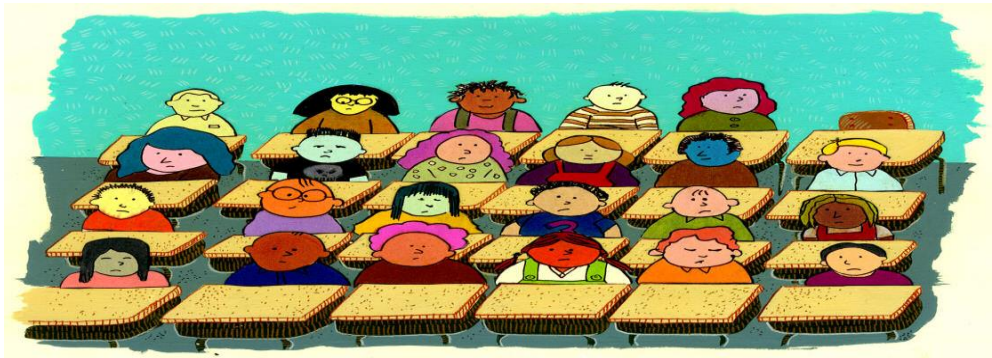


# CONFIRMATION EXPERIENCE

## 2015-2016

Confirmation has always been a journey of spiritual exploration for the purpose of preparing young men and women to live into their baptismal call. For many years this preparation has primarily been held in the classroom environment. The faith, however, is our foundation in all walks of life.

This year we have designed the Confirmation ministry in a way that will allow students to learn and develop their faith in multiple settings. Students' time and talents will be divided between five different environments where faith will not just be taught but experienced! Listed below are descriptions of each category.



## CLASS SESSIONS

Confirmation students will have nine class sessions throughout the year. Each session is on the first Sunday of the month, 12-1:30 PM, unless otherwise stated on your syllabus. Once a month we shall gather for reflection on the scriptures, the Small Catechism and Spiritual exploration of the faith. The class will have lectures, activities, group discussions and occasional tests to see where you are on the faith journey. This year we will be studying Reformation History, the Ten Commandments and the Sacraments.

If you cannot make a class period a makeup session will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month from 12-1:30 PM. Please make arrangements with the pastor if you are unable to attend the normal class period.



Faith begins at home. At the beginning of each week students will receive an email with their weekly assignments. Assignments will include reading, prayer, and a service project activities. Families are encouraged, and often required, to work together on these assignments. When completed students may email back the assignment or they may print them out and turn them into the pastor at the beginning of the next class period. Students have a month to complete these assignments!



Faith is always in action and is strengthened by the community of believers. Each month confirmation students will attend assigned youth group meetings. Youth group sessions meet on Sundays, from 6:30-8PM. At the beginning of each month you will receive an email with the Youth Group date for that month. In youth group students shall explore what it means to be the church through scripture based devotionals, fellowship activities and ministry outreach. A youth advisor will take attendance so that you may receive credit.



This year youth will be involved in several aspects of worship life. Each confirmation student will be assigned to a worship team of 4. The worship team will be assigned different months to help lead a worship service. The team will also be assigned either a 9 AM or 10:30 AM service for the month. Each member of the team will be assigned a role which they will fulfill for that month.

1. **Acolyte**—Lights Candles/Reads opening prayer/Assists with communion/Extinguishes candles.
2. **Crucifer**—Brings cross in during opening hymn/Assists with offering/ reads closing prayer/Removes the cross during sending Hymn.
3. **Usher in Training**—Welcomes people to worship, hands out worship materials, helps collect the offering, and presents the elements for Holy Communion.

Weekly worship is also a requirement for each confirmation student. Each week students are to grab a “sermon notes” sheet from the usher’s station. Students are to fill out the form during the sermon and turn them in to get credit for attending worship that week. (Those who are on the worship team will not do sermon notes because they are helping in leading worship.)

If a student cannot make the Sunday worship service there are a variety of ways to make it up. One way is to attend our 5:30 PM service on Saturdays. You may attend a midweek service at any church and bring back a bulletin to receive credit. You can also make up a missed service at our midweek Lenten services.

(Example: A student misses a Sunday service in November. That student can make it up by going to a Wednesday service during the season of Lent.)



As followers of Christ we are asked to be servants to those in need. In your monthly work packet you will receive a service project. Each week you will have a new service project to complete. Service projects will sometimes be done in groups and sometimes it will be done individually. These times of service will take place in different locations. You will be asked to work within your church walls, homes, and communities.



## CLASS SESSIONS

(All classes are held on the first Sunday of the month. (*Unless otherwise indicated in bold*). Classes are held from 12-1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Make up sessions are for those who miss a class period. Please contact pastor if you cannot make the normal class session.)

Sunday, October 4th  
Sunday, November 1st  
**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

Makeup session:   October 11<sup>th</sup>  
                              November 8<sup>th</sup>  
                              December 20<sup>th</sup>  
                              January 17<sup>th</sup>  
                              February 14<sup>th</sup>  
                              March 13<sup>th</sup>  
                              April 17<sup>th</sup>  
                              May 8<sup>th</sup>

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS**

*In addition to your weekly service projects there are three projects during the year that is part of the program.*

Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>                      Spaghetti Dinner Event 3:30-7:30 PM  
(Supports community outreach/church ministries)

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>                      Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast 8:15-10:15AM  
(Supports Youth Group Ministry)

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>                      Women's Spring Luncheon 11:45-1:45AM  
(Raises funds to send children to church camp)

## **ROLES IN CONFIRMATION PROGRAMS**

### **PASTOR**

Pastor will be the instructor and spiritual guide! The Pastor will also supply teaching materials to the adult leaders.

### **ADULT LEADERS**

Adult leaders will lead the Community Building activities and small group Discussions in class.

### **YOUTH ADVISORS**

Youth Advisors are the adult leaders of the youth group. They will lead you in devotionals, fellowship activities and outreach.

### **PARENTS/FAMILY**

Family and parents are to support their children by assisting them in completing their weekly work assignments which include reading, homework, service and prayer sessions. They are also to continue to lift their children up in prayer daily.

### **STUDENTS**

Students are young men and women who have chosen to claim the faith as their own. They are always to show respect to all participants of the confirmation program. They are to worship weekly, pray daily and devote their time into study of scripture and the catechism. Students are expected to fulfill all requirements of this program.



## **ABSENCE POLICY**

It cannot be stressed enough that being the church is a communal experience. Confirmation is based on the idea that together we move forward in our faith journey. Since there are only a handful of classes and youth events during the year no absences will be permitted for successful completion of the course without attending the makeup session or having a one on one session with the pastor. If you are going to miss an assigned worship assistant date you must find a person someone to fill in for you and notify the pastor of the change.



Stay tuned to channel 2 WGRZ for cancellations due to weather. Cancellations will also be on the church voicemail. (716) 683-8972. If a class session is cancelled it will be rescheduled for the following Sunday. If a youth meeting is cancelled a make-up youth event will be discussed at the following class session.