



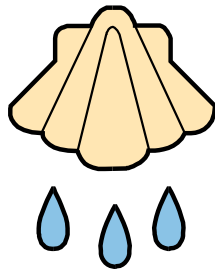
CONFIRMATION

2023-2024

*Zion Lutheran Church
Stratford, Wisconsin*

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WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

This is a journey you take as part of the community.

"Confirmation ministry is a pastoral and education ministry of the church that helps the baptized through Word and Sacrament to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission." -- The Confirmation Ministry Task Force Report, ELCA, 1993

You have already been baptized, so why do you have to “be confirmed?”

First of all, confirmation is not something that happens *to* you. You were most likely brought to the baptismal font as an infant or small child by your parents and others who loved you and wanted to claim God’s grace on your behalf. At the font, you were baptized and announced as a chosen child of God, freed *from* the consequences of sin, and freed *for* service to your neighbor.

Confirmation is an ongoing process of faith development which involves the body of Christ in this place, as well as a hefty dose of the Holy Spirit. It is a lifelong process inclusive of J-Team/Little Lutherans, confirmation classes, worship participation, adult bible study, discussion, service to your congregation and community, and fellowship opportunities.

- Everything involved in confirmation ministry flows from Baptism.
- Confirmation happens in a living community of faith and is the responsibility of the whole congregation.
- Confirmation is a process by which we learn more about God, faith, and ourselves.
- Confirmation classes lead to Affirmation of Baptism, a rite in which you affirm the actions taken by your parents when you were very young and couldn’t speak for yourselves.
- During the Affirmation of Baptism, the congregation “confirms” that you have publicly proclaimed your faith.

Parent Participation in Confirmation

Involved parents/guardians/mentors are extremely important to the faith life of young adults, and attending class with your student is one way to help them see your interest. Each student is required to have a parent/guardian attend 2 class sessions with them and actively participate.

Parents will be asked to sign and return a covenant statement for each year of the formal confirmation curriculum. Parents will also be asked to sign a permission form to enable us to publish their children's pictures on our FB and Twitter accounts, as well as on our website.

CORE COURSES

Core courses are those subjects that are the foundation for our life of faith.

This three-year sequence covers the basics of the bible, Lutheran doctrine, and how we live as Lutherans in the 21st century. Depending on your school grade level, you will enter the program at one of three points: A, B, or C.

Class sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 6-7:30. All core sessions are required.

Scope and Sequence of Core Courses

Year A—The Bible

- "Old Testament" (3 sessions)
- "New Testament" (3 sessions)

Year B—The Doctrine

- "Being Lutheran"
- "What We Lutherans Believe"

Year C—The “Ships”

- “Worship and Stewardship”
- “Discipleship”

ELECTIVES

In addition to the core courses, each student will choose 2 additional sessions to attend. These electives will relate in some way to the topic for each year. *Each class is limited to 10 students.*

Electives for Year A—2023-2024

“Noah, You Forgot the Dinosaurs!” Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023

Creation and evolution—are they mutually exclusive? Do you have to check your faith at the door when you attend science classes? What do numbers in the bible really mean?

“Crazy Bible Stuff” Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023

What happens when you fall asleep during a sermon, call someone names, or don’t get that haircut when you should? All this is in the bible, and there’s even more: teens mauled by bears, prophets wearing dirty underwear and running around naked, and even fox arson!

“Teach Us to Pray” Wednesday, Jan. 24

This session uses the Lord’s Prayer to understand what prayer is, how it’s done, and why we always have to use fancy words when we talk with God (NOT!). We’ll also discuss why it seems God doesn’t always answer our prayers.

“End Times” Wednesday, Apr. 10, 2024

You don’t want to be “left behind” for this session! We’ll visit the book of the Revelation to John, as well dip our toes into 1 Enoch and the

book of Daniel to see what's really going to happen at the end of the world... zombie apocalypse, anyone?

Take a moment to mark the two you would like to take!

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Bible Camp

Students are highly encouraged to attend bible camp once during their time in confirmation. Advent suppers (for which you will be responsible) help pay for bible camp. Zion will pay half the cost of the confirmation camp fee.

Worship Notes

- Attending worship is an expectation of Zion's confirmation ministry. Worship is where God meets us in Word and Sacrament and fellowship with other believers.
- Students are required to do *16 worship notes* per year. If you visit another church, you may use that experience for a sermon note. *Hint: Before going on vacation, grab an extra sermon note from church so it's handy!*
- Make sure your handwriting is legible! Pastor reads every one of these things and she would love to not have to interpret your chicken scratches!

Advent and Lent

- Students are required to attend and participate in Advent and Lenten worship services. Students will read, greet, acolyte, usher, provide special music, and maybe preach! You will notice that the Advent and Lenten services are scheduled for Wednesday nights and take the place of confirmation class sessions.
- During Advent, the parents and students are asked to help with one of the Advent suppers. The money raised helps defray the cost of the confirmation camp. Advent meal assignments are as follows:

Date	Parent Coordinator	Students
December 6	Kathy Ballerstein	Hudson Ballerstein, Olivia Ballerstein, Annika Weber, Charlotte Peirce
December 13	Amii Kreft	Sierra Kreft, Connor Kreft, Willie Casperson, Garrett Smazal
December 20	Cory Wiesman	Reese Spindler, Cooper Wiesman, Emmercyn Schiller, Jaden Weis

If you are unable to participate on your assigned date, please switch with another family.

- During Lent, students will find a mentor to meet with them at least twice during the six-week period. Together, they will complete two discussion sheets. Mentors must be a member of the Zion congregation and may not be a family member. This activity will help prepare you for your year in the Disciples for Christ program as you near the rite of Affirmation of Baptism in your 10th-grade year. Ask them *EARLY!* **The name of your mentor must be turned in to the church office by Sunday, January 28. **

Discipline

We hope this will not be a problem, but in the case that actions get out of hand or behavior is detrimental to the class, parents will be contacted. We plan to work together in partnership.

