

Confirmation Overview

2021-2022

This document is an overview of the St. Paul Lutheran Church confirmation process. The guidelines shared in this document are in place to prepare youth for their Affirmation of Baptism and Rite of Confirmation. We expect students to wrestle with their faith beliefs, ask tough questions and explore their thinking to find answers.

There is no deadline or age limit for confirmation! Youth are confirmed when they understand, agree with the beliefs of Christian living, and are ready to take the next step in their faith journey. Due to disrupted confirmation instruction during the 2020-2021 class year, the 4th Year Confirmation Students will receive continued instruction this year. Those who are ready, will be Confirmed in the fall of 2022.

Purpose: The purpose of Confirmation follows the St. Paul church motto: *Gathering Joyfully, Growing Spiritually and Going Faithfully*. This 4-year curriculum is a time for youth to **affirm** their personal connection to their baptismal promises by growing a deeper understanding of what Christian living looks like and practicing different tools for Christian living in a safe environment. Our goal is to help youth articulate their faith in today's world.

Registration: Confirmation registration forms are due Sunday, September 12, 2021 along with Parental Consent forms. There is a registration fee of \$25.00 per student, \$50.00 max per family, to help cover the cost of meals and supplies. No student will be turned away for financial reasons. Contact the church office for assistance.

Schedule: Classes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Year Confirmation students typically meet from September through mid-May on Sunday. Confirmation students will also meet for monthly retreats lead by the Pastor.

Guidelines: Guidelines are set to support the Confirmation goal.

Guideline	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year
Sunday Classes	2/month min.	2/month min.	2/month min.	2/month min.
Monthly Retreats	8	8	8	8
Sermon Notes	10 min.	10 min.	10 min.	10 min.
Confirmation Camp	Minimum of one week of camp following 6 th grade.			
Service Events	2	2	2	2

This chart is a snapshot of the guidelines and minimum participation to support the St. Paul church Confirmation goal. We are willing to adjust these guidelines if student circumstances dictate a need. Additional details for each guideline are below.

Lessons

Confirmation lessons will focus on the Small Catechism by Martin Luther. We will be meeting in-person in the classroom above the Nursery. Safety protocol will be honored and communicated before we meet and updated as needed.

Lessons will use two formats: Confirmation Retreats and Classes. Once a month, there will be a Confirmation Retreat from 5:30PM-8:00PM. All confirmation students are expected to participate in all 8 retreats. These retreats are led by Pastor Amy Engebose where the topic for the month is introduced. A light meal will be served.

Confirmation Classes will be on Sunday from 10:30AM-11:30AM. Most of these classes will be led by Mrs. Judy Behm, a lay member of St. Paul church and ELCA Lay School of Ministry certified student. The lessons will focus on life application of each month's topic. Confirmation classes also include the Generations In Faith Together (GIFT) Sundays. These classes focus on topics being highlighted during the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. Confirmation students are expected to participate in a *minimum* of two classes per month.

Students will be supplied with a binder for class material and Small Catechism book. Be sure to bring the binder, book and a bible to each lesson.

Attendance will be taken. Students who miss more than two Confirmation Classes or any Confirmation Retreats will be contacted.

Sermon Notes

It is difficult to overestimate how important worship attendance is for youth in the confirmation process. Students are asked to complete a minimum of 10 Sermon Notes each year. Sermon Notes can be submitted using the on-line form. Paper copies can be found on the counter in the narthex and returned to the same location. These notes are then forwarded to the Pastor who reviews them and typically adds comments before they are returned to you.

Confirmation Camp

Camp offers a unique environment where most youth find marked growth in their faith formation. One week of Confirmation Camp in the summer following their first year of confirmation is expected. Second and third year confirmation students are encouraged to participate in Confirmation Camp additional years. Confirmation Camp usually takes place in mid-June at the Pine Lake Bible Camp near Waupaca, a part of Crossways Camping Ministry. Registration is held in early March, when a deposit of \$150 will be required; the congregation pays the rest of the camping fee for first year students. Scholarships are available to help offset camp costs for second and third year students. If the deposit is a financial hardship, families are encouraged to apply for help. Contact the church office for further details.

Service Events

Service events provide hands-on experience for students to be disciples of Christ. Students should participate in at least two service events for a minimum of two hours per event. Examples include VBS Helper, assisting at area shelters, or St. Paul church events. Be sure to let the office know when participating in activities so the students Confirmation Tracker is accurate. We ask that service events are unique and not used toward service requirements requested by other groups, organizations or schools.