

**CALVARY CONFIRMATION**

2021-2022  
**program  
guide**



**YOUR GO-TO GUIDE  
FOR ALL CONFIRMATION  
CLASSES AT CALVARY**



# WELCOME <sup>to</sup> CONFIRMATION

Confirmation at Calvary looks different from years in the past. Traditionally, students in grades 6-9 would attend every Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. from late August through May (excluding Lent). Students would sit together and focus on one aspect of curriculum (Old Testament, New Testament, Catechism) during each year. Pastors would begin by giving a message, and then students would split into small groups for the relationship building and discussion part of the evening. In 2020 we began our current program to build intentional relationships.

## Why the change?

### 1 People are busy!

**WE DON'T WANT YOU TO JUST MAKE TIME, WE WANT YOU TO ENJOY THE TIME.**

Students and parents alike have schedules much different than the schedules people had 20, 30, 40 years ago. School schedules, athletic schedules, and other activities no longer revolve around the church schedule. We want to be flexible in the timing and frequency of classes in order to make them both achievable and accessible.

### 2 Class sizes were too large

**SPACE ALLOWS FOR GROWTH. IT'S AS TRUE FOR GARDENS AS IT IS FOR KIDS.**

Ideally, a small group confirmation class would consist of 6-8 students and two small group guides. With the amount of students in our program and the amount of space in our building it worked to do it this way, but it didn't work as well as it could. After a long day of learning at school, sitting in a big room of 200 people trying to learn was difficult for students. Offering multiple classes throughout the year allows for class sizes to be smaller and for relationships to develop better.

### 3 We heard your feedback

**YOU SPOKE AND WE LISTENED.**

We heard from students, group guides, and congregation members alike that Confirmation programming was too long, and that students weren't able to articulate their faith.

*Inside the Guide*

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**FAITH IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION.**

The Confirmation program at Calvary works to meet students where they are and takes a different approach to the journey traditionally called “confirmation.”

Our goal is to build relationships in small group settings and helps students explore, engage and encounter faith as they study side by side with peers and other leaders. **The goal is not to reach a destination; the goal is the journey itself.**

The opportunities offered in this guide resemble the university model of “credits.” After completing 40 credits through this program, participants are encouraged to publicly celebrate this segment of their journey through the Rite of Confirmation. Students are encouraged to complete credits at their own pace.

**Students take classes that fall under three categories: core classes, elective classes, and enrichment experiences. All core classes and certain enrichments are required. The goal of this program is for students to complete 40 total credits.**



**CORE CLASSES**

12 Credits



**ELECTIVES**

20 Credits



**ENRICHMENTS**

8 Credits

**CORE CLASSES**

- Bible Basics\*
- Sacraments & The Lord’s Prayer\*
- Creeds & Commandments\*
- The Seven Habits of Christian Families\* (attended by student and a guardian)

**ELECTIVE CLASSES**

Elective courses allow students and families to choose what they would like to learn more about.

Elective opportunities vary from year to year.

**ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES**

- Worship Participation\*
- Service Opportunities\*
- Faith Expression\*
- Bible Camp
- Mission Trips
- Confirmation Retreat
- Mentor Year\*

\*Required



# Timeline



## CONFIRMATION GRADE GOALS

The table below is an example of how credits can be divided out if students wanted to begin classes in sixth grade and publicly affirm their baptisms (confirmation) in tenth grade. Students are encouraged to work at their own pace - this experience is not a race. Every student's journey will look different.

Example

## GRADE GOALS

Sixth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Seven Habits" core class</li> <li>• Four additional electives/enrichments</li> </ul>
Seventh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Creeds &amp; Commandments" core class</li> <li>• Four additional electives/enrichments</li> </ul>
Eighth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Bible Basics" core class</li> <li>• Four additional electives/enrichments</li> </ul>
Ninth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Sacraments &amp; Lord's Prayer" core class</li> <li>• Mentor year</li> <li>• Three additional electives/enrichments</li> </ul>
Tenth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Faith Expression"</li> <li>• Rite of Confirmation</li> </ul>

## Rite of Confirmation

Formally, we offer confirmation services each year on Reformation Sunday (and the following Wednesday), typically the last Sunday in October. This is a collective service when students who have completed the program publicly affirm their faith together. It is also possible for students to have individual confirmation moments during any service throughout the year.

*For questions about Confirmation please contact the Confirmation Ministry Team.*

Note:

Confirmation is not a sacrament in the Lutheran church and is therefore not "required," however, it is highly encouraged. This series of worship, lessons, service, and fellowship help enrich and strengthen our students' faith lives. We hope the flexibility of this program will equip families to uphold expectations and requirements to the best of their abilities.



