

Confirmation Overview 2022-2023

Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church and School

Dear Parents and Confirmands,

Welcome to Confirmation 2022-2023! God the Father has Good News for you and for your children. Jesus Christ, God' Son, our Savior and Lord, reigns. Christ has overcome sin and every evil through the cross and gives life and salvation to all who believe. God is in control.

Confirmation involves the entire family, the extended family, and your church family. Why? Because, when you were baptized, all those people promised to support and encouraged you in your faith journey.

Additionally, Confirmation Ministry is a teaching ministry of the Church that is designed to assist parents in helping their baptized children deepen their faith in Christ. Confirmation is to aid students in understanding God's Word, learn the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism; and learn how to live by faith in Christ at home, at school, within the congregation and as active members of the Christian community.

Goals for Confirmation Ministry

The goals of our Confirmation Ministry are that the catechumens, as baptized children of God and as members of the Church, the body of Christ:

- A. Confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and take ownership of the faith given in the cleansing water of baptism declaring, by the power of the Holy Spirit, their trust in the Gospel and personal allegiance to Christ;
- B. Know and understand what God does through His Word and Sacraments (Rom. 15:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:15);
- C. Know, believe, and confess the Christian faith as their own, know why the Bible is true, and how it relates to life. This faith is summarized in the Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed and Athanasian Creed;
- D. Understand Christian growth is a life-long process; that the Christian is never in a state of completion, but always in the process of growing deeper in faith through hearing God's Word and promises (Deut. 6:7; 11:19; Prov. 22:6);
- E. Grow in the life of the Christian community and its mission. Understand that the church, as the people of God, has the following God-given functions: worship, witness, education, service, and fellowship; (Deut. 16:11; Matt10:37; 12:48-50; 1 Tim. 4:7; 2 Tim. 3:15-17).

Confirmation Component: Home & Church Partnership

Parents - get involved and stay involved in your confirmand's faith formation!

Confirmation is a church and family partnership because the learning and growing that prepares us for affirming our baptism through the rite of Confirmation can't happen in the 1-2 hours/week that we spend at church.

Parents, ensure that your confirmand attends worship, attends confirmation class and retreats.



Overview

Class sessions will be held during the school day and on Mondays and Thursdays; and scheduled for non-TLO students in consultation with parents.

Mark your Calendars NOW!

2023 Confirmation Day, May 7, 2023

All Confirmands will be meeting together at various times during the school year. Times will be announced based on the activity and schedules.

TLO Lutheran School students will meet primarily during the school day for religion class. Online Confirmation Instruction is available from Pastor Kroonblawd upon personal request.

Parental Involvement Includes:

- A. Parents are always invited and encouraged to attend confirmation classes with their children.
- B. Monitor memory work, mentoring questions, and sermon notes during the year;
- C. Involvement with special activities and teams of fellowship, service, and spiritual gifts;
- D. Encourage and speak well of the program and its leaders.
- E. Confirmation Covenant
 - We ask parents to be accountable for the progress of their children.
 - We ask parents to commit yourselves to praying regularly for your child, the pastors, and others involved in the confirmation ministry.
 - We ask that parents take the lead in the education process of their child. Please discuss the content of confirmation with the student, and monitor their memory work, sermon notes and other learning experiences.
 - We ask that parents worship regularly with your child and take sermon notes with them.
 - We ask that parents keep learning themselves. Take part in Bible study opportunities and devotional disciplines.
 - We ask that parents encourage the youth -- this is their opportunity to show God their love and dedication. With the help of God all these tasks can be done joyfully.

Confirmation Curriculum

Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church Confirmation class materials and activities are engaging and will lay a foundation for a life-long journey of hearing God's Word and living in faith in Christ and service to others. In first year Confirmation, all students will receive *Luther's Small Catechism* (CPH, 2017), *Catechism Study* workbook and *Apologetics Study* workbook. These materials will be used in the two entire course.

