Learn. Serve. Grow**

**2017-2018**

# Welcome to Wednesdays @ the Well!

Wednesdays @ the Well offers people of all ages the opportunity to gather for a meal, education, faith development, and mutual growth—children, parents, grandparents, friends...everyone is invited! A weekly dinner menu can be found online: [sheridanlutheran.org/wednesdays-the-well](http://sheridanlutheran.org/wednesdays-the-well)

A big part of our Wednesdays @ the Well midweek event is Sheridan's Confirmation Ministry. There are also great education opportunities for children, high school youth and adults.

This course book includes course information for the 2017-2018 school year. Every course listed in this book is open to anyone; confirmation students, high school youth and adults.

**Confirmation students & families:** This book also includes information about elective courses and requirements for participation in Sheridan's confirmation ministry.

## Who may attend Wednesdays @ the Well?

All members and friends of Sheridan are invited to participate and attend classes. Advanced registration is not required for adults or high school youth, however, students wishing to participate in confirmation must register each year.

**Children's Education:** For children age 2 through grade 5. Classes follow Wednesdays @ the Well worship. Age/grade-separated classes, WAM and All Stars for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students & families. Registration is needed to participate. Find more information online.

**Confirmation:** For 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Registration is required for the confirmation program and elective course selection is a part of that registration.

**High School Youth Group:** For 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Meets from 6-7:30pm for worship, faith formation, fellowship and food. No registration is needed to participate, but separate registrations may be needed for special events.

**Adult Education:** Varied classes are offered throughout the year.

## How do I register?

Registration is needed for **Children's & Confirmation Ministry participants only**. *Confirmation registration includes elective class selection.*

- Confirmation registration begins in July and is online only: [sheridanlutheran.org/middle-school-confirmation](http://sheridanlutheran.org/middle-school-confirmation). Please register for Confirmation Ministry by August 15, 2017.
- For more information and to register for Children's Ministry classes visit our website: [sheridanlutheran.org/childrens-ministry](http://sheridanlutheran.org/childrens-ministry)

## Confirmation Ministry expectations

Confirmation is not a requirement for faith, but an intentional endeavor to affirm your baptismal promises and confirm that you want to continue to grow in your faith the rest of your life as a Christian.

Each class meeting is important, both for growing in faith personally and for building community as the body of Christ. A commitment to Sheridan's Confirmation Ministry is a commitment to making attendance a priority.

Confirmation students are expected to:

- participate fully in worship, classes, service events & fellowship times
- complete 12 worship notes per year
- complete 4 service events & reports per year
- attend annual retreat at Carol Joy Holling Camp each fall  
*(alternatives available if dates conflict)*

## Confirmation elective class attendance

Elective courses meet for three weeks. Each student may have one excused absence per elective course. Students with more than one absence during a course will not receive credit for the class.

## How many elective classes will I need to take?

Each confirmation student is encouraged to take at least one class from each of the four categories: **Bible, Discipleship, Lutheranism, Spiritual Practices** during their time in Sheridan's Confirmation Ministry.

## **Worship**

The worship of God flows through us from a living faith. Worship is the primary time to gather as a family of God, a community of believers who uplift one another in our life of faith. It is expected that all confirmation students and their families are regularly attending worship.

## **Expected Classroom Behavior**

Confirmation students are expected to be on time each week. Worship starts at 6pm each Wednesday, with classes immediately following. Lateness distracts other students and class leaders. Students are required to participate fully in classes and will be expected to answer questions, ask questions and share opinions when appropriate.

Instructors have the authority to ask students to change seats if talking between friends becomes a distraction.

## **Questions?**

If you have any questions concerning the confirmation ministry, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Michelle Oetken or any Sheridan pastor.

## **Pastor Michelle Oetken**

m.oetken@sheridanlutheran.org  
402-423-4769 ext. 106

## **Volunteers**

If you would like to help with the Wednesdays @ the Well ministry in one of the various capacities or have suggestions for great Confirmation small group leaders, please let Pastor Michelle Oetken know.

