

Confirmation Ministry Handbook

August 2016



**Transforming Lives, Cultivating Communities,
by Making More and Better Disciples for Jesus Christ.**

Trinity Lutheran Ministries

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Trinity Lutheran Ministries Confirmation Ministry

There are few things we, the church, take more seriously than our oversight of the Christian nurture of our young ones. Paul's prayer for the Philippians is that "your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight" (Phil. 1:9). Our goal for the youth at Trinity Lutheran Ministries is Paul's goal for Timothy: "take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12). To that end, "we proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ" (Col. 1:28).

This Handbook sets out the Confirmation Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Ministries. There is a surprising diversity in understanding as to the purposes and goals of confirmation, even among pastors. Not surprising, then, is the diversity in methods and requirements leading up to the same. Surely there is no ministry without flaws or weaknesses. Yet we believe these pages will present to you a ministry that will be blessed by the Lord, and will result in faith life that is vibrant and growing, faith that is built upon the sure foundation laid by the Apostles and explained so clearly in the Lutheran Confessions. We can aim at nothing less.

As important as our role as pastor is during these two years of instruction, it pales in comparison to the importance of the role of parents and guardians. We connect for minutes and hours; you connect for days and weeks. Studies have repeatedly shown the value of parental involvement in the Christian education of children. It is worthy to note that Luther wrote his Small Catechism not for pastors, but for the "head of the household," given responsibility for the faith formation of the young. We therefore encourage you in your noble calling as parents. Schedules are filled and time is precious – but more precious still are those "little children" that Jesus bid to come to Him.

May God richly bless our working together in the coming year to immerse our young people in the life-giving, life-changing Word. We go forward in the confidence of His great promise to be with us always, "to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20)

We are the clay,
and thou art
our potter...

Isaiah 64:8



An Introduction to Trinity Lutheran Ministries' Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation

Confirmation is a lifelong process of maturing in the Christian faith. This process begins at baptism and continues until a person is called to celebrate with Jesus in heaven. Confirmation also includes a public ceremony at which the confirmed personally affirms the vows made at his or her baptism. But it also includes more.

The Confirmation Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Ministries will:

1. Communicate God's Gospel of Grace
2. Emphasize lifelong learning and Christian lifestyle
3. Focus on the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism
4. Involve parents, youth, pastors, and congregation
5. Emphasize relationships and faith, as well as knowledge
6. Stress the affirmation of Baptism as a lifelong process rather than a once-in-a-lifetime event

Role of Parents in Confirmation

According to the Bible, Parents are the ones who have been given the primary responsibility from God to bring up their children in true faith and knowledge.

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Eph. 6:4

Parents are the ones who are to invest in their children by both instruction and example:

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Duet. 11:18-19

Recent studies show that a young person's conversations about God with his or her parents are the strongest single influence on that person's faith. Churches and pastors can help, but parents have been given the greatest opportunity to lead their children to know and love the Lord!

Here's how parents and mentors can make a difference:

1. Pursue a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ and model it for your children
2. Provide an example of lifelong Christian growth
3. Pray specifically for your child's spiritual growth
4. Have family devotions
5. Pray as a family
6. Use the Bible and confirmation materials at home as tools to teach and discuss the Christian faith.
7. Attend church and Bible class regularly, practice good stewardship of your time, talents and treasures (your children will notice).

