

What is H2H Confirmation Ministry?

As you may already know, H2H has been in Messiah for several years now. And has been a good resource for confirmation families, as the program is designed for confirmation youth and their parents/guardians to use together.

H2H stands for **Head to the Heart**. H2H heads to the heart of bible verses and real life issues. It delves into the Word of God through many media sources and appeals to the way that youth reflect on the world around them. Confirmation helps to give youth a tool to navigate their complex world, a way to see God around them, and is only a valuable part of their faith formation. Young people in H2H develop friendships within the group and gain a sense of belonging and service by working together for others, discussing issues, praying for each other, and discovering who they are as a child of God.

Sounds good right? But what is different about H2H from traditional confirmation programs, and how did it start?

The creators of **Faithink** initially asked how can the church best help families wade through the mine field of adolescence and give them a strong faith foundation? How can the church help families see church as a warm, welcoming place into which they feel comfortable coming? They asked if the church was doing a good job of meeting youth where they are. The creators of Faithink thought not -

So, after fifteen years of field research and a desire to redesign the adolescent confirmation process they came up with Faithinkubators.

“We knew that adolescence was perhaps the worst moment to attempt to dump doctrine into a child’s head, and that lecture was perhaps the least effective method of dumping it. We also knew that ending the academic “sit still while I instill” confirmation classroom model led by the traditional seminary-trained “sage on the stage” wouldn’t die easily. It had too much history. What we didn’t realize when we targeted adolescent confirmation – and Homer Simpson would give us a big “doh” for not seeing it – was the fact that faith incubation was a process. It cannot, and normally will not, magically happen in the two or three years of a hormonally challenged teenager’s life.”

– *Pastor Rich Melheim (Creator of Faithinkubators)*

Parents Are the Key

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Never forget these commands that I am giving you today. **Teach them to your children.** Repeat them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working.” – Deuteronomy 6:1-8*

“The most significant religious influences in a teen’s life are Mom and Dad. They are two to three times more influential than any church program. The role of the church is to be a life-long partner, not a drop off centre or replacement for a family’s responsibilities. The role of the church is to be a place that will help families know the story of Christ and what it means to be a Christian so that family members can tell the story and be the story in the context of their own homes... When a church-intentionally or not- assumes a family’s responsibilities in the arena of spiritually nurturing children, it fosters an unhealthy dependence upon the church to relieve the family of its biblical responsibility. “

- George Barna ‘Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions’

Seeing faith walked out at home hits the heart more than one or two hours at church. This way of doing confirmation gives families faith practices they can use at home to nurture their youths’ faith and strengthen the family, as well as giving parents opportunities to be part of the scene at H2H events. “When children hit 13 in our society, the raw time spent in communication between kids and parents diminishes significantly. We want to grow faith talk and family communication into something normal and natural, that it kicks into high gear during adolescence rather than bottoming out.” - Pastor Rich Melheim, Faithinkubators

Parents, the church and the pastor all have a role to play in faith formation but so do friends. Over the three years of our Confirmation program, youth will make Christian friends that they will have the rest of their lives. Confirmation is a life-long gift. Not just for the friendships they make, but also for the valuable teachings and insights, for the way that they will be able to reflect upon themselves and their faith.

Head to the Heart Lesson List

Living Lutheran-Year C:

Luther and the Small Catechism

Lutheran Life

Living Faith-Year B:

The Life of Jesus

The Ten Commandments

The Lord’s Prayer

Living Scripture-Year A:

The Old Testament

The New Testament

Each Lesson Topic has approximately ten lessons included. Usually, the H2H year covers two of these topics We are starting Year C. With the Apostle's Creed lesson occurring in separate times for those who will be confirmed that year.

Because of Covid-19 last year's Confirmation Service was postponed to May 2021 and they will join this year's class. In April, we will look to additional time together to cover the Apostle's Creed and to prepare the confirmands and their families for this wonderful day in their journey of faith!