

Confirmation

"IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM..."

First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran Church 2020-2021

Confirmation Orientation

Affirmation of Baptism

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the Word of God and

share in the Lord's Supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**ELW p 236 from the *Affirmation
of Baptism***

Confirmation at First Lutheran is not just a ministry, it is a journey. When God claimed us as His child in baptism, God initiated a relationship which He promised would support us for our whole life.

Confirmation is a special time to learn about God's actions in history especially through His Son, Jesus Christ. This ministry allows participants to share and grow in their faith with the help of family, leaders and friends. Confirmation is also a time to claim the promises made for us in baptism as our own.

Confirmation Opportunities

First Lutheran Church is providing the following opportunities to youth and their families for growing in faith during the 2020-21 ministry year. Our hope is it will help them live out their faith as they journey towards affirming their own baptism at the start of 9th grade.

To hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper.

Worship

Centering our lives on God is the foundation to our faith life. It is understood that you will attend worship at other times (due to personal schedule, participation in choirs, etc.) or even in other congregations.

Saturday, 5:00 p.m. – Piano led worship

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – Organ led worship

Sunday, 11:15 a.m. – Celebration worship

Worship Notes

Worship notes are designed to help you participate actively in worship, give you a sense of what it means to fulfill the promise to “hear God’s Word and share in his Supper” through regular worship, and encourage conversation between you and your parents/guardians.

Complete 4 sermon notes in the fall and 4 in the spring (before May 31st).

Worship Participation

We ask that you participate in worship **4 times during the ministry year**. We will provide training and adult supervision of all roles.

READ – Help us by reading the Bible lesson during worship.

SING – Sing with the Youth Choir on a regular basis or sing a solo at worship.

PLAY – Play the hand bells with the MS Hand Bells on a regular basis or share your musical instrument by playing a piece of music at worship.

USHER – Smile and hand people a bulletin, guide them for communion, and help pass the plates during offering.

GREET – Hold the door open for people outside, smile, and say, “Hello!”

GET DIRTY – Help run a vacuum and move worship stuff!

CLEAN UP – Help clean up after communion.

GEAR UP – Help us worship God by running words and images on the screens. (PowerPoint)

LIGHT IT UP - Acolyte- Helps with the candles, offering, and communion during worship.
(All youth will be assigned twice. Mark the box if you want to acolyte more than twice.)

To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

Two Service Projects

God gives us all gifts and calls us to serve our neighbor in the world. To grow in these gifts we ask that you commit to complete two service projects and write them up sometime between May 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021. Because serving together as a family is important, we ask that **one of these service opportunities be done as a family**. Please gather as many family members as possible to pitch in! We ask that you do...

- 1) One project using your gifts in service outside of a ministry of First Lutheran Church, and**
- 2) One project using your gifts in service within a ministry of First Lutheran Church**

When you have finished the service project, simply fill out the form on the website, explaining your service project and where you saw God at work!

Here is a list of project ideas within First Lutheran and outside of First Lutheran. This is just to get you thinking. If you have your own idea, great!

Ideas INSIDE the church

- Property work mornings (twice a year)
- Help serve or clean-up for Saturday Evening Meals (SEMP)
- Help with Pre-School Sunday School, KidZone or Link on Sunday mornings
- Bake cookies for Saturday Meals
- SEMP Store
- Serve Wednesday Lenten Suppers
- Food drive (Super Bowl Sunday)

Ideas OUTSIDE our Church

- Ring the bell for Salvation Army
- Go through all your clothes as a family to give to Good Will
- Sponsor a child through Compassion International
- Participate in a CROP walk, Breast Cancer walk, etc.
- Clean up a local park
- Shovel a neighbor's drive for the winter
- Take meals on a regular basis to a family in need
- Go caroling at a nursing home

If you are interested in any of the projects above, look for information via email, website or in the bulletin. We will send out information looking for volunteers when these events get closer.

To live among God's faithful people

Wednesday Evening Confirmation

We understand that families are busier than ever today with practices and games for sports and other activities. Our hope is not for Confirmation to become one more thing you must add to your schedule, but to understand there are things within the Confirmation ministry which help build up the faith and community among youth. To grow in faith in God and love towards one another, to learn about His church and teachings, we ask that you commit to attend our Wednesday Evening Confirmation.

Confirmation Faith Mentors

Confirmation Faith Mentors is a program started in 2012 at First Lutheran designed to match each and every confirmation-aged student with a confirmed member of our church over the age of 18 who is not related to the student. The goal is to foster a spiritual friendship between the youth and the adult in our church family. The pair will meet each Wednesday in Lent, **beginning on Ash Wednesday**. They will attend worship together every week and then participate in a guided discussion with each other for 30 minutes.

