

# **Discipleship Training**

Faith Formation at  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Train yourself in godliness,  
for, while physical training is of some value,  
godliness is valuable in every way,  
holding promise for both the present life  
and the life to come.  
—1 Timothy 4:7-8

## **St. Luke's Lutheran Church**

Telling people of Jesus Christ

419-227-1961

209 W. North Street, Lima, Ohio 45801

[www.StLukesLima.org](http://www.StLukesLima.org)

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## **What Is Discipleship Training?**

Welcome to Discipleship Training (DT). The purpose of this program is to provide instruction in the basics of Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. We hold that we are made disciples at the moment of our baptism, and that the life of a Christian is one of practicing discipleship, of living out the faith we confess.

We all have muscles in our bodies from the moment of birth, but it is through training these muscles that we grow in strength and ability to perform varying tasks required of us in the course of life. Similarly, disciples grow in faith through spiritual training. DT is designed to give opportunities for the participants to think critically about their faith and to exercise their faith in different ways.

DT is two full years in length. During those two years we study what has been recognized as the “basics” of Christian teaching over the past 2,000 years: the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostle’s Creed, the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion—all of which are rooted in God’s Word.

Following their two years of training, participants in DT are invited to make public confession of their faith by way of the “Affirmation of Baptism” (a.k.a., Confirmation”). Obviously, our hope is that the learning of faith continues long past the rite of Confirmation. Hopefully, what is learned in DT will form and strengthen the faith of the program participants as they continue on their journey of discipleship.

## **Parental Involvement**

You, the parents, are the most important teachers of faith to your children. You are the ones who will teach your child what it means to believe in Jesus. Your child will learn first from you what it means to be a Christian. There is no substitute for the witness to Christ and Christian discipleship that parents live in the home 24/7, 365.

When you brought your child for baptism you promised to:

“faithfully bring him/her to the services of God’s house, and teach him/her the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he/she grows in years, you should place in his/her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his/her instruction in the Christian faith...”

By no means are you alone in this! Your brothers and sisters in Christ have already been lifting you up in prayer; have already been teaching your children during the Sunday morning Christian education hour.

Now, as your child has been maturing in years and in faith, she or he is preparing to enter into an intensive time of Christian education and faith formation. Now, as before, the congregation is here to help you pass on the faith to your children. (This is what we promised to do when your child was baptized.)

What happens at DT is intended to be a supplement to what happens in your home. The pastor is your partner—not your replacement—in this process of faith formation. You are the primary teacher of the faith for your children; the pastor is your helper. It is the pastor’s primary role to help you fulfill and be faithful to your promise.

It is expected that throughout your child’s experience in DT you will engage him or her in conversation regarding the training he or she is receiving. The pastor is a resource to whom you may come for assistance in navigating through these conversations.

## **General Expectations**

### **Goals for Growth in Discipleship:**

Each participant will, by the end of two years, be able to:

- recite the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, and the Ten Commandments from memory
- locate passages of scripture when given a chapter and verse citation (e.g., John 3:16)
- lead a small group in prayer
- communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ clearly and concisely

### **Participation in Worship**

It is a given that each participant will attend worship at St. Luke's regularly.

### **Participation in Discipleship Training Exercises**

It is a given that each participant will attend Discipleship Training Exercises regularly.

### **Training at Home**

In addition to our face-to-face DT Exercises, we might occasionally have a training session online in the form of a Google Hangout. As with the DT Exercises, it is a given that each participant will join in on these training sessions.

Also, there will often be "Workouts" to be done between DT Exercises (e.g., brief written reflections on a topic we covered in a DT Exercise or on a passage of scripture, keeping a prayer journal for a season, interviewing another disciple about some aspect of his or her life and faith, etc.). Don't worry! These won't be anything too intense. (I don't want anybody pulling anything!)

### **Group Workouts**

On occasion, we will gather together and collectively engage in acts of service to our neighbors.

## **What Is Needed for Discipleship Training?**

- *Lutheran Study Bible* \*
- *Luther's Small Catechism* \*
- Pen or Pencil
- Access to a computer and the internet

(\* participants will receive these at the beginning of sixth grade or at the beginning of their first year in DT)

## **Tests**

There will be no tests. Faith is tested by the way we live, not by what we write on paper.

## **Rite of Confirmation**

Confirmation for second-year participants will be Sunday, October 28, 2018 (Reformation Sunday). Each male participant is asked to wear khaki slacks, a white button-up shirt with a necktie of his choosing, and a navy-blue blazer. Each female participant is asked to wear a white dress of her choosing.

## **Updates to the Discipleship Training Schedule**

The DT Schedule is maintained as a Google Calendar which will be made available to participants, and is subject to change.

**Questions, Concerns, Thoughts?**

Please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Mike with any questions or concerns regarding the catechetical program.

[pastormike@stlukeslima.org](mailto:pastormike@stlukeslima.org)

419-227-1961 (Church Phone)

419-571-9078 (Cell Phone)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,  
and in the present age to live lives  
that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
while we wait for the blessed hope  
and the manifestation of the glory  
of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
—Titus 2:11-13

All scripture is inspired by God  
and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction,  
and for training in righteousness,  
so that everyone who belongs to God  
may be proficient, equipped for every good work.  
—2 Timothy 3:16-17