# CORE CLASSES

“Core Classes” at Calvary are the classes that have been identified as the classes that teach students the basics, therefore they are the only classes that are required. That said we know that everyone is different, and there are many kinds of learners. We are willing to explore with students and families other ways to learn this information if this structure does not work for you.

*Core classes are worth 3 credits each.*

## 1 Seven Habits

### THE SEVEN HABITS OF CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

You have to go to school for many years to qualify for most jobs in America. But we act like everybody is born knowing how to be a part of a family that worships God. Families come in all shapes and sizes. Learn to establish daily practices that keep God at the center of your family. Ideally this class is attended by the student and a guardian.

*3 Credits*

## 2 Creeds & Commandments

### WHAT ARE THE CORE BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY?

We will take a look at the Apostles' Creed, each article of the Creed, and its goal of unifying the body of Christ. In other words, we will explore the question “What do we believe and why?” We will move to the Ten Commandments, the list God gave us to help us live in harmony with others and with God.

*3 Credits*

## 3 Bible Basics

### LET'S DIG INTO THE BIBLE

The Bible is an amazing collection of books. Some are stories, poetry, history, and letters. But they all point to Jesus! Learn how surprising God's Word can be!

*3 Credits*

## 4 Sacraments & The Lord's Prayer

### BAPTISM & COMMUNION

Baptism and communion are outward signs of the inward grace we have received but cannot earn. God comes to us through the sacraments and prayer. We will explore the prayer Jesus taught us and how we can build a relationship with God through prayer.

*3 Credits*



# ELECTIVE CLASSES

## 1 Can I Ask That?

### I HAVE ALWAYS WONDERED...

Sometimes, we want to ask questions, but we feel like we'll get in trouble if we ask. This is the class to ask those questions and explore the answers! What if I doubt? What does heaven look like? Can I trust the Bible? What are your questions? Each class is a stand-alone session. Sign up for one session-or sign up for them all!

*1/2 Credit*

*Class led by Calvary Pastors*

## 2 Violence in the Bible

### BLOODY TENT PEGS, DISEMBODIED FINGERS, SNEAK ATTACKS, AND MORE!

Together, we'll discuss some of the Bible's most gory stories. Each class is a stand-alone session. Sign up for one session-or sign up for them all!

*1/2 Credit*

*Class led by Pastor Kirk*

## 3 Faith & Music

### 'CAUSE I GOTTA HAVE FAITH 🎵

Music is a universal language. Hymns, contemporary, and blended styles are just some of the types of music we'll explore. By listening, we can discover how God is present in the music we hear in worship and in the world.

*1/2 Credit*

## 4 Do Justice | Due Justice

### SEEK JUSTICE. LOVE MERCY. WALK HUMBLY.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, our call to do justice is clear. Why does God let bad things happen to good people? What is our role in that? How can we walk alongside one another and be God's hands and feet?

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Pastor Kirk*

## 5 Women and The Bible

### HEAR HER ROAR!

Look into the lives of women like Ruth, Anna, Esther, Leah, Rachel, Mary, Elizabeth, and other women who encountered the living God. Understanding these women's lives, you will discover the God behind their stories—and yours!

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Pastor Ivy*

## 6 Dying to Know

### I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED...

In today's world, we spend a lot of time shying away from talking about death. In this class, students will explore death in scripture, talk about the stages of grief, learn about funerals, and discuss more about how to talk about death.

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Pastor Ivy*



## 7 Meditation Station

### **BREATHE IN...BREATHE OUT**

God has told us to "be still," yet it can be hard to slow down in this hectic world. Learn how to still your mind and body and listen for the voice of God. Each class is a stand-alone session. Sign up for one session-or sign up for them all!

*1/2 credit*

*Class led Calvary Pastors & Staff*

## 8 Love Your Neighbor

### **WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? AND WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?**

What do Catholics believe? What does it mean to be Jewish? Muslim? This class explores the different beliefs and practices of various beliefs and faiths and how it relates to what we, as Lutherans, believe.

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Pastor Aaron*

## 9 Exploring Privilege

### **CHECK YOURSELF**

In our society, people from all backgrounds are experiencing a time in which discussions about race, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and culture are at the forefront of our lives. Each of us has an identity that shapes how we see ourselves and others. Not only do social norms and cultural underpinnings influence our experiences, they also set the course for how we view the world. We will spend time being thoughtful about these topics and how we can approach people as Jesus would.