# 2017-2018 Wednesdays @ the Well and Confirmation Ministry Calendar

## August 2017

**Aug. 23:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation / parent night; 6:30pm

**Aug. 30:** Small group leader orientation & Wednesdays @ the Well volunteer training; 6:30pm

## Fall 2017

**Sept. 6:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation / parent night; 6:30pm

**Sept. 10:** Rally Sunday (Sunday education resumes)

**Sept. 13:** Wednesdays @ the Well resumes! (first night of Confirmation)

**Sept. 20:** Confirmation Core Classes

**Sept. 27:** Confirmation Core Classes

**Oct. 4:** Confirmation Core Classes

**Oct. 11:** Confirmation Core Classes

**Oct. 18:** Confirmation Core Classes

**Oct. 25:** All church Trunk or Treat (Confirmation Service Event)

**Fri. & Sat., Oct. 27 & 28:** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Retreat at Carol Joy Holling Camp

**Nov. 1:** Fall Learning Academy / Confirmation Elective Classes

**Nov. 8:** Fall Learning Academy / Confirmation Elective Classes

**Nov. 15:** Fall Learning Academy / Confirmation Elective Classes

**Nov. 22:** Thanksgiving Eve Worship, 7pm / No Wednesdays @ the Well

**Nov. 29:** Confirmation Core Classes

**Dec. 6:** Confirmation Core Classes

**Dec. 9:** Christmas Lessons & Carols Worship; 5:30pm

**Dec. 13:** All Confirmation service & fellowship night

**Dec. 20:** Christmas Extravaganza Worship

**Dec. 23:** Christmas Memories Worship; 5:30pm

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Worship; 10am, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:30 or 11:00pm

**Dec. 27:** No Wednesdays @ the Well

## **Fall Learning Academy Elective Classes**

**Confirmation students:** please attend the class that you registered for. **Adults** are invited to attend any of the following classes. We want these classes to be intergenerational. Adults or high school youth do not need to register for any of the classes.

### **Bible**

#### **Bible 101**

Come for an overview of the history of the books in the Bible. Become familiar with the Old and New Testaments, authors of the Bible, Biblical geography and how we can grow in faith from the reading the Bible. Bring your Bibles and get ready for an awesome, faith-filled adventure that begins with creation! No experience needed. Taught by Pastor Rhonda Bostrom.

#### **The E Boys - Elijah & Elisha**

These two prophets served our God in amazing ways. Remember the story of Elijah calling fire down from heaven? What about the story of the floating ax head? Together we will discover and have some fun exploring stories of these two miracle working prophets of the Old Testament. Come, learn and grow as we take a look at these very unusual, but cool Biblical stories! Taught by Pastor Michelle Oetken.

### **Discipleship**

#### **Faith & Science**

This class will explore the ways that science and faith work together to help us uncover the awe and wonder of the heavens and the earth. Faith gives us insight into the mysteries of sacrificial love, the power of community, and the resilience of the human spirit. Taught by Pastor Eric Bostrom.

#### **Worship through Movement**

Participants will focus on the history of dance in worship and how dance can be an effective part of a worship experience as well as learn and rehearse a dance. We will look at key verses that describe biblical characters dancing as well as verses that encourage us to dance and rejoice! The dance routine learned during this

elective will be performed during worship Sunday, Nov. 19. It is a requirement of this class that participants be able to participate in worship. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis. Come celebrate through dance! Taught by Amelia Barrett.

### **Service Learning – High School students only**

How can we be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community? We will spend time with various mission partners serving and learning about how we can help better our community. Because of travel time, this class will meet from 5:30-7:30pm. Taught by Cameron McDaniel.

### **Social Media & Evangelism?**

Match who we are online to who God created us to be. Lessons and best practices for sharing the Good News online. Taught by Dana Rademacher and Amy Wagner.

### **Spiritual Practices**

#### **Dave Ramsey's Generation \$hange Part 1 - students only**

Every day we are bombarded with ads telling us who we are and what we are worth if only we BUY! BUY! BUY! In 1971, the average number of ads seen per week was 560. Now it is more than 6,000. Society is defining us consciously and subconsciously by what we have – and subsequently by what we don't have. Because of the pressure to be accepted by our peers and the world around us, we sacrifice beyond our means in order to establish identities in the things we buy. We have allowed our youth to be empowered by the stuff around them rather than the soul within them. These sessions will help equip youth in learning: "The Value of You," "Materialism Mayhem," "Money Minds," and "The Gift of Giving. Facilitated by Jean Poppert.

### **The Sacraments: Baptism and Communion**

We become a part of the Christian community in Holy Baptism, a ritual of word and washing with water. We then encounter Christ not only in words, but also by Christ's promise paired with sharing bread and wine in Holy Communion. How do we as Lutheran

Christians understand these Sacraments? This class is for kids who did not attend the Baptism and Holy Communion Stepping Stones and for anyone needing a refresher on these amazing gifts of God's Grace. Taught by Deacon Kathy Paisley.

## **Lutheranism**

### **Martin Luther - The Man Behind the Myth**

This year we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. That is a long time! "What was the Reformation?" "Why does it matter?" and "Who was this Martin Luther guy, anyway?" are important questions for us to consider in this year.

Get a quick overview of the Reformation and a deeper look into Martin Luther, a man of great struggle, who is very much like you and me. This class will focus on the man, the myth and the legend of Martin Luther and how his life and faith are still important today. Taught by Pastor Greg Bouvier.

