

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Confirmation Handbook Year 1
2017 - 2018



201 Elm Street
Northville, Michigan
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www.stpaulnorthville.org

Knowing Jesus, and making Him known

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:8

Why is Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism important?

Confirmation is the fulfillment of a promise made at baptism by parents in partnership with the whole faith community. It is the promise to live within a faithful community (church), to bring our children to worship, Sunday school and confirmation class where they can learn the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Creed. It is the promise to bring them where they can be nurtured in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God, to live a Christ-filled life in word and deed, and to work for justice and peace.

Matthew 10:32-33 (NLT)

³² “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Confirmation is a Vibrant Faith Formation:

During this time of teaching, they will study Lutheran theology, explore Christian truths and traditions, build positive relationships with caring adults, and create a safe space in which to discuss and question matters of faith. In addition, it is hoped that through the discussion and fellowship with peers, that they will develop servant hearts by helping others in our community, so that together, they take active ownership of their faith.

Confirmation is Relationships:

It is a time to experience God’s love by building caring connections with parents, mentors, and peers. It is a commitment of the whole family to grow together, support one another and encourage one another to trust in a God who loves us, cares for us and forgives us.

Confirmation is Taking Responsibility for Discipleship:

It is a time of preparation leading to public profession of Christian faith and for our youth to “confirm” their intention to live as a child of God in the covenant of Baptism. The words are some of the most important they will ever speak: “Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?” Affirmation of Baptism, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, (Augsburg Fortress, © 2006), page 236.

What Confirmation is Not:

Confirmation is a very important step on the life-long journey of faith. But it is NOT a journey toward a “graduation,” that stops the formation in faith. It does provide the foundation and framework that will encourage further spiritual conversations and further learning in God’s word.



Sunday Mornings 9:45 AM in School Room 3

- ✝ Check Workbook & Memory, Quiz, Instruction, Closing Prayer

What to bring on on Sundays:

- ✝ Bring your best attitude and questions
- ✝ An ESV Bible (Book or App)
- ✝ Pen/Pencil and loose-leaf paper
- ✝ Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation
- ✝ Exploring Luther's Small Catechism Workbook

Covenants with Youth:

- ✝ Attendance is crucial in the confirmation process. If you cannot make a class due to illness, family vacation, etc..., **please call** the church office prior to class, and leave a message if no one is available letting us know your situation.
- ✝ Be on time! Be in class at 9:45 am for each Sunday session, and wait for the teacher.
- ✝ **Attend worship and Youth Group regularly** as they are essential and complementary to your confirmation process.
- ✝ Appropriate language and behavior is always expected.
- ✝ All students are expected to attend a **Confirmation Retreat**. Camp Cavell happens every year for 8th grade students the first weekend **in November**. Other youth events will be scheduled.
- ✝ All students will complete a total of **8 Worship Notes** for the year (4 in the Fall, 4 in the Spring).
- ✝ All students will serve in the Acolyte program during the year. (There will be training).
- ✝ All students will complete assigned memory work and lesson books, reviewed/signed by parents.
- ✝ All students will participate in the **Mentoring Ministry** (making 3 visits).
- ✝ All students will do **2 Servant Projects** approved by pastor or the Family Life Director.
- ✝ All students must be baptized before receiving the Rite of Confirmation.

Covenants with Parents:

- ✝ Please foster faith and Biblical discussions at home. You can do this by asking your youth questions about what they are learning, praying together at meals, sharing family devotions together, and attending church together.
- ✝ Please help and encourage your child in their attempts to complete their confirmation covenants.
- ✝ Participate with your child in the All Student Nights during the year, and **be in a Bible group**.
- ✝ Support and attend the Palm Sunday breakfast, and your scheduled Sundays for Coffee Hour.
- ✝ This is a partnership: please feel free to come to us should any problems or challenges arise so that we can find solutions together.

