



Saint Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH
sharing Christ's love with joy!

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Confirmation 2020-2021 ***The Old Testament***

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Purpose

Welcome to Confirmation Preparation! I am excited for this new year! You may notice some changes in confirmation class and requirements this year. Things will be different as we adjust to changing pandemic regulations. Don't worry! Together we will have a great year growing in our faith and love of God and God's church.

In the Confirmation ritual, you will make these promises:

- +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,
- +to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

In other words, you will publically declare your faith in God and your desire to be fully active in the life of the church. As we lay hands on each person, the Holy Spirit also blesses you and is present in your life and heart. Before that day, we spend time in Confirmation preparation. The focus of this time is for you to explore your faith and grow in relationship with God and God's church. This year, that will happen through learning, small group discussions, fellowship, and more!

Confirmation at St. Paul is a three-year program that typically begins in the fall of 7th grade and ends with the Rite of Confirmation in the spring of 9th grade. Each year we focus on a different Theme: Old Testament, New Testament, and Lutheran Doctrine and Discipleship.

Theme

The theme for this year is: *The Old Testament*. We will learn about our major ancestors in the faith, how to read and interpret the Old Testament, and reflect together on the impact of Scripture on our daily lives.

By the end of the year you will:

- +Know the stories of at least 15 ancestors in the faith
- +Know the Books of the Old Testament in order
- +Have knowledge of the Biblical timeline

+Be able to make connections between the Old Testament and the New Testament

Components of Confirmation preparation include:

- +Prayer
- +Class attendance
- +Attending Worship and Worship Notes
- +Service Hours in the community
- +Service Hours in the congregation
- +Faith Statement Paper (9th grade only)

Expectations

- A. **Prayer:** Part of your faith life is being active in prayer. We will spend time learning and exploring different ways of praying. You are also expected to pray at least once a week for the other people in this class, the adult leaders, and for the congregation in general.
- B. **Wednesday Evening Confirmation Preparation:** Confirmands participate in the Wednesday evening learning sessions which will include large group presentations and small group discussion time. These sessions will run from 6:00-7:00 pm on Wed evenings (please see the attached schedule Appendix A). **Please be on time.** Students are required to attend these sessions as part of the Confirmation program. Attendance will be taken and make-up work will be assigned for each session that is missed (please see attached make-up work Appendix B). One absence is excused per semester. If a student misses 4 Wednesday sessions, the student and parents will need to meet with the pastor to discuss their Confirmation progress and best course of action to take to get them back on track.
 1. **Location:** We sent a survey to each family with a student in Confirmation preparation this year asking your comfort and preference for meeting indoors, outdoors, or via zoom or another electronic means. We respect the concerns and wishes of each family and individual. We ask that all confirmation families do the same, and be flexible as we try to meet together in different ways. We will try to be as communicative as possible regarding any changes that may occur.
- C. **Bible Use:** Students will increase their knowledge of the Bible and become more familiar with the Bible. Each student will be required to look up passages during the Wednesday evening sessions, and may be asked to recite or read verses as part of the learning. Students may bring their own Bible (preferred) or may use one from church. If the class meets via Zoom, each student will be expected to have a Bible with them. If a student needs a Bible, please contact the pastor and one will be provided. **Students will be expected to memorize the books of the Old Testament in order and recite or write them for the pastor or Adult Guide by the end of the semester.**
- D. **Workbooks:** Each student will receive a workbook to use during Wednesday evening sessions. This is the student's to keep. However, we will store them at church so that they are not forgotten at home each week. If the class meets via Zoom, each student will be responsible for having his/her workbook with them.

