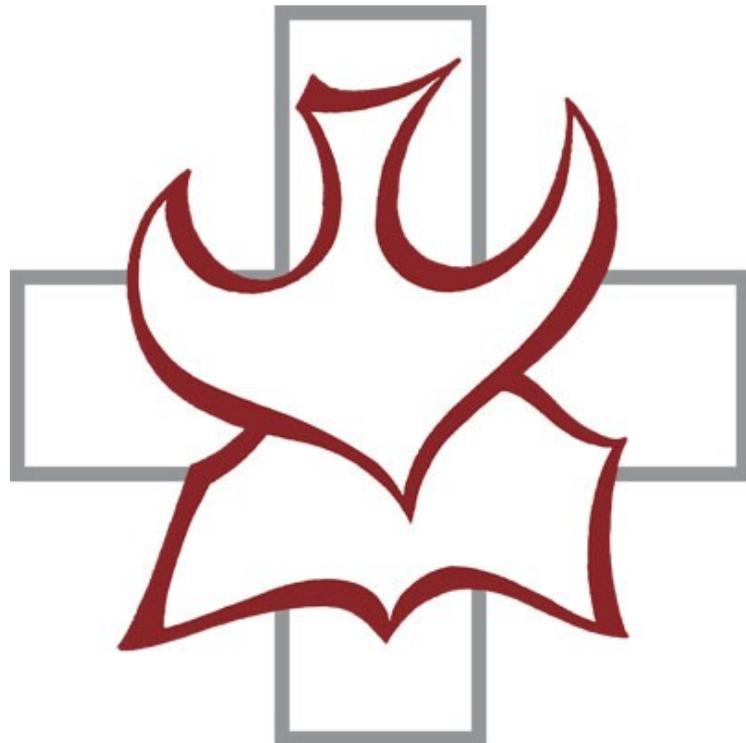


**Calvary Lutheran
Church
Confirmation
Handbook
2019-2020**



Why Confirmation?

**Gathered by God
Inspired by Love
Empowered to Serve**

Calvary Lutheran Church's Mission Statement reads, "*Gathered by God, Inspired by Love, Empowered to Serve.*" The confirmation program at Calvary seeks to encourage students to explore their relationship with God, who adopted them into his family when they were baptized, loved them so much that he sent his son, Jesus into the world to teach by example and die on a cross for their salvation and gifted them with abilities to change the world around them. Together with the Holy Spirit, families, and our church community, we nurture and equip young men & women for a lifelong journey of faith.

From Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, God speaks to our responsibility to pass on faith to the next generation:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

In Holy Baptism, promises were not only made by parents and sponsors, but by the entire church to God and to God's people:

In Christian love you have presented these children for Holy Baptism. You should therefore bring them to the services of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grow in years, you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ." (from the Lutheran Book of Worship)

This promise is about making disciples. It's about growing in faith and in faithfulness as a follower of our Lord. This promise is about faith formation. Faith formation does not occur only for an hour or two on Sunday morning; it happens throughout the week. Faith formation does not happen only in quiet solitude. Faith formation is a community experience. Growing in faith happens at church in a variety of settings, at home, and during situations we encounter every day!

Confirmation is not a program from which young people graduate! Instead, it is about exploring what they believe and affirming their faith as their own, taking personal responsibility for their faith life going forward. Guided by faithful adults, young people will learn what it means to live daily as a child of God and participate in the church and the world as a Christian adult. This is just one more foundational stone in building their faith.

Confirmation Component: Confirmation Classes

Expectation: Attend Confirmation classes and complete the assigned work at home.

Confirmation sessions will cover the parts of Luther's Small Catechism over the course of two years. Sessions are primarily on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. with some exceptions. This year, we are substituting seven class sessions with home sessions with parents. During the Lenten season, there is a change of pace - students are expected to attend and help with the dinner services.

Making the Most of Classes

- 1) Be on time for class.
- 2) Be equipped with your confirmation back sack, including bible, Lutheran handbook, notebook, and writing utensil.
- 3) Bring back material required from your parent-student sessions.
- 4) Bring your best attitude and questions.