Yearly Point System

You will be responsible for accumulating points during each year of confirmation classes. There are 32 points required during 2023-24 in order to competently advance to the next year, distributed as follows:

Class sessions – 1 pt per session (required; no points awarded)

Worship notes – 1 pt per note (16 pts total)

Lenten worship notes – 1 pt per note (2 pts total)

Lenten mentor discussion worksheets – 1 pt per worksheet (2 pts total)

Parent/guardian involvement – 1 pt per class session (2 pts total)

Service/volunteer hours – 1 pt per hour (10 pts total)

We realize there may be a need to “flex” the points. Class sessions and parent involvement are required; you must have 6 Core sessions, 2 Elective sessions, and a parent/guardian present at 2 class sessions. You are asked to turn in 16 worship notes, but you may flex a few of those worship notes into service hours by first clearing it with Pastor Amy. Keep in mind that each time you act as acolyte or assisting minister, you are eligible for 1 point of service hours and 1 point towards worship notes if you turn one in; that’s 2 points right there!

Please complete an activity verification form for each service activity. These forms are located on the table by the entrance to the sanctuary (right next to the worship notes).

Examples of qualifying service hours are:

- During worship-acolyte, assisting minister, usher, reader, AV tech, serving fellowship.
- Zion/community events-Germanfest, Vacation Bible School, living nativity, meal packing, helping with JTeam/Little Lutherans.
- Other activities may be approved if cleared in advance.

Signed Covenants for Students and Parents

God wants us to be in good relationships with one another as well as with God. To that end, we promise to follow certain behaviors which build up one another and strengthen the body of Christ.

Students and parents will each be asked to sign a covenant statement which fosters compassionate and supportive growth in faith. The covenant forms accompany this booklet and should be returned with signatures at our first session on September 13.

Record Keeping

Be sure to sign in at each class session so you receive credit for attending. Kathy, our amazing church secretary, will keep track of your attendance and credit points. She will be happy to let you know where you stand with relation to requirements. It is highly recommended that you also keep track of your activities and attendance, but the official record will be kept by the church.

FAQs

- Q. What if I sign up early to take my core and elective courses, but then can't attend one (or more) of them because of a change in our family schedule? What should I do?
- A. We encourage you to sign up for classes as soon as you decide what you would like to take. If you realize you can't attend a course you signed up for, choose another that still has availability. **DO NOT** wait until spring to meet the requirements! Once you have decided what change you will make, call the church office and let us know what class you will NOT be taking and what class you would like to register for. If you must miss one of the Core classes, speak to Pastor Amy immediately so we may discuss the possibility of an alternative assignment.
- Q. What will happen if I don't attend a confirmation course I registered for?
- A. If you registered for an elective or core course and did not attend, your bookkeeper will be in contact with you. You will need to make up the class by choosing another or by doing an additional assignment.

- Q. What if I didn't attend Zion last year and was part of another church's confirmation program?
- A. Call the church office and meet with Pastor Amy if you are a new addition to the Zion confirmation program and the church. We can discuss what learning you have been involved with so far. In most cases, you will fit into our program without needing to make many adjustments in requirements.
- Q. What if I'm sick or an emergency prevents me from attending class?
- A. Contact Pastor Amy by text: 608-498-5772. Be sure to state who you are in the text.
- Q. What if there's no school?
- A. If school is canceled due to inclement weather, there will be no confirmation class.
- Q. What if I don't have enough points to advance to the next year of the program?
- A. This is a discussion which needs to happen between you, your parent or guardian, and the pastor. This situation should not come as a surprise to anyone as long as we all keep communication lines open regarding your progress.

Confirmation Requirements for 2023-24 (Checklist)

- 6 required Core Classes (see schedule)
- 2 Elective Classes (see schedule)
- 2 classes with parent/guardian involvement (either Core or Elective)
- 16 Sunday worship notes
- 2 Lenten worship notes
- 2 mentor discussion worksheets during Lent
- 10 service/volunteer hours
- Bible Camp (highly encouraged, but not required this year)

Important Phone Numbers

Pastor Amy Heinz
608-498-5772 cell

Text if you will be absent, call if you have a question or just need to talk

Kathy Busche, Church Secretary
715-687-4110 office
office@zionstratford.org

NOTES:

Please keep this booklet in a convenient location for easy reference. This booklet is also available on Zion's website at www.zionstratford.org

2023-24 SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Sep. 13, 2023	OT-Torah/History	Required
Sep. 27, 2023	Noah, You Forgot the Dinosaurs!	Elective
Oct. 11, 2023	OT-History/Wisdom	Required
Oct. 25, 2023	Crazy Bible Stuff	Elective
Nov. 15, 2023	OT-Prophets	Required
December	Advent Services	
Jan. 10, 2024	NT-Life of Jesus/Gospel Comparison	Required
Jan. 24, 2024	Teach Us to Pray	Elective
Feb. 7, 2024	NT-Parables and Sayings of Jesus	Required
February and March	Lent Services	
Apr. 3, 2024	NT-Letters/Revelation	Required
Apr. 10, 2024	End Times	Elective
May 1, 2024	Make-up session for Core sessions if needed	

Remember: If Stratford schools are canceled due to weather, there will be no confirmation class. Keep an eye on our FB page for any changes or updates to class sessions.

FYI:

Advent Wednesday Services are: Dec. 6, 13, 20

Lenten Wednesday Services are: Feb. 14, 21, 28; Mar. 6, 13, 20