Memorization

Martin Luther talked about memorization as the discipline of writing something on your heart. Martin Luther also wrote the Small Catechism to be taught in the home. Youth received a Small Catechism in 5th Grade, we ask families to fill out a memorization form and return it to the church office. In the spring we will celebrate those who have completed their memorization.

Christian Camp Experience

Connecting with each other and with God in a fun but meaningful way is what happens at a Christian Camp. Because we recognize the value of such an experience we ask that you commit to **attending either a weekend Dirty Feet Retreat or experience a week at camp or on a summer trip* sometime between the summer before your 6th grade year and the Fall of your 9th Grade year.**

Dirty Feet Retreat at Camp EWALU in Strawberry Point (October 2020)

Week of Christian Camp*, summer of 2021

Middle School Summer Trip, summer of 2021

***By this we mean denominational camps like EWALU, Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp, and Camp IO-Dis-E-Ca. These camps focus on bible study, include worship, and are built around faith growth and development. While wonderful camps providing a great experience, Camp Wapsie, FCA Camps, and other nominally Christian camps do not have the same focus.**

General Expectations

For everyone to understand what is expected of the youth and families involved with Confirmation, we have compiled the lists that follow. These lists are not exhaustive and each of us always needs to use our best judgment and behavior. The church building belongs to all the members of First Lutheran, and we are all responsible for keeping it in good condition. Respecting the building and the people of First Lutheran is a commonsense requirement for each of us.

FOR Youth

1. Attend weekly classes and come prepared for discussions and participation.
2. Together with your parents, or other adults, engage in conversation about their faith and yours.
3. Complete 8 worship notes.
4. Complete Acolyte 2 times.
5. Complete Worship Participation 4 times.
6. Complete 2 service projects.
7. Respect this church home we share.
8. Confirmation will be a place of affirmation and respect. No putdowns of others -- teachers, students, other groups or other youth.
9. Participate in worship on Sunday mornings or Saturday evenings.

FOR Parents/Guardians

1. Encourage your youth's faith -- pray for them and for yourselves. Ask for God's guidance and blessings in your life as a family.
2. Consider being a small group leader, pray about this opportunity.
3. Engage your youth in conversation about his/her faith and your faith. Talk about the topics shared during the Confirmation sessions. (See Confirmation Family Blog & Weekly Emails)
4. Worship as families regularly, support the Confirmation ministry, and encourage participation in other youth ministries.
5. Assist with, check, and document memory work.

Parent/Guardian Leadership and Support

As parent/guardian(s) **you** play the vital role in the faith development and growth of your child. Statistical evidence proves that parents/guardians are the number one faith influence on their children. We are committed to doing **all we can** to support you. The more your children see you engaging in these ministries, the more likely your children will engage in their young adulthood.

We ask you to make the following commitments:

1) **To attend worship as a family.** Worship notes are meant to create space for you and your youth to connect the message in worship to your everyday life. You can usher or greet as a family. Your child can read scripture. You can acolyte together!

2) **To grow your own faith.** Become a faith mentor, seek spiritual direction with Marcie Watson, join in one of the many opportunities during the Sunday Morning Education Hour, Worship TOGETHER, or serve dinner to people in need on Saturday nights at church. These actions model for your children the continued growth that accompanies a living faith.

3) **To talk with your children about what they are learning and participate on parent nights.** You are always welcome to attend on Wednesday nights and we will work to communicate with you often. Use the Confirmation weekly email to practice faith in your home. Use the Faith 5 to lead a simple devotion. Bless your children!

4) **To pray with and for your family.** Pray at meals and before bed. Stop to pray in the middle of a tough time! Pray for our pastors and confirmation leaders. Time spent together in prayer, reading scripture, reading a devotional book, or discussing the week's sermon can be a great way to grow your relationship with your family and with God.

5) **We need the support of parents to make our ministry successful below are some options we have available!**
We ask all volunteers to complete the process to be approved through our Child Safety Policy.

Small Group Guide/Assistant Guide (Weekly on Wed., 2 Adults for every 5-6 Youth)

Substitute Small Group guide (as needed)

Chaperone the Dirty Feet Retreat (Oct.)

Chaperon the Christmas Lock-In (Dec.)

Co-ordinate phone calls to volunteers

Drive to and from events (as needed)

Call me when you have a need for volunteers

REGISTER TODAY!

www.firstlutherancr.org/confirmation-registration.html