



CONFIRMATION PARENT HANDBOOK

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

Inside you'll find all of the information that you need to know about our Confirmation Ministry. From attendance questions to sermon notes, an explanation of "What is Confirmation" to ways parents can be involved, it's all inside.

[2023-2024 Confirmation Year](#)

The Basics

What? Confirmation is a three-year ministry of faith formation that leads up to a service of Affirmation of Baptism. When the students were baptized as babies, you made promises for them to be raised in the church, to be taught the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the 10 Commandments, and other important promises. Confirmation will prepare them for their Affirmation of Baptism where they will have the chance to affirm the promises you made for them, and make them their own promises to God and to each other.

Who? Middle School students, grades 6-8. 9th graders confirm their faith in the fall on Reformation Sunday every year. In the fall they will have periodic meetings to prepare for the service.

Where? Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 413 1st Ave, W. P.O. 638, Grand Marais, MN 55604

When? On Wednesday evenings (per the Confirmation Ministry calendar) from 6-7:30pm. There will be games and pizza available from 5:30-6:00pm.

Cost? The fee for Confirmation is \$25/student for the year. The cost will help to offset curriculum/food/activity costs for the year. Scholarships are available, contact Pastor Calvin.



What is Expected of Parents?

1. **Bring them to church.** Step one: complete. You are fulfilling the promises that you made at their baptism by bringing them to Confirmation! The Bible encourages parents to invest in their children's faith in God, too. Deuteronomy 6:5-9 says,

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. **Recite them to your children** and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. [emphasis added]

Bringing them to church (and Confirmation) will give them an opportunity to continue to learn God's word and grow in their faith – and you will, too, through them!

2. **Prayer.** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Please commit to praying for your child, their small group leaders and volunteers, and our church. *If you would like resources on how to pray, contact Pastor Calvin.*
3. **Encouragement.** Encourage them through your words, and through your actions. Kids are watching, and learning through what you say and do. So, similar to #1, encourage your children to go to Confirmation (and the fun extra things we offer), and come to church *with them* – showing them how important church is. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...”
4. **Volunteer.** Our ministries don't happen on their own, and many hands make light work. There are many ways to volunteer, and each has a different time commitment.



Discipline

In the event that a student has behaviors that are disrespectful or distracting from group discussion, activities, relationship building, or trust, the follow steps will be taken:

- 1st time: student will be removed from group by a pastor or leader, and they will talk through the issue at hand with the student. Parents may or may not be contacted.
- 2nd time: student will be removed from the group by a pastor or leader, and they will talk through the issue. Parents will be contacted, and an additional meeting may be set up between the pastors/leaders, parents, and/or student.
- 3rd time: student will be removed from large or small group, parents will be contacted, and parents will be asked to pick up the student from Confirmation.
- 4th time: student will be removed from large or small group, parents will be contacted, parents will be asked to pick up the student from Confirmation, and the student will be suspended from the Confirmation ministry until an action plan can be made between the pastors and the parents and student.

Dress Code

There is no official dress code for our Confirmation ministry. Parents are asked to work with their students to find clothing that is appropriate for church. If the Confirmation ministry is partnering with an organization that has a dress code, we will endorse the dress code from that organization (e.g. close toed shoes at a food shelf, clothing that does not promote tobacco, drugs or alcohol, etc.).

