
CONFIRMATION 2017

HERE WE GO!

Here we are, about to get started in confirmation. Welcome back to our returning confirmands and welcome to our new confirmands. We are glad you are here and we look forward to a great time learning and growing in the Lord this year! This year we will be making several changes to our format and curriculum. Some of these changes will be obvious and others not so obvious, but all of the changes we are implementing are to help grow the faith of the confirmands. We take this charge very seriously, and want to do our best to help you raise your child in the faith.

Let's get started.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is a rite traditionally observed in the Lutheran Church in which children who have been catechized (taught the basic doctrines of the faith) are welcomed as full members of the church.

This rite was used in the Church since the 1st century to prepare converts for the sacrament of Holy Baptism and membership in the Church. In modern times, the rite of confirmation consists of affirming the faith of the confirmand and providing for catechetical instruction. At your child's Baptism you and the child's sponsors presented this child for Holy Baptism and the following promises were made:

"In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring them to the services of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grow in years you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ."

So we see that what is being confirmed in this rite is that the promises made at the Baptism of your child have been fulfilled. The church is not here to supplant your role in the lives of your child, but rather to support you in the fulfillment of this Baptismal promise.

OVERVIEW

The Church promised to aid you in teaching your child the fundamentals of the Christian faith, which is what we are here to do. Here is how we intend to do it. Confirmation classes are held Sunday mornings after service during the Sunday School hour from 11am to noon. It is expected that both confirmands and their parents and/or baptismal sponsors attend service faithfully throughout the year. Confirmands will fill out sermon notes during the service and turn them in at the beginning of class. Confirmands will be required to serve as an acolyte periodically during the year. Scheduling for this will be done separately.

Each confirmand is expected to have a Bible. Each confirmand will receive a copy of Luther's Small Catechism. This book is meant to help explain basic doctrines contained in scripture and point you to the Bible, which is the only source for faith and life in the Christian Church. Bibles and Small Catechisms should be brought to every class, along with a pencil. Classes begin at 11:00am unless otherwise specified.

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO LEARN

We will learn about the Bible, it's origins and the basic stories and concepts contained within. We will also memorize the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, and the 10 Commandments. We will also discuss how God's Word relates to our everyday lives.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST!

Included in this packet is a calendar of confirmation related dates for this year. My contact info is below, additionally I can be found on Facebook, and you can send me messages that way as well. I trust that you will need to contact me at some point. Do not be afraid to do so. I only ask that you be respectful of my time in the early mornings and late evenings, and understand that I cannot guarantee that I will be immediately available. I promise however, to get back to you in a timely fashion.

I am looking forward to this coming year, and hope you are too.

Peace,

Pr. Kevin McClain

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