

2023-2024
St. Philip's
Lutheran
Church
Confirmation
Handbook

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Dear Parents of Confirmation Students,

In our opinion, confirmation is about nurturing faith-making Christian disciples. It is our hope that through our confirmation program, these special young people will come to know several things listed in order of importance:

1. They are loved--By God, by their church family, and by us.
2. They have a God and Savior they can talk to at any time and at any place about anything.
3. They have been given a Bible--the living document that tells the story of God's love for God's people.
4. They have a Small Catechism written by Martin Luther that will help them to understand who they are as Lutheran Christians and what we believe and why it makes a difference.
5. They are called to use the gifts they have been blessed with for worship, witness, and service.

The purpose of our confirmation program is to help youth understand what it means to be a baptized child of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Through confirmation we (St. Philip's Lutheran Church) are assisting you in fulfilling your baptismal promises: *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 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 a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.*

Do you promise to fulfill these promises?

You are needed to nurture the faith of these young people. Genuine faith in Christ makes all the difference in the world. You may not realize it, but any pastor does; the quality of the confirmation experience is primarily dependent upon the quality of commitment by the parents. We are looking forward to a great year. If, at any time, you have questions or concerns about our confirmation program, please talk to us about it. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

Your Servants in Christ,
Pastor Gregory Geier
Kristian Ronning
Carlos Villavicencio

What is new?

- Last year we changed things up by combining all three grades and then breaking into smaller groups for discussion or activities. This allowed us to take turns teaching and helped us to get to know all the students better.
- This year we have invited 6th graders to start confirmation so that they will complete our 3-year program at the end of their 8th grade year.
- We have scheduled two sessions to serve at Feed My Starving Children.
- We also have one week scheduled to paint on our “Drawn to the Word” mural.

Student expectations:

Every Wednesday, every student needs to bring:

- Bible (6th and 7th graders will be given a student Bible)
- Writing implement
- Notebook (have a dedicated confirmation notebook)
- Folder (this will contain important assignments and information)

A few extra Bibles are available, but students are encouraged to make notes in their Bibles.

Worship

- We encourage families to attend worship together weekly.
- Engage in worship—volunteer to greet, lecture, usher, or serve communion.

Classroom Attendance

- Attend confirmation class on a weekly basis. We understand that extenuating circumstances arise.
- Please don't send students who are too ill for school.

Eat before class: Students who are hungry have a hard time paying attention.

Service Hours & Projects

- Students are asked to have 12 dedicated service hours over the course of each confirmation year.
- These service hours can be done through St. Philip's, or within the community.
- Service hour forms are located on the welcome center. They need to be filled out, signed, and turned into the confirmation leaders before they are 'counted'.
- Examples of service opportunities at SPLC
 - Leaf Raking (organized in the fall)
 - Feed my Starving Children
 - Serving as an acolyte
 - Lectoring, Ushering, Greeting (sign up through the worship and music team)
 - Sunday School classroom help (this is a very fun year-long commitment)

Memory Work (from the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism)

- We ask for 'best effort' with memorization. This is not an easy skill for everyone, but we will work with students through study and games to meet these goals. Please encourage your student and help them learn these throughout the year.

Worship Notes (Available on the Welcome Center and confirmation webpage)

- All students need to complete 12 worship 'notes' over each confirmation year. These notes are meant to encourage active listening during worship.
- Sermon notes can be done for any Sunday service, or for the Wednesday services during Lent. If worshipping outside of SPLC, please feel free to do sermon notes for that worship time as well.
- An online form version of worship notes will be available for students watching worship services from home.

Mentoring Program (Lent)

- All students will participate in the mentoring program during Lent.
- Students are responsible for finding and asking an adult to be their mentor (family friends, former Sunday school teachers, etc). Pastor Geier and our co-teachers can provide assistance.
- Over the course of Lent, each mentor pair will study and discuss a provided packet.
- Mentors will be security checked and will need to have their information on file at St. Philip's.

Parent/Guardian Expectations:

- Attend worship regularly with your student, including Lenten services & Holy Week.
- Transport or arrange transportation for your student, so they are on time for class, large group events, the retreat, etc.
- Assist your confirmand in completing assignments, memory work as needed.
- Attend service projects with your confirmand as you are able. Sign up to drive students or provide supplies as needed for projects.
- Communicate concerns or special needs of your confirmand to the confirmation leaders or pastor to enable them to provide the best possible program for each student.

