



# Confirmation Handbook 2020-2021

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## **What is Confirmation Class?**

- Confirmation Class is a way the church helps parents teach the faith to their youth.
- Confirmation Class is a way for youth to learn what we believe as Christians about God, His Word, and the world around us.
- Confirmation class focuses on the six chief (main) parts of Martin Luther's catechism.
- Confirmation is the beginning of the road for youth to take responsibility for their life of faith. In their confirmation they affirm their baptismal vows of the past and commit to making make them a present and future reality.

**Confirmation is not a sacrament** in that it is not instituted by Christ and it has no physical element to which God has attached His Word and promise of grace and forgiveness. But even so, Confirmation is an ancient rite of the church that affirms one's infant baptism. The instruction that leads up to it is important for Spiritual growth and development toward more mature faith, and it helps in preparation for worthy reception of the Lord's Supper.

## **Purpose**

Confirmation Class is designed to [help families](#) instruct young people in the basics of the Christian faith as set forth in Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism an explanation of life taken from the Bible. The curriculum helps create a heart for Christ and for people, and equips students to live a life of service to God and their fellow man. We strive to go beyond simply gaining knowledge to the point of helping young people have a more personal relationship with God and apply Biblical teachings to their everyday life. We seek to accomplish this purpose in a fun and creative way by having a large group presentation of the main topic, and then following that up with small group discussion.

## **Why should my youth go to confirmation class and be confirmed?**

Some churches stress the importance of everyone making a choice for Jesus. In the Lutheran church, our understanding is that God gives us faith through our baptism so that He chooses us. Confirmation class gives youth the understanding of what God has already done for them. It helps youth see that what we believe as Lutherans is in fact taught in the Bible. When youth are confirmed, they are publicly saying they believe what they learned in confirmation class is biblical; are affirming the faith God gave them in their baptism; and are publicly promising to stay in the Christian faith all their lives.

## **What do we believe and teach in confirmation class?**

Confirmation class is a three year program in which we learn the six chief parts of Luther's catechism.

Year A - Ten Commandments and Law/Gospel

Year B - Lord's Prayer, the Bible, and the Reformation

**Year C - Baptism and the Creeds**

Every year, we teach a special class on the Lord's Supper in preparation for attendance at Holy Communion that all confirmands must take at some point in the three years of their instruction.

This class is ordinarily taught on two Sunday afternoons and is open to students as young as fifth grade. We also require that at least one parent attend the classes with their student(s).

## **Expectations**

***That the above purpose might be met, it is expected that students will . . .***

- **Worship** our Triune God faithfully, regularly receiving His gifts of grace and forgiveness, and giving Him the praise that He is due;
- **Commune** regularly and faithfully at the Lord's altar (after they have been instructed and at a time agreeable to their parents and pastor);
- **Attend class** sessions regularly and cheerfully, inform the teacher in advance whenever unable to attend, and make up any missed work;
- **Actively participate** in class by listening carefully, responding appropriately, and giving undivided attention to the various class activities
- **Enjoy regular fellowship**, Bible study and service events provided by youth ministry
- **Memorize** and internalize sections of Scripture and the Small Catechism as assigned
- **Take part in special events** such as Confirmation Camp and Concordia Youth Gathering (at CUAA). Youth should go to at least one camp throughout the three years (these events are so much fun that we are sure that they will want to go to more).
- **Participate in service events** throughout the school year, including such things as acolyting in worship throughout the year
- **Complete** three years of instruction (or its equivalent as determined by the confirmation leaders);
- **Write an essay** of about 500 words or complete a project "On Being a Christian" according to supplied guidelines; complete on the 3rd year.
- **Read a portion of this essay** or present the project to the congregation on the day of their confirmation;
- **Have an Oral Examination** to demonstrate what they have learned to their family and to the congregation (a study guide will be provided for preparation). Complete on the 3rd year.
- **Participate in a family conversation** with the pastor and youth worker at the end of the third year of instruction.

***After the students have been confirmed, it is our desire that they would be. . .***

- Active members of the Lutheran Church, worshiping and communing regularly,
- Responsible stewards of their time, talent, and treasure, cheerfully giving a first-fruit proportion of their income to the Lord's work,
- Active participates in Bible study, both corporately and privately,
- Witnesses to their Christian faith as the Holy Spirit provides opportunity to tell other people the Good News about Jesus.

## **What's the role of a parent/guardian in confirmation?**

- Be active in confirmation class by being aware of the class topics and having family talks about the topics. Parents are welcome to listen to the main talk from 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm.)
- Help youth memorize Bible verses and portions of Luther's Small Catechism.
- Work with Pastor Maske to schedule when it is best to have your youth acolyte\* (COVID)
- Encourage faith growth and development in your youth.

## **Absence policy**

Attendance is key in our confirmation process. Students are expected to be present for all classes and events, communicating in advance any absences or special circumstances that impede attendance. All absences need to be made known Pastor Maske prior to the event or class. If students are absent from class it is up to the parents to teach their students the information that they missed.

## **Online (all materials are on the church website by Monday afternoon)**

Go to the church's website ([www.mightymessengers.org](http://www.mightymessengers.org)) click on the "ministries" tab and click on "confirmation." There you will see the slide presentation of the large group talk, notes from the talk, and the questions discussed in the small group. Before the next confirmation class, print out the notes from the website, listen to the talk, and go through the small group questions with your student.

## **Inclement weather policy**

If Portage Public Schools (and thus also St. Michael Lutheran School) is closed or dismissed early for inclement weather, the class or event on that day will be cancelled. If the weather gets bad in the afternoon on days in which schools were not closed in the morning, the church will send out an email by 4:00pm to let families know that class is canceled.

## **Materials needed**

- Luther's Small Catechism\*
- ESV Bible (*if you do not have one, see Pastor Maske*).
- Something to write with

\* If you do not own these items they will be gifted to your student along with a confirmation class binder of information and a canvas bag in which to put everything. Please bring the bag with all these items to class every time.

## **What is the Confirmation Class Schedule?**

Main communication is through email. Please contact Pastor Maske at [dmaske@mightymessengers.org](mailto:dmaske@mightymessengers.org) with any questions that you may have.

### **Wednesday Evenings**

*5:45-5:50: Greeting time ...in the Sanctuary*

*5:50-6:00: Prayer... in the Sanctuary*

*6:00-6:30: Pastor's Talk... in the Sanctuary*

*6:30-6:58: Small Group Time...*

*8<sup>th</sup> grade in the Youth Room*

*7<sup>th</sup> grade in the 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Room of the school building*

*6<sup>th</sup> grade in the Library*

*6:58-7:00: Group Blessing ...in Communication Center*

*7:00: Pick Up Time*

***During Advent and Lent,*** confirmation class is combined with a worship service for the whole family at 6:00 pm. Instead of a normal sermon, the confirmation class lesson will be taught. The goal is for parents to sit with their students and have a conversation about the topic being taught in service (pastor will give you time in service.)

For questions, please contact Pastor Maske at **[dmaske@mightymessengers.org](mailto:dmaske@mightymessengers.org)**