Catechism Study includes

- Introduction to Luther's Small Catechism
- The Ten Commandments
- The Creed
- The Lord's Prayer

The Means of Grace
The Christian Life

Apologetics Study includes:

As a Christian, Can I Like Science?
How Do I Know there is a God?
What is my Identity?
What Does God Say About Marriage?

Is the Creation Account True?
Why Do Bad Things Happen?
What about Miracles?
Are We Alone? What About Ghosts?

Attendance

Confirmands are expected to attend classes and retreats as scheduled and complete assignments and memory work. Conflicts may arise from time to time. Students that miss class are to complete the assignments missed. If you know of conflicts beforehand, please notify Pastor so that he can plan accordingly. Send an email to: james.kroonblawd@tloschool.org

Parents of Midweek Confirmation students are to provide support for the Confirmation ministry by attending on Wednesday night Confirmation classes as possible, and chaperone service projects and retreats as needed.

Worship and Sermon Reports

Confirmands are expected to complete and turn in 10 Sermon Notes each year.

Worship is primary for our Christian life and it remains central to the Confirmation program. Attending church services weekly, benefits us as God promises to bless us through His Word and Sacrament, through Confession and Absolution and the prayers.

It is in worship that we are gathered together around God's Word, celebrate the Sacraments and are reminded of our call to live as God's children in the world. Parents are expected to make worship a priority for your family.

In addition to being in worship, we require students complete ten sermon notes during each of their two years (10 in 7th Grade, 10 in 8th Grade). Sermon notes outlines are available at most services. Please have your Confirmand complete the sermon insert and turn in the completed sermon insert to the pastor.

Serving as Acolytes, Projectionist, Greeter, Usher, Altar Guild

All Confirmands will receive training to serve as worship projectionists and will become familiar with worship support roles including: Usher, Greeter, projectionist and Altar Guild member.

All confirmands are to serve as acolytes for the TLO worship services. Acolyte training is provided for 5th-8th grade students during Sunday School. This program introduces the students to show proper reverence to God in His sanctuary.

Confirmation Retreats

Watch for information about retreats and **TLO CRUX STUDENT MINISTRY - Middle School Group** activities during the year.

Service Learning Projects

Confirmands are to complete a minimum of 3 Service Learning Projects during each year. Service learning projects are designed to encourage students to put their faith into action. Parents will be needed to assist with planning and overseeing the retreats and service learning projects.

Even with concerns over transmission of Covid-19 limiting our opportunities to gather in service, with some creativity, we will be able to offer service projects for our JR Youth and High School students. Parents are needed to assist in organizing projects. If you are interested in helping organize projects, please speak with Pastor Kroonblawd.

Confirmands are to complete one service project with their family and one with J.R. Youth. Projects completed outside of Trinity Lone Oak Confirmation Ministry and J.R. Youth should be approved by Pastor. After completing each project, a reflection piece should be typed and turned in to your confirmation teacher(s) to be discussed.

As students are preparing to be a Christian leader and a good steward of your time, talents and treasure, you may use Service Learning Projects hours as Y.I. Club extra credit service hours. For further information about Y.I. visit <https://lcef.org/young-investors-club/> or speak with Diane Streich, Y.I. Club coordinator.

Service Learning Projects Report

Guidelines for reflection: Summarize what you did and then pick 5 of the following questions to cover in your reflection:

- What did I learn about myself from this experience? What did I learn about others?
- In what ways did the experience challenge my values, my beliefs, my faith?
- Which of my values or beliefs were affirmed by this experience?
- What emotions did I experience while I was involved in this experience? Which ones surprised me?
- What was the most successful part of this experience for me? What was the most frustrating part?
- If I could do any part of this experience over, what would it be? Why?
- What did I like best/least about my experience?
- What did I gain from the experience? What did I contribute?
- How might the person I was working with (tutoring, serving, etc.) feel about working with me? How successful might they feel our experience was together?
- What did the person I was working with share with me, teach me, give me?
- How does this experience relate to things I am learning in class?
- How has this experience raised awareness for me of community needs?
- How has my understanding of God's presence and my role in the world changed?

