
Our Father Lutheran Church

Confirmation Class Syllabus

2018 - 2020

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Welcome, Confirmation Student and Family!

Confirmation goes back to your baptism – the day when water was poured on your head in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. On that day, you became God’s own child. Confirmation gives you the chance to say “The faith that I was baptized into is my faith. This I believe.” And, in Confirmation, you learn what it is to live as His dear child in this world.

But, before you can say “This is my faith,” you have to know what that faith is. In the next two years, we will explore that faith together through the Bible, Luther’s Small Catechism, and other resources.

More importantly, we will learn how to live this stuff in our day-to-day lives. The word here is “discipleship” – that is, being a follower of Jesus. But, it is also about living our lives in relationship: relationship with God, one another, our family, the church, and the world.

Confirmation is only part of that journey, however. This is not preparation for a graduation, but a time to grow and mature as you prepare to become an active member in a community of faith, and learn what it means to follow Jesus.

In this time of Confirmation, it is our prayer that you have the love and support of your family, congregation, mentors, and pastors. We are here to help you in any and every way. You are in our prayers. We thank God for the time that we will get to spend with you, and pray that it will also be a blessing to you!

In Christ,

Pastor Nate & Mikaela

Overview

This booklet contains all the basic information to get the confirmand and his/her family started on the Road to Confirmation Sunday. **Don't forget about the Confirmation Orientation Meeting Sunday, August 19th at 9:30 a.m., wherein you'll get a chance to ask questions about the year and meet the Confirmation Ministry Team.**

Wednesday Night Classes

The Confirmation program consists of two classes over two years: Catechism and the Bible. Class participation is a required expectation of every student desiring to be confirmed. If circumstances arise that prevent your child from attending class, please email us at studentministry@oflc.net or message us through the "7th/8th Gr Confirmation Parents" class on the Remind text service app (sign-up information available at orientation August 19).

The Bible: 2018-2019

- Old Testament – This portion of class helps students better understand the history and theology of the Old Testament including major themes, how the Old Testament points to Christ, and the important people in God's story of salvation leading up to the time of Christ.
- New Testament – This portion of class helps students understand why Christ's death and resurrection are necessary for our salvation and address the importance of Christian community.

Catechism: 2019-2020 - This class provides students with a better understanding of Luther's Small Catechism (a handbook for the Christian faith) with an in-depth study of the teachings of the Lutheran church, and will allow students to learn those teachings and how they pertain to everyday life.

Our Key Strategy: Small Groups

In order to help the students grow in community with each other, and learn from a caring adult mentor, students will be placed in small groups at the beginning of the year. After Large Group teaching and games, students break into small groups from 7:15 – 8:00 p.m. for discussion.

Weekly Format

6:00 p.m. Food available for purchase/Youth Room hangout

6:30 p.m. Confirmation begins with Large Group

teaching/games 7:15 p.m. Small Groups

8:00 p.m. End of Class

Key Dates:

Sunday, August 19 9:30 a.m.

Confirmation Parent/Student Orientation

Wednesdays, August 22 – May 8

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Confirmation Classes

August 29, September 5, 12, 19

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Middle School Parent Class

September 2018-May 2019

2nd Sundays 12:00 p.m.

Breakout Events

October 28

Confirmation Sunday

November 9-11

Fall Retreat

November 21

Thanksgiving Break

December 26 and January 2

Christmas and New Year's Break

March 1-3 (tentative)

Winter Retreat

May 5

End of Year BBQ

May 8

Last Class of School Year

Other Requirements

The other three areas of personal and spiritual growth that are emphasized throughout the Confirmation program are: Personal Faith-building Activities, Family Worship, and Service to the Church Community. It is our hope and prayer that – combined with Confirmation class – these pieces serve to support the individual and his/her family members in living deeply rooted in Christ. This model also aligns itself with the new vision statement of Our Father Lutheran Church: *Helping Ordinary People Know and Share Extraordinary Life in Christ.*

Personal Faith-building Activities:

Faith-building activities are designed to help the student take what they are learning from class instruction and apply it to their daily lives. **The following faith- building activities are expected:** Sunday School attendance and Retreats.

Retreats are a great way for the confirmands to get to know each other, their mentors, and have time with God in an incredibly peaceful mountain setting. Retreats are an expectation of the Confirmation ministry and all efforts should be made to attend the Fall Retreat **November 9-11, 2018**. The Winter Retreat (March 1-3, 2019, tentatively) is an encouraged, but optional, activity.

Middle School Sunday School meets downstairs in Room 114. Both Adult and Children's Bible classes are offered for the whole family year-round.

Family Worship & Sermon Notes:

An important aspect of one's relationship with God is meeting Him in worship. As Christ comes down to us in the form of His body and blood, we meet with Him as we study scripture, engage in the sermon, and sing praises through worship hymns and songs. Regular worship is an expectation of all students desiring to confirm his/her faith. **Worship times at OFLC are Saturday evening – 5 p.m. and Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:45 a.m. The Education Hour is from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.** To help keep students accountable and to help families engage in worship together, sermon note outlines must be turned in. **Completion of sermon notes (7 by December 12; 7 by May 8);** (Outlines available in the Confirmation Handbook and online.)

Serving the Church Community:

Confirmands will learn about the blessings of being a part of the “body of Christ”, that is, members of a local congregation. As a way to learn and experience what it means to be part of that body, Confirmands will be asked to engage in service to our church community. Opportunities to serve include acolyting, reading Bible lessons during Sunday School, assisting in music during worship, and volunteering at Student Ministry events.

Registration/Fees:

- Confirmation Registration (once per year) accessible online at:
<http://www.ourfatherlutheran.net/middle-school-confirmation/>
- Materials Fee \$40 payable online via PayPal. through registration process. (If desired, payment may be made by check payable to “OFLC” .)
- Fall/Winter Retreats: Signup/payment options available online. Fall Retreat fees (\$99) can be paid along with activities registration

Breakout Fellowship Events: Sundays September-May:

Monthly fellowship events entitled **Breakout** are scheduled Sundays of every month (with a few exceptions) to help build community and provide an opportunity for students to invite their friends. Schedule and details can be found on our website in mid-August.

Go to: <http://www.ourfatherlutheran.net/middle-school-confirmation/>

The Road to Confirmation – 9th Grade Year

Confirmation Weekend takes place in October of the students' 9th grade year. Leading up to that weekend are :

- 1) **Confirmation Interview** with family member and member of the student ministries staff and
- 2) completion of the **Faith Expression Project**, a unique way for the confirmands to highlight this faith milestone, and all that has shaped his/her faith.

Students are confirmed in the 8:00 a.m. service, followed by a reception (with display of their Faith Expression Project and a short program for families and interested members) in the Fellowship Hall. Past projects have taken the form of dance, musical composition, visual media and art, biographical study of saints, book reviews, and more. We continue to be touched and impressed by the breadth and depth of the confirmands' research and heart that goes into these projects.

Contact Us

Though this seems like an abundance of information to digest, rest assured. The Confirmation Ministry Team is available to work with you and your student throughout this process. We want to help your confirmand grow in his/her Christian faith, and come to know and share extraordinary life in Christ. Bring your questions and concerns about classes to Confirmation Orientation on August 19 at 9:30 a.m..

In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns regarding Confirmation Class or your student's participation in class, please feel free to email us at: studentministry@oflc.net or call the church office at: 303-779-1332. Blessings to you this Fall!