



Confirmation Handbook 2016-2017

Welcome to Confirmation

Welcome to confirmation at English Lutheran Church. Confirmation is meant to shape a young person's faith life through learning, service, and relationships. Not only will our confirmands grow, but the teachers, guides, mentors, pastors, and truly anyone who offers their gifts to this program are bound to deepen their faith.

This booklet is your guide to our confirmation program and contains important information and schedules. Please read the information in the booklet carefully and keep it for reference throughout the year.

Philosophy and Goals

Confirmation at English Lutheran Church is a spiritually based, relational program that proclaims the gospel and calls students into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We also take seriously our baptismal covenant "to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." In this program, we encourage students to ask honest questions as they work out how they will live a Christian life.

In order to make confirmation an "adventure in faith" and create a positive learning environment, we designed a curriculum that utilizes small group experiences, student's individual learning choices, and an interactive format. While maintaining the biblical and confessional substance of confirmation, we employ a student centered, experiential style of learning.

We pray that the promises your child makes on their confirmation day will make you echo 3 John 1:4 –

"I have no greater joy than this: To hear that my children are walking in the truth."

On Reformation Weekend (the last weekend in October), the congregation here at English Lutheran Church celebrates the “Affirmation of Baptism” from its confirmands who are just entering their Sophomore year of High School. Most of these young people were babies when baptized. At that holy moment, their parents, sponsors, and congregation made promises to raise that child in faith in Jesus Christ. As young adults, these children of God are given the opportunity through our Confirmation program to make their own promises.

Parent Responsibilities

Research from the Youth and Family Institute affirms the critical role the home serves in the nurture and development of faith in our children and youth. For this reason, English Lutheran established the Faith Milestone program to encourage parents in their important role as the first teachers of our children.

According to the first principle of the Youth and Family Institute “Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships, often in our own homes.” Therefore, we strongly encourage parents to be an active partner with their son or daughter.

Parent Visits

Parents will be assigned a night to attend confirmation class within the first 2 fall sessions. If you are unable to attend when scheduled, please contact Niki Pohnl to reschedule. At any time parents have questions about confirmation, please feel free to contact the Pastor or Vicar leading the class, Niki Pohnl (Director of Discipleship), or your student’s small group guide.

During the confirmand’s sophomore year, parents will be asked to attend class on Parent’s Night.

Faith Practices

At English Lutheran, we teach SEVEN FAITH PRACTICES that have, for twenty centuries, characterized the life of those committed to following Jesus Christ. Therefore, we ask our confirmation students and their parents to make the following commitment:

I will strive to...

- PRAY daily
- WORSHIP weekly
- READ the Bible
- INVITE others to church
- GIVE of my time, talents and resources
- SERVE at and beyond English Lutheran Church
- Be in RELATIONSHIP to ENCOURAGE spiritual growth in others

Confirmation Timeline

Total Hours: 100 (75 Wednesday evening classes and 25 elective credits)

7th Grade: Confirmation Bible Classes – Old Testament

Memorization: Ten Commandments

Elective Classes: 8 credits required

8th Grade: Confirmation Bible Classes – New Testament, Confessions

Service Learning

Memorization: Apostles Creed

Elective Classes: 9 credits required

9th Grade: Confirmation Bible Classes – New Testament, Jesus

Memorization: Lord's Prayer

Elective Classes: 8 credits required

10th Grade: Faith Formation, Faith Statements, Affirmation of Baptism Service

This timeline is meant to describe the basic shape of the Confirmation Program.

Student Overview

Memory Work

Each student will be expected to know The Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, and The Apostles' Creed. The students will be tested on memorization according to the confirmation schedule. Memorization needs to be complete by the end of February each school year.

Students will be tested on their knowledge each year approximately the 2nd week of class just to get a sense of where they are. From that point forward, students can test out orally or in written form with a guide, pastor, or vicar **before or after** class. Memory work versions are found at the end of this handbook.

Absences

We expect all students to attend Wednesday evening classes. Students missing scheduled classes shall notify the church office, Pastor, or Vicar if you need to be absent.

