

Confirmation 2023-2024

The Bible: Studying the Book of Faith

Our goals for 2023-2024 year for each student include:

-Creating an understanding of the Bible, how it can be read, how it connects to our lives, and the life of the Church

-Recalling significant stories in the Bible and their place in the scope of the Bible

-Building relationships between confirmation students and adults in the congregation.

-Each student should be able to name three adults who care about their faith life as a part of Trinity

Confirmation Information will be available and updated online at:

<http://betrinity.com/education/confirmation>

Where do students get faith?

Faith is passed on! Parents are more effective than pastors, youth directors, and congregation members, when it comes to passing on values and faith. One cannot be taught faith; it must be experienced.

God calls parents to pass on their faith.

Our confirmation program operates with the understanding that we as leaders are not the primary people passing on the faith to the upcoming generations, parents and families are! We believe that Trinity is called by God to give parents and families the resources, support and encouragement to do this. We are here to help you!

Pastor Jeanette Bidne

Lisa Kittleson, Confirmation Leader

Our confirmation curriculum includes expectations that connect to significant aspects of being a follower of Jesus. These include:

- 1. Worship** - establish a pattern to worship God in your life
- 2. Service** - through serving we make God's love visible and learn to put others first
- 3. Class/Learning** - drawing on wisdom of other Christians we ask big questions and exercise our spiritual muscles
- 4. Fellowship** - we have the joy, support, and care of fellow believers

1. Worship

10 Sermon notes- which can be completed in two ways – paper form or online form at <http://betrinity.com/education/confirmation> and use any of our worship service offerings. If sermon notes are not your thing, participation in leading worship (reading, skits, children sermon, singing, assisting with online worship or running technology beyond what is expected) could also meet this requirement. *Note 10 is less than the required number for previous years as we realize there are additional stressors on families during this time.*

Each student will have a sermon note folder for hard copy sermon notes. They will also be able to complete sermon notes online if they so choose.

Acolyte and Tech Leadership- *In addition* to 10 sermon notes students are expected to **sign up each fall and spring for slots to be acolytes** (light the candles, assist with communion baskets, be an example for those participating in worship) **or tech team** (assist with camera and projectors). Each student will be trained for these tasks and are asked to be at service 15 minutes before worship to acolyte and 30 minutes prior if assisting with tech. This is part of your worship experience as a confirmation student.

2. Service

Students will be asked to do two service projects and complete a service project form for each or have a conversation with their pastor or mentor about what they did. This is something that could also be completed with their mentor. Service project opportunities will be announced throughout the year. The form for service projects can be filled out online or in paper form. The [online](#) forms on the same page as sermon note forms.

3. Class/Learning

Complete one option for each sessions, choosing one of the following options:

Option 1: Participating in a group class session (we plan for these to be in-person, weather/covid permitting).

Option 2: Have a conversation with your mentor reading the *Manna and Mercy* Book and answering questions provided for that particular lesson.

If choosing Option 2, to ensure each student is working with the material of each lesson we ask that mentors report the lesson was completed using a google form found at this direct link: [Confirmation Remote Learning Form](#) or at <http://betrinity.com/education/confirmation>

Lenten services are at 7:00p.m. when having Soup Suppers. Wednesday Lenten services are considered class sessions and confirmation students will assist in serving Soup Suppers.

4. Fellowship

There will be opportunities for fellowship with one another. These may be events planned by Trinity or opportunities that you may do with your mentor. There is an expectation that you will spend time with your faith family of Trinity in different ways.

The expectation is for the above portions to be completed during the 2023-2024 school year prior to May 1st, 2024. For those completing their second year (8th graders for 2023-2024), the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism is Sunday, October 13th, 2024.

Mentors

Each student is asked to have an adult mentor – a Trinity Adult with a vibrant faith life, who *is not* the student's parent or guardian or a parent or guardian of another current confirmation student. This is someone the confirmation student is comfortable speaking with and spending time. This will be an important aspect to this year as there is a possibility that not all learning may happen in a classroom/lecture type setting.

What is expected of a mentor?

