

Confirmation Manual

2009 - 2010

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1300 East Main St.

P.O. Box 213

New Prague, MN 56071

952-758-3513 (office)

www.holytrinityonline.org

Table of Contents

Welcome to Confirmation!	page 3
What is Confirmation?	page 4
Wednesday Evening Schedule	page 5
Guiding Principles for Confirmation	page 6
The 2009/2010 Schedule	page 7 & 8
Expectations for Confirmation	page 9 & 10
Memory Work	page 10, 11 & 12
Especially for Parents	page 13
The Retreats/Bible Camp/Mission Trip	page 13
Discipline Policy and Expectations	page 14

Welcome to Confirmation!

Dear Confirmation Students, Parents & Guardians,

As your pastor I am thankful to have been given the opportunity to teach and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with you in Confirmation this coming year. Our curriculum this year continues in the *Here We Stand*, material through Augsburg Fortress. We will also draw freely from other resources to offer a fresh and creative approach to reaching young people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Confirmation is not just about getting young people to "do" a set of rituals in order to reach another phase in their life at church. Instead, it's designed to engage thought-provoking learning times and discussions, as it presents our young people with the truth of Jesus Christ, as well as what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century. From there, it disciples them in their Christian faith, so they can become better equipped to live out their faith in their daily lives. The Confirmation ministry at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is aligned with our mission statement, which is to **INVITE** people into a living faith in Jesus Christ, **EQUIP** them as His mature disciples, and **SEND** them into the world to love and serve in Jesus' name. We incorporate all three components into our program. Our program also relies heavily upon parents, leaders and mentors in this community as intended in our baptismal promise. *Guiding Principles for Confirmation* further support the concept of relational ministry, and our understanding of what Confirmation is truly all about—leading students into a deeper relationship with Jesus the Messiah.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of sharing in your lives. I am looking forward to an exciting year as we grow and learn together.

Pastor Steve Trewartha

What is Confirmation?

In baptism, God initiates, claims you as His own, forgives your sin (Acts 2:38-39), delivers you from death and the devil (Romans 6:1-4) and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what He has promised.

For those baptized at a young age, all this happens before you could say, "Mama." At that point in your life, you were able to recognize your earthly parent's voices, but you had no idea just **WHO** your Heavenly Father was and **WHY** He gave you such a generous gift. In child baptism, your parents and sponsors **PROMISED** God that they would faithfully bring you to church, teach you the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the 10 Commandments, place in your hands scripture, and provide for your instruction in the Christian faith.

But it wasn't just your parents and sponsors who made a promise that day. The community of faith, the Christian church, also promised to take part in teaching and instructing you in the Christian faith. This is, in part, where Confirmation comes into play.

At Holy Trinity Lutheran, Confirmation is a 3-year program, which culminates in your being confirmed the fall of your 9th grade year. During this *Rite of Confirmation*, **TWO** things will happen: **First**, you will stand up before family, friends and your Creator and say, "Yes, I believe in Jesus." And **second**, a pastor will lay his/her hands on you, praying that the Holy Spirit will be stirred up in you as you affirm that you are God's child.

So what is Confirmation? It's a period of specialized instruction in the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism when you learn about God and His Son, Jesus Christ, more fully than ever before. And, it's a time when you will build stronger, deeper relationships with your peers, as well as with your mentors.

Confirmation Materials

Each new confirmation student (6th grade or new student) and mentor will receive a *Student Bible*. Your Bibles will be utilized regularly in large group time and in each of the mentor groups. ****Lutheran Handbooks** may be purchased if you wish

Wednesday Evening Schedule

7:00pm	Large group teaching time (usually in Sanctuary)
7:45pm	Mentor groups meet
8:30pm	Go Home!

Confirmation Fees

In order to supply Bibles, curriculum, as well as retreat costs, we ask each student to give a \$50 fee. If the fee is going to inhibit anyone from joining us for confirmation, please speak with Pastor Steve and we will work towards a solution. Our ultimate goal is to share the peace, joy and knowledge of Jesus Christ and install that life-saving faith to all enrolled in Confirmation. No one will be excluded from Confirmation for financial reasons. Please talk with Pastor Steve privately if you have any concerns.