Worship Notes Instructions:

Worship Notes forms are available in the church hallways, online, and upon request. Students should answer each question to the best of their ability and be thoughtful in their responses. Turn Worship Notes in at the next class. Please follow the Assignment Schedule for final due dates.

Memorization:

Why do we memorize?

When we are stressed or being challenged by life, we often revert to things that are very familiar to us - a favorite song because we know the tune and the words - maybe a poem or a saying that provides perspective and hope. This is why we memorize prayers, creeds and scripture as well. It provides tools for our youth to handle times of grief, despair or even joy. Memorizing helps that text become part of who we are, and is a source of Biblical wisdom and guidance we can always turn to during those times of need.

What will we be memorizing?

Each year of Confirmation appropriate memorization is selected to complement the current year's curriculum. At the end of the two years the following will be completed:

- † Helpful Bible verses that teach, explain and encourage
- † The Lord's Prayer
- † The Apostles' Creed
- † Books of the Old Testament and New Testament
- † Ten Commandments

How to Memorize: Memory quizzes will be given throughout the year.

1. Using lined paper, the student is to **write out twice** all the words of the memory assignment on one side of the paper. If the memory text is longer than one side, start a new sheet to continue. Please print name and date on top of paper.
2. After the student memorizes the words, they **recite it to a parent** who then signs the memory sheet.
3. The memory sheet (with signature) is brought to class, and the memory **quiz is taken** on the blank side.

Mentoring Ministry:

The Mentor Ministry matches individual confirmands with caring adults in the congregation to discuss faith and life issues and to learn, grow, and support each other in their growing faith.

Why do we do this?

- Mentoring will expand a confirmands' circle of trusted adults in the congregation who will listen to them and care about them.
- Mentoring enables each confirmand to learn and see how other adults live out their Christian faith.
- Mentoring is an example of how the broader Christian community supports one another.

How does it work?

Each confirmand will ask 3 different adults to allow them to conduct a 20-25 minute visit asking a few (provided) interview questions. The mentors, confirmands and parents will have an open, guided discussion about their Christian faith and life experiences. **Visit summaries** (typed please) can be turned in at the next Sunday class. See due dates on the Assignments & Memory Work schedule.

Making Up Missed Lessons:

Each lesson in our curriculum builds on previous lessons, so it is important that your confirmand attends each session. If your child has missed a class or you know they will be missing a class in the future, please make sure they **continue** with the **assigned lessons**, and review them at home with your child. The lessons do not rely on “expertise” on your part, simply a willingness to discuss Christian topics with your child.





Confirmation Day Details

When is the service?

The Confirmation worship service will usually take place on the **first Sunday in May at the late service**. The entire class will be confirmed together. Parents, sponsors, and other important family members will be part of the worship. There will be Holy

Communion as part of this worship experience.

Bible Verses

Each student will receive a Confirmation Bible verse. You are welcome to select a meaningful verse or you may ask a Pastor to select one for you. This verse will be read as part of the blessing over you at the Confirmation worship. It will also be printed on your Certificate of Confirmation. It has been a tradition that this also provides the text for your funeral service, so it is important to choose a meaningful verse or ask an adult to help select one with you.

Photographs for the Confirmation Facebook

In very early spring of the Confirmation year, we will have a professional photographer come in to take a Confirmation picture of each student. To allow the church family an opportunity to know a little more about our Confirmation youth, we will have students fill out a "fun facts" sheet and include a picture for the bulletin.

Practice for the Worship Service

Prior to the Confirmation worship service, the Pastor and students will do a "walk through" so students know how to march in, where to sit, and how the service will proceed. Parents should plan to attend so they can see how they will be involved. The date and time will be listed in the schedule.

Robes

Each student will need a robe for the Confirmation service. More information will be provided at a later time.

Dress

Even though you will have a robe on, we can see what you are wearing! We expect that all students will be dressed appropriately for a formal worship setting.

Appropriate dress for confirmation is as follows:

Girls are encouraged but NOT required to wear dresses or skirts. There will be no strapless, no spaghetti straps, no bare midriffs, and NO FLIP FLOPS.

