



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Handbook 2025-2026

*To Love God by growing as families of faith
and as disciples of Jesus Christ*

NORTH CAPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear North Cape Families,

When our children are baptized, we make promises to “place in their hands the holy scriptures, and to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.”

North Cape is committed to helping parents fulfill these promises, and we do this in part through Worship and our Sunday School and Confirmation programs. This is a place where our children can begin to learn the stories of God’s people, of how God created and loves the world, and of how Jesus came into the world to show us what it means to live as a child of God, and to bring reconciliation, forgiveness, and the promise of salvation through his death and resurrection.

I encourage you to bring your children to Worship, and Sunday School, and Confirmation, to participate in these programs yourself, and to aid the work of the Holy Spirit in helping your children to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ.

My thanks to Angela Thomas, our Youth and Family Director and Sunday School director, to all of you who are helping to make our Sunday School and Confirmation programs possible, and especially to all of the families of North Cape as we share the faith and love of Jesus with our children and one another.

Pastor Robb Kosky

Table of Contents

Note to Parents and Guardians page 4

Part 1—*Sunday School* pages 5-8

Important Calendar Dates page 9

Part 2—*Confirmation Program* pages 10-18

~Explanation & Information

~Grade Specific Expectations

~Confirmation Service Info

Note To Parents and Guardians

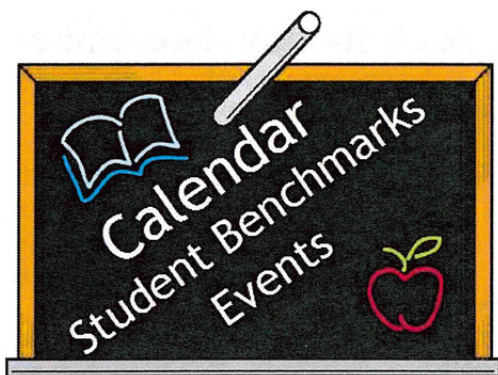
In the sacrament of baptism, we respond to God's grace with promises of faith on behalf of the baptized. These promises include:

- 1) **To live with them among God's faithful people**
- 2) **To bring them to the Word of God and the Holy Supper**
- 3) **To teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments**
- 4) **To place in their hands the Holy Scriptures**
- 5) **To nurture them in faith and prayer**

THESE PROMISES REMIND US how we are called to respond to the gift of God's grace poured out for us. Through Christian education and formation, we help our young people to grow in faith and to learn their identity rooted in their baptism, and their belovedness in God's sight. Christian education is one way we respond to these promises. Through worship, Bible study, service, conversation, and intentional tending of these baptismal promises and the gift of grace, we learn more about what it means to identify as Christian.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT is critical to mature faith, love and discipleship development. What our children and teens see modeled greatly impacts what we are to accomplish, and what we promised at Baptism. Thus, parents and guardians are encouraged to know what is taking place and are asked to be actively engaged in their children's faith journey.

Part 1-Sunday School



Education Hour—9:15am-10:15am

Please make an effort to bring your child to Sunday School in time for opening; it's a great part of the morning your child will not want to miss! Also, young children practice stewardship by participating in an offering at Sunday School.

Four ideas for fostering faith in the family:

1. Caring Conversation
2. Family Service
3. Family Devotions
4. Family Rituals and Traditions

If your family would like to meet with Pastor Robb and talk about faith development or family spirituality, he would be happy to visit with you!

General Information

Welcome Back Sunday- September 7, 2025

- **Worship @ 8:00 am and 10:30 am**
- **Sunday School @ 10:30 am**

Sunday School Singing in Worship

Sunday School students will sing at 10:30 worship on most 3rd Sundays of each month.

Christmas Program—Sunday December 14

Please be present ALL Sundays in December for Christmas program rehearsals. The Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 14 during 10:30 worship.

We will have one Saturday practice on December 13 from 10-11:30.

Last Day of Sunday School • Sunday May 17, 2026

No Sunday School December 21 and 28, April 5

****Keep an eye on the Sunday School and Youth Bulletin Boards for more fellowship and service events for our young members and families!****

About the Curriculum...

We strive to provide all children at North Cape with a solid foundation in Biblical fluency. Our teaching centers on core stories of scripture and engages essential faith-development tools.

Our goal is to instill in young people a love and knowledge of scripture, so that their lives and understandings of their own stories and the world may be formed and influenced by God's story and God's gracious action. Christian formation ought to teach us who we are and who God calls us to be in the world.

4K through 2nd Grade

Each week, our Sunday School program focuses on the stories being read and preached in worship. Through songs, storytelling, crafts, and activities, the youngest members of our community get acquainted with God's Word in meaningful ways.