Guiding Principles for Confirmation

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
New Prague, MN

Vision

To offer a confirmation program that leads students and mentors into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through a greater understanding of their life and faith as a Christian.

Mission

The mission of Confirmation Ministry at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is to nurture youth in an intentionally Christ-centered context so they may experience and claim God's love and grace.

Guiding Principles

1. To develop and deepen one's knowledge of the Christian faith.
2. To develop a better understanding of the Bible and its use.
3. To develop an understanding of the importance of regular participation in Christian worship, and how that applies to the Christian faith.
4. To assist families (*parents & youth*) in deepening their faith together.
5. To involve adult Christian role models in the lives of our confirmation students.
6. To intentionally encourage the application of faith to daily life.
7. To assist our youth in experiencing God's love and grace and forgiveness.
8. To provide opportunities for, and the development of a life-long practice of Christian servant-hood, and how that applies to the Christian faith.
9. To develop a sense of being a unique and valued child of God.
10. Understanding that confirmation is not a "right of passage", youth will only be confirmed if they have no other conflicting interests, and are able to confess their faith in Christ Jesus as well as have a reasonable understanding of the key concepts of faith, including *Grace Alone*, Sanctification, Justification through Faith and the importance of prayer.
11. Realizing that confirmation is an act of publicly confirming one's faith, there should be a "public component" that allows each youth to publicly "claim" his/her faith.
12. A set of scriptures, pertinent to each individual's faith walk, should be committed to memory. This set of scripture should be the "foundational words of God" that revealed the truth of faith to that person.
13. The Apostle's Creed, 10 Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Confession of Sins and other "Christian/Lutheran Faith tools" should be committed to memory.
14. Every youth will need to clearly state why he/she desires to be confirmed in the Christian faith with a Lutheran understanding.
15. Each youth will need to be able to articulate his/her own "faith story". i.e. how and when they came to believe.

2009/2010 Confirmation Schedule

***Please Note: All times are 7:00p.m. unless otherwise noted.**

September

Wed., Sept. 9th :Mentor Orientation – **7:00 pm** (For all Mentors)

Wed., Sept. 16th Orientation and Parent Meeting (In Sanctuary)

New Students - 6:30pm; Returning Students join us - 7:00pm

Wed., Sept. 23rd *Creation*

9th Grade Review (In Paul's Place)

Wed., Sept. 30th **Highway Clean-up-6pm** (6th-8th graders)

9th Grade Review (In Paul's Place)

October

Sat., Oct. 3rd 9th Grade Pictures 9:00 a.m. (All confirmads must be present)

Sun., Oct. 4th Confirmation Service, 9th Graders - 2:00 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 7th *The Human Condition*

Wed., Oct. 14th **No Confirmation** (Memory Work I Due)

Wed., Oct. 21st **Food Drive – 6pm**

Wed., Oct. 28th *Abraham and Sarah*

Fri/Sat; Oct. 30-31st **8th Grade Retreat to Gustavus – Leave at 5pm**

from the church on Friday and return at 5pm Saturday.

November

Wed., Nov. 4th *Joseph*

Wed., Nov. 11th *Moses and Pharaoh*

Fri/Sat; Nov. 13-14th **6th Grade Retreat to Le Sueur Community Center**

Wed., Nov. 18th *Wilderness to Land* (Memory Work II Due)

Wed., Nov. 25th **NO CONFIRMATION – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

December

Wed., Dec. 2nd **Parent Night - Parent Panel**

Wed., Dec. 9th *Ruth*

Wed., Dec. 19th *Samuel and Saul* (Memory Work III Due)

Wed., Dec. 23rd **NO CONFIRMATION – MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Wed., Dec. 30th **NO CONFIRMATION – Happy New Year!**

