

CONFIRMATION OVERVIEW



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Confirmation Module Series
2019-2020

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is a public rite of the church preceded by a period of instruction, in which baptized Christians learn about the confession, life, and mission of the Christian Church. The Rite of Confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God's promise given in Holy Baptism, to make a personal public confession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ.

Faith education is a life-long process. Along the way there is a significant spiritual rite that takes place. Confirmation Day for our youth is a moment to publicly confess the faith that they have been given. That, however, is merely a milestone along the life-long process. This process is one that must be done together: families, friends, members in Christ, and pastors. Together we seek to encourage each other in the study and growth of faith in Jesus Christ.

CONFIRMATION IS A BEGINNING, NOT A GRADUATION

It looks like a graduation, might feel like a graduation, even has a robe like graduation and it is held about the same time of year as graduation...it must be a graduation from church. The Rite of Confirmation should mark the beginning of one's adult life as a Christian. We never "graduate" from God. He is our Creator, Protector, and Savior. He wants to walk with us every day of our lives. He wants to reveal new truths to us each day of our lives. He wants us to cling to our faith in Jesus in our last days and on into eternity.

*Confirmation Day is the first Saturday in May.
This year it will be on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 10:00am.*

COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

At St. Paul's, our youth receive their first Communion after completing Confirmation instruction. The Bible instructs us in the necessity of examination before communing. Therefore, Confirmation instruction allows us, parents and pastors, to teach about Communion prior to receiving it. Then our children are able to properly examine themselves before receiving God's gracious, holy gift.



PHILOSOPHY OF THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

THE GOALS OF THIS INSTRUCTIONAL PROCESS FOR THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION INCLUDE:

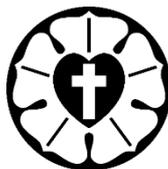
1. Foster well-rounded knowledge
 - Biblical knowledge
 - Doctrinal knowledge
2. Connect daily lives to Scriptural truths
3. Allow for deeper relationships
 - Among youth peers
 - Between youth and pastors
4. Create flexibility for the many vocations of our youth
5. Encourage faith study as a year-round, life-long process

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

1. ***Pray for your child.*** Daily, you already pray for your child, but now pray for your child's knowledge, interest, and confession of the faith to grow.
2. ***Attend the parent meetings.*** On the first meeting of each module there will be a 15-minute parent meeting at drop-off time. Please plan to attend this parent meeting for each module your child signs up to take. Note: there are no parent meetings on Saturday classes.
3. ***Review for tests.*** Confirmands will have notes from class which will help them study for the tests. Review these notes with them.
4. ***Administer tests.*** Tests will be e-mailed to you to proctor. Please take note of the deadlines for returning the tests.
5. ***Attend class.*** You are invited and welcome to attend any of the Confirmation classes with your child. This will enable you to grow in your faith, as well as increase your ability to discuss specifically the matters of class at home with your child.

THE SMALL CATECHISM

The Small Catechism is a tool used during faith instruction. It was originally written by Martin Luther so that fathers could teach the faith to their children at home. Ultimately the Small Catechism is a guide to teaching the truths given in God's Word. Therefore, the Small Catechism does not replace the priority of God's Word. It should be a tool you can use at home to continue the conversation of faith with your child throughout the process of Confirmation and beyond.

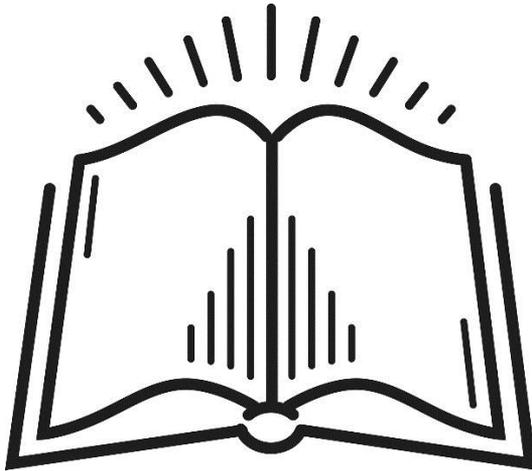


CONFIRMATION MODULES

All Confirmation instruction will be offered in a modular format. This means that the biblical and doctrinal teachings will be divided into a total of 18 modules. These modules must be completed by Confirmation Day, held each May. Modules may vary in length of meeting, but most will be offered in 1.5-2 hour blocks. These blocks will be offered at different times of the day, days of the week, and seasons of the year to accommodate busy schedules.

