

Confirming our Faith/Affirming our Baptism 2016-2017

I believe that God is seeking after every one of us from the time that we are born. At baptism we are brought before God and given the gift of the Holy Spirit, sealing us with Christ and given eternal life. We are given the gift of faith which is to be nurtured and grown. All who gathered with the person at baptism have committed to walk with them in their faith Journey. We are called to support one another as we grow in our faith together. Confirmation is a life long journey of growing in our faith. As young people we rely on our parents and others in our lives to teach us and to grow with us in our faith. As young adults or adults we take on that responsibility and affirm our faith (typically known as confirmation). Stating that we believe what we have been taught and will now seek ways to continue to grow in our faith and to share our faith with others. We are constantly growing in our relationship with God and one another until the day we meet Jesus face to face.

This is the concept that we base this method of confirmation on. We are walking this journey together and it is my job to accompany you and give you the tools to teach your children the foundations of our faith. To help you see opportunities to live your faith in service. To provide opportunities for you to grow in your own faith.

One of the ways we will do this is that each age group along with their parents will meet once throughout the academic year to learn about a particular part of Luther's Small Catechism. The Schedule is as follows:

Confirmation	1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month	Affirm your Faith in 12th grade
October 5th, 19th	3 yo – Kindergarten	The Lord's Prayer
November 2nd, 16th	1st and 2nd Graders	Holy Communion
January 4th, 18th	3rd and 4th Graders	Baptism/Confession and forgiveness
February 1st, 15th	5th and 6th graders	Creed

**7th / 8th Graders will participate/help lead at all Wednesday meetings and will also be meeting quarterly for discussion as a group.*

The Wednesday meetings will meet at **6:30pm and will last 1 hour**. In that hour we will talk about the assigned part of the Small Catechism and do an activity that can be used at home to continue learning.

The next way is we will worship together. Our present education situation makes it difficult for children to worship with us. So one Sunday a month they will not only worship with us for the

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entire service, but they will be invited to help lead that worship. So we will all be worshipping together.

Connect Worship

It is vital that we connect our faith to our practice of worship. To do make this possible in our current education setting, on the 3rd or 4th Sundays (depending on Holidays) of the month the Sunday school students will be leading worship with the help and direction of myself and the Sunday school teachers. On the 3rd or 4th Sunday when an age group has studied their Catechism lesson, that age group will lead that part of worship. All other students are invited to lead all other parts of the service and together pick songs to lead for worship.

Date	Group	Leading
September 25 th	Connect Worship	
October 23 rd	3 yo – Kindergarten	The Lord's Prayer
November 20 th	1 st – 2 nd grade	Holy Communion
December 18 th	Sunday School Christmas Worship	
January 22 nd	3 rd – 4 th grade	Baptism/Confession & Forgiveness
February 19 th	5 th – 6 th grade	Creeds
March 26 th	Connect Worship	
April 9 th	Palm Sunday Worship lead by Sunday School	
May 4 th	Connect Worship	

Continue Confirming our Faith in 7-9th and 10th -12th grade:

We will continue walking with our young people as they grow, helping them to wrestle with their faith in all areas of their life. We will continue to use a curriculum to help us as we dig into the Bible and into the Foundations of our Lutheran Faith through the Small Catechism.

We will do this by online communication, families and students engaging together around the lessons, students engaging in leadership roles in the congregation, students and parents participating in service opportunities, students and parents participating in worship, students and parents participating in learning opportunities on a quarterly basis (the 4th one being students and pastor at camp).

Students are free to affirm their faith in any year, with the understanding that they are saying that they want to continue to grow in their faith. Which would be done by continuing to be a part of these learning groups. Or they can wait and affirm their faith in their 12th grade year.

As we continue to learn and grow together, this model will continue to change and grow with those who participate in it. The main purpose is to walk together (parents, students, pastor)

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helping us all grow in our faith, and giving our young people the understanding that they are the church now and we want to help them as they grow in their faith.