*1 Credit*

*Class led by Calvary Pastors*

## 10 Faith & Art

### **FAITH IN EVERY BRUSHSTROKE**

Together, we'll create and explore the world of art and faith. Be it through gel pens, calligraphy, watercolors, or colored pencils, students will create illuminations of their favorite Bible verses or images of who God is to them. Each class is a stand-alone session. Sign up for one session-or sign up for them all!

*1/2 Credit*

## 11 Kidding Around

### **WE ARE THE CHURCH**

Worship with kids is much more than just singing silly songs and getting them to shake out their wiggles. It's also a way for them to experience the awesomeness of God's presence and teach children that church is for them! That's why it's so important for us to ensure that all kids gain from—and are engaged in—the experience of worship. This class brings students together to plan kids' time during worship services.

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Pastor Ivy*

## 12 dEVIL

### **I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED...**

Who is the Devil & what is his story? Why does evil exist? How can we better recognize evil in the world? Together we'll explore all this and more and talk about how Love Wins!

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Pastor Aaron*





# ELECTIVE CLASSES

## 13 *Beneath the Threshold*

### **LIFE BENEATH THE POVERTY LINE**

Together we will work to understand life beneath the poverty line and what it means to live there. Through activities, discussions and simulations we will learn together what our role is as the church.

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Calvary Pastors*

## 14 *Money Matters*

### **FOLLOW THE MONEY**

This class will explore our relationship with money and how money affects our relationship with our faith.

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Pastor Ivy & Anna Larson*

## 15 *Baking Through the Bible*

### **TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD**

You don't have to be a good cook. We will work through a story in the Bible and then make a recipe together that relates to the story. While we bake and try new things, we will discuss parts of the story and find God in everyday tasks...like baking!

*1 Credit*

*Class led by Nichole Bye*

## 16 *The Table is Ready*

### **WHAT ARE WE HAVING?**

In this class we will put discussion into action as we first learn about spiritual and physical hunger and then prepare a meal for the residents at LaGrave on First in Grand Forks.

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Pastors & Staff*

## 17 *Animated Faith*

### **POP THE POPCORN**

Together, we will venture into the world of Pixar and other short films. We will talk about how God is present in the storyline, characters and dialogue.

*2 Credits*

*Class led by Morgan Olson*

## 18 *#RelationshipGoals*

### **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**

Acknowledge, ask questions, accountability and affirmations. This class will discuss tools and skills to be safe and happy in relationships.

*2 credits*

*Class led by Morgan Olson*





## 19 Is That Allowed?

### EXPLORING THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF FAITH

Can Christians get tattoos? Can Christians date non-Christians? Is secular music evil? It's easy for Christians to obsess over the "rules" of faith. Let's talk about that...and see if we can shift from the "rules" to the redemptive and selfless love of Jesus.

2 credit

Class led by Pastor Aaron & Morgan Olson

## 19 Seasons

### FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

The church year is more than just the Christmas and Easter seasons. Let's explore all of the seasons of the church year and what they mean to us as people of God.

2 Credits

Class led by Morgan Olson

## 20 Uncomfortable Conversations About Race

### REAL TALK ABOUT RACE

"You cannot fix a problem you do not know you have." -Emmanuel Acho  
There is a fix but in order to fix it we will have to have some uncomfortable conversations. In this class we will take on all the questions, large and small, insensitive or taboo, many of us are afraid to ask - yet answers we need now more than ever.

2 Credits

Class led by Calvary Pastors

## 21 Youtube and Tacos

### YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT...AND HEAR, SEE, WATCH AND READ

The things that we consume tell us a lot about who we are. To consume means more than just what we eat, it means what we take in. We take in movies, music, books and magazines all with their own message. We will work to identify the messages we are taking in and what they are worth.

2 Credits

Class led by Pastor Aaron

## 22 The Image of God

### WE ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD...WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?

Let's look at God through history, cultures and media. Together, we will explore what we see in our minds when we think about God and how we portray the image of God to others.

2 Credits

Class led by Pastor Aaron

## 23 Enneagram & Faith

### I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED...

Spiritual growth takes time and calls us to a deeper understanding of ourselves. The Enneagram is one way we can discover more about ourselves and the ways we respond to the world. Learn about how you have been created to reflect unique aspects of God into God's creation.

2 Credits



# ELECTIVE CLASSES

## 24 Reading Religiously

### NOT JUST WORDS ON A PAGE!

Together, we will dive into the pages of a book—not the Bible—a young adult book! Let's identify God's presence and voice through the stories, characters, and dialogue.

