



Prince of Peace

Confirmation

Handbook

2022-2023



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Why does the church have confirmation?

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. **Impress them on your children.** Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Confirmation has been around in Lutheran churches for a long time, but it's important for us to stop and think about what it is before we begin. Its purpose is simple:

To help baptized people of the church

(1) identify more deeply with the Christian community and

(2) participate more fully in its mission

Confirmation is more than a class or a program—*it is a ministry through which God is active in your life!* Confirmation will help you feel more at home in the church as you learn by instruction, experience, and example ways to be active in faith and in the congregation. Regardless of how old we are, God's plan for us does not begin nor end with confirmation—this is a step along our lifelong journey!

Promises made during the Lutheran rite of baptism:

To profess & confess your faith in Jesus Christ & the faith of the church,

To reject & renounce sin, the devil, and the ways of sin that draw you from God,

To live among God's faithful people,

To hear the Word 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,

To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Confirmation helps young people take the faith nurtured by their parents & other influential adults and make it their own.

Many of us were baptized as infants or young children, before we were able to make those baptismal promises ourselves. Our parents and baptismal sponsors made those promises of faith for us. In confirmation young people get the chance to learn about the faith into which they were baptized and prepare to affirm their own faith in Jesus Christ.

OUR goal is to provide opportunities for the confirmation youth to CONNECT with Christ, the congregation of Prince of Peace, and the community, to show the good in the World and to live out our purpose that God has for us.

How do we do this?

Through service projects, large group activities, presenters from the community, serving within the church (ushers, greeters.)

Additionally, we aim for the confirmation experience will teach our young people:

- How faith plays an active role in your daily life
- About the promises that God has made to you and how you can depend on those promises during your life (how to trust in God)
- That trusting in God isn't just something we hear or talk about, but something we actively do every day
- Ways to be active in the different ministries of the church

Acting as a partnership of church and home, we (church and parents) will seek to teach by example, by experience, and by instruction how our young people can make their baptismal promises their own and:

- **learn to trust God,**
- **be a witness for Jesus' love with their words and their actions,**
- **care for other people and for creation, and**
- **make the world a more peaceful and justice-filled place.**

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Your role as a parent

Believe it or not, parents play the biggest role in the faith development of their kids. Study after study has proven that parents are the biggest influencers in the life of their kids. Parents are more effective than pastors, youth directors, congregation members, and even (believe it or not!) kids' friends when it comes to passing on values and beliefs. This is important! God is calling parents to pass on their faith!

Our confirmation program assumes involvement from parents – as group leaders, mentors, activity assistants, and *most importantly, as parents who engage and encourage the faith development of their sons and daughters at home.*

Schedule Changes/Attendance / Being Prepared / Fulfilling Commitments

We have made a few changes to our Confirmation program and schedule. For starters, part of the year will be on Wednesdays, and then we will take a break from Wednesdays during Advent and Lent, to participate in service projects and All Congregational events on Sundays, to serve others and to help build cross-generational connections!

Wednesday Evenings – LARGE/SMALL groups: 6:00-7:05

FALL:

September 28,

October 5, 12, 19, 26

November 2, 9, 16

WINTER/SPRING:

January 4, 11, 18, 25

February 1, 8, 15, 22 (Ash Wednesday),

April 12

This year our Confirmation evenings will run from **6pm-7:05pm** at Prince of Peace. We will start out the evening in large group, where Pastor Roger or Pastor Jennifer will spend the first part of the evening teaching the lesson on the night's topic. Following that, students will be dismissed to their small groups where they will discuss the topic with their groups and their small group leader, as well as share highs and lows, and connect with their group. At **7:00** students will be dismissed for a large group closing that will end at **7:05**.

9th Graders - On the first Wednesday of each month listed below, our 9th grade students will be having their entire Confirmation Wednesday evening be spent with a Pastor leading their small group in the library. They will not join the large group and instead will spend their evening entirely in small group. The dates are as follows:

9th Grade Small Groups with Pastors:

(1st Wednesday of Each Month - except December and April)

10/5, 11/2, 1/4, 2/1, 3/1

At-Home Option: As an alternative to a virtual option, we will be offering an “at-home” option for students wishing to complete their Confirmation coursework at home. Please connect with Pastor Roger or Pastor Jennifer to further discuss this option.

