

Metamorphosis

Participant Guide

2017-2018

What is Metamorphosis?

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism,
you are entrusted with responsibilities:

*to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper;
teach them the Lord's Prayer; the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that they may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.*

Do you promise to help them grow in the Christian faith and life?
We do.

Metamorphosis is an **intergenerational learning experience** designed to help us more deeply embody and understand our shared faith through communal experiences as you prepare to move towards the congregational rite known as **Affirmation of Baptism** (often called Confirmation). Through many eras of the history of the Church, preparing for Affirmation of Baptism has been a deep, rigorous, and formative process. We seek to continue this tradition in our congregation today.

This experience is a team endeavor, and requires a fair amount of discipline: from the Confirmands seeking to affirm their baptism, from their families who support and learn alongside them, and from this congregation that has promised to support and pray for them. It is not a compulsory program required for each youth member of the congregation. Rather, it only seeks to be an intensive relationship-building experience designed to deepen your faith and prepare you to be an even more active member in this congregation and in the world at large.

Together, we will seek to learn what it means to be the people of God in our context, and how we might respond as individuals and as a community to God's Good News for humanity and all creation. This is not to be taken lightly. If you commit to this, commit to it. Make time for it. Prioritize it. If that means taking a break from another activity for two years while you commit to this, so be it. We think this process gets at the heart of what it means for us to be Christ's people, and we are really excited about it.

So, are you in?

Details

Metamorphosis is, at minimum, **a two year intensive movement**. It is targeted specifically for students in Middle School (beginning at Grade 6) to provide meaningful development in preparation for Affirmation of Baptism. It also seeks to provide opportunities on Wednesday evenings for their families, along with people of all ages, to learn, explore, and develop in our shared faith life together.

Metamorphosis runs the entirety of the program year (September through May) on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m., engaging multiple learning styles in multiple venues. Midweek, diverse voices will be heard and shared at our evening intergenerational (and family!) gathering, while Sunday mornings will provide space for Confirmands to learn in a peer-focused setting. Each year we will make our way through a threefold pattern corresponding with the seasons of Fall, Winter, and Spring: Proclaim Story, Proclaim Justice, and Proclaim Community, respectively.

Commitments

Confirmands

Confirmands moving towards Affirmation of Baptism are expected to engage deeply and regularly in the community experiences that are offered as a part of this movement. This means:

- participation on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings for at least two years
- serving others and working for justice, as asked of you by the leadership team
- reflecting on sermons you've heard, both with sermon notes and essays
- developing leadership roles in worship

Families

Families (especially immediate family, most notably parents), are expected to engage this process fully with their Confirmand. This means:

- being present together on Wednesday evenings
- contributing to our community conversations
- carving out time to reflect together at home
- committing to worshipping together as a family each week
- prioritizing this process and saying "no" to other things so that there is time to soak in the grace and love of God together

Community

Confirmands, if you were brought to baptism at Mount Olive, we as a community promised you that we would support you (and your families!), and pray for you in your new life in Christ. We continue to do that now. We as a community commit to being present with you to form meaningful relationships that embody our understanding of faith as the gift of God amidst community.

Specifics

If you intend to move towards affirming your baptism, you commit to doing the following:

Commitments	Details
Attendance	Due to the relational implications of this program, you have to be regularly present to form the connections that allow for deeper development and growth to occur. 80% or higher active attendance is required for Wednesday Metamorphosis, Sunday Metamorphosis, and weekly worship services throughout the program year (including seasonal midweek worship in Advent and Lent, as well as all of the Holy Week services).
Worship Leadership	Each season (Fall, Winter, Spring), Confirmands commit to engage in two or more forms of worship leadership. Options include serving as Acolyte, Lector, Assisting Minister, Communion Server, or Usher. We train you for these roles and will serve alongside you as a team.
Sermon / Worship Notes	Each month throughout the program year , Confirmands must submit two or more Sermon/Worship Notes reflection sheets (at the usher's table) after participating fully in a worship service.
Sermon Reflection Essays	Each season (Fall, Winter, Spring), Confirmands are expected to submit at least one in-depth full-page sermon reflection essay focusing on any single Mount Olive sermon of your choice that was preached during that season.
Service Hours	Seven hours per year among the people of Mount Olive, and seven hours per year among the greater community, for two or more years.
Service Reflection Essay	At the end of each program year, Confirmands are expected to submit a service reflection essay describing their development and learning obtained through their acts of service and their work towards justice in the world over the course of the year. Essays are subject to approval by the leadership team.
Faith Statement	Critical and regular participation in the faith statement mentorship and creation process, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a family meeting with the leadership team in the summer prior to affirming your baptism to begin writing your statement • a family meeting with a Church Council member in the summer prior to affirming your baptism to refine your statement • a faith statement presentation to the Full Church Council on the second Tuesday of September of your Confirmation year (please mark this on your calendar now!)
Affirmation of Baptism rite	If the above requirements are fulfilled, the next step is affirming your baptism, if you so choose (see "footnote" section, below). The Affirmation of Baptism rite is celebrated by the community annually on Reformation Sunday (the last Sunday in October each fall). Please mark this on your calendar now!

