



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1320 Bath Avenue

Ashland, Ky. 41101

Dear Students and Parents:

Your Confirmation journey is about to begin or continue for another year. As your instructors, we want this to be a time to explore your faith, grow in God's love, and evaluate your commitment to living a Christian life.

Your Confirmation Day is the time when you personally and publicly affirm the baptismal vows made for you when you were baptized. Your Confirmation Day marks a milestone on your journey; however, it is not the end of the journey. It is not a graduation, but rather it is a commitment we make each and every day to walk with Christ and live out our faith. Confirmation does not mean that your faith has reached full maturity. Rather, all Christians need to continue growing spiritually so that we can continue to *confirm* our faith which God has worked in our lives by what we say...by what we do...and by how we live.

We pray that the time we spend together will be exciting and productive as we share together the Good News of Jesus Christ...that although we are sinners, we are His and are loved by Him with an everlasting love no strings attached!

To get the most out of our time together, please work diligently at completing the assignments as well as attending class and participating in all required classes and retreats.

We, along with the congregation, pray your parent(s) or those who are your caregivers will not only help and encourage you in your Confirmation studies, but also make worshipping regularly and attending the Sunday morning education time as a family a priority. These are very important ingredients in experiencing the larger fellowship of God's family and continuing to grow in your journey of faith.

May you experience God's richest blessings in this journey!

Pastor Kloha

Telephone 606-324-3515

"Sharing the one thing we all need"

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Christian rite at which time a baptized Christian reaffirms the baptismal vows spoken for him/her at baptism, and follows the Great Commission that requires us to teach them to obey the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the same time it also confers Communicant membership. It involves a special time of preparation, study and soul searching where each student learns about the richness of their God given faith and how to put that faith into action in service to the Lord and others. It is much more than an education exercise that ends in advancement to church membership; Confirmation is a time to validate, verify, make firmer one's faith and admit young people into an active relationship with our Christian faith family.

The main goal of Confirmation instruction is to equip youth to be committed lifelong disciples of Jesus. It is a process of maturing, strengthening, and broadening the faith that began in Baptism and ends with our entry into heaven.

The purpose of Confirmation is to gain an increase in knowledge of the Bible; learn the basics of the Lutheran Doctrine; become prepared to receive the Lord's Supper; grow in faith in Jesus Christ crucified for us; and learn how to live a Christ-centered life.

Introduction

This Handbook is intended to inform all participants in Confirmation instruction of the journey ahead of them. Every effort has been made to be as complete as possible in outlining expectations; however, there may be some details added or clarifications made during the year.

The Confirmation program is a two-year process that normally begins in the student's 7th grade year.

Parent Expectations

Parents/caregivers and family are the keys to the spiritual nurture of their children. Without the support and witness of the family, any instruction is greatly hindered. Therefore, parents/caregivers of all Confirmation students are expected to:

Be faithful in worship and participation in the Lord's Supper

Be involved in personal Bible study

Set a Christian example in word and deed

Strive to grow in their Christian walk

Give positive encouragement to students to study

Assist students in learning and understanding key Bible verses and material

Help students apply teaching to everyday life

Cooperate with pastors and teachers in the requirements

Pray for their students and the whole Confirmation ministry

All parents/caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend the class with their child

Student Expectations

At the end of the instruction process, the students will make a solemn promise before God and the congregation to remain faithful to God's word. To make the most of the instruction process, the students are expected to:

Be faithful in worship attendance.

Be faithful in instruction classes.

Be on time for classes and be prepared

If it is necessary to miss a class, notify the Pastor by phone prior to the start of class

If a worship or class is missed, the student is responsible for getting the homework assignment and turning the work in before the next class

Complete and hand in sermon outlines

Participate in Sunday worship by acolyting. Students are expected to be on time and dressed appropriately

Perform at least 3 service projects each year. Some examples are: children's sermon, assisting with VBS or Sunday School program, raking leaves or weeding, visiting shut-ins or nursing home

Complete all work to the best of their ability
Strive to lead and grow in their Christian life at all times
Pray daily for spiritual guidance
Share and discuss the material with parents/caregivers
Show respect for instructors, parents, and peers as they
assist in your spiritual growth during the. Confirmation process
Let daily actions reflect being a disciple of Jesus Christ

Instructors Expectations

The pastor and other instructors present God's word to the youth. Instructors are expected to:

Be faithful in their Christian walk
Prepare lessons fully and adequately
Get to know the students to the best of their ability
Recognize that students have different learning styles and abilities and adjust the instruction accordingly so that learning objectives may be met
Pray for students and their families
Show respect for students and their families
Support parents/caregivers in their role as primary faith nurturers

Class Information

The class will meet on the day and at the time agreed to by the parents of the students to avoid schedule conflicts and promote attendance. Class will meet in an upstairs classroom or other available room. The class will last 1 and one half hours and will dismiss promptly at the stated time. If additional time is required for a special session, such as a test, parents will be notified in advance. Parents who are not in attendance should arrange for the child to be picked up promptly at that time.

There will be a Confirmation retreat at the beginning of each year to explain how the class will work and prepare for the first day of class. This will be sponsored and paid for by the church.

The materials used will be *Luther's Small Catechism* and *The Holy Bible* as well as supplemental material. Each student should come prepared with notebook and pencil.

At the beginning of each year, an outline will be given to the child and the parents that will describe/list the topics to be covered and memory work to be completed at each class.

Each lesson will include some key Bible verses to be learned. We require memorization because our Lord instructs us in Deut. 11:18a "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds." Secondly, because life itself comes to us through the word of God: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matt 4:4). The goal is to have these words fixed permanently in our hearts so that God's priceless truth will be in our hearts and minds to recall on our walk with the Lord.

Each year a research paper or project will be assigned as part of class requirements.

Each student is expected to complete the sermon outlines during the year. A journal/notebook will be kept by the student that will include the sermon outlines, a record of acolyte service, and a record of service activities, both church and community.

Alternative Course of Study - Online

As an alternative, the confirmation class may be made available online if, before the yearly class is scheduled to begin, the parents have determined that the student is unable to attend the regular Confirmation class. The online work covers the same material and the student must complete all the work, including the quizzes and tests in a time frame consistent with the Pastor-led class. The monitoring and support for the online class will be provided by the Pastor or alternate designated by the Board of Education. The website is <http://smallcatechism.org/>.