We understand that conflicts may arise from time to time. However, we expect that students will make up any assignments they have missed. The schedule as well as assignments will be posted on the website www.calvaryconfirmationsb.org. A link to this website is also on the Calvary Lutheran Church website on the middle school page. You also can email me directly if needed.

If you know of conflicts beforehand, please contact one of the confirmation teachers so that can plan accordingly.

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Pastor Larry Hand – clcpastor@calvarylutheranchurch.org

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Confirmation Schedule 2019-2020

Date	Topic	Notes
Sunday., September 15	Confirmation Orientation w/ lunch	

Wed., September 18	Faith Webbing Discussion and Group-Building	Lead teacher: Teresa Kaldor
Wed., September 25	Introduction to the Commandments Parent Session on Commandments	Lead teachers: Teresa Kaldor, Everyone starts together.
Wed., October 2	Exploring the Commandments – Relationship with God (1-3)	Lead teacher:
Week of October 9	Exploring the Commandments 1-3 @ Home (Go to website for assignment.)	Student-Parent session
Sunday, October 13	Middle School Family Fun Event – Putt-Putt & Pizza @ 4:30 p.m.	Miniature Golf at Pelly's followed by pizza at church
Wed., October 16	Review & Exploring the Commandments – Relationship with Others (4-6)	Lead teacher:
Week of October 23	Exploring the Commandments 4-6 @ Home	Student-Parent session
Sunday, October 27	Oktoberfest at Calvary	
Wed., October 30	Review & Exploring the Commandments – Relationship with Others (7-8)	Lead teacher:
Week of November 6	Exploring the Commandments 7- 8 @ Home	Student-Parent session
Wed., November 13	Review & Exploring the Commandments – Relationship with Others (9-10)	Lead teacher:
Sunday, November 17 After second service	Faith Web Activity – Round Robin and Commandments	Leader teachers:
Week of November 20	Exploring the Commandments 9-10 @ Home	Student-Parent session
Friday, November 22 – Sunday, November 24	Middle School Youth Gathering – Anaheim/Disney	
Sunday, December 8 ?	Middle School Youth Group Event	
(Break for Advent)		
Wed., January 8, 2020	Review of Commandment Unit (Game with parents?)	Lead teacher
Wed., January 15	Love Your Neighbor (Service Project)	Lead teachers
Wed., January 22	Creed Overview Parent Session on Creed	Lead teachers
Wed., January 29	Exploring Article One	Lead teacher
Week of February 5	Exploring Article One @ Home	Student – Parent session

Sunday, Feb. 9	Middle School Youth Group – Laser Tag @ 5:30 p.m.	
Wed., February 12	Faith Web Activity - Creative Congregational Members	Lead teacher
Wed., February 19	Exploring Article Two	Lead teacher
Week of February 26	Exploring Article Two @ Home	Student – Parent session
(Schedule change with Lent)	Students attend Lenten dinner & services – serve as readers, ushers and servers	
Wed., February 26	Ash Wednesday – NO CLASS	Students should come to service.
Wed., March 4	Attend dinner with class & service	
Wed., March 11	Attend dinner with class & service	Second Year students with parents meet after service about projects
Wed., March 18	Attend dinner with class & service	
Sunday, March 22	Middle School Family Fun Event – Minute to Win-it Games @ 5:30 p.m.	
Wed., March 25	Attend dinner with class & service	
Wed., April 1	Attend dinner with class & service	
Wed., April 8	NO CLASS – Spring break	
Sunday, April 12	EASTER: Help with Easter breakfast	Proceeds go to support youth events
Wed., April 15	Exploring Article Three	Lead teacher:
Wed., April 22	Exploring Article Three @Home	Student-Parent session
Sunday, April 26 after second service	Creed Review and Service Project	offsite
Wed., April 29	Your Gifts & Talents in the World (start with biblical heroes)	Lead teacher:
Sun, May 3	Game Night & Potluck @ 6:00 p.m.	With high school youth
Wed., May 6	Your Gifts & Talents in the World, Part 2	Lead teacher:
Sun., May 24 (or 17?)	Presentation of Projects	
Sun., May 31	Affirmation of Baptism (2 nd years)	
July 19-24, 2020?	Confirmation Camp	

2020 – 2021 will cover topics: Lord’s Prayer, Sacraments, and Office of the Keys (Forgiveness)

KEY:

Blue – Fellowship/Service

Green – Faith Webbing Opportunity

Orange – Synod related

Confirmation Component: Involve yourself in all aspects of the Journey

Come

- Come just as you are and be part of a Christian community.

