**Confirmation Expectations**

**What is confirmation?**

 To confirm is to make certain or to make sure of:

 -God's love for us in His Son

 -A life of grateful response to that gracious love

 -One’s membership in the family of God

**What does confirmation have to do with church membership?**

**Holy Baptism** makes a person a member of the church and this congregation.  Baptism is the means whereby God imparts the gift of faith, which brings with it the forgiveness of sins and the promise of everlasting life.

**Confirmation Instruction** is an opportunity to continue growth in that faith.

**The Rite of Confirmation** is an opportunity for the confirmand to publicly celebrate his/her knowledge and appreciation for the gifts of God's grace given in Baptism. The confirmand also expresses a desire to continue worship and study and to seek God’s will, as found in His Word. There is an expectation that growth will continue after Confirmation Instructionand the Rite of Confirmation.

**What is Confirmation Instruction?**

Confirmation Instructionprepares our young people here at Peace for the Rite of Confirmation and for a life-long habit of worshipping God and studying His Word. It is meant to help parents in fulfilling their responsibility to God, for Scripture tells us, "Parents. . . raise (your children) with Christian discipline and instruction." Ephesians 6:4. Proverbs 22:6 also says, "Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life."

The goals then of Confirmation are to:

1. Bring a child to a fuller understanding of what it means to be in a relationship with God.

2. Equip a child for fuller participation in the mission of the church.

3. Provide a child with spiritual support through friendships with peers and teachers.

These goals cannot be accomplished by the church alone. They can only be reached through the power of the Holy Spirit creating a spirit of harmony and cooperation between church and home, congregational leaders and parents.

**The Objectives of Confirmation Instruction**

The Goal of the Students in Confirmation will be to:

1. grow in their knowledge of the basic teachings of the Bible.

2. become familiar with the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism

3. memorize selected key Scripture passages and portions of the Catechism.

4. continue to develop and demonstrate good worship habits.

5. continue to develop and demonstrate good Bible study habits through regular family devotions, and through personal and group Bible study and prayer.

6. regularly attend educational opportunities offered by the congregation.

7. further develop and demonstrate skills in being a living witness to their Lord.

8. further develop and demonstrate good stewardship habits in their use of time, talents, and treasures as God has blessed them.

9. continue to develop and strengthen relationships with fellow Christians for mutual growth.

10. continue to demonstrate a life of Christian values in a secular society.

**Responsibilities**

Since confirmation is but one part of the life-long process of discipleship, it is important to understand that it is not the beginning nor the end of Christian learning. The worship of our God and the study of His Word must be a high priority in the life of every believer. Because of this, it is both the Students’ and the Parents’ responsibilities to:

1. be regular in worship attendance.
2. have an active personal devotional and study life.
3. show respect and compassion for one another.

For the Student especially:

1. attend Confirmation classes.
2. complete assignments that are a part of the Confirmation process, which will include weekly assignments, papers, etc.
3. have on hand all necessary materials for class (writing utensil, paper, Bible, catechism), as well as a mind and heart that is open to God’s Word.
4. actively participate in Confirmation classes, because this way it helps me know you are learning when you answer and ask questions.
5. acolyte for worship services.

For the Parents especially:

1. making sure students attend Confirmation classes.
2. helping and aiding your children by reviewing assignments and assisting with memory work.
3. supporting your children during the process of Confirmation instruction.
4. \*Notice I never said to give your children the answers, whether at home or in class, rather aid them, and support them.

For the Teacher, what you can expect of me:

1. be regular in worship attendance.
2. have an active personal devotional and study life.
3. attend Confirmation classes.
4. show respect and compassion for everyone.
5. participate regularly in the Lord's Supper.
6. be diligent in preparation of the Confirmation lessons.
7. be a witness and model of what it means to be a child of God.
8. evaluate the progress of students regularly.
9. integrate parents into the confirmation ministry program.

**Scheduling and Attendance**

There will usually be around thirty classes scheduled each year with breaks inserted to correspond to school holidays and such.

While there is not limit set on how many classes one can miss, it is important to attend Confirmation on a regular basis. What happens if one misses on a regular basis? We’ll cross that bridge when the time comes.

With the world changing and all of us having to adapt and adjust to life changes, we will do our best with what we have to be as successful as we can in regards to growing in our faith and learning what it means for our life inside and outside the church.

Students: Be prepared for a test on your knowledge of the Bible next week…

**Due Next Class (September 26)**

**Confirmation Information**

Name of Confirmand: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Place of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**List any questions you currently have about Confirmation, God’s Word, God, the church, or any other topic related to the previous ones.**

NOTE: The responses below are what the confirmands will be confirming on their Confirmation Day. It is included so that confirmands and families understand how important faith formation, and Confirmation, is to their lives. The highlighted part again emphasizes this is a lifelong journey and Confirmation is just one chapter in their book of faith (and not the conclusion).

✠ The Rite of Confirmation ✠

(The Confession of Faith)

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

 You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, “whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven**.”**

 Lift up your hearts therefore to the God of all grace and joyfully answer the questions I now will ask you in the Lord’s name and as a minister of His Church.

P: Do you today in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in Baptism, namely the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

Confirmands: I do

P: Do you reject the devil and all his works and all his ways?

Confirmands: I do.

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Confirmands: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ His only Son?

Confirmands: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

P: Do you hold all the books of the Bible, written by the prophets and apostles, to be the inspired Word of God and agree that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Bible and as you have learned to know them through Luther’s Small Catechism, are faithful and true?

Confirmands: I do.

P: Do you intend faithfully to live your life according to God’s Word, to be faithful in the use of God’s Word and Sacrament, which are His means of grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, **✠** Son, and Holy Spirit, to the end of your life?

**Confirmands: I do so intend by the grace of God.**