

Confirmation Overview

Purpose: The goal of the confirmation process is to grow Christians—to help young people grow in grace and in relationship with Jesus Christ. It will also emphasize building relationships with other Christians, providing young people with tools for Christian living, and helping them begin to articulate their faith.

Schedule: Classes for sixth, seventh and eighth graders meet from late-September through mid-May on Sunday mornings from 9:15 A.M. until 10:15 A.M. Ninth graders meet at the same hour during September and October to prepare for the Affirmation of Baptism/Rite of Confirmation on Reformation Sunday.

Requirements: There are 33 classroom days throughout the year. Students are required to attend a minimum of 25 classroom lessons. In addition to the classroom lessons and GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) Sundays, students should participate in at least two service events (such as GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY, our Annual St. Paul Work Day, RAKE (Random Acts of Kindness), Famine, and other youth service projects). One week of Confirmation Camp in the summer following either their sixth, seventh, or eighth grade year is required (either June 9 or June 16, 2019). Other activities will be offered throughout the year as a way for students to gain meaningful experience in congregational and community life. Be sure to let the office know when participating in activities.

Curriculum

1st Year Confirmation: *Luther’s Small Catechism*

This class highlights the importance of faith. In this class youth are empowered to look at faith from a variety of angles and ask questions about The Ten Commandments, The Apostles’ Creed, The Lord’s Prayer, baptism, and Holy Communion. All of this helps students know and understand our loving God and how God invites them to respond to the message of love and grace we know as Christians. **Students should bring the Bibles they received from the congregation in third grade (a Bible will be provided for those without one).**

2nd Year Confirmation: *Exploration of Discipleship*

This class explores how we live our faith, according to what Christ taught his disciples. It starts with units on basic parts of a Christian walk such as prayer; stewardship of time, money and talents; Bible study; ministries within our congregation and ministries for the wider world. Do your best to arrive on time as some days we will have treats, guest speakers, and movies that you won’t want to miss. **Students should bring their Bibles (a Bible will be provided for those without one).**

3rd Year Confirmation: *The Story of God and God’s People*

This class is a comprehensive survey of the entire Bible. Through study of the Old Testament, students discover that God is the Source of everything and has enacted a covenant (promise) with Abraham and with us. During study of the New Testament students take an in-depth look at the life and ministry of Jesus, especially seeing how he is the fulfillment of God’s covenant (promise). This curriculum uses multiple delivery methods (stories, DVDs, and videos) to stimulate introspective discussion on the Bible story to help students discover how the Bible speaks to their lives. **Students should**

bring a folder to store their work. Bibles are in the classroom for days when they are needed.

4th Year Confirmation: *Faith Project, with Pastor Paul Holte*

This class meets during the two months just before students are confirmed on Reformation Sunday at the end of October. It is intensive preparation for the Affirmation of Baptism/Rite of Confirmation at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on October 28, 2018. We will also review the previous years' studies, and pass a comprehensive test on the basics of the Christian faith. Each person will create their own unique Faith Project, which will be presented at the Confirmation Banquet held here at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 27. Families, mentors, baptismal sponsors, and friends of the confirmands are invited to attend the banquet. Students should bring to every class their Bibles, their copy of Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*, and a spiral notebook. **Students must have satisfactorily met the requirements in order to be confirmed.**

Worship

It is difficult to overestimate just how important attendance at worship with their family is for young people in the confirmation process. Many of the classroom lessons build on what is heard in worship that day, as well as what happens in worship in a more general sense. In order to ensure this attendance, and their attentiveness, seventh and eighth grade students are asked to complete a minimum of 10 Sermon Notes each year for a total of 20 Sermon Notes overall. All students also are expected to take a role in worship. They may choose to be an usher, acolyte, lector, communion assistant, Altar Guild helper, or participate in other worship experiences.

Confirmation Camp

One week of Confirmation Camp in the summer following either their sixth, seventh or eighth grade year is required. It usually takes place in mid-June at the Pine Lake Bible Camp near Waupaca, a part of Crossways Camping Ministry. Registration is held in early March, when a deposit of \$120 will be required; the congregation pays the rest of the camping fee. If the deposit is a financial hardship, families are encouraged to apply for help. See Pastor Holte for further details.

Retreat Day

Each year a special Sunday is set aside for an event featuring a movie, pizza and fellowship. Students should plan to attend class, worship at the second service, have the provided lunch, and discuss the film until about 3:00 P.M. In alternate years, the film shown will be about either Jesus or Martin Luther. Students are required to attend both films, preferably one in seventh grade and one in eighth grade. The movie, scheduled for Sunday, April 7, 2019, will be on the life of Jesus.

Absences and Accountability

Class attendance is required. When being absent is unavoidable, make-up work will be assigned at the discretion of the teacher. Parents may help their children with these assignments, or a separate meeting time with the teacher may be requested. Those involved in worship leadership are asked to sign in on the day of their service, using the notebooks on the counter in the narthex. Be sure to record name, date and service performed, then ask the adult leader to initial this record. Sign-in sheets also are available for Service Events and other activities. Sermon Notes should be returned to the plastic box on the counter in the narthex, where extra forms also are available. All of this

information will be compiled, and reports keeping track of students' progress will be mailed to the parents throughout the year.

Suggested Donation

We are asking for a donation of \$20 per student each year to cover the cost of materials and supplies. Again, scholarship money is available to help those for whom this is a financial hardship.

Confirmation Process Required Elements

This is a summary of minimum requirements.
Please read the Confirmation Overview handout for complete details.

Requirement	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
Classroom Lessons	25 (of 33)	25 (of 33)	25 (of 33)	7
Worship Role	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sermon Notes	0	10	10	0
Confirmation Camp	One week of	camp following	either 6th, 7th or	8th grade.
Service Events	2	2	2	0
Retreat Day	0	1	1	0
Faith Project	0	0	0	1

Confirmation Schedule 2018-2019

Orientation	Wednesday, September 5	6:30 p.m.
Classes begin	Sunday, September 9	9:15–10:15 A.M.
Confirmation Banquet	Saturday, October 27	6:00 P.M.
Affirmation of Baptism/Rite of Confirmation	Sunday, October 28	10:30 A.M.
Holidays (no classes held)	December 23 & 30	Christmas Season
Retreat Day, Jesus Film	Sunday, April 7, 2019	11:45 A.M.–3:00 P.M.
Holiday (no classes held)	Sunday, April 21	Easter Sunday
Service Event at St. Paul	Saturday, May 4	8:30–11:30 A.M.
Last Day of Class	Sunday, May 12	9:15 – 10:15 A.M.
Confirmation Camp (one week)	TBD (Most likely week of June 9 or June 16)	