Connect

- Connect with God and others in authentic relationships.

Serve

- Serve at church and in the community and make a difference in the world God made.

Share

- Share your time, talents, and financial resources to further God's mission.

Go

- Go live out your faith in what you say and do; invite others.

Participate in the Journey yourself and with your family!

Come to worship, family fun nights, and other special events. (See schedule & pp.7-12)

Connect with God, your peers, and other Calvary members in classes, youth group events, and faith webbing opportunities. (See schedule & pp. 14-15)

Serve at church on Sunday mornings as an acolyte, usher, sound board operator, or crew leader in the Kids Sunday Morning Programming. Serve in other outreach ministries like Christmas Angels, TACO, etc. (See p. 13)

Share your time and talents. Play an instrument or sing? Share a song in church. Like to draw? Help us with artwork for various events. An expert at Instagram? Let us know what you can do! (See schedule.)

Go out into the community and live out your faith by how you interact with others. Build bridges, help those in need, listen to others and **share your story**. (See pp. 16-17)

Confirmation Component: Home & Church Partnership

Expectation: Share the Experience

Confirmation needs to be a church/family partnership! It should involve every member of your immediate family, as many of your extended family members (and faithful friends) as possible, and your church family, too. Why? Because, when we're baptized, all those people promise to support and encourage us in our faith journeys. Because the learning and growing that prepares us for affirming that baptism ("being confirmed") can't happen in the 1-2 hours/week that we spend at church. Because faith is formed through personal, trusted relationships, most often in our own homes.

Connect with Learning:

To help you stay connected, at least one parent of each student is expected to attend a parent class on each unit of the Small Catechism to give you an overview of what your sons and daughters will be studying. These classes will be held concurrently with the first session of each unit.

In addition, this year we are designing the curriculum so that you and your student can dive into the topics together at home with resources we provide you online.

We also encourage you to:

1. pray regularly for and with your child and for class leaders, fellow students, and their families;
2. provide opportunities to answer questions about your faith and life on an ongoing basis.

And students- make the most of this partnership!

1. pray regularly for yourself and others;
2. use your Bible;
3. ask questions;
4. share your thoughts, feelings, and doubts;
5. talk about what you are learning;

Join in the Journey Together and as Individuals:

Come to Worship and other special events.

Connect with others at Church in service, fellowship, and learning.

Serve in ministry at church and in the community.

Share your gifts and financial resources – discuss how you give of yourselves.

Go live out your faith in the world.

Parent Support Positions

In addition to supporting your son or daughter in their confirmation studies, there are several key parent volunteer positions that keep our program running smoothly. Please take some time to prayerfully consider whether one of them is a good fit for you.

1. Middle School Fellowship Coordinator(s)

This person helps coordinate at least one of the middle school family fun event gatherings or middle school peer events during the year.

2. Confirmation Reception Coordinator(s)

This person is responsible for organizing the Sunday reception on the day students affirm their baptism (usually cake and punch). Traditionally, this has been a parent from the seventh grade class.

Confirmation Component: Worship

Expectation: Regular participation in Worship & 10 Sermon Notes

Just as worship is primary for our Christian life, it remains central to the Confirmation program. 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. We ask that you make worship a priority for your family.

In addition to being in worship, we require that students complete ten sermon notes during their two years (5 are due in 1st year, 5 are due in 2nd year). Blank worship note forms are available by the Confirmation box in the narthex and on the website. Completed forms should be returned to the Confirmation box in the narthex or the table in the WAVE. See sample on the next page.