## **Winter 2018**

**Jan. 10:** Confirmation Core Classes

**Jan. 13-14:** Nebraska Synod 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Middle School Gathering

**Jan. 17:** Confirmation Core Classes

**Jan. 24:** Winter Learning Academy / Confirmation Elective Classes

**Jan. 31:** Winter Learning Academy / Confirmation Elective Classes

**Feb. 7:** Winter Learning Academy / Confirmation Elective Classes

**Feb. 14:** Ash Wednesday / No Wednesdays @ the Well

**Feb. 21:** Confirmation Core Classes / 8<sup>th</sup> grade Recognition Ceremonies begin

**Feb. 28:** Confirmation Core Classes

## **Lent**

**March 7:** Confirmation Core Classes

**March 14:** Confirmation Core Classes

**March 21:** Confirmation Core Classes

## **Holy Week & Easter 2018**

**March 25:** Palm Sunday

**March 28:** No meal or class; special evening reflective worship; 6pm

**March 29:** Maundy Thursday Worship; noon & 7pm; Seder Meal: 5:30pm

**March 30:** Good Friday Worship; noon & 7pm

**March 31:** Easter Memories Worship; 5:30pm

**April 1:** Easter Celebration Worship (6:45am, 8am, 9:30am, 11am)

**April 4:** Confirmation Core Classes

**April 11:** Confirmation Core Classes

## **Important Spring Dates for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Families**

**April 18:** Stole Presentation by 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmands

**April 22:** Affirmation of Baptism Worship Service (Confirmation)

**April 25:** All Stars Celebration & final Wednesdays @ the Well for the school year. (All confirmation students are expected to participate)

## **Winter Learning Academy Elective Classes**

**Confirmation students:** please attend the class that you registered for.

**Adults** are invited to attend any of the following classes. We want these classes to be intergenerational. Adults or high school youth do not need to register for any of the classes.

### **Bible**

#### **Gospel as Story**

We know the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. How are they different? Why are they different? What does it matter? We know that Jesus was a very complex person – he was God and man, after all. One story about him wasn't enough. To fully understand him we need to look at him from differing viewpoints. This class will help us understand Jesus better by looking at what each gospel seeks to teach us. You will leave this class being able to read about Jesus in a way that grows your faith. Taught by Pastor Greg Bouvier.

## **Singing through the Scriptures**

Wonder where a composer's inspiration for a hymn, contemporary Christian song or even a popular song is from? We will dig deep into the lyrics and music of all genres to learn what passages, Bible stories or verses some of our favorite songs are based on. From Handel's "Messiah" to Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" to the Byrd's "Turn, Turn, Turn". We'll even listen to fun parodies of songs you're bound to know! Taught by Molly Schmit.

## **Honoring our Neighbor's Faith**

Christianity is one of many religions followed in our community. How do we stand up for our Christian faith while also respecting the different religions of our neighbors? This class will invite people of religious traditions other than Christian to share their story, history, and beliefs. Taught by Pastor Eric Bostrom.

## **Discipleship**

### **Jesus Walks Among Us: Stories of Service to the Poor**

Ever wonder what it's like to serve the poor, to be the face of Jesus to someone not like you, to enter a difficult situation and offer hope? This class offers stories and personal experiences from Sheridan members that answer some of these questions. From Tanzania, Haiti, El Salvador, even Lincoln, Nebraska, stories of service to those in need will inspire you in your faith journey. You will also learn how Sheridan's outreach ministry makes a big impact in our community and world! Taught by Pastor Rhonda Bostrom.

## **Lutheranism**

### **What Does it Mean to be Lutheran?**

You are invited to come and enrich your faith as we together explore what it means to be a Lutheran. We will learn about key concepts that are central to our faith as we read the Scriptures. Taught by Pastor Michelle Oetken.

## **Spiritual Practices**

### **Dave Ramsey's Generation \$change Part 2- students only**

A continuation of the series from the Fall on money management tools.

Students need not to have participated in the fall to participate in this spring session. Facilitated by Jean Poppert.

**Service Learning – High School students only**

What does it look like to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community? We will spend time with various mission partners serving and learning about how we can help better our community. Because of travel time, this class will meet from 5:30-7:30pm. Facilitated by Cameron McDaniel.

**Parenting Forum - adults only**

Need encouragement in navigating the unknown territory of parenting? No matter the age or stage, we always wonder if we are doing the right things for our kids, guiding them in the right direction. Just when we think we may be doing ok at any point, they grow into another stage that leaves us questioning ourselves. This conversational small group-style class will allow participants to address these questions and concerns with other parents at similar stages of parenting. Facilitated by Deacon Kathy Paisley.

**For Confirmation Families: Keep for your records**

**My Confirmation Small Group Leader(s)**

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**Their email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Their cell phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Fall Elective Class:**

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**My Winter Elective Class:**

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