



Confirmation Information 2019-2020

What's New This Year?

In previous years, 7th and 8th grade participated separately from 9th grade in the Confirmation process. **Now, all 7th-9th grade students will be participating together.** In addition to this, instead of having Confirmation class every Sunday morning, we will be having 10 "Core" lessons throughout the course of the year for all 7th-9th grade students. These lessons will happen throughout the year and we will focus on different topics from Luther's Small Catechism throughout the 3 year cycle. **This year we will focus on the Apostle's Creed. Next year we will focus on the Lord's Prayer, and then the 10 Commandments the year after that.** All other material will be covered on retreats and at home.

In between these CORE lessons, students will be expected to commit to memory sections of the catechism and selected verses from Scripture. **These at-home memory work assignments will be guided by and checked by parents/guardians** so that students and parents/guardians are engaging in God's Word together.

We have also revamped our worship evaluation forms. In the past, confirmands were asked to evaluate sermons throughout the course of the year. While we still believe that this is important for our students to hear God's Word in this way, we also recognize that there is a lot more going on in worship. With this in mind, this year **students will submit 10 worship reflection sheets.** On these sheets, students will engage with and analyze not just the sermon but the music and other elements of worship as well. Worship is not just singing and not just a sermon. Worship is the gathering of God's people to receive His tangible gifts of grace in Word and Sacrament.

Another element that we are adding this year is service. **Each confirmand will be required to complete 7 hours of service each year.** This could be community service but it could also be service within the church. Jesus has called us to love our neighbor, and part of that is learning to serve. Pastor Aaron can provide opportunities for service, but students are free to fulfill their hours in other ways outside of St. Luke's as well.

Finally, Confirmation has always been associated with off-site retreats. This will still be the case this year, however we are now only going to have **one Confirmation Retreat that is required for all students.** We will start a cycle of retreats so each year of Confirmation students will be experiencing a different retreat. This year everyone will be participating in the **True Love Retreat**, where we will focus on God's gift of love and sexuality. **The retreat will be March 27-29, 2020; please mark your calendars accordingly.** Next year will be a retreat that will emphasize **Means of Grace and the Sacraments.** The year after that will be a retreat where we will discuss **Next Steps in Faith, and Discipleship.**

Peace,
Pastor Aaron Bird
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What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is an opportunity for students in 7th - 9th Grade (or older, if they have not been confirmed, or younger if their parents and pastor decide they are ready) to learn more about what it is to be a follower of Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. When a person is baptized, our heavenly Father forgives their sins, rescues them from death and the devil, gives His Holy Spirit to be present in their lives, and gives them the gift of eternal life. Confirmation is the opportunity for that person to publicly acknowledge God's gifts and confirm their faith in Jesus that is received in Baptism (Matthew 10:32). In preparation for their Confirmation, students are led through the Old and New Testament of Scripture and taught the truths and habits of the Christian faith. On Confirmation Sunday, students completing their third year will then make this faith their own confession, taking responsibility for their faith in Jesus and their place in the Church. In Confirmation a person is committing to Christ what is already His through Baptism: their lives.

Why Confirmation?

Christians teach God's Word from infancy to build up servants of God.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

God's Word calls us to test ourselves in regards to faith.

2 Corinthians 13:5

"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"

God has gifted His church to help each other grow to spiritual maturity.

Ephesians 4:11-13

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Purpose of Confirmation at St. Luke's:

1. Personally confess Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord and take ownership in declaring, by the power of the Holy Spirit, their own allegiance to Christ.
2. Explore the awesomeness of God and the mysteries of the faith.
3. Identify themselves as members, as a unique and special part of the body of Christ, as Christians and as members of a local congregation.
4. Regularly participate in public worship, learn how to apply the Scriptures to their lives, strive to lead God-pleasing lives by living out His Word, serve others and share the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world around them.
5. Celebrate the relationships that they have with: God as their personal God who loves them graciously, their pastors and other Confirmation staff people, their peers participating in the Confirmation process, their family and other members of their congregation.

So What Does That Look Like?



Confirmation

3 Year Process

Each Year Includes:

- 10 CORE Classes
- Weekly Memory Work
- 7 Service Hours
- 10 Worship Reflections

Year 1 Retreat:
Means of Grace

Year 2 Retreat:
True Love

Year 3 Retreat:
Discipleship

CORE Teaching 1:
10 Commandments

CORE Teaching 2:
Apostle's Creed

CORE Teaching 3:
Lord's Prayer

Confirmation Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME AND LOCATION</u>
Sep. 29	CORE Class I	Room 311 @ 9:30am
Oct. 13	CORE Class II	Room 311 @ 9:30am
Oct. 27	CORE Class III	Room 311 @ 9:30am
Nov. 24	CORE Class IV	Room 311 @ 9:30am
Dec. 15	CORE Class V	Room 311 @ 9:30am
Jan. 12	CORE Class VI	Room 311 @ 9:30am
Jan. 26	CORE Class VII	Room 311 @ 9:30am
Feb. 23	CORE Class VIII	Room 311 @ 9:30am
March 15	CORE Class IX	Room 311 @ 9:30am
March 27-29	Confirmation Retreat	Lake Retreat - Ravensdale
April 26	CORE Class X	Room 311 @ 9:30am
May 10	Review Day	Room 311 @ 9:30am
May 17	Confirmation Exam	Room 311 @ 9:30am
June 7	Confirmation Brunch	Room 311 @ 9:00am
June 7	Confirmation Sunday (Year 3 only)	Worship Center @ 10:45am