Sunday Service Projects/ Events – Advent and Lent: During this time, students will be required to participate in the Sunday opportunities on these dates that are listed below. Wednesday Confirmation does not occur during these times. There will be service projects, and all congregational opportunities. The goal of having these opportunities is to provide experiences to build connections across generations! If your son/daughter is not able to participate in these, we will work with you to provide an alternative activity. This will also create time on Wednesdays for families to attend the midweek Advent and Lenten services. Below are the Sundays we will have these opportunities:

Sundays in Advent

December 4, 11, 18

Sundays in Lent:

March 5, 12, 19, 26

We understand that schedules are hectic and there are many demands on students and parents. Regular practices/rehearsals and games/performances is mandatory for many activities. You cannot be a member of the team without showing up regularly and being prepared! The same goes for confirmation. Attendance is required for Wednesday evening lessons & small group sessions, as well as for Sundays in Lent and Advent (see next page). Excessive absences and failure to fulfill expectations may result in meetings with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and/or the Pastors. It may also mean repeating a year of confirmation or doing extra work to stay on schedule. We hope that families make the effort as best as they are able to ensure that full confirmation participation is a priority during this four year journey.

Behavior during Large and Small Groups

It is expected that students will be respectful during large and small group time. Small groups are an opportunity to participate through discussion and through being an active listener. Cell phones are to be turned off and put away, and attention is expected to be on the moment, and to take in the experience. Doing this will allow you to get the most out of the lesson, building your life as a faithful servant of God.

Materials Needed:

Bible*

Pen/Pencil

Highlighter -optional.

*We will continue to use the Common English Bible as we have in recent years, but if you have a different Bible than this, that is fine as well. All students should have received this Bible, but if you haven't please see Brigetta.

Curriculum

We will be using the "Here We Stand" curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. This curriculum covers the Small Catechism, the 10 Commandments, the Old and New Testaments, as well as "Faith in Life" topics where things like Lutheran Worship Practices and other topics valuable to developing a well-rounded faith can be unpacked, in a 3+ year cycle.

Student Requirements:

- **Pastors Lesson:** Each week either Pastor Roger or Pastor Jennifer will present a lesson for the students during our large group time based on the week's topic.
- **Small Groups:** 6th- 9th Graders are also required to participate in small group on Wednesday evenings. These will follow the large group.

- **Sermon Notes:** Students are expected to complete sermon notes twice a month during the months of October-April, for a total of 14 sermon notes. These will be available outside Brigetta's office and for printing off of the website (a link will be sent home). And we will also email home a PDF, so if want to fill it out on the computer you can as well. During Advent and Lent, you may also complete a note for the midweek service which can be counted towards your monthly expectation. Sermon notes can be turned in to small group leaders when completed.
- **9th Grade Mentoring:** 9th grade faith mentoring will be a part of this year as it has been in years past. We are aiming for the students to begin mentoring in January this year. This is such a valuable experience both for the mentees and their mentors and we are grateful that they are able to expand their faith webs through this impactful experience. At this time, more than ever, making Faith connections is perhaps more important than it has been in the past, and so we would like to begin it sooner. SO 9th graders, get your thinking caps on and start thinking who you would like to be your Faith Mentor!! We would like for you to have your faith Mentor selected and committed to faith mentoring by mid-December. More details on specific dates and deadlines will be communicated as the year progresses.

Fees / Registration Forms

A Confirmation Registration fee of \$25, that is used to help cover the costs of curriculum, special events, service projects, and other activities and supplies will be due by 11/6/2022.. (Financial assistance is available. Please speak to pastors)

Ways to Stay Connected:

We will try to keep everyone informed as the year progresses, but we need your help too! We try to send out weekly email updates, sometimes they have new info and sometimes they are filled with reminders. We try to include previous emails so that you can always refer back for more details on things if needed. If you are not getting those emails, please reach out to Brigetta or Corrina so that we can make sure you are on the email lists. Here are a number of convenient ways to keep tabs on what's happening and to receive updates for Youth news:

General Church Info:

PoP Website: www.popappleton.org (will be further updated once new Coordinator position filled).
 PoP Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/princeofpeace.appleton/>

PoP Families Fellowship Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1336288513222291>

Constant Contact:

This is the digital email/text resource we will use to communicate updates for various activities and shared information for most grades; please add Constant Contact as an accepted/safe "Sender" so emails aren't sent to your SPAM folder.

Cancellations will be communicated via Facebook, and the Prince of Peace General Website.