Elective Classes: 100% participation is expected to receive credit. These classes are shorter and can not be missed if credit is desired.

Behavior

All students are expected to show respect for the learning needs of all students in the class, the adult leaders, and the property. **Cell phones, iPods, or other electronic devices are not allowed** during classes or specific times on retreats. If a student is found with one of these devices after class has begun, they will be held at church until they are picked up by a parent.

Worship Notes

When worshipping on Sunday morning, we encourage students to worship actively by thoughtfully and reflectively completing Worship Notes about services attended. Worship Notes will be evaluated based on thoughtfulness of response and not always "correct" answers. *Worship Notes* sheets (blue) can be found in the Kiosk in the narthex.

- 7th and 8th Graders – complete 2/month or 18 between September 2016-June 2017
- 9th Graders – complete 1/month or 9 between September 2016-May 2017
- 10th Grade – none required

Note –

- You may take worship notes while participating in worship (acolyte or other).
- Worship services are available through our website should you be unable to attend a weekend worship service. Worship note forms are also available through our website.
- Worship notes should be turned in at the narthex kiosk.

Worship Participation

In grades seven and eight, confirmation students serve as acolytes. Students will be trained. Each student is asked to participate.

Ninth grade students will have more significant and more varied opportunities to serve on Sunday mornings. Students will be asked to serve in 4 of 9 designated tasks in the area of worship.

Once the schedule is complete, if a student is unable to participate on his/her assigned day, it is the student's responsibility to find a substitute and to notify the church office of the change. Attendance will be checked on a weekly basis to ensure all students are fulfilling their requirements. A class list, including phone numbers and email addresses will be provided by the end of September to help you find replacements if needed.

Faith Shaping Tools

English Lutheran's confirmation program draws on many resources in order to meet our goals. Our greatest resources are parents. Teachers, guides, pastors, and elective leaders are our next greatest group of resources. Throughout confirmation, we'll receive the gifts of people throughout the La Crosse Area. God's people are this program's most powerful and effective resources.

There are also printed resources too. 7th Grade confirmation students will be provided with a study Bible they will use through their confirmation years. It is each student's responsibility to keep track of their own Bible and bring it to confirmation classes AND elective classes as this resource will be used throughout.

Service Projects

8th grade is our "Service Learning" year for confirmation students. Service projects will be completed as a class.

Students will meet as a class with their confirmation pastor and their small groups with guides the first week of the five week session. Then they will attend 6 hours of service in their small groups during the following 3-4 weeks. Each service session concludes with small group discussion. On the fifth and final Wednesday of the five week session, the class reconvenes and students will bring prepared statements to share with the rest of the class, along with a typed, one-page reflection paper.

It is recommended that students experience different service sites for their fall and spring service learning sessions. Note that service learning is distinct from similar service hours that a school or other organization may require. These two sessions are intentional action/reflection learning models, and they provide additional small group process and relationship building, as well. Service learning sessions are required just like weekly classes are required. They cannot be made up by doing other projects on their own.

Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:30-6:15 Meal

We encourage you to join us for supper on Wednesday nights. The meals are prepared by Roxie Flaten, with a **recommended donation of \$4.00**. This is a great time to “check-in” with each other and share important events from the past week.

6:15-7:30 Class and group time

7th Grade – meets in Room 106

8th Grade – meets in the South Hall

9th Grade – meets in Room 104

In the large group, the Pastor or Vicar will teach the theology, biblical background and implications for life. In the small groups, confirmation guides will lead discussions on how we live out what we believe through relationships and through God’s call to serve.

Students will be with the same small group throughout the school year.

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:45-10:30am



**7th Grade & 8th Grade meet in the Youth Room
(Led by Vicar Lucas)**



**9th Grade (with High School) meets in the Conference Room
(Led by Kerri Jahnke)**

Walking with God (October-December)

FaithLens: Seeing our World through God’s Eyes (Jan.-Mar.)

TBA (April-May)

Interactive and Authentic faith conversations

Each week you are in attendance is a chance to win one of 3 gift cards through the end of October in each group. *(Sponsored by the Discipleship Council)*