Mentors are asked to do the following:

-Get to know your student – joys, struggles, hobbies, their family, their birthday etc. Reach out to them outside of confirmation class and let them know you care about them and how their year is going

-Assist your student in their learning: by attending group class sessions when possible, be willing to have conversations with them, and/or check in on their progress on class coursework.

-Pray for your student!

We ask that these actions be done with the knowledge of the parents of the students and in ways that uphold the values and policies of Trinity Lutheran Church.

- Appropriate mentor relationships include:
 - Keeping one-on-one time with students public and with parental consent
 - Being aware of appropriate language, sharing, and behavior (you are a role model to your student!) Please see guidance from our protection policy.

Please ensure that Trinity knows you are a confirmation mentor and has correct contact information for you to keep you up to date with information especially in such an unpredictable year! Form to submit information can be found here: [Mentor Information Form](#)

Parent, Mentors and Students ,

In addition to the Confirmation Covenant, it is also understood through your participation that you are aware of our Child Protection Policy and agree to uphold its guidance.

-This includes good practices such as appropriate sharing, language, behavior, keeping conversation public and with parental consent, reporting any inappropriate action in order for it to be addressed, and keeping confirmation a safe time and space. More specifics are found in our protection policy and Pastor Jeanette, confirmation leaders and staff can answer any questions.

-Your participation also is an agreement to uphold the policies of Trinity Lutheran Church, including the Trinity covenant of conduct (in the back of our hymnal) and Covid guidance.

Confirmation Covenant

We believe that faith is a journey we are actively on

- We will actively participate in the life of Trinity Lutheran Church
- We will ask for help or guidance when needed
- We will communicate directly when there is something that needs to be addressed

We believe in helping ourselves and others learn about God.

- We do this by: Raising a hand to speak
- Not talking while the teachers are talking
- Staying seated when required
- Being responsible in reading confirmation information and instructions

Respecting others because we know that God created them

- We do this by: Not putting others' thoughts or ideas down.
- No name calling, no using hurtful, offensive, or destructive language
- Respecting people's property

We believe in respecting those in authority.

- We do this by: Respecting the leaders, pastor and mentors

We believe in participating

- We do this by: Being here and on time for classes and events
- Being part of any leader-led discussion
- Being part of any organized fellowship or servant night event
- Participating fully in all aspects of confirmation
- We believe in respecting the facilities and taking time to clean up our messes.

We believe in having fun

- We do this by: laughing with someone not at them
- Being mindful of how something we find funny, others may not.

If you don't feel it's appropriate for a mentor, pastor or leader to hear, chances are it's not appropriate for you either.

**WE BELIEVE THAT CONFIRMATION IS SOMETHING WE “GET
TO DO”**

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY QUICK GUIDE

For Your Protection and the child's...

- **NEVER** be alone with a child
- Leave classroom doors open
- Strive for 2 adults in a room at all times.
- If a child requires assistance while in the washroom ensure the door is open and **do not enter the stall.**

APPROPRIATE TOUCH

- Bending down to a child's eye level and speaking kindly, listening to him or her carefully.
- Taking a child's hand and leading him or her to an activity.
- Putting an arm around the shoulder of a child who needs quieting or comforting.
- Highfive as you say "You did so well concentrating!" or "I am happy to see you!"
- Patting a child on the hand, shoulders, or upper back to affirm him or her.
- Resting a hand on a child's shoulders or hand to keep his or her attention while you redirect the child's behavior.
- Using a hand over hand-guided assistance (preschooler learning to use scissors).

- **Physical abuse** is physical injury that is non-accidental or that cannot be explained by what the parents or other caretakers say about how the injury happened.
- **Neglect** is the failure to provide for the child's basic or medical needs, including adequate supervision, or the failure to protect the child from harmful conditions.
- **Sexual abuse** means that the child has been subjected to or threatened with the criminal sexual conduct as defined by Minnesota law, and includes violations of prostitution and pornography statutes.

Who Should Report Child Abuse and Neglect

- Any person may voluntarily report abuse or neglect.
- Trinity Lutheran Church's staff are considered mandated reporters.
- **Call 911 if a child is in danger**
- Faribault County Human Services Center (507) 526-3265.

