

**CONFIRMATION
MINISTRY
2017-2018**



**CONFIRMATION
IS
A PASTORAL AND EDUCATIONAL
MINISTRY
OF
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WHICH HELPS THE BAPTIZED CHILD
THROUGH WORD AND SACRAMENT
TO IDENTIFY MORE DEEPLY
WITH THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
AND PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN ITS
MISSION.**

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January	3	No Class, (Christmas Break)
	10	Class
	17	Class
	24	Class
	31	Class
February	7	Class
	14	No Class, Mandatory Ash Wednesday worship
	21	No Class, Mandatory Lenten Worship & Meet with mentor
	28	No Class, Mandatory Lenten Worship & Meet with mentor
March	7	No Class Mandatory Lenten Worship & Meet with mentor
	14	No Class, Mandatory Lenten Worship & Meet with mentor
	21	No Class, Mandatory Lenten Worship & Meet with mentor
	28	No Class, (Holy Week)
		<i>(Easter Sunday April 1st)</i>
April	4	Class
	11	Class
	18	Class
	25	Class, (last one of the year)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class Schedule
2017-2018 Program year
2:45-3:45 p.m. Class Time

September	6	*6:00 pm--6th grade Orientation Meeting with Acolyte & Communion training—<u>Parent or Guardian must be present</u>
	13	Class
	20	Class
	27	Class
October	4	Class (Confirmation Pictures)
	11	Class
	18	No Class (MEA Week)
	25	Class
November	1	Class
	8	Class
	15	Class
	22	No Class (Thanksgiving)
	29	Class
		<i>(Dec. 3, first Sunday in Lent)</i>
December	6	No Class, Mandatory Advent Worship, meet with mentor
	13	No Class, Mandatory Advent Worship, meet with mentor
	20	No Class, Mandatory Worship, meet with mentor
	27	No Class (Christmas Break)

Why Confirmation?

Confirmation is the kind of tradition that too many students go through just because their parents send them, without ever asking why we do it or what it means. We want you to see for yourself what confirmation means and how important it is to the mission of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

In Protestant churches, confirmation is seen as “a mature statement of faith by an already baptized person.” The education program is intended to both help the student understand our Christian faith as revealed in the Bible and be thoroughly familiar with Luther's *Small Catechism* as the foundation of living one's life as a Lutheran Christian. The service of the *Rite of Affirmation of Baptism* is intended to help the student ‘confirm’ their faith in Jesus Christ publicly before the congregation.

The chief reason you go to confirmation is to obey Jesus. His last words to His disciples before He ascended into Heaven were, “Go ... make disciples of all nations, baptizing ... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 29.19-20). You have been **baptized**. Now it's time to be **taught**. You will learn what it means to be a **disciple** of Jesus – one who obeys all that He commanded us. Confirmation prepares you to be a faithful follower of Jesus and to appreciate what it means to belong to His Church.

Finally, you go to confirmation because your parents promised at your baptism that they would “provide for your instruction in the Christian faith.” You were baptized on the basis of your parent's faith as you could not speak for yourself but now you can. Confirmation prepares you to ‘own’ the faith for yourself as you will stand alone before Jesus for how you have lived your life. We prepare you for that moment in our program.

Overview of Our Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation does not happen only on the day you stand before the congregation and confirm your faith. It doesn't start in sixth grade, when you begin classes. Confirmation starts at baptism. Here is how Our Savior's Lutheran Church views the process of confirmation.

Baptism – By grace, God saves you, makes you a member of Christ's body and receives you into His Kingdom.

Home and Sunday School – Your parents and others begin to teach you the Good news that you are God's child.

Grade Five (for most children) – You begin to receive Holy Communion after a four-week preparation class.

Grade Six – You begin your confirmation instruction by studying the Old Testament to understand how God revealed himself in the Old Testament.

Grade Seven – You continue confirmation instruction by studying the New Testament as the primary source for understanding Christian life.

Grade Eight – You finish your confirmation instruction by learning more about our Lutheran heritage, *the Bible*, and the *Small Catechism*. Confirmation Retreat in summer after 8th grade.

Confirmation of Faith – In a public service before the congregation, you are confirmed in your faith in a worship service with family and friends present.