In 5th and 6th grade, students focus on Bible stories. The goal is to give students a basic grasp of the scope of the Bible and key stories throughout Scripture.

In 7th and 8th grade, students focus on doctrinal concepts of the Lutheran faith. These classes dive deeper into the doctrinal beliefs we believe and confess from the Bible.



MODULE CALENDAR

FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE MODULES *ORGANIZED BY MODULE TITLE*

MODULE	2019–2020 SESSIONS OFFERED <i>(select one session per module)</i>
CREATION & THE PATRIARCHS	WEDNESDAYS May 1, 8, 15 from 6:00pm-7:30pm
	MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY June 24, 25, 26 from 12:30pm-2:30pm
SLAVES TO PROMISED LAND	MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY June 10, 11, 13 from 9:00am-11:00am
	MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY July 8, 9, 10 from 6:30pm-8:00pm
EMPIRE, EXILE, & PROPHETS	MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY June 17, 18, 19 from 12:30pm-2:30pm
	MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY July 15, 16, 17 from 6:30pm-8:00pm
JESUS THE CHRIST	TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY June 25, 26, 27 from 9:00am-11:30am
	TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY July 23, 24, 25 from 6:30pm-8:00pm
CHURCH LETTERS	TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY June 11, 12, 13 from 6:30pm-8:00pm
	TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY July 30, 31, August 1 from 12:30pm-2:30pm
CHURCH EVERLASTING	MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY June 17, 18, 19 from 9:00am-11:30am
	MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY July 8, 9, 10 from 6:30pm-8:00pm

MODULE CALENDAR

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE MODULES *ORGANIZED BY MODULE TITLE*

MODULE	2019-2020 SESSIONS OFFERED <i>(select one session per module)</i>
BIBLE*	MONDAY, June 10 8:00am-10:00am
	TUESDAY, June 18 12:30pm-2:30pm
	WEDNESDAY, June 26 8:00am-10:00am
LAW & GOSPEL SERMONS*	MONDAY, June 10 10:00am-12:00pm
	TUESDAY, June 18 2:30pm-4:30pm
	WEDNESDAY, June 26 10:00am-12:00pm
APOSTLES' CREED: FATHER	MONDAYS: June 10, 17, 24, July 1 6:30pm-8:00pm
	TUESDAYS: January 7, 14, 21, 28 4:30pm-6:00pm
APOSTLES' CREED: SON	TUESDAYS: June 4, 11, 18, 25 4:30pm-6:00pm
	WEDNESDAYS: January 8, 15, 22, 29 6:30pm-8:00pm
APOSTLES' CREED: HOLY SPIRIT	MONDAYS: July 22, 29, August 5 4:30pm-6:00pm
	WEDNESDAYS: February 5, 12, 19 6:30pm-8:00pm
HOLY BAPTISM	MONDAYS: August 12, 19, 26 6:30pm-8:00pm
	SATURDAY: January 11 8:00am-12:00pm

MODULE	2019–2020 SESSIONS OFFERED <i>(select one session per module)</i>
LORD'S PRAYER	MONDAYS: July 8, 22, 29, August 5 6:30pm-8:00pm
	TUESDAYS: October 8, 15, 22, 29 4:30pm-6:00pm
LORD'S SUPPER	TUESDAYS: September 10, 17, 24 6:30pm-8:00pm
	MONDAYS: February 3, 10, 24 4:30pm-6:00pm
LUTHERAN HISTORY	WEDNESDAYS: July 10, 17, 23, 31 6:30pm-8:00pm
	WEDNESDAYS: October 2, 9, 16, 23 4:30pm-6:00pm
OFFICE OF THE KEYS	WEDNESDAYS: November 6, 13 6:30pm-8:00pm
	MONDAYS: January 6, 13 4:30pm-6:00pm
TEN COMMANDMENTS	WEDNESDAYS: August 14, 21, 28, September 4 6:30pm-8:00pm
	SATURDAY: February 8 8:00am-12:00pm
WORSHIP	MONDAYS: November 4, 11, 18, 25 4:30pm-6:00pm
	TUESDAYS: February 4, 11, 18, 25 6:30pm-8:00pm

*The Bible and Law & Gospel Sermons modules should be completed the summer before seventh grade.

EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE: All modules must be completed before youth is prepared to be confirmed. Youth must attend each module in its entirety. If a situation arises that keeps your child from attending a class, they are allowed to attend that portion of the class when that module meets again.

WORSHIP: Youth are expected to be in worship. Occasional illness or other uncontrollable situations occur, but many opportunities to worship are provided.

ASSESSMENTS: Youth will complete the assigned assessment at the end of each module. Assessments will be completed at home and later returned to the church. Youth must pass.

MEMORY WORK: Youth must pass all memory work tests
Sermon Reports: 12 Sermon reports due between August-December and an additional 12 sermon reports due between January – May.

RETREAT

A retreat preceding Confirmation Day is *required* for all youth who intend to be confirmed that year. This retreat assists in reviewing material and building peer relationships.

Retreat is the Friday-Saturday the week before Confirmation. It is held off-site and is an overnight event. This year it will be Friday, April 24 – Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 5:00pm-5:00pm.

PRAYER PARTNER MINISTRY

Many people of St. Paul's are, and will continue to pray for your youth as they grow in the faith. In their final year of Confirmation, each child is assigned a specific Prayer Partner. The identities of these Prayer Partners are hidden until Confirmation Examination. That night is highly anticipated as Confirmands meet the person who has been diligently praying for them throughout their final Confirmation year. The Prayer Partners may occasionally be family members, but are often members of the congregation who desire to form new relationships with our youth.

CONFIRMATION EXAMINATION

Confirmation Examination is a tradition at St. Paul's that provides youth an opportunity to publicly share the details of their faith instruction. It also allows family and congregational members an opportunity to support the youth in their public declaration. The complete list of examination questions will be made available ahead of time for plenty of preparation. Examination questions that pertain to each module will be provided in the parent booklet you will receive at the individual module parent meetings.

Confirmation Examination is the Thursday preceding Confirmation Day. This year it will be April 30, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Following the examination is a joyous reception for the family and Prayer Partners.

FAITH IN ACTION

AFTER CONFIRMATION

To state the important fact again, Confirmation is merely a milestone in youth life. At St. Paul's, there are many opportunities to grow in your faith and share it actively with others. Below are a few options:

WEEKEND WORSHIP: Each weekend, we receive the Lord's gifts.

WEEKEND BIBLE STUDY: Adults and Senior High are joined together in the study of God's Word.

ECHO: High School youth are able spend time in Bible study together.

SENIOR HIGH EVENTS: These vary from fun (e.g., paintball) to service (e.g., serving food) to mission work (e.g., trips)

SERVE THE CONGREGATION AT LARGE: There are many ways that youth are able to use their time and talents to serve the congregation (e.g., Greeters, Ushers, Instrumentalists or Choir, Nursery, Sunday School Teachers, Vacation Bible School, HIS Puppeteers, Fellowship Breakfast, Photographers, Sound Board, Prayer Partners)

PARTICIPATE IN OTHER CONGREGATIONAL SMALL GROUPS: St. Paul's has a variety of small groups that meet regularly, based on interest level, where youth are invited and encouraged to participate (e.g., Life Advocacy Group, Basketball, Bowling, Card Making, Dinner for Eight, Golf, Softball, Youth Ministry)



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

1. *Concordia Self Study ESV Bible* published by Concordia Publishing House
2. *Luther's Small Catechism* published by Concordia Publishing House
3. *Lutheranism 101* published by Concordia Publishing House
4. *One Hundred Bible Stories*, published by Concordia Publishing House

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions related to the process of Confirmation at St. Paul's, please contact:

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