A Parent’s Guide to Confirmation

2010-2011
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Who is confirmation for?
At Mt. Olive students in 6th and 7th grade make up Confirmation classes.

What is Confirmation?
Confirmation students study the Bible and Martin Luther’s Small Catechism learning the basics of Christian faith where as the student confirms their faith in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and promises to remain faithful for life (Rev. 2:10).

When is confirmation?
Students meet on Wednesday nights from 6:15p.m. to 7:30p.m.during the Fall, Winter, and Spring Study sessions in the Family Life Center. When students are not in class they complete home projects, memory work and worship reflections with their parents.

Why Confirmation?
As babies parents bring their children to church to be baptized. At baptism parents and God parents vow before God and the church to bring that child up in the Christian Faith, to teach them the Holy Scriptures, creeds and the commandments. Part of that spiritual growth includes two years of spiritual training. In that two years students learn the basics of Christian faith, Word and Sacraments. At the conclusion of those two years each student confirms their faith in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and promises to remain faithful to Him even to the point of death and they will receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

What are the requirements of Confirmation?
Confirmation is a two-year commitment. Each year students are required to attend 17 class sessions, complete 15 home projects, 12 Worship Reflections, 15 memory work assignments, three servant events, one weekend retreat and acolyte one or two times per year.

Required Materials
Pen/Pencil
Life Application Study Bible (can be purchased from the church)
Luther’s Small Catechism (can be purchased from the church)

Required Fees
$25.00 program fee
$100.00 weekend retreat
$40 gown and pictures (applies only to 7th Grade confirmands is paid in March)

If you need financial assistance for any of these fees please call Ruth Fredendberg the Business Manager to arrange assistance.
**Memory Work**
Each week students will be assigned a scripture, prayer or explanation of scripture from the catechism. Your child should study the memory work. When they feel they can independently complete the assignment parents should administrate the memory work. Sometimes the assignment is to recite the verse, or it could be a fill in the blank sheet, or a written out version of the memory work. The parent should then ask the child how that is important or ask them to retell it in their own words to see if they comprehend the meaning of what they memorized? The parent should then sign the memory work sheet. The student is then responsible for turning that completed and signed sheet to their guide huddle leader at their next class session.

**Home Project**
Each week students are given a home project assignment for them to complete with a parent. The purpose of these home projects is to get students into scripture, reflect on it and apply it to their life. It is also designed to foster conversation about scripture and faith between students and their parents as they work toward taking the responsibility of their spiritual life and learning from their parents.

**Worship Reflections**
Each child is to complete twelve (one/month, Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week) Worship Reflections each year of confirmation. Worship Reflections are to be done AFTER a family attends worship. The purpose of them is for students to reflect upon the message and how that message can be applied to their life. Worship Reflection forms can be picked up Wednesdays at class or from the Welcome Center in the gathering area. If you miss one of the special worship services you must see your Guide Huddle Leader for the makeup requirement.

**Acolyting**
Acolyting is the lighting of candles. Each year a schedule is made out on a rotating basis for students to light and extinguish the altar candles. Acolyting gives students an opportunity to play an active role in the worship service. Not everyone will be scheduled for his or her preferred worship time. We ask for flexibility with the schedule. Each worship service needs this service completed. Worshiping at different times gives families an opportunity to see a variety in worship service styles. If the student cannot make their assigned service to acolyte it is their responsibility to switch with another student. Students will be trained by the Worship Coordinator on acolyting procedures and guidelines at their first confirmation session of the year. (See Acolyting Guidelines at the back of this handout and at the back of the binder)
**Weekend Retreat**
This mandatory get away allows students the opportunity to get away from all the barriers of their busy life and enjoy a weekend of in-depth spiritual growth and fellowship. On the retreat weekend students will have time to be reflective; to think about and as a seventh grader, write a statement of their faith (see faith statement) that reflects their personal commitment to their spiritual growth and life and complete a cumulative interview with a pastor. Sixth grade students go to Camp Luther, which is located in Three Lakes, WI. Seventh grade students go to Camp Forest Springs in Westboro, WI.

**Servant Events**
Each year students are required to participate in three servant events. Servant events give students the opportunity to reap the intrinsic rewards of serving others by following Christ’s example (John 13:15-17) as well practice our charge to be cheerful givers (2 Cor. 9:7-8 & Eph. 2:10).

In the event a student misses their scheduled servant event, it becomes the responsibility of the parent to come up with a substitute servant activity. The student must then submit a one-page write up explaining the servant event.

**Faith Statement**
Faith Statements are reflective papers written during weekend retreats and used as an evaluation tool for the pastors to see where students are at in their journey of learning the basics of faith and Christian living.

**Confirmation Interview**
This interview is part of the confirmation evaluation process for students ready to be confirmed. This interview is conducted by a pastor. The intent of the interview is to review the student’s faith statement and question them on the basics of faith word and sacraments and Christian living they have studied over the two-year course.

**Activity Permission Slip**
Parent permission is required for all students under the age of 18 to attend any Mt. Olive sponsored activity requiring transportation off-site. These forms can be obtained from the church office or on our web site www.mtoliveweston.org

**What happens if my child is absent from a scheduled class session?**
Class attendance is mandatory. If your child is sick and needs to miss class you or your child should call the guide huddle leader to inform them of the absence. The guide huddle leader will arrange a time for your child to pick up the missed materials. All assignments are still due as scheduled regardless of the missed class session.
**What is the role of parents in confirmation?**

God has given parents the most important role of all. Parents are the primary role model and spiritual leader in their child’s life. The spiritual choices and priority parents make set the mark for their children. Mt. Olive confirmation classes are designed with that parent role in mind, keeping the parents actively involved in the spiritual growth and development process. When a child is not in class they are to complete home projects, memory work assignments and worship reflections with their parents, along with reviewing what their child learned the week prior with the pastor. What a child gets out of these lessons is determined by the priority and levels the parents place on them. In addition to the home projects and memory work, students are required once a month to complete worship reflections after attending a worship service. That means parents must provide the opportunity for their family to attend worship at least once a month in order to fulfill this requirement.

