



# Confirmation Handbook

2023-2024

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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:

## **CLASS TEACHERS/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:

Teacher: Calleigh Carlson

Guide(s):

### 9th Grade:

Teacher: Pastor Chris Culuris

Guide(s):

## **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.

### **HABITS OF THE HEART**

We are restructuring *Habits of the Heart* this year! Confirmands are encouraged to complete all 5 items below throughout their Confirmation year!

1. Worship Assistant (as pre-scheduled)
2. Sermon Notes (at least 10 throughout year)
3. Meet with your Confirmation Mentor (at least 2 times throughout year)
4. 10 hours of Community Service (a few examples below)
  - a. Play music in worship
  - b. Bake, serve, and/or clean up for Fellowship
  - c. Teach/assist with Sunday School
  - d. Volunteer at the Islamic Center's After School Program
  - e. Attend any of the preplanned projects at FLC
5. Attend Youth Events/Activities (at least 5 throughout the year)

### **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/1FAIpQLSf-O7jqnyriQQoZRAFEF7B6SZZz\\_pFR9nljyNHFRVHy3b6sHg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-O7jqnyriQQoZRAFEF7B6SZZz_pFR9nljyNHFRVHy3b6sHg/viewform?usp=sf_link)
2. Attend orientation Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30pm.
3. Add important dates to the calendar! The class schedule for the year is provided at the end of this handbook and your worship assistant responsibilities will be sent in a separate email!



# SCHEDULE OVERVIEW