Making the Most Out of Worship

1. Try different services - you may be surprised by the ways that God uses different worship experiences to touch our lives.
2. Do not neglect the "What Did Someone Else Learn" question on your sermon Notes – talk this over with your parents, mentor, and friends
3. Get a head start on your sermon notes! Do not turn them all in at the last moment. We want to be able to respond to them and return them to you.

CONFIRMATION WORSHIP NOTES

Name: _____
Date: _____ Worship Notes # _____



BEFORE WORSHIP, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Today I am attending worship
with: _____
Examples: family, mother, brother, friends, by myself.

2. I am coming to worship feeling: _____
Examples: happy, sad, angry, peaceful, stressed, overwhelmed, etc.

3. Which season of the church year is it and what is the color of that season?

Examples: Pentecost (Red), Ordinary Time (Green), Lent (Purple)

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

The Music

4. Which hymn/song did you like best today and why?

The Sermon:

5. What stories, examples or illustrations helped you best to understand the sermon?

6. Explain 2 or more things you learned from today's sermon:
a. _____

b. _____

7. One thing that I learned about *God* from worship today is:

(over)

8. A question that I have for the Pastor, my family, or someone in my faith web about today's worship, sermon or about God is:

9. This week I will pray for: _____

10. One part of the message I can apply this week in my daily life is: (explain how)

10. One member of my **church family** heard this message in worship today:
(You can ask anyone in the congregation, your family or friends what they heard.)

Name: _____

A message that he or she heard today: _____

Teacher Response:

Confirmation Component: Synod Gathering / Confirmation Camp

Expectation: Attend at least one of the synod gatherings or confirmation camp during confirmation.

Calvary takes sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to Confirmation Camp each summer and seventh and eighth graders to the Middle School Youth Gathering each November. These are times of learning, making friends, creating a safe place to discover and become who God has called us to be and having FUN! They are opportunities to interact with people from other Lutheran churches and with high school and college students who are passionate about their faith.

For many of our students, these synod opportunities, especially camp, are remembered as the highlight of their confirmation years. Scholarships are available.

Confirmation Component: Service-Learning Projects

Expectation: Complete Five Projects (recommendation is 3 during 1st year and 2 during 2nd year grade)

Service learning projects are meant to encourage students to put their faith into action. Projects may be done alone but we encourage confirmands to do at least one with their family, one with someone in their faith web and one with a group. At least two projects a year will be done together as a confirmation class. In addition, there are many opportunities at church to get involved with service projects, including TACO, Christmas Angels, and Showers of Blessing. All projects completed **outside** of Calvary's ministries should be approved by Pastor or your confirmation teachers. If you need ideas, please come to one of us and ask.



After completing each project, a reflection piece should be typed up and turned into Pastor Hand. He will set a time to discuss the projects with you at the end of the year.

Guidelines for the reflection:

Summarize what you did and then pick 2-3 of the following questions to cover in your reflection:

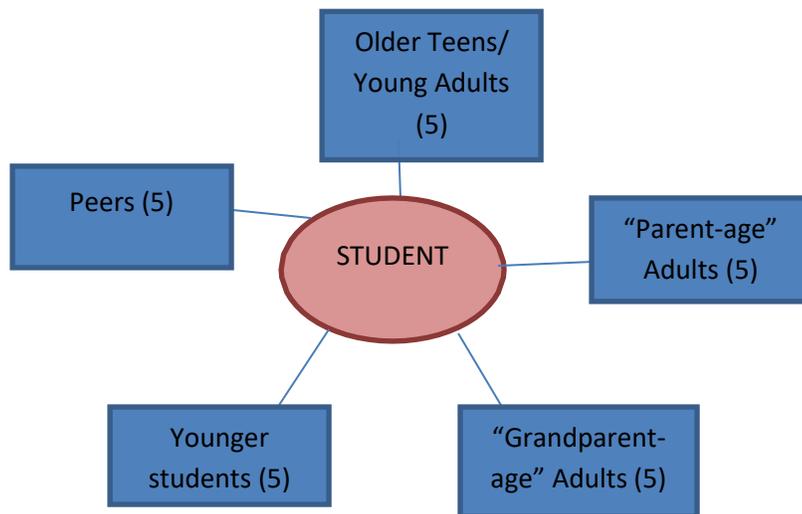
- What did I learn about myself from this experience? What did I learn about others?
- In what ways did the experience challenge my values, my beliefs, my faith?
- Which of my values or beliefs were affirmed by this experience?
- What emotions did I experience while I was involved in this experience? 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

