



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

“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.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Confirmation is the process by which a baptized member of St. Paul Lutheran Church receives instruction, encouragement, and involvement in the Christian faith in order that he/she might be able to publicly confess that they are followers of Christ.

In order for the individual to understand the Christian faith, there are various opportunities incorporated into this time of instruction to learn and grow in the faith. The following outlines the expectations of St. Paul Lutheran Church in order to grow in the Christian faith and move towards public confirmation of what was confessed for them at their baptism.

Since the confirmation program seeks to foster continued spiritual growth and full participation in the life of the church, the curriculum for confirmation at St. Paul goes beyond the confirmation classroom and includes activities in the areas of (I) Instruction, (II) Worship, and (III) Service.

All of the following are offered in the spirit of Christian love as we encourage positive Christian growth. In order to be clear about expectations, the parents, confirmand, pastor, and the Board of Elders, will agree upon an individualized contract specifying what will be expected.

WORSHIP

Worship is the central and most important activity in the life of the Christian. We receive God's gifts and become participants in His story when we gather weekly in the Divine Service.

- A. Participation:** Confirmands are expected to worship every week. Gathering together to receive God's love, forgiveness, life, and salvation in Word and Sacrament at church is as necessary for the spiritual life as oxygen is to the body. (This is true of all Christians, not only confirmands. Parents are the most influential teachers!). If unable to attend services at St. Paul for a particular weekend, please notify the pastor in advance via phone, text message, or email.

**If your family is not attending in-person due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, you will need to show that you participated in the service online. You can submit a sermon report and/or leave a comment on the Facebook or YouTube video as proof of your worship attendance.*

- B. Sermon Reports:** First and Second year students need 16 total (1st 8 by December 31. 2nd 8 by the first Sunday in May). Third and Fourth year students need 20 total (1st 10 by December 31) and (2nd 10 by the first Sunday in May). On occasion attendance at other Christian churches is permissible. The bulletin from that service with a brief summary of the sermon written by the individual is expected.

INSTRUCTION

In order to grow in the Christian faith, learning the basics of Biblical and Christian teaching is essential.

- A. Confirmation Class:** Attendance at all confirmation classes is required. Please be online and ready ON TIME. If an individual is not able to attend Confirmation Class the teacher should be notified in advance so that makeup work can be arranged. In addition to class attendance, the following requirements are necessary for successful completion of the course:
1. **Weekly Assignments:** Be sure to check the schedule for any assignments that are due before class.
 2. **Essay:** Students will write a 2-page essay on a selected topic during their final year. More detailed instructions will be given in early 2021.
 3. **Individual Confession & Absolution:** Each student will meet with the pastor in the weeks prior to Confirmation for individual confession and absolution as taught in the Small Catechism. This is an opportunity to hear God's forgiveness spoken to *you* personally and can be repeated as often as desired throughout a Christian's life.
 4. **Electronic Device Policy:** Mobile phones must not be used during class. If a student wants to use an electronic device for note taking or a Bible app, the teacher must first give permission.
- B. Sunday School:** Confirmands are expected to attend Sunday School every week. This year, Sunday School is held October through May. If you are not attending in-person, at-home materials will be available. Sunday School classes offer a fun additional opportunity for growth in knowledge of the Scriptures and the Christian faith.

SERVICE

We are called to be servants both inside and outside the Church. We desire to encourage service through participation in service projects. Each confirmand is required to complete **12 service hours total**: 6 community service hours and 6 congregational service hours.

- C. Community Service** – Any willing service without compensation for people outside of the church or your immediate family qualifies. A service worksheet should be filled out for each project. Any questions should be addressed to your teacher. The following are some examples of community service activities:
1. Ringing bells for the Salvation Army through St. Paul (December)
 2. Serving a meal at the Dubuque Rescue Mission
 3. Stocking shelves at the Dubuque Food Pantry
 4. Raking lawns, shoveling snow, other yard work for neighbors for free
 5. Call a nursing home and ask to speak to the activities director – ask them if there is anything you can bring for the residents.
 6. Call a helping agency and ask if there is anything you can do to help (Dubuque Rescue Mission, Dubuque Food Pantry, Operation New View, Humane Society, Resources Unite)
- B. Church Service** – Serving in the church encourages confirmands to understand they play an important role in the Body of Christ. The following opportunities for congregational service are presented.
1. Summer: VBS, Fair Booth
 2. November – Turkey Day Cleanup
 3. Video Recording or Editing for worship services
 4. Help with church property maintenance projects
 5. Help with leaf or snow removal or landscaping
 6. Help sanitize the church after worship on Saturdays
 7. Make phone calls to members who are in nursing homes or homebound
 8. Music: Use of musical talents for worship: is always welcome but also fulfills this requirement. If interested, ask the pastor.
 9. Special projects: Ask the pastor. The cleaning of the building, care of the grounds, and care of the altar and sanctuary are all done by volunteers, who would love young helpers.

*Note: generally, any event that benefits the church will be considered **church service**. When in doubt, ask pastor.*

2020 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DUE TODAY
Weds. Sep. 16	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer Overview	
Weds. Sep. 23	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer Intro	Memory Work: Lord's Prayer Introduction Service Hours: Choose two community and two church options you will plan on doing
Weds. Sep. 30	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer 1 st Petition	Memory Work: Lord's Prayer 1 st Petition
Weds. Oct. 7	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer 2 nd Petition	Memory Work: Lord's Prayer 2 nd Petition
Weds. Oct. 14	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer 3 rd Petition	Memory Work: Lord's Prayer 3 rd Petition
Weds. Oct. 21	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer 4 th Petition	Memory Work: Lord's Prayer 4 th Petition
Weds. Oct. 28	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer 5 th Petition	Memory Work: Lord's Prayer 5 th Petition
Weds. Nov. 4	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer 6 th Petition	Memory Work: Lord's Prayer 6 th Petition
Weds. Nov. 11	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer 7 th Petition	Memory Work: Lord's Prayer 7 th Petition
Weds. Nov. 18	4:30-6:00 PM	Lord's Prayer Conclusion	Memory Work: Lord's Prayer Conclusion
Weds. Nov. 25	7:00 PM	ATTEND THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE	
SUN. Nov. 29	2:00-3:30 PM	Means of Grace Overview	Memory Work: Catch-up
SUN. Dec. 6	2:00-3:30 PM	Nature of Baptism	Memory Work: Baptism First
SUN. Dec. 13	2:00-3:30 PM	Blessings of Baptism	Memory Work: Baptism Second

SUN. Dec. 20	2:00-3:30 PM	Power of Baptism	Memory Work: Baptism Third
Weds. Dec. 30	4:30-6:00 PM	What Baptism Indicates	Memory Work: Baptism Fourth

September 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

 Class
 Special Church Service