

Messiah Lutheran Church

Confirmation Program Expectations 2021-2022

Parents, when you bring your child(ren) to be baptized, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

*to **live with them** among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and **nurture them** in faith and prayer,
so that they may learn to **trust God**,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and **work for justice and peace**.¹*

In the ministry of Confirmation, we as Christ's Church partner with one another to help you fulfill the parental promises you made at the baptismal font. This happens through Sunday School, through fellowship opportunities, and, of course, through the central expression of the Church: regular participation in worship.

Confirmands, as your pastor, I am committed to leading us together through a formative two-year process that will ground us in what it means to be God's baptized people in today's world, so that, with integrity, you will be able to proclaim honestly that you intend to continue in the promises (above) that were made on your behalf in your infancy. I will work to:

- Preach and teach the core of God's Story (Scripture), as interpreted through the lens of our Lutheran Protestant tradition of faith
- Walk with you through Martin Luther's Small Catechism
- Ask deep questions to challenge us to grow together, and
- Facilitate other opportunities for us to grow in generous Christ-like love, compassion, and justice.

In order for you to be confirmed in the faith, you need to fulfill or exceed the following expectations:

- Critically engage **Wednesday class gatherings** (these may be online and/or in-person, and require thoughtful completion of homework assignments with your family after each session)
- Actively participate with your family in **worship and Sunday school** every week while you are in this two-year process
- Regularly lead the congregation in worship as an **Acolyte**, with the opportunity to serve as Lector or Assisting Minister if such an additional role is appealing to you (accommodations will be made in response to COVID-19 precautions)
- Participate in and critically engage the holiest seasons of the Church year: **Lent, Holy Week, and Easter** (including midweek worship and other special services)
- Listen to, engage with, and respond to all sermons preached at Messiah via the **Sermon Notes** handout, each time you are in worship

¹ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, rite of Holy Baptism, pg 228.*

- **Serve** others in the community, and
- Write a **Faith Statement** (this will happen towards the end of the two-year process).

Typically, Confirmands are invited to begin this work in the fall of their 7th grade year, with the expectation that they affirm their baptism ("Confirmation") at the end of their 8th grade year on the festival day of Pentecost (in May or June, depending on the date of Easter). Sometimes, students may begin the process earlier or later than usual depending on their readiness, as discerned together through ongoing conversation. If students cannot confess the faith with integrity at the end of the process, we may invite you to wait another year and work towards developing a plan for alternate engagement and learning.

I give thanks for your willingness to engage this process thoughtfully and prayerfully. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Paul", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Paul