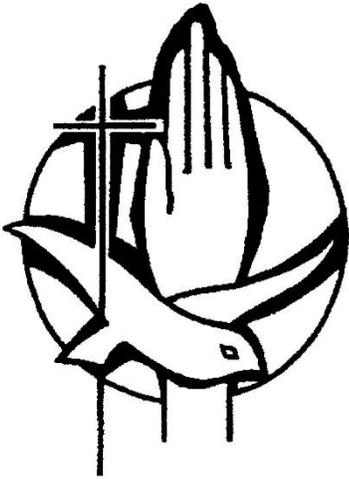


Confirmation 2019/2020



Introduction

Before we get started this year, it's important that we understand what we're doing together. You have reached the age where you can decide now that you want to take the reins of your faith—where you want to say “this is what I believe, not just what my parents believe.” Up until now, they have been expected to raise you in the faith, to teach you how to be a follower of Christ, and to make you part of the family of Christ that is the Church. Well, now it's your turn.

Whether it will be at the end of this year or in another four years, you are building up your understanding, curiosity, and hope to be able to take on the promises your parents made at your baptism. What were those promises?

To live among God's faithful people. That is, you are saying *yes* to God's invitation to share in the family of God, to participate in the fellowship of God's people, and to live in community with the followers of Christ.

To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper. That is, you are saying *yes* to God's invitation to worship, to grow in your faith by hearing the gospel preached and coming to the table to receive God's mercy.

To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. That is, you are saying *yes* to God's invitation to share the amazing grace and love God first showed you, whether by telling people who Jesus is or by living like Jesus taught so that others will see what God has done in you.

To serve all people, following the example of Jesus. That is, you are saying *yes* to God's invitation to be a servant to others, to lift up the lowly and comfort the oppressed, and to model your life on what Jesus did in his earthly ministry.

To strive for justice and peace in all the earth. That is, you are saying *yes* to God's invitation to speak out for people who are experiencing injustice, even when it's not an injustice you're experiencing, so that God's reign of love and mercy will be made known in the world.

In order to prepare you to say yes, we want to make sure you understand what faith it is that you're saying yes to, and how to live out that yes after you're confirmed. We want you to feel like you have a basic grasp of this faith that you're claiming, and the confidence to trust that God will lead you to grow where you aren't so sure. We want you to realize that this isn't just some dusty old requirement now that you've reached a certain age, but a joyful invitation to really dive deep and start building up your own understanding of the faith your parents baptized you into.

Because we want you to be prepared, we have put together a list of what you're expected to do before you get confirmed. This is meant to give you a good footing by the time you get confirmed so that your yes will be genuine and joyful as you claim your faith.

So what are these expectations?

Generally, they are:

1. Come to weekly Wednesday catechism for three years, and one year in Aftershock,
2. Finish twenty worship notes each year,
3. Participate in worship leadership on Sunday and helping in worship tasks during Lent,
4. Attend either one mission trip or go to two weeks of Luther Point Bible Camp,
5. Participate in the ministry of the congregation in one extra ministry each month, and
6. Meet with the pastor before your affirmation of faith.

Each of these expectations are meant to help you grow in your faith and understand just what it is you are saying yes to. Now, what do each of these expectations look like?

Come to weekly Wednesday catechism for three years, and one year in Aftershock.

Part of saying yes to God's invitation to claim your faith is understanding what that faith is. Catechism is the traditional word meaning "learning about the faith." In our weekly catechism, we'll learn about our faith and how it applies to our lives. The topic will depend, since we will rotate what we're covering each of the three years—either the Bible; Baptism, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed; or the Lord's Prayer and Communion. In each year we'll cover the topic so you have at least a basic understanding of each of these central themes of our faith.

When you come to catechism, don't forget to bring your Bible, a pen or pencil, and paper (maybe a notebook). We will be looking things up in our Bibles every week, so you'll need it close at hand to look at, underline, and highlight passages that are important. You'll need a pen or pencil and paper because you may want to take notes. This stuff is important!