Faith Statement

Faith Statements will be prepared by Second year Confirmands only. Faith Statements will be assigned in the Fall, after completing their Second Year of Confirmation Instruction.

Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers are appreciated. In addition to supporting your son or daughter, there are several ways you as a parent can help our Confirmation ministry run smoothly. Please prayerfully consider whether one of them is a good fit for you.

1. **Family Confirmation.** Every Wednesday we will need parents to join the class. You will be assigned when you are expected to be at Confirmation with your Confirmand.
2. **Service Projects.** We will need parents or others to assist the pastor in coordinating service projects as Confirmation students actively serve members of the congregation and community. This will also include coordinating drivers and chaperons for service projects.
3. **Confirmation Day Reception Coordinator.** This person is responsible for organizing the Sunday reception on the day students are Confirmed (usually cake and punch). This event is held between services on Reformation Sunday in October.
4. **Class Communications Coordinator (one for each grade level).** These people will help parents keep informed about upcoming events for middle school students. This might include changes in confirmation schedules, upcoming service events, or fellowship opportunities.
5. **CRUX Student Ministry.**

Parental Involvement at Home

1. Parents are always invited and encouraged to attend confirmation classes with their children.
2. Monitor memory work, mentoring questions, and sermon notes during the year;
3. Involvement with special activities and teams of fellowship, service, and spiritual gifts;
4. Encourage and speak well of the program and its leaders.

Parents and Confirmands – Pray Together!

1. Take joy in having daily devotions with together
2. Pray regularly for and with each other for class your leaders, fellow students, and their families
3. Participate in worship together and join in congregational activities and life together

Parent Involvement

The Confirmation Ministry is designed to assist parents and individuals in understanding and feeling part of the community of saints. God has designed Christian education in the home and this Confirmation Program is to help support the on-going Christian education already going on in the home. We encourage parents, godparents, grandparents, and family members to assist the catechumens in the most important time in their life.

1. Parents are always invited and encouraged to be involved in Confirmation Ministry and attend with your child.
2. Be accountable for the progress of their children.
3. Commit yourselves to praying regularly for your child, the pastor, and others involved in the confirmation ministry.
4. Discuss the content of confirmation with the student, and monitor their memory work, sermon notes and other learning experiences.
5. Worship at TLO on Sundays with your child and complete your own sermon notes so that you can discuss the sermon after worship with your Confirmand.
6. Grow your faith. Join a Bible study and use devotional disciplines, Portals of Prayer, daily Bible reading, subscribe to only devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries, Lutheran Women's Missionary League.
7. Encourage your youth each day in their faith—Confirmation and JR Youth is their opportunity to grow in grace and knowledge and participation in the life of the Church and demonstrate God's love to others.

Confirmands - Make the most of the opportunities you have to show you are ready for Confirmation

1. Pray regularly for yourself and others
2. Complete sermon notes for each service attended and submit these to pastor.
3. Read your Bible and lead family devotions; Use Portals of Prayer or other devotional
4. Ask questions
5. Talk about what you are learning
6. Participate in congregational life participating in service opportunities
7. TLO is full of faith-filled people of all ages. Make them part of your journey. We will all grow in faith as a result!

Confirmation Student Behavior

Students have an excellent opportunity to witness great Christian behavior in the class setting. Confirmation class is a learning environment in which learning, discussion and sharing take place.

- Participate in discussion and take part in sharing.
- Respect the pastor and adult leaders
- Cell phone and electronic devices are prohibited during class time
- Godly behavior in the classroom is expected
- Respect other's reputations by no gossiping or posting derogatory statements of others
- At all times give glory to God for His good benefits
- Colossians 3:20 says, "*Children be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.*"

Discipline is a means of providing safe boundaries for all in the class.

