

St. Paul's Lutheran



Confirmation

Handbook

2018-2019

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is Affirmation of Baptism

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

To live with them among God's faithful people

To bring them to the Word of God and the Holy Supper,

To teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments

To place in their hands the Holy Scriptures

And nurture them in faith and prayer

So that your children

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.

Family members:

When a child is baptized, parents, baptismal sponsors, and the congregation all promise to help that child grow in faith. The confirmation process is part of that. It is a time for our youth to enter into deeper study of Scripture, the Lutheran Christian tradition, and Christian Life. It is meant to be a time of deepening discipleship and experiencing patterns of Christian life. You are, however, your children's best teachers and models of the faith. So talk with them, pray with them, worship with them, ask them questions, and share with them questions that you have. You can't do it wrong.

Students:

You may be excited to begin confirmation. You may feel like you are forced into it. You might feel something completely different. All of this is okay. Confirmation class is a place for you to come as you are. Bring all the questions you have. Challenge things you are learning that don't make sense. At the end of the two years, most students choose to make their affirmation of baptism—that is to say, "Yes. My parents were on to something, and I am, indeed, a Christian. I want to continue to live a life of Christian faith." Our goal is to help you know and experience enough to make this statement.

Overview of the Program

Program Requirements for years 1-2

- Confirmation classes (includes learning, service, fellowship)
- Sunday School
- 20 Sermon Notes
- Service Projects
 - 8th grade – 5
 - 7th grade – 2
- Acolyting
- Mentor Experience

Classes

These will take place on Wednesday evenings. There will be some assignments, including memory work. Please complete these as well. See the attached schedule for specific dates and times. Content covered in these classes is as follows.

Year A:

- Overview of the Old Testament
- The Ten Commandments
- The Apostles' Creed

Year B:

- **Overview of the New Testament**
- **The Lord's Prayer**
- **Sacraments and Worship**
- **Spiritual Practices**
- **What does it mean to be a Lutheran Christian?**

Memory Work for 2018-19

There is a reason that we call memorization "learning by heart." When we have something memorized, it becomes part of us. To this end, there are a few memory requirements:

- The books of the New Testament in order
- The Lord's Prayer
- 8 Bible Verses (*we will try and learn 6 during class and then you learn 2 of your own choosing.*)

Sunday School

Confirmation instruction is an extension of Sunday School, not a replacement. Sunday School will continue for you during these next two years.

Acolyting

It is a tradition at St. Paul's that confirmation students serve as acolytes on Sunday morning during their participation in the confirmation program. An acolyte schedule is included in this packet. Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve on the date assigned.

Mentor Experience

Wednesday evening classes will not meet during the season of Lent (March 6 - April 21). Instead, students will meet with mentors to discuss topics of faith and life. Each student will ask an adult in the congregation to be a mentor. The mentor will attend an orientation on *TBD* and then work with the student to set their own meeting schedule to complete conversations and a service project. The mentor and student will then each complete a short learning form about their experience. While you are welcome to meet with your mentor any time you would like, we do expect you to attend Wednesday evening worship throughout Lent, which we recommend as a convenient meeting time. We can make sure the building is open early or stay open late if that is your desire.

Sermon Notes

Listening to sermons takes practice. Sermon notes are meant to help you get this practice. A packet of 20 is attached to this handbook for 7th graders, though extras will be available in the narthex. You are welcome to do them when attending a different congregation as well, we just ask that you include a bulletin from that service attended to go along with your notes. Please place them in the labeled mailbox after the worship service.

*** Regular worship is an important part of the Christian life. While we will not take attendance, it is assumed that you and your families worship regularly. The goal is 70% attendance at worship and Sunday School.*

Service Projects

Serving others is an important mark of discipleship. So along with making worship a weekly habit we are asking that you practice serving others. You are welcome to count projects that you do for school, scouts, FFA, etc. Feel free to invite classmates, other friends, or family members to join you in your serving. Here are some examples of things you might do (*please do not limit yourself to this list as it's intended to be just a start to the possible ways you might serve*): Make communion bread, help a grandparent with yardwork, volunteer to babysit for a family so Mom & Dad can have a night out, make friendship bracelets for everybody in your grade at school and leave them anonymously in their locker, volunteer to wash the ambulance, serve treats at a blood drive, or anything else you can dream of.