Confirmation Leader Expectations:

- Share their faith and commitment to Christ and the church.
- Provide the opportunity for all students to learn and grow in faith.
- Collect and keep record of service hours, projects, attendance, and sermon notes for each student (allow for 2 weeks, if you would like to check totals).
- Encourage student participation in large and small groups and in the church family.
- Establish relationships with each student to encourage, nurture, and support each child in faith.
- Maintain open, consistent communication.

Discipline Policy:

After a long day at school, sometimes going to more school can be challenging. Please encourage your student to be respectful to the teachers and each other, use appropriate language, and to clean up after themselves. In the event of behavior issues, teachers will verbally correct the student. If a student's disruptive behavior needs further addressing, parents will be called in to confer with the teacher, student, and pastor to find a positive solution. Every effort will be made to maintain safe, positive, and loving environments for every student and the teachers.

Confirmation Retreat Information:

Our retreat this year will be at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center on Saturday, March 2nd. This one-day retreat will focus on the parables of Jesus. More details to come!

Acolyte Information:

- Arrive 15 minutes before the service starts. Please wear appropriate "dress up" clothing and shoes. No flip flops or brightly colored (neon) shoes. Nice dress shoes are the best.
- Put on a robe and waist rope tie found in the closet in the sacristy. The robes are in the closet opposite the sink. Ropes are optional, you may choose not to wear them.
- Pick up a bulletin & your sermon notes form and put it on one of the front seats.
- Ask the sound system person to get you a candle lighter. They are stored on hooks inside the sound booth.
- Ask the worship coordinator or usher to light your wick. They will tell you when to move forward down the aisle, usually just before the pastor enters. Pause for about 3 seconds before you step up toward the altar out of respect for God. Light the two altar candles and the large Christ candle to signal the beginning of worship. Push the wick out about one inch after lighting the candles to avoid it getting stuck inside from the melted wax.
- Put your candle lighter under your seat during the service-do not block row behind you.
- During the last song come forward with your candle lighter. The pastor may signal to you.
- One of the acolytes will light their wick and carry the "light of Christ out to the world". The other acolyte will extinguish the candles. If there is only one acolyte, extinguish all the candles.
- Return your candle lighters and hang your robes and ropes back in the sacristy closet.
- Extra wicks are kept in the sound booth. Extra matches are found in the roller cart and in the Welcome Center cupboard.

Thank you for your service to the glory of the Lord!

Contact Information

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2023-24 Confirmation Schedule

All classes are 6:45-7:45 PM

Date	New Testament and Lord's Prayer
Wed, Sept 6	Confirmation Orientation, Acolyting 101 & School Kit Preparation.
Sun, Sept 10, 10:30am	Rally Day!
Wed, Sept 13	Uncomplicating the Bible
Wed, Sept 20	LORD'S PRAYER- Greatest Prayer
Wed, Sept 27	LORD'S PRAYER- God's Kingdom & Will
Wed, Oct 4	LORD'S PRAYER – God Gives & Forgives
Wed, Oct 11	LORD'S PRAYER – Temptation, Trial, & Deliverance
Wed, Oct 18	No Class (Teacher Association Days)
Wed, Oct 25	The Feeding of the 5,000
Wed, Nov 1	Feed My Starving Children
Wed, Nov 8	The Wilderness Temptations & Jesus Calls the First Disciples
Wed, Nov 15	Painting "Drawn to the Word"
Wed, Nov 22	No Class - Happy Thanksgiving!
Wed, Nov 29	The Annunciation
Wed, Dec 6	The Birth of Jesus
Wed, Dec 13	Simeon and Anna
Wed, Dec 20	Christmas Party
Wed, Dec 28	No Class - Merry Christmas!
Wed, Jan 3	The Magi
Wed, Jan 10	The Beatitudes

Wed, Jan 17	The Gerasene Demoniac
Wed, Jan 24	The Transfiguration or The Sending of the 70
Wed, Jan 31	The Last Supper
Wed, Feb 7	The Crucifixion
Wed, Feb 14	Ash Wednesday - Mentor Orientation
Wed, Feb 21	Lent - Schedule with your mentor
Wed, Feb 28	Lent - Schedule with your mentor
Saturday March 2	Confirmation Retreat: Parables of Jesus Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center
Wed, March 6	Lent - Schedule with your mentor
Wed, March 13	Lent - Schedule with your mentor
Wed, March 20	Lent - Schedule with your mentor
Thur and Fri, March 28 & 29	Maunder Thursday & Good Friday Worship Services at 7:00
Wed, April 3	The Resurrection
Wed, April 10	The Road to Emmaus
Wed, April 17	Pentecost
Wed, April 24	The Call of Saul & Paul's and the Resurrection
Wed, May 1	Feed My Starving Children
Wed, May 8	The Book of Revelation
Wed, May 15	Summer Celebration!