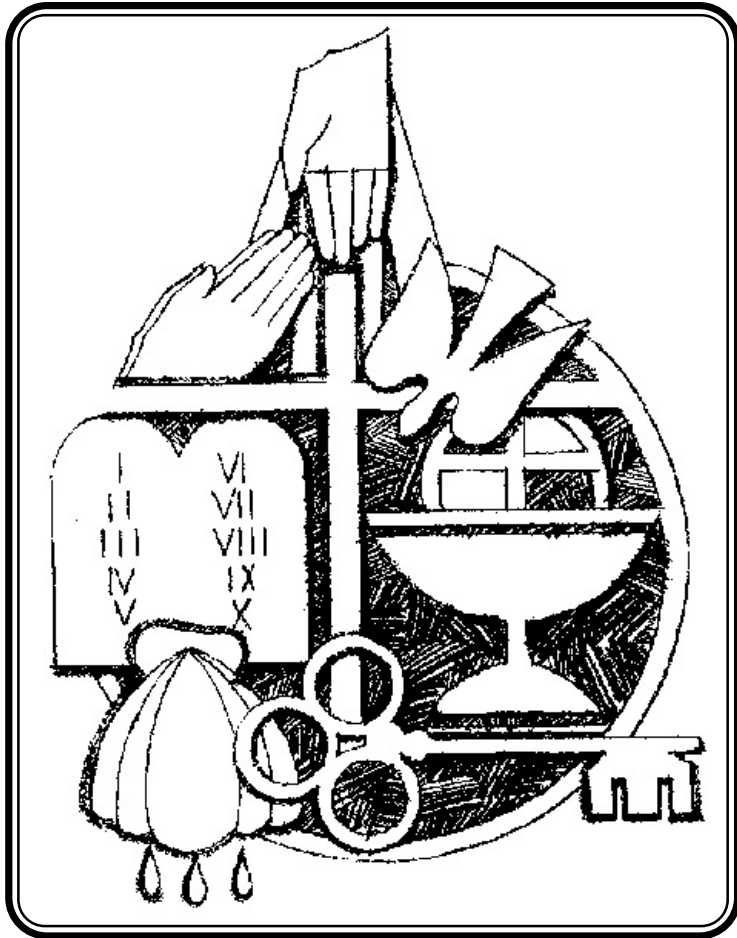


Youth Confirmation Ministry

Hope Lutheran Church

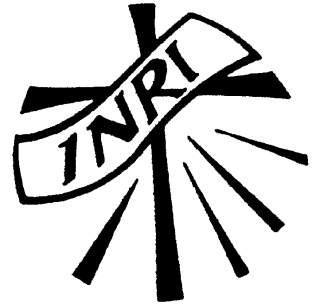


2010-2011 Handbook

Introduction

What Is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Christian rite at which a baptized Christian reaffirms the baptismal vows spoken for him/her at baptism. At the same time, it also confers Communicant membership. During the rite of Confirmation, the individual confesses his/her faith in Jesus Christ, states agreement with the teachings of the Bible and with the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Confirmation Instruction, therefore, is the process of catechesis (kat-uh-KEEK-sis), a period of intensive instruction in Christian doctrine using the Catechism... in our case, Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The purpose of Confirmation is to:

- gain an increased knowledge of the Bible;
- learn the basics of Lutheran Doctrine;
- become prepared to receive the Lord's Supper;
- grow in faith in Jesus Christ crucified for us;
- learn how to live a Christ-centered life.

What Confirmation is not – NOT a graduation?

No one graduates from growing in their Christian faith. Confirmation's goal is to equip young Christians with the skills to embark on a life-long study of God's Word so that we can *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Pet. 3:18). The Lutheran Christian is not satisfied to remain an "infant" in the faith:

"Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the

Week to Week Details

Class Times:

- September through March, the 6th grade class meets monthly, on the second Wednesday of each month, 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.
- September through April, the 7th & 8th grade classes meet together weekly, on Wednesdays, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Location:

- Class is held at church; in the Conference room unless otherwise specified.

Cancellation:

- If weather, ill health, or other emergency forces a cancellation, expect a brief phone call (or message) by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday. If you have concerns about the weather, you may call the pastor anytime to make a suggestion to cancel class.
- Any class cancelled will automatically be re-scheduled for the following Sunday, 2:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified.

Weekly Attendance:

- If you miss a class, you will miss important material. If you will not be there, call ahead to inform Pastor of the absence (if possible) and to arrange a time to make up the class. All missed classes must be made up with pastor.