Boys must wear dress pants and dress shirts with ties. Jackets are not necessary. Absolutely NO jeans and NO athletic footwear.

Flowers

A parent will coordinate corsages for the students. Parents are welcome to help put them on the students prior to the worship service.

Offering Envelopes

Each student will receive a box of offering envelopes as a confirmed member of the church. They will receive these at or prior to their Confirmation service.

Crosses

Thrivent for Lutherans often provides a Confirmation Cross to each person who is confirmed in the Lutheran Church. You will receive these at or just prior to your Confirmation worship service. It is helpful if a parent would be responsible for these items so they do not get lost or misplaced!

The Worship Service

Because Confirmation is connected to Baptism, the parents and sponsors are invited to come up and lay hands on the student as the Pastor prays for and blesses the student. Others such as grandparents or siblings may come up as well.

Pictures After the Worship Service

A professional photographer will be available to take group and individual pictures after the Confirmation service. Picture forms will be given for anyone wanting to order more pictures.



What is All Student Night?

To promote fellowship with all our Junior youth, Confirmation will also include a regular **All Student night**. This is for all students of our Day School and public schools.

From October through April, in coordination with our Family Life Director Jeanette Koch, All Student nights will be organized by a team of parents who will provide a simple meal and youth activity. How many families we have in the Confirmation program will determine how often this will be offered.

There will be a brief devotion time. Activities can be anything from open gym with games, bowling, or a planned event on a Saturday like horse-back riding or Laser Tag. Families can collaborate on ideas and schedules.

- Open Gym with organized games/Free play
- Cemetery Walk / Bike Ride / Dog Park / Hines Park picnic
- Bowling / Whirly Ball / Laser Tag / Miniature Golf
- Visit another denomination/synagogue
- Make a personalized Confirmation Banner

2 Service projects could include something like the following:

1. Visit/Carol to shut-ins or help with BINGO at Allen Terrace
2. Clean, rake, help around church or a member's home
3. Hang special event flyers in a neighborhood (for Easter Fair, Trunks & Treats, etc.)
4. Help at Civic Concern, Clothing Bank, Family of God
5. Make PB&J sandwiches at the end of the month for the hungry
6. Help decorate the church at Christmas time or lead a game at the Easter Fair
7. What are some ideas YOU HAVE to use your faith in serving others?

Confirmation

Student Name: _____

Mentor Visit #1— Instructions & Questions

Mentor Name: _____

-Make sure that you speak respectfully. And also, some of your mentors may have a hearing aid or a hearing problem... so make sure you speak clearly and loudly enough for them to understand. If you're not sure, ask them if you're speaking loudly enough... or perhaps TOO loud.

-In line with that, ask your mentor what name they prefer to be called by. That's part of respect too. Then tell them what name YOU prefer to be called.

-As you begin your visit, ask some **general questions** to get to know your mentor better. Things like— How many kids do you have, how many grandchildren, where do they live, what music do they like.

-Ask your mentor if they have any questions about you. Things like— how old you are, where you go to school, what grade you're in, your family details, your likes and dislikes.

-DO NOT RUSH YOUR VISIT!! Just enjoy.

-Ask your mentor to pray for you and promise to pray for them.

-Be sure to thank them for their time when you leave.

You need to write at least a ½ to full page typed paragraph on your discussion of these questions. Reflect on some of the topics in your report. Be sure to express some thoughts or opinions of your own about your conversation. Now here are your questions.

1. Where did you grow up? Were those good memories? Do you still have family in that area?
2. How many brothers or sisters did you have?
3. What church (or churches) have you belonged to over the years? What brought you to St. Paul's?
4. What is your favorite Bible verse? Why?
5. In what way (a specific event or in general) has your Christian faith been a comfort or strength in your life?

Do you have any questions for me?