January

Wed., Jan. 6th **6:15pm All-Mentor meeting prior to regular Confirmation**

King David

Wed., Jan. 13th *David and Nathan*

Wed., Jan. 20st **Mentor Group Fun Night**

Fri/Sat; Jan., 22-23rd **7th Grade Retreat to Gustavus – Leave at 5pm from the church on Friday and return at 5pm Saturday.**

Wed., Jan. 27th **Parent Night-Student Panel**

February

Wed., Feb. 3rd *Solomon (Memory Work IV Due)*

Wed., Feb. 10th *Ezra and Nehemiah*

Wed., Feb. 17th **No Confirmation - Ash Wednesday Services - 5:30 & 7:00 p.m.**

- **The schedule during Lent (next 5 Wednesdays) is as follows:**

Soup Supper – 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (optional)

Worship – 7:00 p.m. (required). **6th & 7th grade students will meet in Paul's Place for Video series under mentor supervision "or" sit with parents during worship at parent's request. 8th grade students will meet in Youth Room for Video series under Nancy Court's supervision "or" sit with parents during worship at parent's request.**

Wed., Feb. 24th **LENT**

March

Wed., Mar. 3rd **LENT**

Wed., Mar. 10th **LENT**

Wed., Mar. 17th **LENT**

Wed., Mar. 24th **LENT**

Wed., Mar. 31st **No Confirmation – Holy Week**

April

Wed., April 7th *Esther*

Wed., Apr. 14th *Job*

Wed., Apr. 21st *Daniel*

Wed., Apr. 28th *Psalms*

May

Wed., May 5th *Proverbs- Year End Review (Memory Work V Due)*

Wed., May 12th **Year End Party – 6 p.m.**

Wed., May 19th **Final Mentor Party (Mentor Reports Due)**

Sunday Oct. 3rd, 2010– Confirmation Sunday for 2009-10 for 8th Graders – 2:00 p.m.

Expectations for Confirmation

- **Attendance:**

Regular attendance is expected every Wednesday afternoon for confirmation. Because situations do arise that make it difficult to attend, 80% attendance is required. Attendance will normally be taken by students filling out an outline with a place for them and their mentors to sign. Outlines must be completely finished, or attendance will not be counted. On the few nights when outlines are not used, mentors will take attendance.

- **Sermon Notes:**

16 Sermon Notes are required during each year of confirmation. (Sept. - May) These notes are to be turned into the box located in the narthex. Sermon notes may also be obtained from listening to services/sermons from our website at holytrinityonline.org Up to 3 **sermon notes** from a different church will be allowed. That church's bulletin **MUST** be attached to the sermon note(s) in order for credit to be given.

- **Service Hours:**

16 service hours are required for each year of confirmation. There are a variety of ways to obtain service hours, so **BE CREATIVE!** This can consist of school, community, and church service. **A student cannot get paid for service hours. A student cannot get credit for duties such as cleaning a room, taking the garbage out, watching a brother/sister, or other household chores.** Service hours **MUST HAVE** the signature of the teacher, principal, leader, or city official for whom the service was done. Some common ways to earn service hours: Vacation Bible School (Becky Cox), Ushering or Worship Assistants (Tina Johnston), Childcare (Naomi Besser).

- **Retreats:**

Yearly retreats are a vital part of the confirmation experience and are **REQUIRED**. Those who do not attend retreats will not only miss out on a wonderful experience, but will need to complete a make-up packet. This **MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE** they begin the following confirmation year. The retreats are as follows:

6th Grade: Nov. 13-14 **7th Grade:** Jan. 22-23 **8th Grade:** Oct. 30-31

- **Parent's Night:**

At Holy Trinity we believe that the prime spiritual influence needs to be a student's parent. To encourage parent participation in our confirmation program we require our parents to attend **both** parent nights every year.

