



Confirmation Program

For Youth Beginning in 7th Grade

School Year 2020-2021

Dear Youth,

Welcome to Confirmation! We are so excited to journey with you as you grow in your faith, and journey toward your Affirmation of Baptism Service! Together with a community of people who care about you, we hope to help you affirm the promises that were made on your behalf on the day of your baptism, promises to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

We will be entering our third year of a new model of doing confirmation. Our goal is to help you continue to grow and learn, and deepen your faith, while also helping you to balance the numerous commitments that we know you try to juggle every day.

We know there will be road bumps as we enter this journey together. This is normal. We simply ask that we try to stick on the path together – that we work together to communicate well, so that our program can meet its goals. Please reach out to us at any time with any questions, comments, concerns, and with feedback about this program! We want to hear from you!

The following pages will explain the content of this program in more detail. Should you have any questions or concerns at any point, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here for you!

In Christ,



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Basics about the Our Savior's Confirmation Program

University Model Confirmation Program: We have designed the Confirmation program to be customizable. You will have a number of required classes to complete before your Confirmation Day – you choose what you take and when you take it.

Electives: Electives allow you to choose classes that you are really interested in, diving deeper into areas in your faith that you are excited about, helping you develop your faith in areas that may help you serve the church as an adult member.

Core Classes: Core classes are basic, fundamental classes that will help you understand your faith, and the teachings of ELCA Lutherans in a faithful way to be able to affirm those important promises on your confirmation day.

Scheduling: Because everyone has different scheduling requirements, and because families schedules vary, you can come up with the schedule that meets your needs the best. Want to finish as quickly as you can? You can do that. Want to draw this program out throughout your High School years? You can do that too.

Class Length: Each class is designed to fit into a 6 hour block, but the format varies. Some classes will meet every-other week. Some classes will meet every week, one hour per week. The thing that will stay the same is the amount of class hours – 6 hours of instruction time per class.

Attendance: All work must be completed for every class, whether online or in-person. If you are taking an in-person class and need to be away, you can complete that work in the online version (though we strongly encourage you to commit to having good attendance at confirmation and making this a priority, we are also realistic that things happen!)

Online Classes *New 2020-2021: We will be offering all of our classes online, and some will also be offered in person, especially as we begin opening up again post-Covid-19. All of the online classes will be available after the date they are scheduled (i.e. if you don't want to take classes in the summer, but want to take a class that is *OFFERED* in the summer, just let us know and you can take it later.

Confirmation Day: Confirmation day will take place on the first Sunday of May each year. Students who have registered for enough classes to meet the requirements by the spring term each year will be invited to write their faith paper and prepare for confirmation Sunday.

Confirmation Requirements

Core Classes:

The 6 Core classes are: Bible Basics, Old Testament Overview, New Testament Overview, Lutheran Theology, Service Adventures, and Being an Adult Member. Descriptions of these courses are available in the course catalog.

Electives:

3 Electives – You must choose from and take 3 elective courses before your Confirmation Day. Samples of electives you can choose from are located in the course catalog.

Mentor:

At some point on your confirmation Journey (no later than the end of your 2nd year), you will need to identify a mentor and meet with them on your own. (We recommend meeting at church between services, or at another public place like a coffee shop.) Together with your mentor, you will complete and turn in 4 mentor assignments, located at church. Mentors must be a member of Our Savior's and an adult over 21+ that you are not related to. If you need help finding a mentor, please ask!

Sermon Notes:

Each student will need to complete 45 Sermon Notes forms during your year(s) of Confirmation. These forms are available at church in the boxes near the office. Turn them in when you are done. Please make sure you fill them out completely. Forms that are missing blanks, forms that are poorly filled out, or forms that show that you weren't really paying attention will be returned to you with no credit given. The purpose of sermon notes is for you to learn how to be an active worshipper, and how to engage in a faithful way in the time of worship. Worship is central to the life of the Christian, and we want to help you get the most out of it, so that as an adult you can do these things too!

- At the discretion of the Pastors, if your sermon notes are consistently of very high quality, you may be granted extra sermon note credits, up to and including all of your remaining sermon notes. We want you to work on doing a good job with them consistently!

Faith Paper:

As you prepare for the day of confirmation, we will invite you to write a Faith Paper. This paper is the capstone of your Confirmation Journey, and we expect you to spend some intentional time and energy on it. If you would like a copy of the Faith Paper assignment, please ask!