Throughout this process, we focus intentional energy on a few key areas alongside Biblical fluency:

Prayer

It is important for children to become comfortable with prayer, and we explore this topic through participatory activities with these young members of the Body of Christ. We practice the Lord's Prayer as well as the Table Prayer in an effort to instill an understanding of the power of prayer in daily life.

4 year old Students will receive a children's Bible on Sunday September 21, 2025 during regular worship services.

3rd through 6th Grade

Older elementary school students continue their exploration of the Bible through a books of the Bible curriculum. This curriculum is specifically geared to students in this age group. It focuses on engaging God's story and where it intersects with our own.

3rd grade Students will receive a Bible on Sunday, September 21st during worship.

4th grade Students will receive a Small Catechism on Sunday, September 21st, through which they will explore Lutheran identity and curriculum.

5th Grade First Communion

Fifth grade students preparing for first communion, along with their parents will participate in a retreat (Date TBD). We will learn about communion, bake bread, and learn more about who God calls us to be at the communion table. First Communion will take place during worship on Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Acolyting - Grade 5 and Up

Fifth grade students (and any other older students who have not had training yet) will meet at 9am on September 14th for acolyte training. Please use the QR code in the hallway by the church office or the link on our church website to sign up to acolyte throughout the year. Students are expected to acolyte at least 4 times per year beginning in 5th grade. Contact Betsy Bauer with questions, refresher training sessions, and help with sign ups.

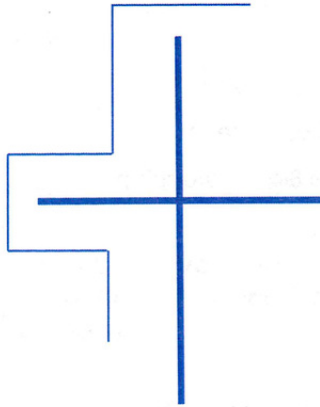
7th-12th grades

7th-10th graders will participate in the confirmation program, as relates to their respective grades' expectations. All students, 7th-12th grade, are invited and encouraged to attend Sunday School in the church basement each week with Angela Thomas, where they will engage in faithful, intentional Christian fellowship and learning.

2025-2026 Important Calendar Dates

Rally Day	Sept. 7, 2025
Acolyte Training at 9am	Sept. 14, 2025
Confirmation Orientation & Registration	Sept. 14, 2025
Confirmation Mid-week Classes Begin	Sept. 17, 2025
4y/o, 3rd gr, 4th gr receive Bible/catechism	Sept. 21, 2025
9th Grade Mentor Meeting	Oct. 5, 2025
Community Meal	Oct. 19, 2025
Confirmation Sunday	Oct. 26, 2025
Fall Fest Service Day	Oct. 26, 2025
Christmas Program Practice 10-11:30am	Dec. 13, 2025
Christmas Program	Dec. 14, 2025
Ice Fishing Jamboree & Meat Raffle	Jan. 10, 2026
Love Fest Service Day	Feb. 8, 2026
Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)	Feb. 18, 2026
First Communion Retreat	TBD
First Communion Maundy Thursday Worship	April 2, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Easter Sunday	April 5, 2026
Last Day of Sunday School	May 17, 2026
Mission Trip (Belle, WV)	June 21-27, 2026

Part 2-Confirmation Program



CONFIRMATION DEFINED

"Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church that helps the baptized...to Identify more deeply with the Christian Community and participate more fully in its mission." (ELCA - '93)

Confirmation is more formally referred to as "Affirmation of Baptism." Through the confirmation process, we learn and grow together, in anticipation of responding to the baptismal promises for ourselves.

Explanation & Information

Grades 7, 8, 9, 10

8th & 9th graders attend Mid Week Classes

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- A record will be kept to track each student's progress throughout the Confirmation program. This record will be maintained by the Youth and Family Director.
- The Pastor and Youth and Family Director will verify the fulfillment of class expectations.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to worship regularly and attend all classes.

Students are required to:

- attend a minimum of twenty Sunday morning worship services and complete sermon notes. (online or in-person)
- attend five special services (Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Lenten Services, and Holy Week) and complete the sermon notes.
- Attend fifteen Sunday School classes and nine of the midweek classes (confirmation).

When a student has to be absent from a class, the teacher is to be notified by a parent, and a make-up assignment will be provided.

What if I cannot afford the cost of a youth activity??

Please contact Pastor Robb or Angela Thomas if you are in need of financial assistance for a youth activity. Financial aid is available for all youth events.

