

My Life and Faith Project

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, MN 2011-2012

This two-part 9th grade project gives you an opportunity to

- reflect on and describe your life and faith;
- identify how God connects with you and how you grow in faith; and
- express your hopes and plans for living out your faith.

Your faith involves your head, heart, and whole life. Your faith is personal, but we hope it is never private, and so you will share this project with your small group, parents, and SOTV staff. Respond to the questions in each section using one of the options described.

PART I due Wednesday, February 15, 2012

On your confirmation day you will be invited to declare your faith, saying: *"I believe in God the Father...Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...the Holy Spirit..."*

Respond to these questions using your own words to describe your faith. Length: 2 pages

- How would you answer someone who asks, "So, who is God, anyway?"
- Tell about the people and experiences in your life that have helped you understand who God is.
- Describe a story from Jesus' life (miracle, parable/teaching, or event). Why is this story important to you?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus died on the cross and rose again?
- Tell a story or give a description of what it means for you to be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- Tell a story about the Holy Spirit at work in your life.
- What questions do you have about faith or God?

PART II due Wednesday, May 2nd, 2012

On your confirmation day you will be invited to say *"YES, I will continue living in the Christian faith."*

Respond to this set of questions to describe your specific intentions, hopes, and dreams of living out your Christian faith.

Option 1: Write a 2-page paper.

Option 2: Use the medium of your choice (photos, drawings, music, video, etc).

"I will continue as an active member of God's family by gathering with Christians to worship"

- What's your favorite part of belonging to a church?
- If you could change one thing about Shepherd of the Valley, what would it be?
- What do you like best about worship? What difference does it make whether you worship regularly or not?
- How and when do you pray? Describe what it is like for you to pray.
- How do you plan to stay connected to your community of faith after confirmation?

"I will continue to hear God's Word and share in the Lord's Supper"

- Jesus is God's Living Word. What message do you hear through Jesus Christ?
- Write out a Bible verse to be read for you at your Confirmation service. Why is this verse important to you?
- What role does the Bible play in the life of a Christian?
- What does sharing in the Lord's Supper (taking communion) mean to you?
- How does God connect best with you? What faith practices will be important for you in the future?

"I will continue to share God's love for all people through my words and actions"

- Describe how you have experienced God's goodness and love.
- God has given you many interests and talents. What are your 5 favorite?
- Pick 1-2 of your interests/talents. How could God work through those gifts to show love and care to others?
- What will your life look like in the future if you actively live as a follower of Jesus?