

Confirmation

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Psalm 9)*

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a life-long process that has its roots in Holy Baptism. Its name comes from the ancient practice of “confirming” the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the baptized. We have confirmation to provide a foundation for faith to grow and develop. It is an opportunity offered by the church to help parents’ fulfill the baptismal promises they made at the time of child’s baptism. Traditional confirmation represents that time period that church dedicates to providing additional training to young adults in order that they can formally recognize and accept the responsibility for nurturing their faith.

In summary

- It is not a sacrament
- A rite –
- An opportunity to learn the faith
- An aid for parents

Why Confirmation

We provide the ministry of confirmation that we can fulfill our promise to these young people at their baptism, to assist parents in fulfilling their promises and to live out and into being a discipling congregation for all ages.

Who

Formal confirmation classes are on Wednesday evenings for youth in grades 7-8. However, there are opportunities in the spring of 6th grade that are meant to entice and prepare youth for the confirmation experience (i.e. 30-hour famine, acolyte training, etc.). There also are requirements that go into the fall of 9th grade, which include additional mini-retreat times where students can further explore what their faith means for them.

Class of 2010 has 8 students and the class of 2011 has a potential of 10 (however, 6 is more responsible)

In summary

- Youth grades 7-fall of 9
- Grade 6 – some activities in the Spring

Elements of the Program / Becoming a Disciple

Different pastors and different programs emphasize different things throughout the confirmation years. My focus is on learning significant bible themes, some basic Lutheran teachings and to practice prayer. In addition, the 2nd year students are required to take what they have learned, to ponder it, and put it into a faith statement and final project.

In summary (Elements of the Program / Becoming a Disciple)

- Fall: Bible (OT one year, NT next)
- Luther (Fall retreat)
- Winter: (Creed Work, Wise as Serpents next)
- 30-hour famine – every year
- Worship – every year

Our confirmation program also supports POWERSURGE

“PoWeR SuRGe.” It reminds us that God, through scripture, calls us to be people who:

- **P**ray always – praying at the beginning of class
- **W**orship weekly – leading worship, taking sermon notes
- **R**ead Bibles daily – we encourage and teach how to read our Bibles and then they are our main text books for class
- **S**erve others without expectation of return – Fortney hotel ministry
- build **R**elationships that foster faith – 2 retreats: 1 in the Fall, 30-hour famine in the Spring, also will be going to Night with Bishop this year – last year we went to Bethlehem
- **G**ive Generously

Expectations

Youth:

- Sunday school attendance is expected
- Wednesday night classes & events as schedule
- Assist in worship on Sundays
- Sermon notes
- Attend the fall Sugar Creek Retreat or do equivalent homework
- Attend April council meeting to be introduced (2nd year)
- Complete 2nd year written & artistic project (2nd year)
- Attend the Spring Famine Retreat (atleast once)
- Sugar Creek event or camp or retreat that is deemed equivalent (Summer trip counts, famine 2nd time can count)
- Attend a baptismal (Faith Beginnings class)

Parental/Guardian:

- Pray for your child
- Talk about your faith
- Sign-up to supervise & provide treats for Wednesday night class
- Attend confirmation classes where parents are expected
- Help with 30-hour famine or other outings
- Worship with your young person and give them support in fulfilling their worship duties & sermon notes
- Communicate questions, struggles and joys with Pastor(s)

Confirmation Sunday

On Confirmation Sunday, May 2nd, 2010, second year students who are ready to affirm their baptisms will be invited to participate in the Affirmation of Baptism during the second service. This is the last year of May confirmation. Confirmation Sunday will then be moved to Reformation Sunday, which is the last Sunday in October.

Confirmation Retreat

Our confirmation group will be on retreat November 6-8. We will go to Sugar Creek Bible Camp. This is a required event for all who intend to successfully complete their current year of confirmation. We will be focusing on learning about Martin Luther and also spending some time with just our group to do some creed work.

Classes

Classes will run according to the distributed schedule. A copy of this schedule is also posted on the resources page of our website: www.gsviroqua.org. We will begin at 5:15 and complete by 6:45 p.m. We will meet in the lounge, near the church office.

Host parents

Each night we ask that the parents of two youth join our class and participate fully in all that happens. This allows parents to know more about what we are doing and to provide necessary support for the evening's activities. Host parents are also asked to work with each other to provide a snacks and drinks for those present.

Bible Sunday

On Sunday, October 25th, our congregation will give Bibles to parents to give to their confirmation students. Each will receive a *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible* to use at all our gatherings. The NRSV is a Bible intended for adults and is written at an 8th grade reading level, making it an appropriate choice for us to use. Because this Bible is used each week the Church it is a good translation to use day to day.

Cancellations of Class

In the event that school is cancelled, or released early due to weather, there will be no confirmation. In such circumstances, calls to cancel class will not be made. If, on the day of class, a class should need to be cancelled for another reason, every attempt will be made to contact families to inform them of the cancellation.

Changes of schedule

Changes to the class schedule are posted and reviewed in class. Youth are responsible for communicating these changes to parents. Quite often, these changes are also included in the newsletter and/or the weekly worship bulletin. Because the community gathers for worship weekly, such changes may be announced the Sunday prior to class via the bulletin and/or announcements.

Weekly Worship Notes

To help our youth engage worship more deeply, each youth is to complete a weekly worship notes form. Forms will always be available for youth to use in worship at the Information table in the Narthex.

Notes about "3rd year students"

3rd year students will use the summer and fall to work on their projects. They will meet as a group with the pastor two or three times to do project work, to practice for confirmation Sunday and to have closure to this part of their faith journey. They will not be a part of the Wednesday night classes in the fall.