What if I have a scheduling conflict??

If you are not available for class on Wednesdays or worship on Sundays, but wish to participate in the program, please contact Pastor Robb or Angela Thomas.

10 Mid-week Confirmation Classes

6:30-7:45pm

Starts: September 17

7th Grade Requirements

Sunday School-15 classes

Sunday Sermon Notes-20 Notes

Special Service Sermon Notes-5 Notes

Worship Leadership-4 leadership opportunities

Fellowship-3 Events

In Service- 1 Event

Out Service-1 Event

Retreat—1 Event (TBD)

Parental Volunteer-1 Event

What are these requirements?

- **Sunday School:** Sunday School takes place in the church basement at 9:15am on Sundays.
- **Sermon Notes:** Whether on a Sunday or at a special service, youth will be expected to fill out 25 (total) sermon notes, which can be found at the welcome center or online.
- **Worship Leadership:** Worship leadership includes acolyting, reading, AV, ushering, and special music. At least 3 of these opportunities must be in the role of acolyte.
- **Fellowship:** Throughout the year, fellowship activities will take place, planned by Angela Thomas and volunteers; these will include opportunities for fun and community.
- **In Service:** In Service opportunities are serving experiences which take place within the congregation, through which students volunteer (ie the fish boil, VBS, Salad Luncheon, Golf Outing, etc.)
- **Out Service:** Out service opportunities are serving experiences which take place outside the North Cape walls, as a ministry of our congregation. (ie Community Meals, Mission Trip, etc.)
- **Retreat:** Seventh and eighth grade confirmation students may have an opportunity to attend a customized retreat. (Date TBD)
- **Parental Involvement:** A parent or guardian is encouraged to volunteer as an adult leader at a youth and family event, alongside their child.

8th Grade Requirements

Sunday School-15 classes

Weekly Confirmation Classes-10 Classes

Sunday Sermon Notes-20 Notes

Special Service Sermon Notes-5 Notes

Worship Leadership-4 leadership opportunities

Fellowship-3 Events

In Service- 1 Event

Out Service-1 Event

Retreat-1 Event (TBD)

Parental Volunteer-1 Event

What are these requirements?

- **Sunday School:** Sunday School takes place in the church basement at 9:15am on Sundays.
- **Weekly Confirmation Classes:** Weekly confirmation classes take place on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm, beginning on September 17th.
- **Sermon Notes:** Whether on a Sunday or at a special service, youth will be expected to fill out 25 (total) sermon notes, which can be found at the welcome center or online.
- **Worship Leadership:** Worship leadership includes acolyting, reading, AV, ushering, and special music.
- **Fellowship:** Throughout the year, fellowship activities will take place, planned by Angela Thomas and volunteers; these will include opportunities for fun and community.
- **In Service:** In Service opportunities are serving experiences which take place within the congregation, through which students volunteer (ie the fish boil, VBS, Salad Luncheon, Golf Outing, etc.)
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- **Retreat:** Seventh and eighth grade confirmation students may have an opportunity to attend a customized retreat. (Date TBD)
- **Parental Involvement:** A parent or guardian is encouraged to volunteer as an adult leader at a youth and family event, alongside their child.

9th Grade Requirements

Sunday School-15 classes

Weekly Confirmation Classes-10 Classes

Sunday Sermon Notes-20 Notes

Special Service Sermon Notes-5 Notes

Worship Leadership-4 leadership opportunities

Fellowship-3 Events

In Service- 1 Event

Out Service-1 Event

Parental Volunteer-1 Event

Mentor Program

What are these requirements?

- **Sunday School:** Sunday School takes place in the church basement at 9:15am on Sundays.
- **Weekly Confirmation Classes:** Weekly confirmation classes take place on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm, beginning on September 17h.
- **Sermon Notes:** Whether on a Sunday or at a special service, youth will be expected to fill out 25 (total) sermon notes, which can be found at the welcome center or online.
- **Worship Leadership:** Worship leadership includes acolyting, reading, AV, ushering, and special music.
- **Fellowship:** Throughout the year, fellowship activities will take place, planned by Angela Thomas and volunteers; these will include opportunities for fun and community.
- **In Service:** In Service opportunities are serving experiences which take place within the congregation, through which students volunteer (ie the fish boil, VBS, Salad Luncheon, Golf Outing)
- **Out Service:** Out service opportunities are serving experiences which take place outside the North Cape walls, as a ministry of our congregation. (ie Community Meals, Mission Trip, etc.)
- **Parental Involvement:** A parent or guardian is encouraged to volunteer as an adult leader at a youth and family event, alongside their child.