Requirements and Expectations

Cost: \$100 per student to cover retreat costs

Scholarships for the retreat are available! *The retreat is mandatory and we want to make sure your confirmand is able to attend this important retreat.* If money is an issue, please call the front office or contact Pastor Aaron for more information on assisting with costs. **253.941.3000**; abird@stlukes-church.com

Although the list looks long, please do not see these requirements/expectations as **overwhelming!** These requirements exist so that habits of Christian education and devotion may be imparted and serve as a stepping stone for continual personal devotion in the life and faith of the church. While partnering with us, these requirements will be a blessing to your child!

- ☀ **Confirmation Classes:** Parents/guardians are explicitly **encouraged** to attend Confirmation CORE classes with their confirmand throughout the year. By attending, you show your child that you are a partner with them in their learning. Look at the calendar for these dates. This year, these CORE classes will cover the Apostle's Creed. The next two years, we will cover the Lord's Prayer, and the 10 Commandments, respectively.
- ☀ **CORE Class Attendance** is critical as there are only 10 during the year. CORE class attendance is **required**. If there are special circumstances or you know that you are going to be gone for a class, **please talk to Pastor Aaron beforehand to make arrangements**. All lessons missed will be made up by meeting with Pastor Aaron or another teacher.
- ☀ **Worship** is central to what it means for us to be disciples of Jesus Christ! When we worship we are instructed in the faith, receive God's gifts, give praise, and mobilize for witness in the world around us. Therefore, worship is **required**.
- ☀ **10 Worship Reflections** will be **required** (1 for every CORE class period). They will be available in the church office. Completed worship reflections can be put in the box at the Welcome Center or in Pastor Aaron's mailbox. You can also find the worship reflection sheets for download on our website at www.stlukes-church.com/confirmation/resources.
- ☀ **Retreats** The date for this year's Confirmation Retreat:
 - True Love Retreat is **March 27-29**. This retreat will be at the Lake Retreat Center in Ravensdale, WA. We will meet at St. Luke's the evening of March 27 and carpool to the retreat center.

*Attendance is **required** for each year's retreat. Please put this date on your calendar in advance!*
- ☀ **Memory Work** will be checked off on a weekly basis by **parents/guardians**. Confirmands will work with their parents or guardians in memorizing the verse(s) for the week and marking their completed verses. All memory work is **expected**.
- ☀ **A Personal Interview** conducted by Pastor Aaron about the student's life, faith, and future is **required** for all 9th graders confirming their faith in June. This is a great chance to talk with a leader one-on-one and pray together before publically professing their faith to the church. This is also a time when Confirmands will choose their confirmation verse. It may be helpful

to bring a few ideas to the meeting when choosing a confirmation verse. Please note that this is not a graduation but a celebration of our Confirmands' baptized faith. As such, if I perceive that a Confirmand is not ready to make such a proclamation of faith before the church, I will reach out to you as a parent/guardian to discuss the best way to proceed. **Schedule this meeting early!** (Year 3 Only)

- ✿ **The Final Exam** is a test based on all the material studied throughout the year. This will include material from the CORE classes as well as memory work covered at home. The Final Exam is on **May 17, 2020**. Everything that confirmands need to know will be in their class worksheets and through completed memory work. A passing grade is **required**. There will be a review to prepare for the test and ask questions on **May 10**.

Parent's Role in Confirmation

Parents are called to raise their children in the faith and provide for their instruction.

Ephesians 6:4

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Partner with us!

Studies have shown that the #1 factor in youth participating in and maintaining Christian faith on through adulthood is parents/families' active participation in faith life in the home. Our goal is to equip YOU to form your children in the faith. The primary way you can do that in Confirmation is through **Memory Work**. Engage with your student in God's Word and faith conversation at home. **Even if it is a challenge, the simple act of attempting this on a regular basis communicates that this is something that is important.** In the long run, this will make an impact even if it feels like pulling teeth. And we want to support you. If you have questions or are struggling, please reach out. We want to help you and not hinder you. You are not alone in this.

Attend class

We are asking parents to participate as well in CORE classes. While this is not required, I am amazed at how often I hear from parents that they are learning so much in class when they attend. Please take the time to review the schedule and be there if you can. We see this as an opportunity for parents and children to grow together in what it means to know and walk with Jesus Christ.

Retreat Transportation

We could always use drivers to transport people and supplies for the retreats. More information about these retreats will be provided soon. If you can help, please talk to the front office or contact Pastor Aaron. 253.941.3000; abird@stlukes-church.com

Support and encourage them!

While this is the time that we are seeking to get students to "own" their relationship with God, they are still as much children as adults. They need your intentionality and consistency to help them get the most out of this formation. Pray for them. Challenge them. Walk with them through this process.