Attendance, Responsibilities, and Expectations

- In order for young adults to obtain optimal spiritual growth and development, they must attend all scheduled confirmation classes. In case of illness or other such legitimate reasons for absence, please contact the church office 517.784.3135 as soon as possible. Conversely, if for some unforeseen reason we have to cancel a scheduled confirmation class, we will have the church office contact you as quickly as possible to reschedule so as to minimize the inconvenience. The student will be responsible for all missed assignments or materials shared.
- Attendance at Worship and Bible Class/Sunday School is a vital ingredient of growing in Christian faith. It is simply part of the lifelong Christian process. Attendance at Worship and Bible Class/Sunday School is an indication of the ability to recognize the primary importance of Christ in our life. We ask that you attend church and Sunday School at least 80% of the time (at Trinity Lutheran Ministries or visiting elsewhere) to be considered for Confirmation.
- Homework, Essays, Journals, Sermon Reports, etc... -- completion of all assigned.
- Exhibit mastery of the material for each module through test/exam.
- Sermon Reports - It is expected that you will attend 80% of the worship services from September to May. Therefore, 30 sermon reports that will be due by May 3 in order to be considered for confirmation in May.
- Acolyte – serving as Acolyte as scheduled.
- Servant Hours - Confirmands are expected to demonstrate Christian life in all that they do. A major component of the Christian life is serving others. As TLM confirmands, we expect you to serve for a minimum of one hour per week. This means that by the end of April, students will have accumulated and recorded a minimum of 34 hours of community service.
- In order to track your service hours, which may be completed at school, through a local agency, or through TLM, you will choose to use the attached sheet recording the date, activity and time spent on it, and having it signed by a supervisor.”

Materials

- Bible
- Luther’s Small Catechism (2006 edition) – Church provided if necessary
- Scripture Reading Journal/Notebook
- Pencil/Pen
- I Am A Church Member by Thom S. Rainer

Covenant

Are You Ready for Confirmation?

Below are seven areas of expectations of members of Trinity. Parents please consider and discuss each category with your child. You may use the questions connected with each category or you may use your own questions. These questions should help you determine if your child is ready for confirmation and give you topics to discuss with your child as they work through confirmation classes through the year.

1. Worship
 - A. Do you plan to attend church regularly?
 - B. Why do you think worship is important?
 - C. What will you do when you are tempted to skip church?
 - D. What will you do to make sure you will listen to God's Word?
2. Holy Communion
 - A. Why should you partake of Holy Communion regularly?
 - B. How often will you partake of Holy Communion?
 - C. How will you prepare for Holy Communion?
 - D. How will the forgiveness you receive from Holy Communion reflect in your life?
3. Prayer
 - A. Will you pray regularly?
 - B. How will you find time to spend in prayer?
 - C. How will you deal with interruptions to prayer?
 - D. Do you believe in the power of prayer? Why should you pray regularly?
4. Service
 - A. Why should a Christian serve others?
 - B. What are some ways you can serve your family?
 - C. How can you help fellow Christians around you?
 - D. How can you help newcomers to the church?
 - E. How can you serve in the community?
5. Bible Study
 - A. Why should you read the Bible regularly?
 - B. What will do to help find time to read the Bible?
 - C. Do you plan on attending Bible Class? How often?
 - D. How will you deal with temptations not to read God's Word?
 - E. How will God's Word reflect in your life?
6. Fellowship
 - A. Do you have friends at Trinity?
 - B. Do you have people you don't know at Trinity?
 - C. How are friends at church different from other friends?
 - D. What could you do for your church friends?
7. Stewardship
 - A. Why should we give money to the Lord?
 - B. How will you determine how much money you will give?
 - C. How will you determine how much time you will serve?
 - D. How will you determine which of your talents will benefit the ministry of the church?
 - E. Will you give these things to the Lord out of love?

Confirmation Modules

Module	Duration
Overview & Introductions	September 7
Worship	September 14, 21, 28
Creeds	October 5, 12, 19, 26
10 Commandments	November 2, 9, 16, 30
Stewardship	December 7, 14, 21
Confession and Matthew 18	January 4, 11, 18, 25
Sacraments	February 1, 8, 15, 22
The Lord's Prayer	March 8, 15, 22, 29
Mission in Life	April 12, 19, 26
Membership-Life in the Church	May 3, 10
Ministry - TLM Focus	May 17
The Bible:	
Old Testament	June – TBD
New Testament – Gospels	July – TBD
New Testament – Epistles	August - TBD

Confirmation Presentation - Easter Vigil Service - April 15, 2017
Sermon Reports and Service Logs Due - May 3, 2017
Rehearsal – May 19, 2017
Confirmation Sunday – May 21, 2017

We will meet according to Trinity Lutheran Ministries' Day School's Schedule. We will not meet when the School is closed for breaks.