- **ICS (Individual Confirmation Session)**

Individual Confirmation Sessions are an interview session completed in the fall of the 9th grade year with Pastor Steve or youth director **prior** to the October Confirmation Service. **Students need to complete this at least 1 week prior to being confirmed!**

- **Memory Work:**

Memory work is required to be completed during the year (Sept. - May). **Parents are in charge of making sure their student has completed his/her memory work and signing off the memory work page.** For the 2009/2010 Confirmation year, the memory requirements are *The Apostles Creed, The Articles and their meanings and the following scripture:*

A Word about the Apostle's Creed and Meaning of the Creed

Memory Work I

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Parent Signature: _____

Memory Work II

Article I Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Parent Signature: _____

Memory Work III

Article II Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Parent Signature: _____

Memory Work IV

Article III Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Parent Signature: _____

Memory Work V

****Verses can be memorized in any version you wish****

Ephesians 2:8-9

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Matthew 28:19-20

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

II Corinthians 5:17

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Parent Signature: _____

Especially For Parents

Parental involvement in Confirmation is essential to completing the mission and objectives of this ministry. The pastor, staff, in partnership with parents and the congregation work together to fulfill the promises you made at your child's baptism. The promise *To faithfully bring them to the services of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the 10 Commandments. As he/she grows in years, you should place in his/her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith* (LBW p. 121). It is our hope and prayer that this time of confirmation instruction will be a time of deepening and growing in faith for your entire family! Because of that, we request your involvement in the following ways:

1. That you see yourself as a **member of a team** which includes the pastors, mentors, and other teachers/leaders.
2. That you pray daily for your son/daughter and his/her faith development.
3. That you insist that your son/daughter participate in the program and fulfill their requirements.
4. That you attend **both** of the scheduled Parent Nights. Parents are always welcome to attend any of the classes or retreats.
5. That you participate actively in the program in whatever ways you can help (Driver, Chaperone on retreats, etc.).
6. **In short, we need your help and cooperation to make this a great year!**

Retreats/WAPO Bible Camp/Mission Trip

We have discovered how positive experiences such as Retreats, Bible Camp and/or a Mission Trips can be. Things happen in these settings that simply do not happen in the classroom. New friendships are formed, old friendships are strengthened, community is built, time of bonding and significant faith conversation happens. These are things we strive to facilitate in Confirmation, so we are committed to having a retreat for every grade, every year, as well as provide opportunities for students to attend Camp WAPO and/or a Mission Trip.

It is essential that confirmation students attend their scheduled retreat. If for some unavoidable reason they are unable to attend, there is a make-up packet that will be required. But that only makes up a portion of the content. Missing out on a retreat will mean missing out on all of the benefits of a retreat.

Retreats for the 2009/2010 Confirmation year are scheduled as follows:

6th Grade: Nov. 13-14 **7th Grade:** Jan. 22-23 **8th Grade:** Oct. 30-31

Camp WAPO/Mission Trip

Attending either Camp WAPO or the Sr. High Mission Trip sometime during 6th - 8th grade is a **REQUIREMENT** for Confirmation. **PLEASE NOTE:** You **MUST** have completed the 8th grade in order to attend the 2009 Summer Mission Trip. Although you are encouraged to attend Bible Camp every year, you are only required to attend once during your 3-year confirmation program.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. **Attending Confirmation is a PRIVILEGE!**
2. There is **ONE BASIC EXPECTATION** for all confirmation students:
RESPECT PEOPLE AND PROPERTY!
3. I realize there are special needs and circumstances. Please communicate these to Pastor Steve and/or your mentor.
4. Parents are **ALWAYS** welcome to attend classes, retreats, etc.

Consequences if expectation is not met:

1. Verbal Warning: The pastor, staff, mentor, leader will verbally warn the offending confirmand(s) of exactly what is wrong, while also reminding him/her that they are an important part of the class.
2. Confirmand(s) is/are moved to another area of meeting space/room, again reminding him/her of their importance in the class.
3. Confirmand(s) is/are removed from the room w/ adult supervision. The parent(s) will be contacted and made aware of the situation.
4. Parent(s) may be asked to attend the class with their son/daughter following the week of said removal.
5. If the problem continues, a conference will be scheduled with the confirmand, parent(s), mentor, and pastor.