God calls us to instill within students the desire to employ Christian attitudes and behaviors in their daily lives. Therefore, the Ten Commandments are the normal guides for us. There are consequences for our actions in life. This may be in the form of asking another's forgiveness, or serving the consequences of disrupting the class.

If the need arises we have the following policy.

- If a student is disruptive and/or shows disrespect for the instructor or other students, the instructor will then discuss the behavior with the student and apply God's Law so the Gospel may be proclaimed.
- Parents will be contacted and informed regarding disruptive or disrespectful behavior.

Cancellations

Should it be necessary to cancel confirmation, parents will be notified by email. Confirmation is automatically cancelled on days when Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran School and the local public schools close because of inclement weather.

After Confirmation

After accomplishing the above requirements, it is our hope that the youth:

- Continue in the faith that you have been taught
- Solidify your understanding of salvation by grace through faith;
- Become grounded in Scriptural teaching through continuing memorization of key Biblical texts, and Luther's Small Catechism;
- Grow in knowledge of the unique history of the Lutheran Reformation and the Lutheran Church
- Know the way God gives His gifts to us in Word and Sacrament as we gather in worship and continue to respond in worship
- Know your faith in a way that will you are confident to hold it and share it with others

Important dates

Thurs., August 25, 2022

Confirmation Orientation

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Confirmation Day

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Pictures

9:30 a.m. Confirmation Reception

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

**COVENANT OF EXPECTATIONS BETWEEN
Confirmands, Parents and Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church
2022 - 2023**

In the Rite of Confirmation, young people have the opportunity to publicly confess their faith, claim the promises of their baptism and begin to identify with and become involved in the adult Christian community. Confirmation instruction is a team effort, involving parents, Pastors, and the educational ministry of the church, to prepare confirmands for their public affirmation of baptism. The Bible is clear that a child's spiritual education is the God-given responsibility of the parents (Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:7).

On the day of your child's baptism, you promised to "diligently and faithfully teach him/her the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer; and, as he/she grows in years, to place in his/her hands the Holy Scriptures, bring him/her to the services of God's house, and provide for his/her instruction in the Christian faith; that, abiding in the covenant of his/her Baptism and communion with the Church, he/she may be brought up to lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ" (Rite of Baptism).

Confirmation instruction here at Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church and School is a supplement, not a substitute, for your teaching and modeling Christian faith to your children. We are eager to assist you in this educational process. Yet, it remains your responsibility to see that your child receives and participates in Confirmation instruction here at TLO. On his/her Confirmation Day, your child will promise to "continue steadfast in this confession and church and to suffer all even death rather than fall away from it" (Rite of Confirmation). The word "continue" presumes that he/she has already been steadfast in his/her confession and worship throughout the three years of Confirmation instruction.

To this end, the expectation of Confirmation participants in the coming year (2022-2023) are that:

- You and your child will be faithful in attending worship and Sunday school/Bible study.*
- Your child will faithfully attend and participate in as many Confirmation Ministry events as possible including Learning Events, Service Events, Sunday School, Sunday morning Worship, and Social Events.*
- Your child will act in an appropriate manner in class and not be a disturbance to the instructor or other students. If necessary, parents will be asked to sit with their child.*

"Understanding these requirements, we (student and parents/guardians/sponsors) agree to work with the Pastors, Staff and leader to meet the expectations for Confirmation instruction here at TLO. We also understand that failure to meet expectations stated above may result in me/my child being asked to repeat the year or receive additional instruction. If there is a concern about being able to meet the expectations, we agree to contact Confirmation leaders as soon as possible to discuss possible alternate options. For the strength to remain committed to this Confirmation instruction, we will pray daily for God's blessings and direction."

Parent/Guardian/Sponsor Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian/Sponsor Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian/Sponsor Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian/Sponsor Signature: _____

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____