



Confirmation Program Guide

“...live among God’s faithful people; hear the word of God and share the Lord’s Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship
affirmation of Baptism Blessing, pg 236*

2019-2020

I. The meaning of Confirmation:

Confirmation is both a rite of public affirmation of one's Baptism and a life-long journey of faith.

1. Through our Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection the door to new life in Jesus Christ was opened for us. As we journey into adulthood we understand and appreciate what our Baptism means for everyday living. The Affirmation of Baptism is the event at which one reaffirms one's Baptism in a public way. Based on their public profession of faith, the church offers the youth membership in the church and greater responsibilities in the Christian community and its mission in the world.
2. Affirming and living out the call of our Baptism is a life-long journey of faith. It is a journey which is sustained by God's grace and full of new discoveries.
3. To enable our youth to grow in grace and the knowledge of their Christian faith, Bethel Lutheran has established a program of study which begins with mid-week instruction in the 7th grade year and leads toward the Affirmation of Baptism in the Spring of the 8th grade. Through classes, and social concerns projects and an occasional Friday evening at the church, we hope that the Good News of God's love is made real to each young person.

It is necessary for those who wish to be confirmed to fully participate in the congregation's program. The pastor will work with youth and families to accommodate those joining the church amidst the program year.

II. **Goals of the Confirmation Program:**

- To teach our young people an overview of the Lutheran expression of the Christian faith and impart skills which will enable them to deal with issues concerning their faith journey.
- To help our young people to make connections between our study of the faith and acting out our faith through social concerns activities.
- To provide opportunities for our young people to build meaningful relationships with others in the program and with adults in the church.
- To encourage our young people to gather for worship and service in their congregation, community, synod and church-wide.

III. **Length and Grade Levels of the Program:**

The confirmation mid-week sessions will be two years in length and will involve the 7th and 8th grades.

IV. **The Affirmation of Baptism:**

The Affirmation of Baptism will take place in the spring of the 8th grade year.

V. **Program Outline:**

1. Sessions will meet from 6:30 - 7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings, during the LOGOS Bible Study time. If you are unable to attend a session. I also plan to gather the youth for an evening to be scheduled in the Fall. During these gatherings I plan to do some group building as well as instruction in faith formation.

Note:

Any missed sessions may be made up via an online video of the lesson on our website bethelmt.org. Please see Pastor for the password to access the content page. Completion of the video, any reading and questions that follow are the confirmand's responsibility.

2. Worship and Service will also be an integral part of this program. The 7th graders are encouraged to attend worship with their families and during Logos when scheduled. The 8th graders are also encouraged to attend worship with their families and write a statement of faith paper. Both 7th and 8th graders will be involved in the service projects arranged during the program years.
3. Prior to the Affirmation of Baptism the 8th graders and parent(s) will meet with the Pastor to discuss their statement of faith paper and any other questions that they might have.

**Confirmation Program
2019-2020**

7th & 8th Grade - Mid-Week Program

Wednesdays: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Year Two 2019 - 2020 (Catechism II)

Who Is God? (Apostle's Creed); Martin Luther/Lutheran Living;
Overview II: Holy Communion & Baptism; Encouragement
(Living the Faith in Community); Life-Long Faith Formation
(Devotional Life); Can I Get a Witness? (My Story/God's Story)

Focus on Discipleship: Overview II: Holy Communion &
Baptism; The Life of Martin Luther; The Church: Living in
Community; How to Stay Connected: Daily Devotion; Sharing the
Faith.

Year One 2020-2021 (Catechism I)

Bible, Means of Grace (Sacraments), Worship, Prayer, Giving.

Focus on Discipleship: Bible 101; Overview I: Holy Communion
& Baptism; Prayer (Lord's Prayer); Giving (Holy Stewardship!)

Eighth Grade Parent/Student Conferences:

Week of April 20th, 2020

The Affirmation of Baptism for 8th Graders

Sunday, May 3rd 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Discipline Philosophy

We believe that maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect and love is crucial for effective Christian education. We believe that teachers, parents, youth, and administrators need to work together to create a loving, positive environment where youth are encouraged to develop self discipline and grow in their Christian faith. We will work together to attain these goals, maintaining an awareness that all are treated with love and to be seen as through the eyes of God, all equally children of God. It is in this arena that we practice “Kingdom of God Living.”

STEPS IN DEALING WITH INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

1. One warning given for inappropriate behavior.
2. Should behavior not change, the student will be removed from the group by another adult to address ways to change the behavior.
3. If cooperation and change of attitude does not occur parents will be asked to help with the solution.