

Confirmation Orientation

Bethel Lutheran Church
2018-2019

AN INTRODUCTION TO CONFIRMATION

Bethel's Confirmation Classes, grades 6, 7 & 8, are provided to aid parents in their very most important task – **"Bring your children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"** (Eph. 6:4). The Confirmation Classes will give our young people the opportunity to grow and mature spiritually and in their relationship with each other and the congregation. They will do this as they study the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism together over these three years.

Confirmation is only a beginning – the foundation of faith is laid as a preparation for a lifelong continuation of honing those beliefs and skills learned. The process of study that leads to the Rite of Confirmation begins with an overview of the Scriptures in 6th grade, followed by the study of Martin Luther's Small Catechism in 7th and 8th grades.

Confirmation Day is the time when your child will personally and publically affirm the baptismal promises made for him/her when at baptism. It is a day when your child declares that he/she has been taught the basics of the Christian faith and verbally commits to continue this growth through faithful worship and study of God's Word, as well as regular reception of the Lord's Supper.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents help meet these goals by:

1. Encouraging your student in all areas of instruction, including helping with homework and memory work.
2. Bringing and participating with your child(ren) in Divine Services each week. Parents are also expected to attend the Adult Class on Sunday mornings while their students are in Sunday School.
3. Bringing your child faithfully and punctually to class and activities.
4. Notifying the pastor/teacher if your child will miss class or any other information that would be helpful to know.
5. Praying for the students and those who teach these important truths.
6. Praying for your child's continued spiritual growth in Jesus Christ.
7. Providing a Christ-centered home where you practice God's love and forgiveness and demonstrate Christian values.
8. Having family devotions daily (the hymnal is a wonderful resource for this).
9. Learning the Catechism so that you can be prepared to discuss it with your child(ren). Parents are always welcome to sit in on class.

Parents, your role in raising your children in the Christian faith is primary. This commitment was made on the day of Baptism. Confirmation class is a formal learning environment for students to learn about the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. However, Confirmation class cannot stand alone. Faith is most importantly taught by you, and **parents are the most integral part of Bethel's Confirmation ministry**. It is primarily parents' responsibility to teach faith to their children. Faith in Jesus is the most important treasure you have to share with your children!

→ Your priority placed on going to church will be passed down to your children, and to their children, in turn!

GOALS OF CONFIRMATION

1. To teach the foundation of the Christian faith using God's Holy Word.
2. To teach the foundations of the Christian faith using Luther's Small Catechism.
3. To encourage students to develop their faith, affirm their baptismal promises, and appreciate their standing with God as heirs of heaven through Jesus' saving work on the cross.

The ultimate goal of Confirmation is to live and die with a steadfast and confident faith in Jesus, knowing that he has accomplished all things necessary for us and freely gives these gifts to us through his Word and Sacraments.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR (FROM THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION)

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Student Responsibilities will be discussed with each class.

7th & 8th Grade

Student Responsibilities & Requirements:

ACOLYTE PROGRAM

Acolyting is a great opportunity for you to serve in our church in a special way and to learn more about the important elements of public worship services at Bethel. As an acolyte, you are an assistant in the Divine Service. You will be assigned as an acolyte for services throughout the years of confirmation. When the volunteer list comes out, you are responsible for taking note of your week to acolyte or finding someone to sub for you if you cannot be there. Please make sure to indicate your preference for service time and best contact information.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at class and in Sunday-morning Divine Services/Sunday School is expected and required. Please note that during ADVENT, even with no class, students are REQUIRED to attend the 6:00pm Midweek service. During LENT, students are required to attend the 6pm Midweek service, along with class immediately following, ending at 7:45pm.

Any exceptions are to be taken up with Bethel's Board of Elders and Pastor. Work can be made up for excused absences. Make sure to contact Pastor BEFORE class if your youth will be absent. The work will be placed in the family mailbox at church after Confirmation Class for the student to pick up and complete.

COME PREPARED

Each week, bring your: Bible, Small Catechism, Student Guide, a writing utensil, and completed homework (memory work, journal, sermon notes, etc.).

MEMORY WORK

Peter encourages all Christians in 1 Peter 3:15 to **"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."** Memorizing Scripture and the six chief parts of our faith from the Small Catechism is a great way to always be prepared to state your beliefs with confidence. Scripture also serves to comfort and strengthen us in times of trouble.

The Memory Sheets that are handed out during class are to be studied, memorized, and recited at home with the parent(s). After completion, one parent is to sign the top of the page, and the student is to bring it to class to turn in.

FAMILY IN FAITH JOURNAL

The Family in Faith Journal is a short assignment at the end of each lesson that will help the family review one of the key points from that lesson. Average time for this assignment is 10 minutes. This is to be completed during the week and signed by one parent to indicate the family's participation took place. All Family in Faith Journals are to be turned in by April 3, 2019.

SERMON NOTES

Each student is to complete a minimum of 25 Sermon Notes. These are to be completed and turned in each week, either by placing them in Pastor Walla's mailbox or submitting at the beginning of each class. All sermon notes are to be turned in by April 3, 2019.