Transporting Children



- Children **MUST** ride in backseat.
- Do not be alone with a child.
- **Before** driving a copy of your car insurance must be on file and a background check completed.
- Driver must be 21 years old or older
- Driver will stay with child at the church until picked-up by authorized adult.

DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED

Inappropriate Touch MUST AVOID

- Any physical contact of any kind that is done for the pleasure or satisfaction of the adult.
- No kissing
- No suggestive touching
- No children on laps or piggy back rides

Anyone with a history of a sex offense forfeits the privilege of working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

Signing Children In

- Welcome the child when they arrive
- Mark the attendance sheet

Signing Children Out

- Each child should only be released to the parent/guardian/authorized individual **ONLY**
- If you do not know the parent/guardian/authorized individual ask to confirm with listing in your classroom packet
- Children 8 or older may walk home if authorized on the Release Form.

Volunteer Screening Ensures Safety

- Be connected to Trinity Lutheran Church
- Complete a Volunteer Registration form
- Attend volunteer training class
- Sign a Volunteer Code of Conduct form
- Complete a criminal background check including fingerprinting. TLC pays cost of fingerprinting and background checks.

Confirmation Schedule for 2023-2024

Evening Schedule:
5:30p.m. Light Meal (provided twice a month) +
6:00p.m.-7:30p.m. Brief Worship service then Confirmation Class on
Wednesdays

Worship is for all confirmation students and anyone else in the congregation who wishes to participate.

To be held in the Gathering space unless otherwise announced

Confirmation Dates 2022-2023 (subject to change due to weather/COVID)

+ Denotes a Wednesday when a light meal will be offered

To be held in the Gathering space unless otherwise announced, subject to change due to weather if needed.

+ *Denotes a Wednesday when a light meal will be offered at 5:30*

+September 20- Worship at 6:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space followed by Confirmation Orientation (Pizza supper @ 5:30p.m. for those who can make It, bring your family for a free and easy meal!)

September 27 - Session #1 - Beginnings

+October 4 - Session #2 God Births a People

October 11 - Session #3 The Wilderness School

October 18 - No Session (MEA)

October 25 Session #4 Food collection w/ area congregations- MEET@ St. Peter & Paul

+November 1 - Session #5 - The Covenant and the Covenant Gift/ All Saints Day

November 8 - Session #6 - Graduation and Settling Down

+November 15 - Session #7 -We want a King

November 22 - No Session (Thanksgiving)

November 29 - Session #8 - Yahweh Sends Prophets

+December 6 - Session #9 -By the Waters of Babylon

December 13 - Session #10 - Home Again

+December 20 - Session #11 - Review and Party

+January 3- Session #12 - God's Surprise

January 10 - Session #13 - Canvas Project

+January 17 - Session #14 - Manna and Mercy for All

January 24 - Session #15 - Jerusalem

January 31 - Session # 16 - The Blanket Project

+February 7 - Session #17 - Service Project and Lent Overview

- Lenten Worship Series will be considered confirmation class:

February 14 - Session #18 Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00p.m.

February 21 - Session # 19 Please attend Lenten Worship as Class

February 28 - Session # 20 Please attend Lenten Worship as Class

March 6 - Session #21 Please attend Lenten Services as Class

March 13 - Session #22 Please attend Lenten Services as Class

March 20 - Session #23 Please attend Lenten Services as Class

March 27 - No Session (Holy Week) Plan to participate in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Service this week

+April 3- Session #24 - A Risen Jesus, A Risen People

April 10 - Session #25 - The Risen People Share God's Dream

+April 17 - Session #26 - God's Dream Will Come True

April 24 - Session #27 - Review and End of Year Party

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism for 9th graders (8th graders this year) is scheduled for Sunday, October 13th, 2024

I have questions? Who do I contact?

Pastor Jeanette Bidne

Cell: 507-339-1178 (call or text)

Email: prjbidne.betrinity@gmail.com

(non-emergency texts or phone calls between 8:30a.m. and 9:00p.m)

Lisa Kittleson

Cell: 507-520-0667

Email: lkittleson@bevcomm.net

(Please be mindful of when you text non-urgent/non-emergency questions, we have families and need to sleep just like you :)).