2020-2021 Confirmation Schedule

Summer 2020 (Both classes online only):

Old Testament Overview

Service Adventures

Fall 2020: (Dates and times TBA for in-person classes)

New Testament Overview:

Lutheran Theology

Bible Basics

Winter/Spring 2021: (Dates and times TBA for in-person classes)

Being an Adult Member Wednesdays:

Christian Worship (Elective)

Bible Study: Prophets (Elective)

Church Music and Hymnody (Elective)

Course Catalog

Required Courses

Bible Basics

We will review basics about the Bible and investigate the questions that we have about the Bible: What is this book? Who wrote it? Is it true? How did the books come together to make the Bible? What does the Bible mean for us here, now, and today? Why should we read it?

Old Testament Overview

We will introduce and explore the story arc of the Old Testament, as well as examining the traditional groupings of 1) the Pentateuch, 2) Historical Books, 3) Wisdom Literature, 4) Major Prophets, and 5) Minor Prophets.

New Testament Overview

We will introduce and explore the story arc of the New Testament, focusing specifically on God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ. We will look at who Jesus interacted with and where Jesus did his work as well as how Jesus' work continued after the resurrection through the church and Holy Spirit.

Lutheran Theology

We will explore the rich theological gifts of our branch of Christianity, and how they give us the tools to read scripture and our lives of faith. Topics may include the Apostles' Creed, Sinner and Saint, Theology of the Cross, Law and Gospel, the Sacraments, the Catechism, and more!

Service Adventures

These days of service will begin with a reading from scripture followed by our class doing a mission project that relates to our reading with a goal of connecting faith to service to the neighbor. Possible examples: reading about Jesus feeding the 5000 before touring and helping out at the food shelf, or reading about taking care of the widow and outcast before making blankets that will go to homeless women and youth. Join us as we learn how to connect our faith to acts of love and service.

Being an Adult Member

Gathering with other members of Our Savior's, we will explore ways youth can engage their faith through participation and leadership in ministries of the church, and hear where others in this congregation find life, and experience the presence and love of God.

Course Catalog

Electives (classes will be updated on a yearly basis, based on interest and participation)

Christian Worship (offered every year, this class plans a worship service)

We will be reviewing the shape of worship, focusing on how each element of worship comes together to tell God's story for our lives. Members of this course will have the opportunity to put what they have learned into practice as they plan (with help from other youth and the Pastors) a worship service.

Bible Study - Paul's Letters

This course will give an overview of how Paul's (New Testament) letters fit into the story of the early church, but will focus on one particular letter for the duration of the Bible study. Youth will be encouraged to make notes in their Bible, so it needs to be brought for each session.

Bible Study – Psalms

This course will give an overview of the different types of Psalms and how they were and are used in worship and family life. We will be flagging different psalms for future reference as well as doing a deep dive on a few specific Psalms. Youth will be encouraged to make notes in their Bible, so it needs to be brought for each session.

Bible Study – Prophets

This course will give an overview of how one specific Prophetic book fits into the story of the Old Testament and look specifically at how God's story of redemption unfolds in that book. Youth will be encouraged to make notes in their Bible, so it needs to be brought for each session.

Church Music and Hymnody

We will explore the rich musical gifts of Christianity, its history as well as its function in corporate worship, private gatherings, and culture. We will look at multiple hymns, hymnals and other media to gain a better understanding of what we sing, why, and how it is chosen.

What do others believe?

Christianity, and more specifically Lutheran Christianity, isn't the only belief system in the world. We will give an overview of some of the notable differences in Christian Denominations as well as broadly what other world religions teach. We do this, being as fair to our neighbor as we can, not to become our neighbor but to better understand them. Understanding what other faiths believe can help us to learn and better appreciate our own beliefs, as well as learn to love and respect our neighbors.

Prayer

This course will be an experiential retreat-like environment, which will blend educational content and practice. Students will engage in and learn new prayer practices, while experiencing their faith in a new way!



Confirmation Registration Form 2020-2021

Student's Full Name (F/M/L)			
Date of Birth:			
Have you been baptized?			
Grade:			
Mother's Name:			
Father's Name:			
Mother's Address:			
Father's Address:			
Who should we mail & email? Mother, Father, or Both?			
	Student	Mother	Father
Home Phone:			
Cell Phone:			
Work Phone:			
Email Address:			

(Over)

Serving Ministry: Please Circle	
Reader	Usher
Tech Desk	Nursery

If any of the following applies to you, give a brief explanation.		
Food Allergy	Special Need(s)	Add'l Info

To register for courses, please send Pastor Jennifer an email at pastorjennifer@oursaviorshartland.org with the courses you would like to register for.

Or, check the confirmation page on www.oursaviorshartland.org for a digital registration form!