2 Credits

Class led by Pastors & Staff

## 25 Watching God

### AND FINDING FAITH WITH A BOWL OF POPCORN

Together, we will watch a movie: contemporary, sci-fi, comedy, action, and more—complete with popcorn and snacks! After, we'll discuss how God is present and speaks to us through the stories, characters, and dialogue.

1 Credit

Class led by Pastor Aaron

## 26 unconditionALLY

### I HAVE ALWAYS WONDERED

What does the Bible say about homosexuality? How does the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) talk about this? What does it mean to be an ally? You'll walk away with a lot of answers prepared with tools to help. But most importantly, you'll hear the good news: God loves each of us exactly as we are.

1 Credit

Class led by Calvary Pastors & Staff

## 27 Cross+Gen

### YOUNG AT HEART

This is a time to build a fun and life-giving cross-generational relationship. Through facilitated conversations and activities, you will have the opportunity to learn more about another person who worships at Calvary.

1 Credit

Class led by Morgan Olson

## 28 Faith & Science

### IS THERE ROOM FOR BOTH?

How can you believe in the Bible AND evolution? Doesn't science prove faith obsolete? Faith and science can go hand in hand. This class will facilitate a conversation of how faith intersects with our existing understanding of creation.

2 Credits

Class led by Pastor Kirk

## 29 Care for Creation

### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE...AND MUSHROOMS!

We all share one home-Earth! Together we'll explore different ways that God is present in the world. We will also discuss and take part in different ways we can care for our planet.

2 Credits

Class led by Pastor Kirk



# ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES

## 1 *Worship Assistant*

### **WORSHIP ISN'T ABOUT ATTENDING, IT'S ABOUT PARTICIPATING.**

We are excited for you to be involved in the life of Calvary. You get to choose how! Options include being a greeter, usher, communion server, reader, cantor, singer in the choir, or a Lenten dancer.

*3 Credits Required; sign up online - each participation is worth 1/2 Credit*

## 2 *Service Opportunities*

### **WE ARE THE CHURCH**

A current list of the service opportunities can be found to the right of this page. Be sure to sign up early as the number of volunteers needed may be limited. More opportunities may arise throughout the year. Subscribe to the Calvary news update emails on the website.

*3 Credits Required; sign up online or in the Education Office.*

## 3 *Mentor Year*

### **WALK TOGETHER**

Students select someone in their life with whom they feel comfortable discussing their faith. It can be a teacher, coach, family friend, or anyone that they feel they could open up with to practice talking about faith. We encourage students to select someone outside of their immediate family.

*3 Credits Required; sign up online*

## 4 *Faith Expression*

### **LIVE FAITH OUT LOUD**

This is the last step before the Rite of Confirmation milestone. Students reflect on their journey thus far: what they have learned, and where they are going. The student will create a faith project before affirming their baptism.

*1 Credits Required; sign up online*

## 5 *A Day in the Life of a Pastor*

### **DON'T PASTORS WORK ONE DAY A WEEK?**

Ever wonder what a pastor does all day? Is there even anything that happens at a church during the week? This "job shadow" experience gives kids a glimpse of what a pastor does outside of worship-this could include visits, worship planning, Bible studies, and more!

*2 Credits*

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

### **CALVARY KIDS**

Volunteer helping with Sunday School or Wednesday School.

### **NURSERY**

Volunteer helping in the church nursery.

### **KICKOFF SUNDAY MILESTONES FALL FESTIVAL ADVENT FESTIVAL FAMILY DANCE**

Volunteer at these fun family events.

### **HONDURAS RUMMAGE SALE**

Volunteer helping prepare for this annual fundraiser that happens in January.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Help be a shepherd; lead a story, game, or craft; or even help decorate!

### **LOOK OUT FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES.**

*Reach out to the Confirmation Ministry Team to sign up for these service opportunities.*





# ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES

## 1 Reach & Teach

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Our littlest members look up to our confirmation students. Help lead by example and teach Calvary kids about Jesus through volunteering in our Sunday and/or Wednesday School classes. Sign up through Morgan in the Education Office.

*6 Credits*

## 2 Pew Views

### CHURCH THROUGH YOUR EYES

Pew views help see the service through your eyes and help us get to know you. Answering questions about your day, week, favorite song, and best part of the service, pew views will let us hear from you. Incomplete pew views will not count toward a credit. Pew views can be found and returned in the Education Office or online at [calvarygf.org/confirmation](http://calvarygf.org/confirmation).