Confirmation

Student Name: _____

Mentor Visit #2— Instructions & Questions

Mentor Name: _____

- Make sure that you speak respectfully.
- Ask your mentor if they have any questions about your last visit or anything new that has happened in their lives recently.
- DO NOT RUSH YOUR VISIT!! Just enjoy.
- Ask your mentor to pray for you and promise to pray for them.
- Be sure to thank them for their time when you leave.

You need to write at least a ½ to full page typed paragraph on your discussion of these questions. Reflect on some of the topics in your report. Be sure to express some thoughts or opinions of your own about your conversation. Now here are your questions.

1. If you know the date, when were you baptized? Where?
2. What do you think happens when a person is Baptized? (besides getting wet)
3. Why do you think it is good that our church baptizes babies?
4. How is Baptism important to you in your daily life?
5. Do you think people understand and appreciate Baptism as much today as they did 50-100 years ago? Why or why not?
6. What specific blessings are you thankful for today or over your lifetime?
7. What is one of your happiest Christmas memories?
8. What can we do during our Christmas preparations to keep our focus on the Christ Child and not so much on other distractions?

Do you have any questions for me?

Confirmation

Student Name: _____

Mentor Visit #4— Instructions & Questions

Mentor Name: _____

- Make sure that you speak respectfully.
- Ask your mentor if they have any questions about your last visit or anything new that has happened in their lives recently.
- DO NOT RUSH YOUR VISIT!! Just enjoy.
- Ask your mentor to pray for you and promise to pray for them.
- Be sure to thank them for their time when you leave.

You need to write at least a ½ to full page typed paragraph on your discussion of these questions. Reflect on some of the topics in your report. Be sure to express some thoughts or opinions of your own about your conversation. Now here are your questions.

1. Describe what your Confirmation experience was like: What was class time like, your teacher’s name, or what kind of homework did you have? Any funny stories?
2. Did you have to stand up in front of the church to either answer questions or share your faith?
3. In your opinion, what is the greatest blessing for you when you receive Holy Communion?
4. In the Lutheran Church we believe that in Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of all our sins. Not all Christians teach this. What might you say to someone who doubts what communion offers?
5. What advice would you give a Confirmand as how to stay active in their faith and Church **after** Confirmation Day?

Do you have any questions for me?



Worship Notes

If you attend worship at a church other than St. Paul Lutheran please attach a worship bulletin. It is our prayer that completing worship notes provides families with a guide for reflection and discussion of their worship experience.

Student Name: _____ Joseph Fairbairn _____

Date of Worship: _____ Sept.7 2014 _____

My Sermon "Title": _____ We Rally Around God's Word _____

First Scripture Reading:
_____ Ephesians 5:15-20 _____

First Scripture Theme:

_____ Make the most of every opportunity! _____

Church Year Date: _____ 13th Sunday of Pentecost _____

Color on Altar: _____ Green _____

Second Scripture Reading:
_____ Matthew 18:1-14 _____

Second Scripture Theme:

_____ Have faith like a child. _____

What was your favorite Hymn/song sung today? _____ Thy Strong Word _____

What were the main points of the sermon? What did you learn about?

_____ Christian education is important for all ages. _____

_____ We need to learn about our faith and Jesus since the days are evil. _____

Where did you hear the Law in the sermon? (God's commands/expectations or His punishment for not carrying them out)

_____ God wants us to know and understand His Word, but we don't always want to. _____

_____ When we avoid Sunday School or Bible study, we are getting less than ½ our spiritual nourishment. _____

_____ It will take Effort and Commitment to learn about God and my faith; to love him with all my heart. _____

Where did you hear the Gospel in the sermon? (The grace, forgiveness, and love of God or something Christ did for you)

_____ God will give me a relationship with His Son when I stay rooted in Jesus! _____

_____ God forgives my excuses for avoiding learning about Him and I am not alone in my effort to grow, _____

_____ He is with me along the way. _____

In your own words, how does what the pastor shared today apply to your personal life?