The Rest of Your Life – Confirmation is not an **end** but a **beginning** in your Christian walk. We equip you to begin living the Christian life where YOU are responsible for continuing to nurture your Christian faith. You have a serious responsibility to continue as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ and a faithful member of His body. Take advantage of the church's opportunities with NINJA on Wednesday evenings and Sunday morning Cross-trainers' classes.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 6th Grade Wednesday Confirmation Class Schedule 2017-2018 Program year

**We meet the second Wednesday of the month from 2:45-5:00 p.m.
(unless otherwise noted)**

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 13

January 10

February 7

March 14

April 11

May 9

In addition to the class instruction, it is mandatory that students attend Advent and Lenten Worship and meet with their mentor.

Advent Worship

December 6

December 13

December 20

Lent Worship

February 14

February 21

February 28

March 7

March 14

March 21

March 28

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B. Discipline Policy

The objective of Christian education is to nurture your faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. Part of that nurture is learning to model the love and respect for others that Jesus showed to all people.

Students, parents, and teachers alike are expected to demonstrate such love and respect in their actions and attitudes.

If that love and respect is not shown by even one student in a class, it becomes very difficult for any learning to take place. The disruptive student effectively cheats the entire group of a class period.

Therefore, we have established the following guidelines for dealing with disruptive students during confirmation classes.

SPECIAL NOTE: Our Savior's has a 'ZERO TOLERANCE' policy regarding bullying, harassment or abuse of any kind!

STEP ONE: The student will be warned verbally to stop the disruptive behavior.

STEP TWO: If the problem continues, the student will be removed from the class at the teacher's discretion. A parent/guardian will be called to pick up the student and contacted later by the teacher to discuss the situation.

STEP THREE: Should the problem continue, the student will not be allowed to return to the class until the student, parent/guardian and/or pastor devise a plan to prevent disruptive behavior in the future.

STEP FOUR: If problems continue in other classes, an alternative means of Christian education will be discussed with the parent/guardian.

General Goals and Criteria

The goals of our confirmation ministry are ...

1. to reinforce a basic understanding of Christianity, especially by studying the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism...
2. to strengthen the faith which God has been nurturing in you since you were baptized; and
3. to help prepare you to be an adult member of the Christian Church, the Body of Christ.

In order to do that, we have established the following criteria for completing your confirmation.

1. The most important part of confirmation, and of the entire Christian life, is regular, willing, joyful and reverent worship. Affirming your faith means a sincere commitment to life-long weekly worship. We hope confirmation will help you see worship as a great privilege, not to be missed.

In confirmation, it is also important that you ...

- a. take responsibility for your own learning, since no one else can do that for you;
- b. cooperate with others to make confirmation a positive experience for everyone;
- c. attend Sunday school weekly during the school year;
- d. bring required materials to every class;
- e. do any and all assigned work and exams as scheduled and on time.

You are responsible for fulfilling these criteria! In confirming your faith, you take responsibility for living out your own Christian life. This program is intended to *supplement* Christian education in the home, not *replace* it. In confirmation, you demonstrate that kind of responsibility by taking the program seriously to the best of your ability.

Description of the Sixth Grade Year

Core Classes (Class time – 2:45-5:00 pm on 2nd Wed.)

Sixth graders will study the Old Testament this year. The student will be required to bring a Bible and writing materials to each class. By the end of the year, each student should have a general idea of how God revealed himself in the Old Testament.

Mentor Program

Each student (grades 6-8) is required to choose and work with a mentor throughout the calendar year. The program will be explained and resources handed out on orientation night, you will be notified of the date.

Mentors will attend Advent and Lenten worship with their student.

Faith Journey

Students are encouraged to get involved with church life. Each must complete a minimum of 15 sermon notes and then complete additional activities throughout the year to equal 20 points. A form will be handed out and can also be accessed on the website.

3. Read through and discuss with your child Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* at least twice during the school year. What do Martin Luther's comments mean to you as a person of faith? Why is it important for your child to know? Is there anything in there you disagree with or are confused by and why? Taking the time to discuss the faith with your child is quite possibly the single-most important thing that can happen to strengthen not only their faith but your own as well.