Affirmation of Baptism

Faith Statement

After two years of confirmation classes, students will be asked to write a short faith statement and share it with the congregation. Pastor will work with students in the weeks before Confirmation Sunday (May 26) to select a meaningful Bible verse and write a short statement about what makes this verse meaningful to them.

Additionally, each student will be asked to select one way that they will continue to serve within the life of the congregation following their Confirmation. After the structure of the confirmation program, it can be difficult to find one's place afterward. This is a way for students to think about how they will live as adult members of the congregation.

Interview with Pastor

Upon completion of their Faith Statement students will be asked to sit down for an informal interview with Pastor. It is a time for Pastor to get to know the student a little better, to clarify any misconceptions in the paper, and to talk some about how the student might live into the Marks of Discipleship.

Confirmation Service

Students who have completed the two year program are encouraged to participate in this service, where they publicly affirm their faith. At St. Paul's the Confirmation Service takes place on the Sunday following Mother's Day. This is the 4th Sunday in May.

2019: May 26

2020: October 24

Confirmation Expectations Checklist

Below please mark the date you completed something. For service projects, please also note what you did in the box below the date you did it.

- Sermon Notes - 20
- Acolyte 5 Times
- Service Projects
 - 8th Grade 5
 - 7th Grade 2
- Memorize Books of the Bible
- Memorize 8 Bible Verses (*plan to learn 6 in class*)

Name					
Sermon Notes					
Acolyte					
Service Project					

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Confirmation Schedule 2018-19

DATE	TOPIC
September 12	Family Meeting
September 19	Intro Bible & New Testament
September 26	Jesus' Birth
October 3	Jesus' Baptism & Temptation
October 10	Holy Baptism*
October 17	Jesus' Followers
October 24	Hope & Healing
October 31	What is the Reformation*
November 7	Miracles
November 14	Kingdom Ways
November 21	<i>No Class</i>
November 28	Prayer/Lord's Prayer*
December 5	Prayer/Lord's Prayer 2*
December 12	Prayer/Lord's Prayer 3*
December 19	Prayer/Lord's Prayer 4 & Christmas Celebration*
December 26/January 2	<i>No Class</i>
January 9	Parables
January 16	Kingdom Treasures
January 23	Jesus Encounters
January 30	Rising Tension
February 6	<i>Night Off, No Class</i>
February 13	Holy Communion*

February 20	Death-to-Life
February 27	The Church
March 6	Ash Wednesday <i>Meet with mentors</i>
March 13	<i>Meet with mentors</i>
March 20	<i>Meet with mentors</i>
March 27	<i>Meet with mentors</i>
April 3	<i>Meet with mentors</i>
April 10	<i>Meet with mentors</i>
April 14-21	<i>Holy Week</i>
April 24	Signs & Wonders
May 1	Persecution & Growth
May 8	Peter [^]
May 15	Paul
May 22	New Creation
May 26	8th Grade Confirmed

* = Catechism Lesson

[^] = Faith Paper due for 8th Graders

During Lent you are not required to meet with your mentor on the Wednesday noted, but you are expected to attend worship on Wednesday evenings.

How long have you attended St. Paul's? _____

If you have attended another church, what is the name of the church and where is it located?

Current Grade in School _____ School you attend _____

Favorite/Best School Subject _____

Least Favorite/Most Challenging Subject _____

List Activities You participate in at school, jobs you have outside of school, and/or responsibilities you have at home:

Hobbies _____

Favorite Movie _____ Favorite Color _____

Favorite Music Group/Singer _____

Favorite Animal _____ Name of Best Friend _____

What is one thing we should know about you? _____

Service Project Feedback

Name	Date Completed
What did you do?	
Who did you serve?	
Why did you choose this act of service?	
What did you accomplish? What did you learn?	
What did you find most meaningful?	
Adult Signature <i>(verifying student participation)</i>	