

2023-2024

Confirmation Ministry Handbook



Jamestown Partner
Congregations

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the leaders in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

—1 Timothy 4:12

Church / Home Partnership

Expectation: Share the Experience!

Confirmation is a partnership between the church and families! When we are baptized both our families and the faith community make promises to support and encourage us in our faith journeys. Learning and growing that prepares us for affirming our baptism (“being confirmed”) does not only happen in the 1-2 hours a week that we spend at church. We know that faith is most often formed through personal trusted relationships, most often the ones in our own homes. Involving every member of your immediate family, extended family members, and faithful friends enriches the faith formation experience for everyone. It helps integrate faith into daily life.

So adults - get and stay involved! Attend worship and special events with your confirmand. Ask your student what they are learning in class on the drive home. **You MUST be registered through the REALM app so you can receive all relevant communication!**

We also encourage you to: Pray regularly for and with your child and for class leaders, fellow students and their families. Participate regularly in worship and other parts of congregational life **together**. Provide opportunities to answer questions about your faith and life. Create opportunities to ask questions about your students learning

And students — make the most of this partnership! Pray regularly for yourself and others. Use your Bible. Ask questions. Share your thoughts, feelings and doubts. Talk about what you are learning. Participate in congregational life

Expectation: attend and participate every Wednesday

Christians are called to be life long learners. The confirmation program is a time of learning focused on distinctive teachings of the Christian faith. If students are going to miss a confirmation Wednesday, a parent or guardian needs to notify their pastor by 4:00 pm on the day of the class.

CANCELLATIONS:

If school in Jamestown is cancelled or if the schools close before the end of the school day, confirmation class will be cancelled. A message will be sent via REALM to confirm cancellation. You are best able to determine what is safe for your family and should plan attendance accordingly during inclement weather.

8th Grade Confirmation Class

CATECHISM

SCHEDULE:

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

All 8th graders and a caring adult from participating congregations will meet together for classes according to the published schedule (roughly 3 times per month).

Meetings will be held at Trinity Lutheran from 6:30 pm until 8 pm.

We ask parents to attend as often as possible. Your involvement enriches the experience. Your time together here is meant to help parents and students connect regarding their faith. That being said, if you can't attend that doesn't mean you shouldn't send your confirmand.

The 8th Grade class will study Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Throughout the year they will learn about the 10 Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the Sacraments.

GOALS:

- Confirmands are equipped to affirm their baptisms - ready to take personal responsibility for their faith life going forward.
- Confirmands know about the basic components of the Christian faith (the 10 Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Sacraments) and how they relate to their faith.
- Confirmands know how to find texts in their Bible and understand how scripture is a tool they can use to strengthen and sustain their faith.

9th Grade Confirmation Class

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM PROMISES

SCHEDULE:

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

All 9th graders from participating congregations will meet together for classes according to the published schedule (roughly once per month).

Meetings will be held at Trinity Lutheran from 6:30 pm until 8 pm.

The 9th Grade class will study the promises they will make during the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Service in their 10th Grade year. Each month we will talk one of the promises and then between classes they will answer a short essay question about that promise. These essay questions will become an essay to be turned in before Confirmation Sunday during their 10th Grade year.

GOALS:

- Confirmands understand what Affirmation of Baptism means.
- Confirmands are equipped to affirm their baptisms - ready to take personal responsibility for their faith life going forward.
- Confirmands know how their faith is connected with their everyday lives.

FEES

The cost of Confirmation class for the year is \$75 per student. This fee covers Bibles, student books, other materials, and youth events for the year.

Please speak to your pastor if fees are a hardship. Every youth is welcome to participate regardless of family financial challenges. Fees are due by the end of October.

COMMUNICATION

Handouts and verbal announcements

We expect Confirmation students to take responsibility for their own schedules and be able to share information with the adults in their lives. We often make announcements at confirmation class about upcoming events and reminders.

Sometimes there are handouts/registration forms that get sent home. We will also use electronic means to make sure that information is available if things do not make it home. However we do expect your students to communicate with you

REALM - Digital Connection

We use **REALM Connect** as our primary way to communicate. If you can receive text messages and/or emails you will be able to receive REALM notifications. If you have not already claimed your profile on REALM Connect you will need to accept the invitation we send you. New invitations were sent by email on August 9th.



Smartphones

There is an app available for download through the App Store or Google Play. The app is the best way to interact with REALM Connect. There is also a desktop version available

Confirmation--What's the Point?

con·fir·ma·tion [kän-fər-`mā-shən] *noun*

1: an act or process of confirming: as a (1) : a Christian rite conferring the gift of the Holy Spirit and among Protestants full church membership (2): a ceremony especially of Reform Judaism confirming youths in their faith (3) the ratification of an executive act by a legislative body

Our Confirmation Program seeks to equip young men and women for a lifelong journey of Faith.

Confirmation is a traditional word that has mistakenly come to mean graduation from church. Don't be deceived—you won't be handed a diploma at the end of this journey! God chose you as his own and God won't let you go!

Confirmation is training for the rest of your life. It will challenge you to explore what you believe and confess your faith as your own. Guided by faithful adults, young people will learn what it means to live daily as a child of God and participate in the church as an adult member of a congregation and the greater Church.



Our Confirmation Program teaches Lutheran theology captured in Luther's seal—
Word Alone, Faith Alone,
Grace Alone.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
—Matthew 5:14-16

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
—Deuteronomy 6:4-9