Footnote

It's ok if you decide **not** to affirm your baptism. It's ok if you decide that Metamorphosis is not for you. Affirming your baptism is a huge step, and should only be undertaken if you are serious about responding to the commitments that God (through the community) is asking of you.

Metamorphosis Timeline

PURPLE YEAR	Fall: Proclaim Story	Winter: Proclaim Justice	Spring: Proclaim Community
Sundays (Youth)	Hebrew Bible	Hebrew Bible and Lutheran History & Catechism	Lutheran History & Catechism
Wednesdays (All)	Hebrew Scriptures	Jesus & The Gospels	Sacraments & The Lord's Prayer

WHITE YEAR	Fall: Proclaim Story	Winter: Proclaim Justice	Spring: Proclaim Community
Sundays (Youth)	New Testament	New Testament and Lutheran Living	Lutheran Living
Wednesdays (All)	The Life of Jesus & The Gospel Stories	The 10 Commandments & Life Values / Ethics	Our Communal Worship Movement

Wednesdays

Fall

September 27	Session 1
October 4	Session 2
October 11	Session 3
October 18	MEA, no gathering
October 25	Session 4
November 1	Session 5
November 8	Session 6
November 15	Session 7*
November 22	Thanksgiving Eve Worship
December 6	Evening Prayer
December 13	Evening Prayer
December 20	Evening Prayer

Winter

January 3	Session 8
January 10	Session 9
January 17	Session 10
January 24	Session 11
January 31	Session 12
February 7	Session 13*
February 14	Ash Wednesday Worship
February 21	Evening Prayer
March 7	Evening Prayer
March 14	Evening Prayer
March 21	Evening Prayer
March 29	Maundy Thursday Worship
March 30	Good Friday Worship
March 31	Easter Vigil Worship

Spring

April 4	No gathering
April 11	Session 14
April 18	Session 15
April 25	Session 16
May 2	Session 17
May 9	Session 18
May 16	Session 19*†

Key:

*Sermon Reflection Essay Due

†Service Reflection Essay Due

Sundays

Fall

September 10	God's Work Our Hands Day
September 17	Rally Sunday
September 24	Lesson 1 - Canon
October 1	Lesson 2 - The Hebrew Bible
October 8	Service Sunday
October 15	Lesson 3 - Genesis
October 22	Lesson 4 - Exodus
October 29	Lesson 5 - The Law
November 5	Lesson 6 - Judges
November 12	Service Sunday
November 19	Lesson 7 - Ruth
November 26	No Class - Thanksgiving Day Weekend
December 3	Lesson 8 - Kings
December 10	Lesson 9 - Babylonian Captivity
December 17	No Class - Christmas Program
December 24	No Class - Christmas Break
December 31	No Class - New Year's Eve

Winter

January 7	Lesson 10 - Prophets
January 14	Service Sunday
January 21	Lesson 11 - Psalms
January 28	Lesson 13 - The Rise of Rome
February 4	Lesson 1 - Martin Luther
February 11	Service Sunday
February 18	Lesson 2 - The Reformation
February 25	Lesson 3 - The Reformers
March 4	Lesson 4 - Lutheran Confessions
March 11	Lesson 5 - Luther's Small Catechism
March 18	Lesson 6 - The Ten Commandments
March 25	Lesson 7 - The Lord's Prayer and Daily Prayer

Spring

April 1	No Class - Easter Sunday
April 8	Service Sunday
April 15	Lesson 8 - Apostle's Creed, Article 1
April 22	Lesson 9 - Apostle's Creed, Article 2
April 29	Lesson 10 - Apostle's Creed, Article 3
May 6	Lesson 11 - Holy Baptism
May 13	Lesson 12 - Holy Communion
May 20	Lesson 13 - Confession and Forgiveness