



Confirmation Handbook

2021-2022

Class on Wednesdays

6:30-7:30pm

@ First Lutheran Church

Dear Parents

What if after finishing confirmation, no matter their beliefs in adolescence, your kids knew, through experience, that First Lutheran Church is a place where they are welcome to lead, flourish, cry, think, work and play? Where they have learned that they belong, not only to a church, but to a place, its people and the land? That as they grew into adulthood, they would seek a similar community with whom to live out their faith?

Over their three years in confirmation class, we hope to pass on to students a strong foundation in Lutheran theology and biblical literacy. Seventh and Eighth graders learn how ELCA Lutherans read and interpret the Bible, looking at the Old and New Testaments alternating years. Ninth graders will engage Lutheran theology through a curriculum designed to encourage students to make an inherited faith their own.

Confirmation is a rite of passage when children affirm their baptism. Churches usually hope that in the process, youth will become invested in the church. As confirmation teachers, we are committed to creating an excellent experience for your students, one that cultivates an articulate, engaged and personal faith. Did you know that your current level of religious involvement is the single greatest predictor for how vibrant your child's faith life will be in adulthood? It is a simple, causal equation: children raised by active members of a faith community by and large grow up to be active themselves. The reverse is also true. As much as possible we want confirmation to be a time when confirmands and their parents forge a maturing relationship rooted in a shared faith. Throughout your family's experience with confirmation, we hope that you will feel welcome, and know that you belong.

Calleigh Carlson, Director of Youth and Family Ministries (cc.flcstp@gmail.com)

EXPECTATIONS

Whether someone gets confirmed will be determined separate from the completion of their heart habits. This is a question that must be answered by each student in conversation with the pastor and their family. We do not want to create a dynamic in which students feel they can get out of church, either by being confirmed or not, but rather a space where students feel safe to explore questions of faith. Confirmed or not, each student and their family will always belong in the church community. That said, we do have some expectations of families and students:

Families

- Serve as Worship Assistants
- Regularly attend Sunday worship
- Participate in Confirmation Sunday Service and Reception

Students

- Complete Habits of the Heart sheet
- Assist with Sunday School Game/Craft Days throughout the year
- Attend and participate in class
- Complete end-of-year project

CLASS GUIDES

Guides accompany one grade throughout their entire Confirmation classroom experience. They are available if the teacher needs assistance or a student needs extra attention.

7th Grade/8th Grade: Mark Roemhildt

9th Grade: Dave Ribar

MENTORS

A confirmation mentor is someone willing to befriend and guide a confirmation student in matters related to faith and life. Ideally, a mentor is an adult, non-family member, who is actively involved in worship and congregational life at First Lutheran Church. Students are asked to get together with their mentor at least twice each year. If you do not already have a mentor, please contact Calleigh and she will help you find one.

LEARNING DURING A PANDEMIC

We are aware that this year's learning will be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have a Health Advisory Team at First Lutheran that will be monitoring the cases in Minnesota and Nicollet county and advise us how to meet accordingly. We will also be paying close attention to the decisions of the Saint Peter School District.

HABITS OF THE HEART

We are bringing back *Habits of the Heart* for another year! This way of encouraging the kids to live out their faith has lots of flexibility built in, which works well during a pandemic. If your child likes to speak in front of a group or take videos of themselves, they could read the lessons or prayers for worship. If they like to talk on the phone, they could sign up to call an older member on a regular basis. If they like to be outside, they could pick up litter while they walk in nature. If they like kids, they could record a children's time. The activities listed are suggestions. Confirmands are encouraged to be creative and come up with other ways to put love into action. They should ask their teacher if an activity qualifies as a Habit of the Heart.

1. Worship Assistant
2. Play music in worship
3. Bring a friend to something at church
4. Create a sacred space in your home*
5. Read a psalm a day for a month
6. Save \$100 and tithe 10%
7. Fast from social media for 24 hours
8. Bake, serve & clean up for Fellowship
9. Teach/assist a Sunday School lesson
10. Go for a walk in the arboretum with friends
11. Watch a climate change documentary as a family
12. Host another confirmation family for dinner
13. Volunteer at the Islamic Center's After School Program
14. Have an unplugged family Friday night
15. Exercise 3 times/week for a month*
16. Read a Spirituality book and talk with your mentor about what you learned

*only get one sticker per year for this

FAMILY CHECK-LIST

1. Fill out the Confirmation Registration Form. If you have not yet filled out the form, please do. It can be found here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIlddrpQHm0oEWWqtCQjR414r0hyeWvg6EjI_o1q7282Bvg/viewform?usp=sf_link
2. Attend orientation Wednesday, September 15 at 6:30pm. This event will be outdoors, with masks and distancing.
3. Parents and students are encouraged to sign up to assist with worship. Contact Emily to sign up to read the lessons or prayers or participate musically.
4. Add important dates to calendar! The schedule for the year is provided at the end of this handbook.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

COMMUNITY MEAL: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not holding the Wednesday Community Meals until further notice. We hope to restart this tradition when it is safe to do so.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: Similarly, we will not be gathering for worship on Wednesdays.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

DATE:	ACTIVITY:	BIBLE PROJECT LESSON:	WHEN/WHERE:
9/15/21	Oriention	<i>Orientation</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
9/22/21	Session #1	<i>Welcome & Introductions</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
9/29/21	Session #2	<i>How to Read the Bible</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
10/6/21	Session #3	<i>The Old Testament</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
10/13/21	Session #4	<i>Game Day/Catch up Day</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
10/20/21	NO CLASS - MEA BREAK		
10/27/21	Session #5	<i>Genesis - Part 1</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
11/3/21	Session #6	<i>Genesis - Part 2</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
11/10/21	Session #7	<i>Exodus</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
11/17/21	Session #8	<i>Game Day/Catch up Day</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
11/24/21	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK		
12/1/21	Session #9	<i>The Law</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
12/8/21	Session #10	<i>Judges</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
12/15/21	Session #11	<i>Game Day/Catch up Day</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
12/22/21	NO CLASS - WINTER BREAK		
12/29/21	NO CLASS - WINTER BREAK		
1/5/21	Session #12	<i>Ruth</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
1/12/21	Session #13	<i>1 & 2 Samuel</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
1/19/21	Session #14	<i>1 & 2 Kings and The Temple</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
1/26/21	Session #15	<i>Prophets</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
2/2/21	Session #16	<i>Exile</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
2/9/21	Session #17	<i>Prophets Presentations</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
2/16/21	Session #18	<i>Prophets Presentations</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
2/23/21	Session #19	<i>Game Day/Catch up Day</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
3/2/21	NO CLASS - ASH WEDNESDAY		
3/9/21	Session #20	<i>Psalms</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
3/16/21	Session #21	<i>Ecclesiastes</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
3/23/21	Session #22	<i>Ezra & Nehemiah</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
3/30/21	Session #23	<i>Esther</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
4/6/21	Session #24	<i>Game Day/Catch up Day</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
4/13/21	NO CLASS - HOLY WEEK/SPRING BREAK		
4/20/21	Session #25	<i>Wrap Up Day</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC
4/27/21	Last Day of Class!	<i>Last Class Bash!</i>	6:30PM-7:30PM @ FLC