*1/2 credit*

## 3 Mission Trips, Retreats & Bible Camps

### OUTSIDE OF OUR WALLS

Let's go on a faith adventure! Camp information is released each spring. Retreat information is released at the beginning of the school year. There are often costs associated with these events. Sign-up for these opportunities is not the same as the sign-ups for other Confirmation classes. Camperships and funds are available to help make these opportunities attainable for all.

*Trips and retreats are worth between 3-6 credits depending on length of time.*

## 4 Spark

### YOU BELONG HERE

Some call it youth group, we call it SPARK. This is a great elective option for those in grades 6-8 looking to get some credits and have FUN. Youth Group meets every Wednesday night at 8:00 p.m. and centers around inclusion, faith and fun.

*1/2 credit per time*

## Independent Study

Have an idea for an Enrichment Experience that you don't see listed here? Talk to the Confirmation Ministry team!





## Students & Families

We ask that you please schedule classes carefully. There is one excused absence per core class. Keep in mind, you can usually join the class via zoom. Because of the shortened structure of each class, if you must miss more than one class, we may ask you to retake the course at a different time.



### REGISTER FOR CONFIRMATION

Confirmation at Calvary is \$35 for the year. We invite you to register online and give us a call with any questions. Visit [calvarygf.org/confirmation](http://calvarygf.org/confirmation) to register. We encourage you register early so we have plenty of classes offered. Register in advance to attend a class so we have materials ready for you.



### SIGN ME UP FOR CLASSES!

You will notice we do not have any specific dates listed in this book. So how do you know when the classes are held? Head over to the confirmation page on the website and click the **"BROWSE CLASSES"** button. We are adding classes all the time so you can check out the list intermittently to see what's new.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### ORIENTATION

September 1

### FAITH EXPRESSIONS & PHOTOS

October 3

### RITE OF CONFIRMATION

October 31 & November 3

### CHRISTMAS CHEER

December 8

### CHRISTMAS BREAK

December 12-January 2

### CITYWIDE CONFIRMATION

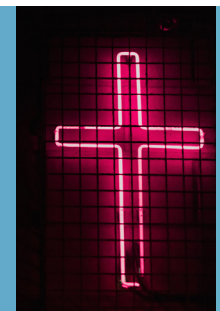
January 19

### ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2

### EASTER BREAK

April 11-23





# WRITE IT OUT THINK AHEAD

*Classes I've taken...*

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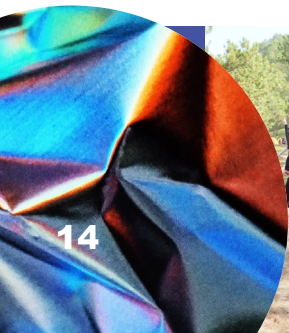
*Credits I've earned...*

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*Classes I am interested in...*

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*Experiences I want to try...*







### **WHEN ARE CLASSES OFFERED?**

Most core classes are offered 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Occasionally, a class may be offered at a different time or during the summer. The goal is to be flexible in the timing and frequency of classes. After looking at the schedule, if you find the times do not work with your schedule, please contact the confirmation coordinator or any of the pastors, and they would be happy to explore an alternative plan.



### **I'M NEW. WHERE DO I START?**

The first step in the journey is family participation in "The Seven Habits of Christian Families" course. Take a look at your calendar and take classes and sign up for experiences that fit in your schedule and interest you. This program is designed to be flexible. If you have participated in other confirmation programs, fear not! Chat with the Confirmation Ministry Team to see how your progress applies. If you miss a class, there will be additional opportunities to take it again at a later date. Confirmation is \$35 for the year. Scholarships are available. Contact Morgan for details.



### **HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY STUDENT HAS TAKEN?**

Easy! We keep track of each student's progress report. We send reports by email twice each year: in August and December. If you are ever wondering about progress, send Morgan a note at [morgan.olson@calvarygf.org](mailto:morgan.olson@calvarygf.org) and she will get you a report.



### **HOW DO I DECIDE WHICH CLASSES TO TAKE?**

Classes can also be found on the Calvary website on the calendar, cross reference it with your student's schedule and progress report, and highlight the classes you intend to for which you intend to register. Go to [calvarygf.org/confirmation](http://calvarygf.org/confirmation) for the link to sign up for classes.



### **WHAT IF I HAVE TO MISS A CLASS**

Students are allowed to miss one session of multi-week classes and still get credit for the class. We also understand life happens. Please let us know if you need to miss one or more sessions unexpectedly.

# **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

## **CONFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM**

Morgan Olson | Confirmation Coordinator  
Kirk Meseck, Ivy Schulz & Aaron Bye | Pastoral Staff

  
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