While part of our time together in catechism will be in the large group, you'll spend a good chunk of time in your small group. At the beginning of the year, you'll be assigned to a group of about five or six others along with an adult mentor. Small groups are a great way to build some tight bonds with others as you share your highs and lows for the week, talk about how the night's topic relates to your life, and pray with and for each other.

After you complete three years in catechism, you'll start Aftershock. Aftershock is the high school youth group, and in it you can start putting all the things you've learned in the last three years to use in Bible studies, devotions, and outings. It's a time to start making connections to see how your faith helps you see the world and understand how God is at work in it and through you.

Each month we'll have a youth night. Spending time with each other in Christian fellowship is just as important as learning the nuts and bolts of our faith, so it's just as required and just as important as coming to catechism!

Finish twenty worship notes each year.

Since you're saying yes to God's invitation to worship, part of what you're expected to do is to participate in worship. Worship notes are meant to help you pay attention, to see what's unique from one service to the next, and to understand how worship helps you grow in your faith.

What worship notes *aren't* is busy work. They're meant to help you wonder about worship, to understand what the sermon is talking about, to notice what the scriptures and the prayers are saying. If something doesn't make sense, or you don't know the answer, say so! Part of the worship notes will be asking the pastor a question you have, so it goes both ways.

Participate in worship leadership on Sunday and helping in worship tasks during Lent.

If you're saying yes to God's invitation to live among God's faithful people, part of what that means is being an active part of worship. Each week we have two acolytes assigned to help lead worship by lighting the candles and gathering the offering. We'll go over the specifics of what that looks like, but helping in worship is an essential part of really saying yes to God's invitation.

During Lent, helping in worship leadership on Wednesdays replaces coming to catechism. Depending on your gifts, you may be assigned to read, to usher, to greet, to acolyte, or to ring the bell. Just like acolyting on Sundays, it's important that you get into the habit of helping lead in worship as part of your yes to God's invitation.

Attend either one mission trip or go to two weeks of Luther Point Bible Camp.

Claiming your faith is more than just coming to catechism and worship. It's also seeing God active and at work in the world. We have two great ways for you to experience just that.

One is to go on a mission trip. You'll need to help fundraise for the trip and grow in faith with your peers who are also going. These trips are meant to help you see the wider world, how God doesn't just send us but goes ahead of us to places where justice and mercy are needed, and how service to others is an active thing that sometimes looks like sweating in the sun for the sake of others.

The other is to attend two weeks of Luther Point Bible Camp. Just as much as on a mission trip, God shows up at camp in the friends you'll make, the activities you'll do, and the devotions you'll take part in. Connecting with God in nature is a reminder that it's not just humans that God takes delight in, but all of creation. Your two weeks don't have to be consecutive.

In each of these expectations the congregation will help with the expenses, so don't worry about whether or not you can afford it. Your faith is worth it!

Participate in the ministry of the congregation in one extra ministry each month.

Your yes to God's invitation to serve others includes being part of the ministry of this congregation. It can be easy to forget that it takes a lot of work from a lot of people to make the ministry of the congregation happen, and you are asked to choose one ministry of the congregation each month to participate in to see how that ministry helps support what God is doing through this church in our area.

What you choose to do can be in any of the congregation's ministries. You can volunteer to read in a church service. You can help at SOS. You can join a committee meeting to see how their ministry works. Whatever the congregation does, you can choose to participate in it. And by doing it, you'll get to see a little more of the behind-the-scenes work of the congregation.

Meet with the pastor before your affirmation of faith.

Before you get confirmed, the pastor will want to meet with you to talk about what you've learned. Making sure that you are confident in saying yes to God's invitation for you to take on your faith as your own is part of the pastor's responsibility, so you'll be asked to talk about what you learned. This meeting will be an opportunity for you to share what helped you grow in your faith, what helped give you confidence in saying yes to God's invitation, and also to share what wasn't helpful. Make sure you arrange a time to meet with the pastor before you get confirmed.