What is a Mentor?

A mentor is an adult member of our church family, with whom a young person can build a caring relationship, rooted in their mutual identity as Children of God.

Purpose of a mentor relationship

- To build bridges between youth and adults as people of the Church who care about each other.
- To affirm with each other our faith in Jesus Christ and our faith in ourselves. We need adults who see things in youth that they cannot see for themselves and vice-versa.
- To encourage one another in love.
- To bear one another's burdens. (Galatians 6:2)
- To wrestle with questions of faith and life.

Suggested ways to develop a mentor relationship

- Go out to eat, fun activity, or service project
- Phone, email, text, or write a letter to each other
- Attend North Cape Lutheran Church youth activities together
- Conversations about home, school and the community
- Talk about questions and understandings of faith
- Learn one another's stories

How to choose a mentor

- If you or your parent/guardian already have an idea of who would make a good mentor, approach this person and invite them to be your mentor.
- Angela will supply each ninth grader with a list of adults who are willing to build mentoring relationships with young people.

Check out the list and consider the following questions:

1. Is this a family member? Pick someone else... ;)
2. What am I hoping to learn?
3. What am I willing to share?
4. Do I have any sense of who this person is?

****If you are having a hard time choosing a mentor, contact Pastor Robb or Angela, and they will help you think about who might be a good fit.**

What do my mentor and I do together?

Our mentor program will kick off with an orientation meeting on October 5th at 11:30am for ninth graders and continue into the following October (when they will be confirmed). Each module will be accompanied by a worksheet to guide the process and an evaluation form to report back.

The program has four components:

- **Getting Connected:** Our first module will be centered around learning more about one another and getting to know the passions, values, and life-shaping experiences of both parts of the mentor relationship. **This will be completed by Christmas 2025.**
- **Serving Together:** Our second module will be centered around serving others together. The mentor and mentee will identify an act of service they would like to do together and then engage in that experience and reflect on it together. **This will be completed by Easter 2026.**
- **Worshipping Together:** Our third module will be centered around worshipping together. The pair will identify a worshipping community they would like to visit (preferably not an ELCA congregation) and then go to either a Sunday worship opportunity or weekday worship service. They will reflect together about the experience. **This will be completed by the end of June 2026.**
- **Fun!:** This fourth module will have two components; both the mentor and mentee will choose an activity that they enjoy to share with the other person. This could be going to a favorite restaurant, doing a craft, playing a sport, etc. This will be discerned by the pair and will take place on two separate occasions. **This will be completed by October 2026.**

10th Grade Requirements

Worship Leadership: 1 Leadership Opportunity

10th Grade Retreat: 1 Event

10th Grade Class: 1 Event

Board Meeting: 1 Event

One Page Faith Statement

Confirmation Verse

What are these new requirements?

- **10th Grade Retreat:** We will spend a day together growing in faith and learning about our baptismal promises, which will be affirmed at confirmation. (Date TBD)
- **10th Grade Class:** Tenth graders will meet for one class, to focus on Lutheran identity and work on preparation for confirmation (Date TBD)
- **Board Meeting:** Tenth graders are required to attend either the September (Sept. 9) or October (Oct. 14) board meeting and respond to a set of questions. Meetings begin at 6:30pm.
- **One Page Faith Statement and Verse:** Each tenth grader will choose a verse and write their own faith statement, reflecting on what it means to be a Christian and to claim this identity through confirmation. **Due October 19, 2025.**

**All 10th Grade Requirements MUST be completed by
Confirmation Sunday, October 26, 2025.**

Confirmation Service

Purpose of Confirmation

To affirm the baptismal promises for oneself, and to work out what it means to respond to God's grace and wrestle with God for the rest of one's life.

Confirmation Day Details

Date October 26, 2025
Time 8:00 and 10:30am

- A corsage and cake will be provided (thanks, WELCA!).
- Each student will receive a gift from the congregation.
- Certificates are given upon completion of requirements.
- Dress for worship is formal with white gowns.
- Group and individual photos will be taken.
- Cost: \$45 (gown & pictures)—checks may be made out to North Cape Lutheran Church with "confirmation" in the memo.

2026 Youth Mission Trip

Location: Belle, WV

Youth and chaperones will travel to Belle, West Virginia from June 21-27, 2026. They will be attending a work camp where they will be working on home repair projects for elderly, disabled, low-income families, and veteran residents.

The Ice Fishing Jamboree and Meat Raffle is scheduled to be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

Please attend the Mission Trip Interest Meeting on Sunday, September 21 at 11:45 if you have any interest in possibly attending.



If you have any questions or comments please contact

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