4. Do your child's reading project with them and discuss openly with your child about what you've read means for your faith.

5. Join with your child when she/he is confirmed their faith.

RULES AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

A. Some General Rules & Expectations

1. CELL PHONES and CAPS will NOT BE ALLOWED in the class rooms during confirmation instruction or at any worship service. No exceptions! Text messaging or checking voice mail will not be tolerated as it prevents confirmands from getting the most out of our time together.

2. More than three absences for the calendar year MAY radically affect the student's ability to continue in the confirmation program. Pastors reserve the right to evaluate this on a case-by-case basis. If you commit to the program, you are expected to be here. **Students must notify their teacher by phone or email, *prior to ANY absence.***

Worship/Sermon Notes

All students are required to submit sermon/worship notes for each calendar year. Each student in grades 6-8 will be REQUIRED to submit a total of 20 worship notes for each year, five of which could be substituted for service projects in or outside of church. Church project examples are: being an usher, lector, doing special music, or helping with VBS. Other service projects could be done away from church. All service work completed outside of church must be approved by your confirmation instructor. Also, if you attend worship at another church, please use their form or summarize the sermon on a sheet of paper.

For Parents/Guardians Only

The purpose of confirmation is to help you fulfill the promise you made at your child's baptism to provide for his/her education in the Christian faith. Without question, parents/guardians have the greatest influence on their children, which means that you play the chief role in teaching the Christian faith to your child(ren). Your active and caring involvement is the crucial ingredient in making confirmation a meaningful experience. So, for your sake and your child's sake, please stay involved!

We ask you to participate directly in your child's confirmation experience in these ways.

1. Attend the orientation session with your child.
2. Read through the 'Confirmation Agreement' with your child. If you both agree to honor and support the standards and principles of the program, please sign your names. If you need extra time to think it over at home, please do so. If you both agree to commit to the program as stated in this booklet, have your child bring the signed booklet to class. This will inform the teacher (pastor) of your child's intention to participate in the program.

Description of Seventh Grade Year

Core Classes (Class time – 2:45-3:45 pm)

Seventh graders will study the New Testament this year. The student will be required to bring a Bible and writing materials to each class. By the end of the year, each student should have a general idea of the message of the New Testament as well as how one might use it in their Christian life.

Mentor Program

Each student (grades 6-8) is required to choose and work with a mentor throughout the calendar year. The program will be explained and resources handed out on orientation in October, you will be notified of the date.

Mentors will attend Advent and Lenten worship with their student.

Reading Project

Seventh graders will be asked to read the book of Philippians with their parents and discuss it and write a brief report on it.

Faith Journey

Students are encouraged to get involved with church life. Each must complete a minimum of 15 sermon notes and then complete additional activities throughout the year to equal 20 points. A form will be handed out and can also be accessed on the website.

Description of Eighth Grade Year

Core Classes: (Class time – 2:45-3:45 pm)

Eighth graders will study the Small Catechism this year. The student will be required to bring a Bible, a Small Catechism and writing materials to each class. By the end of the year, students will better grasp the Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith and our Lutheran heritage.

Mentor Program

Each student (grades 6-8) is required to choose and work with a mentor throughout the calendar year. Materials will be mailed.

Mentors will attend Advent and Lenten worship with their student.

Reading Project

Eighth graders will be asked to read one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) with their parents and discuss it and write a brief report on it.

Faith Statement

Additional information will be given to the student by the pastor.

Confirmation Retreat

The summer after the 8th grade year, students are invited to a time of learning and fellowship. They will also receive instruction to work on their Faith Statements.

The Rite of Affirmation of Baptism

When you complete the requirements of grades 6-8, you may affirm your baptism during a designated worship service of the Church, scheduled, announced and led by your pastors. This service will be more carefully planned to avoid any ‘chaos’ but still keep the experience meaningful for students, their family members and the entire congregation. Pastors will work with church leadership to design an agreed upon worship service that is respectful of everyone involved. A sense of ‘order’ will be necessary to make this a meaningful worship service for everyone, not just the student and their family members, thus, some decisions are being made as to how this will be done so that the service can proceed smoothly and retain the meaning that everyone looks for in this special, corporate worship service.