Old and New Testament credit can be achieved by taking the summer courses, taking a test created by the pastoral staff, or through religion classes at the school.

While it is possible to complete all of the modules for Confirmation in one year, it is not recommended. The modules are offered each year, thus enabling for flexibility in your schedule and time digest the information at a slower pace. It is required to attend each session of each module.



Trinity Lutheran Ministries
Sermon Outline

Name _____ Date _____

Church _____ Sermon Theme _____

Pastor _____

Scripture Used:

1.

2.

3.

Main Points:

1.

2.

3.

What did the sermon say about God?

What did the sermon say about you?

What was the most meaningful part to you?

How can you apply it to your life?

Did Jesus have to die on the Cross to make this sermon true?

Check the following:

Yes, I heard the LAW (rules that we should live by) preached

Yes, I heard the GOSPEL (good news that God has forgiven my sins because of Jesus) preached

This sermon was discussed with me

(Printed Parent/Mentor Name) _____

Student Signature: _____

Adult Signature: _____

Starting Point for Selecting your Confirmation Verse

Deuteronomy 31:6

Matthew 28:20

Joshua 1:9

Luke 11:28

Joshua 24:15

John 3:16

2 Samuel 22:31

John 8:12

2 Samuel 22:33

John 8:31–32

1 Chronicles 16:11

Romans 1:16

Psalms 23:1

Romans 6:4

Psalms 27:1

Romans 6:23

Psalms 37:5

Romans 8:28

Psalms 46:1

Romans 8:38–39

Psalms 55:22

Romans 12:2

Psalms 73:28

1 Corinthians 6:20

Proverbs 30:5

1 Corinthians 15:58

Isaiah 41:13

2 Corinthians 13:14

Isaiah 43:1

Ephesians 2:8–10

Jeremiah 29:11

Ephesians 6:13

Habakkuk 3:18–19

Philippians 1:21

Nahum 1:7

Colossians 3:17

Zephaniah 3:17

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Matthew 5:3

Hebrews 10:23

Matthew 5:6

Hebrews 13:5

Matthew 5:8

1 John 1:9

Matthew 6:33

Revelation 2:10

- * Recognizing that my children are a gift from God, and that my primary responsibility is to bring them up to know, love and serve Jesus; and
 - ** Recognizing that I am a child of God, and that my primary responsibility is to engage, know, love and serve Jesus; and

- * Recognizing that the primary responsibility for the spiritual nurture of children rests with parents; and
 - ** Recognizing that my spiritual maturity and continued grow is my responsibility; and

- * Recognizing that each of the parts of the Catechism begins with this introduction by Martin Luther: “As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household”; and
 - ** Recognizing that the Table of Duties in the Catechism stated by Martin Luther: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and your mother’ - which is the first commandment with a promise - ‘that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’ Eph. 6:1-3”; and

- * Recognizing that Trinity Lutheran Ministries exists to, in partnership with me, assist in the spiritual nurture and upbringing of my child; and
 - ** Recognizing that Trinity Lutheran Ministries exists to, in partnership with my parents and I, assist in my spiritual nurture and upbringing; and

- * Recognizing that Christianity is a life committed to following Jesus, and not just a profession of belief; and
 - ** Recognizing that Christianity is a life committed to following Jesus, and not just a profession of belief; and

- * Recognizing that the confirmation years are foundational for continued faithful life in Christ;
 - ** Recognizing that my confirmation years are foundational for a continued faithful life in Christ; and

- * I covenant to work faithfully with the pastors and my child to share the joy of knowing Jesus and the importance of living with Him in time and eternity. I also agree to abide by the expectations presented for confirmation instruction at Trinity Lutheran Ministries.
 - ** I covenant to work faithfully with the pastors and my parents to share the joy of knowing Jesus and the importance of living with Him in time and eternity. I also agree to abide by the expectations presented for my confirmation instruction at Trinity Lutheran Ministries.

By God’s Grace,

*(Parent)

**(Student)

(Date)

