

CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

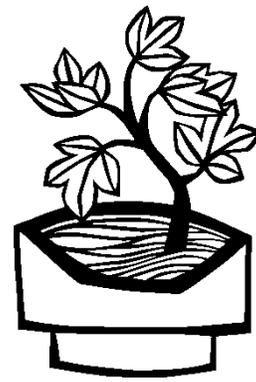
6TH-9TH GRADE



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2020-2021

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?



DEFINITION: Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church which helps the baptized child, through Word and Sacrament, to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission.

PURPOSE: We have no Biblical command or model for “confirmation.” The basis for our ministry is found in the “Great Commission” of Jesus. “...go and make disciples...baptizing them...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:18-20) We, therefore, see our Confirmation ministry as a logical extension of baptism. The church, as a participant in the student’s baptism, lovingly extends the opportunity for students to learn what Jesus has “commanded.”

Confirmation is only one phase of the lifelong process of learning available through the church. In obedience to our Lord’s command, the church teaches, guides and counsels young and old in the Christian faith. “God desires all his people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4) We consider this the commission of Jesus and the expression of God’s love, that all generations might hear God’s Word. Our educational ministry seeks to have pupils exposed to the Word and to come to faith in Jesus.

The church has a special responsibility to the youth. Our confirmation ministry seeks to equip our youth so that they may participate more fully in the life of the church.

Expectations of Confirmation Students

Requirements:

- Regular attendance at weekly confirmation classes and regular attendance at Lent Wednesday Worship services
- 16 worship credits per year. 64 credits total.

Regular attendance at weekly confirmation classes- If your child is going to be absent (family activity, illness, etc.), **CONTACT** the church and inform us of their absence. It is important that we know who will be attending in order to prepare lessons and class sessions. *During Lent, Wednesday night Lenten Worship IS OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS! Attendance is expected!*

16 Worship Credits per year- Each student is asked to complete a combination of 16 **worship, acolyte or usher** credits per year. If you are assisting with worship, you are to fill out a "Give-me-credit" form and put it in the basket in the narthex. The worship survey and "give-me-credit" form are on the same sheet, which can be found on the table in the narthex. Someone will review your notes/form, record the credits and post a progress report on the youth board in the fellowship hall. Parents and Youth are responsible for checking the progress of their credits.

A Note to Parents: When you brought your child to be baptized, you made several promises to God, such as: "teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer." (ELW p. 228) Grace Lutheran and the pastors provide this confirmation program to help you carry out these responsibilities, but it is *your* responsibility to make sure that your child completes the confirmation program. We will regularly update the progress sheets on the youth board. Checking these and ensuring that your child is on track to be confirmed is the responsibility of the parents, not the pastors.

Also, make sure that you are asking your child about their lessons and looking at the handouts that they bring home with them. This is a great way to be actively involved in their study, and a great way to share your thoughts about faith and life with them.

Acolyte Responsibilities

6th-8th Grade

All 6th-8th Grade youth will participate in Sunday or Wednesday worship by serving as an acolyte, during their designated month of the year (schedule to be handed out during acolyte orientation).

Some things to note:

- 1) 6th-8th grade youth and parents are to attend a class on the how and why of being an acolyte. **For training night, please know your height so that we can fit you for an acolyte robe!**
- 2) A reminder will be in GraceNotes each month for you to be aware of your student's assigned Sundays or Wednesdays.

When it is your time to serve:

- 1) Acolytes must be at church **at least 15 minutes before the start of the service.** If you are not there, your spot could be given to another youth who asks to help.
- 2) Remember to ask the pastors if there is anything special happening during the service, such as a baptism, that you would need to help with.
- 3) You have a leadership position in worship, so follow along with the liturgy and the music.
- 4) Dress appropriately (no T-shirts or shorts).
- 5) Acolyte parents and families are asked to sit together in the front of the transept section of the sanctuary.
- 6) Please be sure to hang up your alb after worship. Please don't just drop your alb on the closet floor.

Finding a substitute for a Sunday:

- 1) An acolyte is a very important part of our worship service. Therefore, it is very important that you are here on the designated date.
- 2) If you are unable to serve as an acolyte on the date scheduled, you must find a substitute. You must call the church office with the substitute's name so that we know who to look for on Sunday morning.
- 3) If you cannot find a sub, still let the church know so that we aren't looking for you on Sunday morning.

How to get credit for being an acolyte:

- 1) Fill out a "give me credit" form and turn it in. It is important that you fill this out so that we can give you credit. It's that easy!

An Acolyte's Role in Worship

An acolyte is a very important to the worship service. By creating an atmosphere of hospitality and peace, church members should feel the hope, grace, and love of God when entering our church.

1) Preparation

If it is your time to acolyte, we ask that you arrive no later than 15 minutes before the service. This will allow for you to prepare for the service: check to see if there are any special events happening, get a bulletin and a worship survey/give-me-credit form to your seating place, etc.

2) Lighting the candles

Light the candles, at the front of the sanctuary, 10 minutes before the worship service begins. Entering together from opposite sides, go to the front of the altar and light your candle lighter from the Sanctuary lamp on the altar. Light the Paschal Candle if needed (check with a pastor to see if we are lighting it that Sunday). Light the candles on the wall, starting at the outside and work towards the center. This symbolizes the coming together of Christ and his people. Try to light your candles simultaneously. After lighting your candles, return to your seats and place your candlelighter under your seat.

3) Participation

Participate in the worship service. Do not be talking or fooling around with friends. Stand when the congregation stands and join in the responses.

4) Offering

Each Sunday offering is taken. Your responsibilities are to greet the ushers at the bottom of the steps at the beginning of the offertory song, not before.

5) Communion

The first and third Sundays are communion Sundays. Join the other communion assistants at the front of the altar and receive communion. After receiving communion, you will take a basket and follow one of the communion servers to collect the wine cups. Give the baskets full of cups to the server collecting the communion vessels.

6) Baptism

You are an important part of the baptismal service. You are the pastor's assistant. They will instruct you as to their needs prior to the service. Usual participation involves lighting the baptismal candle from the Paschal candle and then giving the candle to the parent.

7) Dismissal

When the service is over and the Pastors are walking out, join each other at the front of the altar. Walk simultaneously together to the candles on the wall. Extinguish the flames from the center to the outside. Then, once you have both extinguished your candles, one of you will go and extinguish the Paschal candle (if it is lit). Both of you can then exit through the side doors. Do not return to the front of the church. Exit through the basement.

An Usher's Role in Worship (9th Graders)

- 1) Make sure you are present 15 minutes before worship starts. Report to the head usher.
- 2) Help hand out bulletins from the back of the church.
- 3) Help usher people to the front for Holy Communion.
- 4) Help receive offering at the appropriate time during worship.
- 5) You don't need to stand during the entire worship service. You may be seated on the pew closest to the East Entrance door.
- 6) Be on the lookout for the following:
 - a. Some people need help finding the bathrooms.
 - b. Some people are not able to come forward for Holy Communion due to illness. Please tell one of the Pastors that they will need to commune someone in the pews. When Holy Communion is almost over, please stand by the person who needs to be communed in their seat so the Pastor can find you.