Contact Information for Pastor Matt:

Office: 336-9843 Home: 336-9582

E-mail: matthewchristians@gmail.com

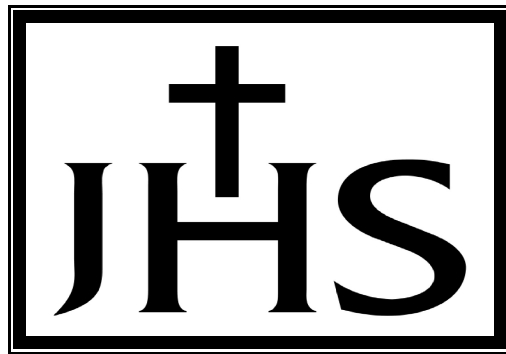
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ninjapastor

Weekly Assignments:

- Weekly assignments AND memory work will be handed out in class. There will be some sort of assignment (usually memory work, but oftentimes worksheets to fill out) every week.
- If you forget your homework or memory work, check the website: www.hopedepere.org/confirmation for the assignments. If I have not updated the site (it happens! ☺), e-mail or call me right away and I can send it to you. Memory work and assignments must be completed BEFORE class— no exceptions.

Camp Luther:

- Each Fall the 7th and 8th grade class attends a Confirmation Retreat at Camp Luther (www.cاملuther.org) in Three Lakes, WI. We leave Friday afternoon and return home on Saturday evening. The cost is usually slightly less than \$100. As always, see Pastor Matt privately if cost is a prohibitive factor.



Student Expectations

1. The Right Attitude

Show an honest interest in learning the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

2. Preparation for Each Class

Prepare any assigned homework and memory work before the start of class. If the assigned work is not ready before class begins, the student *is asked not to attend class that day* and to make up the class with pastor when he or she is adequately prepared.

3. Service Reports

Complete at least two (2) service reports each month during Confirmation (*year-round — 12 months*). Forms are located at the Ushers' station in the back of church. If a report is based on a service from a different church, please staple a service bulletin to the form. Hand in reports to pastor during class.

4. Acolytes

Serve as an acolyte for the Divine Service (this includes arranging to trade with someone if you cannot be in Church). The weeks of the year will be divided equally with each acolyte signing up for the same number of services.

Note: 8th graders are asked to continue serving as acolytes the summer (through August) after they are confirmed.

5. Bring your materials to class each week

These materials include:

- A. The Small Catechism
- B. A Bible (recommended translations: ESV, NIV, NRSV)
- C. A notebook (to take notes in and to hold handouts)
- D. A pen or pencil

Parent Expectations

1. Transportation

Arrange transportation for your child. Note: often the doors at church

will be locked until approximately 15 min. before the start of class.

2. Memory Work

Your child will have memory work to do every week. Your child must demonstrate his or her memorization to you before coming to class. Your child will have an assignment sheet with a place for you to sign when the memory work is complete.

3. Church Attendance

Your child will also be expected to attend BOTH Sunday School and the Divine Service as often as possible. While we understand that sometimes shared custody and other situations affect this, please help make this possible by bringing them as often as you can... and by modeling what's it like to attend services and Sunday School/Bible study regularly.

4. Classroom Attendance

You, the parent(s) are invited and encouraged to attend classes with your child. You are not required to attend, but doing so will be of great benefit to you and your child.

5. Those Gentle Reminders

At this age, children often need encouragements to prepare homework and memory work. Please help by reminding (bugging!) your child to prepare for each class. Memorization, in particular, requires daily work in order to be of lasting value.

Learning the faith... by heart

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."
— Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Why memorize the faith?

First, because our Lord tells us to: *"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds"* (Deut. 11:18a). Secondly, because life itself comes to us through the word of God: *"Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God"* (Matt. 4:4).

What is the goal of memorizing?

The goal is to have these words permanently fixed in our hearts. There are members of Hope in their eighties and nineties who even now can recite their catechism! You too can be one of these people. Years from now, God's priceless truth will be with you, in your mind and in your heart. They are God's gift to you... a well of understanding for your walk with the Lord.

How do we do it?



The only effective way to learn the Catechism by heart is by daily speaking the words *out loud*. The key to memory work is discipline and repetition. There are lots of different ways to do it, but by far the most effective way is to spend 10 minutes every day on memory work. Cramming never ever works; it won't last!

Listen to the Catechism

Pastor has copies of the Small Catechism on CD if you find it easier to listen to the Catechism instead of reading it. You may borrow a copy from him, provided you return it when you are finished.