**My child has special learning needs. Is there any help or resources for me to help my child?**

If your child has special learning needs please talk with Pastor Lance and we will develop a plan that meets your child’s specific learning needs.

**I am having trouble completing home projects and memory work with my child. What should I do?**

If you have any trouble understanding or completing assignments talk with Pastor Lance right away. DO NOT get behind on assignments.

**What are some important spiritual foundations I should teach my child?**

In our hectic lives we often times forget to keep God as the head of our household. We forget that He controls our lives and has a plan for each of us. It is important as parents that you make sure your child has a solid spiritual foundation based on Jesus Christ. Children must know and understand that we are all sinful and in need of daily forgiveness.

This forgiveness comes only from daily conversation with God and the complete understanding that Jesus Christ paid the price for our sinfulness on the cross at Calvary. This is the basic understanding of the Christian faith. With that understanding God has given us some guidelines and basic principles to live our life by. These are all found in God’s Word in the Bible. Some of these important principles are, daily spiritual feeding with God’s word, weekly worship, supporting God’s work through gifts and tithing.
Where can I find materials and information to help me with my child’s spiritual growth and development?
The Bible is always the best source of reference and resource. If you would like additional resources you can check the local Christian book stores in town or talk with one of the pastors to find a source that specifically meets your needs.

How do I administrate a test with my child?
When a test week appears on your child’s syllabus it is the responsibility of parents to help your child study for the test from their review worksheets. Once they have completed the study session you give them the test to complete without their notes or assignments. Tests are corrected in class with Pastor Lance at their next scheduled class session.

Guide Huddle Leaders
Guide Huddle Leaders are adults who are committed to spiritual growth and development in the youth of our congregation. The role of Guide Huddle Leaders is to facilitate small group discussion after a large group lesson presentation. Guide huddle leaders are also available to help your child manage their materials and be organized. Guide huddle Leaders assist Pastor Lance with questions and assignments. All Mt. Olive volunteers working with youth are required to undergo a routine background check done by the Business Manager of our congregation.

Requirements for being a guide huddle leader are:
- Have a desire to help kids grow in knowledge and understanding of their faith
- Attend the scheduled class sessions
- Participate in class discussions
- Facilitate a huddle of students (five or six students)
- Organize and manage their students weekly assignments and paper work
- Keep the pastor informed on progress and problems
- Pray for Students in their Huddle
- Attend servant events with your huddle of students

If you are interested in this opportunity please see Pastor Lance.
Aviators Confirmation Compact
2010-2011

As a confirmation student I promise to:
- Attend scheduled class sessions, retreats and servant events
- Be responsible for completing all necessary assignments and requirements
- Communicate with my parents information about course assignments
- Study and understand the basics of faith and Christian living
- Participate in Christian fellowship and Bible Study

As the parent(s) of my confirmation student I promise to:
- Pray for my child on a daily basis
- Raise my child to know the basics of faith and Jesus Christ as their Savior
- Bring my child to their scheduled confirmation class, retreats and servant events
- Help my child with home projects, memory work and worship reflections
- Make weekly worship a priority in our family
- Encourage my child to be active in Sunday morning fellowship and Bible Study

As Pastor of Confirmation I promise to:
- Pray for my students
- Instruct in the basics of the Bible, Christian Faith and living
- Provide opportunities for Christian fellowship and spiritual growth
- Be available to answer questions and guidance beyond scheduled class sessions

As a Guide Huddle Leader of confirmation students I promise to:
- Pray for the students in my Huddle
- Facilitate students during class time through small group instruction
- Attend scheduled class sessions and servant events
- Help students be accountable for turning in and completing all course requirements
- Be available to answer questions
Acolyting Guidelines

- Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the service.
- Dress your role! You are a part of the worship team for that service. Choose your clothes accordingly.
- Get a worship folder from an usher. Put it on your assigned chair (front two chairs on the pulpit side)
- Meet the Worship Leader or Pastor serving the worship service you are participating in
- Robe up, retrieve the taper and check the wick (found in the sacristy-room behind the altar)
- Five minutes prior to the start of the service the Worship Leader will light your wick
- One person lights the Christ Candle and the altar candles. The other person lights the other three floor candles.
- Extinguish your wick and return your taper to the hooks on the back wall behind the altar
- Participate in the worship service
- Sit down in your assigned seat When the closing song begins, retrieve your taper
- Extinguish the candles in the opposite order you lit them. (Extinguishing the candles can be tricky. The flame will go out by snuffing it, which means eliminating the oxygen to the flame, it snuffs out the fire. You can do this easily by putting the bell part of the candle over the flame and counting to 10. Lift up the bell to see if the flame is out, if not repeat the same procedure.
- Return the taper to its place on the wall behind the altar
- Neatly hang your robe back in the closet in the sacristy

Remember that you are part of this worship team for that service. Your behavior choices make a difference to the dynamics of worship.

If a student is unable to attend their scheduled acolyting time it is their responsibility to use the acolyting sub list to find a replacement or switch with another student PRIOR TO the worship service they are scheduled to participate in. Participating in a worship service is a requirement for each year of confirmation and is the student’s responsibility to complete. (See Acolyting Schedule for worship date requirements and sub list).