- E. **Advent and Lent Worship Services:** Attendance at Advent and Lent Worship Services is expected for Confirmation Students and is part of the Confirmation program. All services, including Ash Wednesday, are at 7:00pm.
- F. **Fifteen (15) Worship Note Sheets:** Participating in worship regularly is a basic expectation for all church members. The confirmation years are an important time to establish good worship habits. Students are required to complete **15 Worship Note Sheets within a confirmation year.** Worship Note Sheets may be filled out for Sunday morning services or special seasonal services. They may also be used when visiting other churches but should include a bulletin from the service attached to the Worship Note form. **At least Eight (8) of the year's Worship Notes should be from Worship Services attended at Saint Paul Lutheran.** The Worship Note Sheets are located on the usher's table and are fairly self-explanatory. After attending a service and completing a sheet, the Worship Note Sheets can be handed in in the tray at the usher station. **While church meets outdoors and via livestream, students may attend in either capacity. Worship Notes will be available on the church website, www.sharingchristслоve.org, to print and return or to complete and submit electronically.**
- G. **Fifteen (15) Service Hours:** Service in the name of Christ, especially with those most in need, is an integral part of being a Christian. We expect Confirmation Students will take part in community and congregational service. However, because life is so different in these days, we do not know what opportunities will be available. Students are expected to make a good faith effort to fulfill service hours. The student has flexibility in where to fulfill these hours. The guidelines below should help be creative about how to fulfill these hours. Please complete a service hour form for each service event. This form is available on the usher stand at church and on the church's website at www.sharingchristслоve.org. A total of 15 hours of service will be required per student as follows*:
- F.1 **Community Service Hours**
Community service hours can include anything from working with local organizations like Family Pathways and Helping Hand, to just helping a neighbor or an extended family member (approved by the pastor or a Confirmation Adult Guide). Check with the pastor or a Confirmation Adult Guide if you have a question about whether something can be counted as a service hour.
- F.2 **Congregation Service Hours**
Congregation service hours can include any service within the church, such as serving as an acolyte, ushering, reading, working with Sunday School, helping with the church grounds, indoor cleaning, attending a Council meeting, etc. Please do not forget to complete a service hour form and have the appropriate staff person sign your form.
- *Service hours that are completed during the summer months (June-August) will be counted to the upcoming school year requirements. However, a service hour form must be completed in order to receive credit.
- H. **Acolyte, Ushering, and Reader:** Please sign up on the website to serve in one of these capacities: www.sharingchristслоve.org. Currently, only Readers and Ushers are needed for outdoor worship. If a student is unable to serve at their assigned service, they are expected to find their own substitute. Training for Acolytes is required and will be scheduled. Ushers will be paired with another experienced usher. **You must cover your own shifts for these positions once the schedule is posted....NO SHOWS WILL RESULT IN A -1 ON THE**

VOLUNTEER TRACKING REGISTER! *You must still fill out a service hour sheet for your time to be counted as church service hours.*

- **Acolyte:** The Office Administrator, Melissa Nelson, is the contact for Acolyte Coordinating. The **acolyte** schedule is posted as part of the *worship assistants* list under the News and Events tab at our website www.sharingchristслоve.org. We also will distribute a schedule in the next few weeks. A reminder email from the church office will be sent the week of the service date. ***Acolyting may resume when we move indoors for worship***
 - **Ushering:** A schedule will be distributed after you have signed up. Currently, for outdoor worship, ushers help to direct traffic in the parking lot and count and report the number of attendees. In normal circumstances, Ushers and their families are in charge of handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, presentation of gifts, communion ushering and attendance count as well as being available to help guide people to the nursery if necessary.
 - **Sunday School:** We may need help in the Sunday School each Sunday. Helpers just help the Teacher with the lesson, handing out and collecting materials, etc. ***Starting time and need TBA***
- I. **Retreats:** There is no retreat scheduled for 2020. We will reevaluate in 2021.
- J. **Fee:** There is a \$25.00 fee for each student. 9th grade students have an additional \$10.00 robe cleaning fee. Please pay by the end of September 2020. If the cost is a problem for your family, please talk with the Pastor. The cost should not be a reason not to participate.

For 9th Grade Students

- A. **Confirmation Stole:** Each 9th grade student decorates a red stole with symbolic patches. The student and family are responsible to collect the patches. The assembly will happen in class on April 14, 2021.
- B. **Faith Statement Paper Due April 21, 2021:** Each 9th grade confirmand will be asked to explore his or her faith journey and experiences in a Faith Statement paper. Guidelines will be given in February. Each student will discuss his/her faith statement one-on-one with the pastor. (See Appendix C for instructions.)
- C. **Confirmation Rehearsal and Pictures Wednesday April 28, 2021**
- D. **Confirmation Sunday May 2, 2021**

Parents

Some parents are needed to volunteer as guides or helpers. Parents are also expected to worship with their youth, provide encouragement and be supportive of the guides and program by bringing their youth on time and pray for the ministry. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend the large group workshops, as they are able. Occasionally, parents will also be called on to substitute for small groups, service, and fellowship events.

Special Note

*Confirmation is not a sacrament in the Lutheran church. It is not required. It is an optional series of lessons, Christian fellowship, service and fun. HOWEVER, **if a child registers for confirmation at Saint Paul Lutheran Church, the program and its requirements are no longer considered optional.** To preserve the integrity of this confirmation program, expectations are set, and must be reached.*

*As with any set of “expectations” involved in a church function, the purpose of confirmation is not to finish, but to learn from the experiences that lead up to completion. Nothing is absolute, and special arrangements can always be made. However, we need and expect the cooperation and support of parents and guardians in helping our students fulfill these requirements, thereby helping us reach our goal of well-educated and engaged youth who are genuinely excited about life in the church and developing their personal relationship with our loving and gracious God. **Please feel free to discuss any questions or problems with the pastor.***

Appendix A

Confirmation Schedule 2020 – 2021 Confirmation meets Wednesdays, **6:00-7:00**

September 9 – Parent and Student Orientation to Confirmation

September 16 – Group Building and How do we read the Bible?