Confirmation Component: Faith Web

Expectation: Experience Faith in Community and complete a Faith Web of at least 25 people including people from Calvary

Faith Webbing is a purposeful approach to connecting youth to caring, faithful individuals and the ministry of the church. Research shows that students who are engaged and continue to grow in their faith throughout their lives have at least 8 meaningful adult relationships in their teen years.

During your confirmation studies, you will get the opportunity to begin to define your own personal faith network of people whose faith you admire. You will contemplate who is in your faith web already and who needs to be in your faith web. We will discuss the quality traits we see in the people who are in your faith web and how you can develop these qualities in your own life. You in turn can be a part of someone else's faith web. Once areas in need of fostering are identified, relationships will be prayerfully, purposively, and intentionally sought, built, and sustained during the confirmation years, weaving people together in a faith-based environment. You will then be surrounded by numerous faith walks that you can emulate! The hope is that one or more of these relationships will continue for years to come!



Ultimately, because youth become engaged with faithful people of all ages, they become invested in the life of the church and in God's mission in the world.

Opportunities will be available throughout the year for students to engage with people of various ages and interests. Youth group is one way to get involved. Activities include fellowship, service opportunities, and faith conversation with friends. Our youth programs also sponsor a variety of off-site opportunities

including camping, mission trips, and youth gatherings.

Youth Group is **not** the only way to get connected! Perhaps you would prefer a smaller, more focused environment. If you have a gift for music, consider joining the choir or ensemble or volunteering to play at the worship service. If you are a confirmand who enjoys service projects, volunteer with Outreach Ministry as they reach out to neighbors in our community. Do you like to cook? Work with our Welcome team and provide food for Sunday morning. Use your imagination, try using different gifts, get involved, and meet different people.

We are all rooted in the love of Christ and nourished through the Holy Spirit. To thrive, we need to reach out and get involved in what God is doing all around us and help others thrive as well! Your Faith Web will help you intentionally go about engaging with others and growing your faith. As this occurs, God will use your hands and lives to be a blessing to Calvary and the world.

**Calvary 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 Component: Faith Journey Project

Expectation: Complete a faith journey project at the end of your 2nd year to be displayed for the congregation.

Confirmation studies are designed to help students explore their faith and Lutheran theology. It is important that students take the time to reflect on how their faith is growing and what it means to them as an individual in relationship with Jesus Christ and as part of a community of faith.

Each student is expected to complete a project describing their faith journey to this point. These projects will then be on display for the congregation with students on hand to answer questions. The projects also will include their faith web.

Steps for the project:

1. Think about the following questions. Jot down some thoughts and ideas that you have. Decide on which ones you would like to concentrate.

- What did you do to go deeper in the five aspects of the Journey? (COME, CONNECT, SERVE, SHARE, GO) In what areas of my faith have I grown the most?
- From birth until now, who have been the people who have primarily influenced my faith? How have they influenced me? Who are in my faith web?
- In what way did the experience of Confirmation challenge my beliefs and my faith?
- In what way did confirmation studies affirm my beliefs and values?
- What part of my study of the Small Catechism was the most impactful to me? Why?
- What bible story or stories have influenced the way I view myself or the world?
- What did I learn about myself from this experience?
- Where topics/areas related to my faith do I want to pursue next?
- What questions do I still have about my faith, God, the world?
- How has my understanding of God's presence and my role in the world changed?
- What does it mean to me to be a Child of God?



2. Discuss your thoughts with your family members, mentor, and teachers.

3. Decide how you will present your project:

Chose the medium to convey your faith journey:

WRITE: a journal, a story, a poem, music lyrics

DEVELOP: a poster display, informational brochure, newspaper, slide presentation, website

DO: a collage, photo essay, video, sculpture, scrapbook, mural, cartoons

4. Complete your project and be prepared to answer questions about it. Ask for guidance when you need