

The Confirmation Process at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Confirmation is a public rite of the church preceded by a period of instruction designed to help baptized Christians identify with the life and mission of the Christian community. Students enter into the process to learn more about the faith into which their parents had them baptized. Parents are an important component of this next step of faith.

The confirmation process is primarily a two-year program here at St. Paul, starting in the 6th grade year and completed in October of the 8th grade year.

For those students enrolled in Lutheran Unity School, confirmation is taught as part of the regular religion class. All students who attend Lutheran Unity will take these classes, but only those who wish to be confirmed will be required to fulfill all the requirements for confirmation.

For those students who do not attend Lutheran Unity School, confirmation is taught Wednesdays at 3:30pm – 4:45 pm.

Materials Needed for Confirmation

All confirmation classes will require the following:

- The Holy Bible (NIV translation)
It is suggested, though by no means required, that students invest in the Concordia Self-Study Bible. You can order them through Julianna Shults or online at cph.org.
- Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (2005 edition)

Sermon Summary Pages

During each of the two years of confirmation students are expected to fully fill out and return 25 Sermon Summary Pages. These pages are located on the Welcome Center in the Narthex and can be returned to the same location once they have been completed. Students can also return these sheets to Pastor Bass or Julianna Shults by Monday at noon.

Students are allowed to submit a written report on a sermon they heard at another church as long as they include the bulletin of that church for the Sunday they heard the sermon. They may submit as many as five such reports a year. An example of the Sermon Summary page is in the binder.

Service Learning

During each of the two years of confirmation students are required to participate in 20 hours worth of service projects. The idea is to encourage our confirmands to actively participate in living out their Christian faith.

10 of these hours must be for the church and school. Examples of this service learning are

- Vacation Bible School
- Assisting in Sunday School
- Babysitting for church and school events
- Sharpening pencils in the sanctuary
- Assisting in yard work around the church and school
- Any work on improvement to the facilities

10 of these hours must be for the community. Examples of this service learning are

- WorkCamp Mission Trip (this would cover all 20 of your community hours, but not any of the congregational service hours)
- 1 by Youth volunteer day in Chicago on May 7th, 2011
- Helping neighbors with yard work
- Assisting another non-profit with work
- Any of the service projects our youth ministry does in other locations

Fundraisers do not count as community or congregational service. If there is a question about if an activity counts as service learning or not, please contact Pastor Bass or Julianna to double check. In order to receive credit the Service Learning Report Form must be filled out, signed, and returned to Julianna.

Passing Religion Class

Both for students of Lutheran Unity and of our after school program, over the course of the 6th and 7th grade year students will be expected to turn in homework when assigned and to pass quizzes and test. Some of the quizzes will be surprise while all tests will be scheduled in advance in order to give confirmands plenty of time to study. During the course of the year, confirmands may be assigned homework including some that **must be completed with parents**. There will also be memory work. Students must pass both years of coursework to be confirmed.

Final Exams

At the end of the school year, the 7th grade class will be expected to pass a comprehensive exam on the material they have learned over the year. The minimum passing grade is 70%. Any student unable to pass will retake the test until he or she meets this requirement. This is a requirement for all students in these grades as a part of the religion curriculum. This requirement has replaced the public questioning portion of the confirmation program.

Service to the Worshiping Community

During each of the two years of confirmation students will be asked to participate in St. Paul's worshiping community quarterly. This requirement can be fulfilled in many different ways. Students can serve as

- Acolytes (contact Jeff Boberg 773-594-9152 for information and schedule)
- Ushers (contact Ray Bennett 773-631-2085 for information and schedule)
- Readers during worship (contact Bob Herditsky 847-692-7117 for information and schedule)

- Singing with the choir (contact Carolyn Zielinski (Klocek) 773-218-6420 for information)
- Sing or play with the Contemporary Band (contact Bob McCallister 773-774-6335 for information)

When a student assists in worship, we do ask them to remind the elder in charge (He will have a red carnation on) and ask them to check off the sheet located in the narthex. For questions or to be connected to other opportunities, contact Pastor Bass or DCE Julianna Shults.

Confirmation Banner

The Confirmation Banner is an opportunity for you to express your unique faith in God. It should be a visual representation of what God has done in your life and a chance for you to show what you have learned about who God is during your lifetime, including what you have learned in the Confirmation program. Each banner is different and it is our hope that you can create something that will be a lasting memento of your faith.

There are a few requirements for your banner. You must include...

- Your name and your confirmation verse (text or location)
- A special coloring for your lettering
- At least three pictures/words which are descriptive of your faith
- At least one of those symbols should represent Christ
- Symbols that are reflective of faith rather than culture

Get creative. Your banner is due at the meeting of Confirmation students on October 12th. It will be hemmed and ready for you to hang the Saturday before Confirmation. Supplies for these banners will be provided for the students.

8th grade Meetings

All 8th grade students desiring to be confirmed will be meeting Wednesday after school from 5 to 6pm on

- August 24
- September 7th, 14, 21, 28th
- October 5th, 12th, and 19th

Students **may not** miss these meetings as they are crucial to preparing the students for confirmation. During these meetings we will prepare faith essays, discuss banners, chose confirmation verses, and prepare students for the rite of confirmation.

Other Notes

The rite of confirmation for our current 8th grade class will be October 30, 2011. The rite of confirmation for our current 7th grade class will be October 28, 2012.