Just for Parents

Your child is going to enter a new phase of their faith life as they enter confirmation. They'll be asked questions that will go beyond just the stories they learned in Sunday school, and those seeds that you've been planting and watering over the years since they were baptized will hopefully start to grow and blossom. But even as you bring your child faithfully to catechism and youth events and worship, there is something I need you to understand:

There is no one more important to your child's growth in their faith than you.

You are the most important influence on your child's life. Studies have shown that the single strongest indicator of how a child will treat their faith is how you treat your faith. If the only place they encounter faithful conversations is in the church, they are far less likely to think that faith has any importance in their life. If faith is a priority in your life, they will make it one in theirs.

If you haven't already, I want you to start a routine of having faithful conversations during the week. Every day would be wonderful, but our lives are busy, and that's super intimidating if you don't have a history of talking about faith at all. So make it a twice a week thing at least: once to talk about what happened in worship on Sunday, and once to talk about what happened at confirmation on Wednesday. If you're not sure how to start them, try shaping your conversations like this:

First, **share highs and lows**. See how everyone has been doing the past few days.

Next, **read some scripture**. It can be one of the readings from Sunday morning that you liked or thought seemed important, or it can be the focus verse from confirmation.

Talk about the scripture. What seems important to this passage? Who, if anyone, do you identify with in the reading? How does the reading connect with what's happening in the world? How does the reading connect to your highs and lows? Let the conversation grow how it will; sometimes tangents are the place where God shows up the clearest! Don't be afraid of questions you can't answer; sometimes the best thing you can do for your child's faith is to show that adults don't have it all figured out.

Pray for each other. Pray about your highs and lows, things you talked about in scripture, and something happening in the world. Don't worry about it sounding awkward; prayer takes practice and you'll get better the more you do it. Especially encourage your child when they pray.

Finally, **bless each other**. It might feel reverent or it might feel silly, but making the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads is a great physical reminder of the God who cares for us. It's a great way to end a faithful conversation, and a great way to end the day too.

I trust that you have brought your child to confirmation because you believe their growth in faith is important. You are a partner—the senior partner, in fact—in shaping your child's faith. If at any point you need help or direction, or even to talk about a hard question your child brought up in a faithful conversation, I am here to help you do your job.

—Pastor Lucas

Confirmation Schedule 2019-2020

Note: When school is cancelled or dismissed early due to weather, catechism will be cancelled.

Sept 11 – Ice Cream Social and
Confirmation Orientation

Sept 18 – What's a Creed?

Sept 25 – Creator of All Things

Oct 2 – Savior of All Things

Oct 9 – Redeemer of All Things

Oct 16 – Where We Fit

Oct 23 – Lutefisk setup

Oct 24 – Lutefisk Supper

Oct 30 – Youth Night

Nov 6 – The Rules

Nov 13 – The Warnings

Nov 20 – The Fences

Nov 27 – *Off for Thanksgiving*

Dec 4 – Youth Night: Christmas Box
Wrapping

Dec 11 – The Blueprints

Dec 18 – The Hopes

Dec 25 – *Off for Christmas*

Jan 1 – *Off for New Year's*

Jan 8 – Bingo at Atrium Care Center

Jan 15 – Water and Word

Jan 22 – New Life

Jan 29 – Responding to Grace

Feb 5 – Trivia Night

Feb 12 – Topic TBA

Feb 19 – Youth Night

Feb 26 – Ash Wednesday

Mar 4 – First Wednesday of Lent

Mar 11 – Second Wednesday of Lent

Mar 18 – Third Wednesday of Lent

Mar 25 – Fourth Wednesday of Lent

Apr 1 – Fifth Wednesday of Lent

Apr 8 – Holy Week

Apr 15 – Aftershock night (no catechism)

Apr 22 – Confirmation banquet

April 26 – Public Affirmation of Baptism