_____ The time I spend in Sunday School or Confirmation is for my good because I want to learn _____
_____ more about Jesus, and stay rooted in Him like the potted flowers pastor used as an example. _____

(continue on back >>>)

In there anything you found confusing or hard to understand about the sermon?

From the back of the bulletin, one person or group this week I will pray for with my family:

_____ I will pray for people who are hurting or sick.
(Write the Person or Group Name)

Student's signature _____

Parent's signature _____



Worship Notes

If you attend worship at a church other than St. Paul Lutheran please attach a worship bulletin. It is our prayer that completing worship notes provides families with a guide for reflection and discussion of their worship experience.

Student Name: _____

Date of Worship: _____

My Sermon "Title": _____

First Scripture Reading:

First Scripture Theme:

Church Year Date: _____

Color on Altar: _____

Second Scripture Reading:

Second Scripture Theme:

What was your favorite Hymn/song sung today? _____

What were the main points of the sermon? What did you learn about?

Where did you hear the Law in the sermon? (God's commands/expectations or His punishment for not carrying them out)

Where did you hear the Gospel in the sermon? (The grace, forgiveness, and love of God or something Christ did for you)

In your own words, how does what the pastor shared today apply to your personal life?

(continue on back >>>)

In there anything you found confusing or hard to understand about the sermon?

From the back of the bulletin, one person or group this week I will pray for with my family:

(Write the Person or Group Name)

Student's signature _____

Parent's signature _____



Rite of Confirmation:

The Pastor will decide to confirm our current 8th grade class based on the youth's overall participation, completion and commitment to the program. We will also take into consideration any exceptions that needed to be made for a child due to conflicts and unforeseen emergencies.

Deacon Jim Frusti, Family Life Director Jeanette Koch and Pastor Fairbairn are available to discuss any challenges or questions you and your family may have. Please reach out to us if you need help.



We make promises! We keep our word!

A Covenant is a promise that makes clear everyone's responsibilities and expectations. As you would want to do in all the important areas of your life, we make worthwhile commitments for things we value.

In order for this learning process to succeed and thrive, we have some healthy expectations for you and this Confirmation ministry...

As a student

- that you study, worship and pray
- that you become involved
- that you grow in your faith

As a parent or guardian

- that you be an example of Christian commitment and behavior to your son or daughter
- that you will worship and pray together regularly
- that you will monitor memory work, mentoring questions, and worship notes during the year
- that you will work with your son or daughter in their lessons and youth activities

As the pastor & congregation of St. Paul Lutheran

- that we will be creative and clear in our teaching
- that we will challenge and feed your faith
- that we will give you as both parent and student some tools that you can use to help your faith speak to the needs and challengess of the world in which we live

I understand and promise to fulfill the promises and obligations listed above:

SPL Student _____

SPL Parent _____

SPL Staff Pastor Chris Fairbairn _____

This is a copy in the handbook for you to keep.

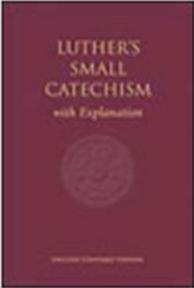
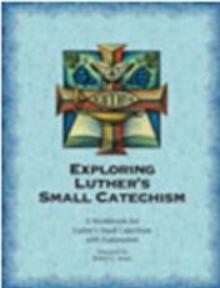
Please sign and bring the **copy attached to the REGISTRATION Form**. Thank you.

Confirmation Book list

Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation \$ 14.49
 Exploring Luther's Small Catechism Workbook \$ 10.49
 English Standard Version Bible (ESV)

- Make all checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- Put "Confirmation Books" on memo line.

These books are also available at: www.cph.org

	<p>Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation - 1991 Edition</p> <p>SKU: 223110</p> <p>Availability: In Stock</p> <p>Imprint here</p> <p>Add to wishlist Remove</p>	<p>\$14.49</p>
	<p>Exploring Luther's Small Catechism ESV - Student Workbook</p> <p>SKU: 223141</p> <p>Availability: In Stock</p>	<p>\$10.49</p>