September 23 – Adam and Eve

September 30 – Noah

October 7 – Group Building

October 14 – NO CLASS

October 21 – Abraham and Sarah

October 28 – Jacob

November 4 – Group Building

November 11 – Joseph

November 18 – Gratitude Practice

November 25 – NO CLASS

December 2 – Moses

December 9 – Your questions

December 16 – Group Building

Break until January 2021

January 6 – Rahab

January 13 – Deborah

January 20 – Samson

January 27 – Group Building

February 3 – Ruth

February 10 – David

February 17 – Ash Wednesday Worship

February 24 – Group Building and prayer practice

March 3 – Solomon

March 10 – NO CLASS - Spring Break

March 17 - Elijah

March 24 - Daniel

March 31 - Jonah

April 1 – Maundy Thursday Worship

April 2 - Good Friday Worship

April 7 – NO CLASS

April 14 – 9th Grade Only – work on stoles and Faith Statements

April 21 – Your Questions and Wrap-up

April 28 – 9th grade only - Pictures and Rehearsal for Confirmation

May 2 – Confirmation Sunday

Appendix B

Confirmation Make-Up Work

If you need to miss a Confirmation class, service event, or fellowship event for any reason, please contact the pastor via email pastor@sharingchristslve.org or by phone 651-462-5212. Students are expected to attend every class, service event, and fellowship event unless you have discussed it with the pastor (or Leading Adult Guide). If a student must have extended absences we will need to discuss options together.

If you are curious about absences, there is an attendance sheet for confirmation class posted on the bulletin board outside the youth room.

Make up work is to read an article from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's on-line magazine, *Living Lutheran* <https://www.livinglutheran.org/>. Then write a one page, single-spaced essay in 12pt font that covers the following questions:

Why did you choose this article?

What did you find interesting?

What is one new thing you learned?

How does this effect your life as a Christian?

Make-Up work is due **within one month of absence.**

Appendix C

Statement of Faith

Third Year Confirmation Class (9th grade)

In preparation for your confirmation service and confirmation interview, you are asked to write a paper titled "My Faith Journey". The purpose is to help you put into words your faith story and what you believe at this point in your life. This paper is to be *at least 800 words* in length and is ***due no later than Wednesday, April 21st***. Those turning in late papers will be required to answer an additional question. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the pastor. Students will discuss their faith statements with each other in class on April 14th. Any papers that do not meet the expectations here outlined will be returned for further work.

The following should be included in your paper:

1. Begin by sharing something of your background. Include when and where you were born, where you have lived and who is part of your family.
2. Talk about your Faith Journey. Start by telling when and where you were baptized and who your Godparents or sponsors are. Talk about your involvement in Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, First Communion and/or other church programs. Talk about any people who have especially influenced you and any experiences (retreats, canoe trips, youth gatherings, mission trips, etc.) which have been meaningful.
3. Next, write what you know about the following:
God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Baptism, Holy Communion, the Bible, Faith, Prayer.
4. Write something about what being confirmed means to you. What are you saying or affirming at the Confirmation Service? This section should be more than a few sentences! Use the Affirmation Of Baptism Service on pages 234-236 of the hymnal for reference.
5. Write something about your interests, skills and talents. What do you do well and enjoy? How can you use these interests to serve God?
6. End your paper by writing how you think you will continue to be involved in church following confirmation.
7. Your paper should include at least two Bible passages. Cite the Book, Chapter and Verse for each passage. For example: "Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go," Joshua 1:9.

Paper Format

1. Size 12 font
2. Times New Roman
3. Numbered Pages
4. Cover Page: Including name and title of paper.

Make sure it is well organized and spell checked! Make sure to capitalize words like God, Christian, Jesus and Bible! Please type your papers.

No papers will be accepted after April 28th for spring confirmation. You may give your paper to the pastor, email it to pastor@sharignchristsllove.org, leave it in the church office or mail it to the church. But remember, they must be in by the due date!

Reminder: All sermon notes and service hours must be completed by April 21stth.

Appendix D

Confirmation Stoles Guidelines

Third Year Confirmation Class

You will wear a red stole for the Confirmation service on May 2nd. A stole is a strip of cloth that lays around your shoulders and drapes down the front of your robe. The stole is a symbol of being yoked to Jesus in your life. In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus says, ²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” A yoke, as you may know, is something that connects two animals together so that they can work together, like oxen pulling a plow. When Jesus says his yoke is light, he means that you and he are yoked together and that you’ll find it to be a joy rather than a burden. You are connected to Jesus and you are working with him in your life to share his love with the world.

You get to design your own stole for Confirmation using patches of words or symbols. Please think about what is important in your life that you would like to represent on your stole. You could include religious symbols, activities, people, experiences, scripture references, or just about anything. You are responsible to find patches that can be ironed onto your stole. Please have at least one religious symbol (cross, dove, tree of life, etc.). No fewer than four patches.

We will assemble the stoles in class on April 14th. The stole will be provided there. **You must bring your patches to that class.**