



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

August 28, 2024

5:00 PM

Agenda

1 – Opening Prayer

2 – Welcome and Introduction

What are these classes for?

Confirmation classes are for the purpose of training children to understand the faith into which they were baptized and to prepare them for a lifetime of continued learning and growth in the church through participation in worship and community life of the Christian congregation.

Confirmation classes are not for the purpose of merely getting children confirmed as a rite of passage, only to have them disappear from the life of the congregation, never to be seen or heard from again. We expect your children to continue in the life of the congregation for the rest of their life. Confirmation is the beginning of a lifetime of regular church participation, not a graduation exercise.

Who has the ultimate responsibility for the Christian education of children?

Parents, this is your responsibility. Martin Luther indicates this quite clearly in the subheading of every Chief Part of the Catechism:

“AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH IN A SIMPLE WAY TO HIS HOUSEHOLD.”

We are delighted to partner with you in this endeavor, but you will be asked to be regularly involved in the process.

Expectations

It is expected that:

- you will have your children in class every week and that they are prepared to discuss the material assigned for that class day.
- you will have your children in church at least 75% of the time, and that you will be in attendance with them. We do not want them merely dropped off.

- you will have your child prepared to serve as Acolyte when they are scheduled. If they are unable to serve, it is your responsibility to arrange for one of their classmates to substitute for them.
- you will have your child prepared to serve as Usher when they are scheduled. If they are unable to serve, it is your responsibility to arrange for one of their classmates to substitute for them.
- you will see that your child completes 16 sermon reports during each year of class. Some children need extra prompting in this regard. This is to help them learn how to engage in what is occurring at church, particularly regarding the sermon.
- you will make certain your child has studied and memorized the assigned material for each class day. They must recite their memory work to you, after which you are asked to sign the back of the Memory Work card, which they will bring with them to class. Memorization is a vital tool in teaching the Catechism and should not be neglected.
- your child will be a regular participant in Sunday School, and that you will attend an Adult Bible Study at the same time (unless you are assisting with Sunday School). Sunday School is not merely about Christian information, it's about Christian *formation*. While there is always new information to learn, what children at this age need to learn most is the importance of continuing to learn. The Christian life is a learning life. Third year students will attend my Bible class.

3 – Progress Reports

Progress reports will be emailed to you periodically, so that you may be kept up to date on the progress of your child.

4 – Introduction of Teachers

Pastor Billings
 Pastor GeRue
 Bart & Jane Nielsen

5 – Introduction of Materials

Bible
 English Standard Version
 Lutheran Catechesis
 Contains Luther's Small Catechism

6 – Discussion of Schedule

5:00pm start time

Door locking policy

The door will be locked 15 minutes after the beginning of class. If your child arrives after this, there is a doorbell that will alert us of their arrival.

7 – Introduction of Calendar

8 – Confirmation Retreat

This retreat has been a requirement in the past for second and third year students. It is a valuable bonding opportunity, during which our students get to know each other and their teacher, and for the teachers to get to know them. Congregational life is built on relationships – the individual’s relationship with Christ and our corporate relationships with one another. The cost of the retreat is \$140.00 per attendee. Starting this year, the retreat is optional.

9 – Questions

10 – Closing Prayer

Contact Information

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