

Saint Timothy Confirmation Overview

Confirming the Faith

The Beginning

The purpose of Confirmation at St. Timothy is to help young Christian's transition to mature Christian adulthood, and to incorporate them into the Christian life in a holistic way. We operate with the belief that this maturation process doesn't happen quickly, and that it requires more than gaining information. We also believe this process requires participation from the entire community—not just parents and the pastor. This plan is designed to incorporate young people into the Christian life in meaningful and sustained ways, while continuing to teach them the basics of the Christian faith and how it applies to everyday life today. This won't happen overnight, and it won't happen if only a few people involve themselves in the lives of our youth. It is a 3-year process that requires involvement for the entire church.

St. Timothy Confirmation – Evening 6:00-7:00 PM

Class meeting will be the core of the confirmation experience from September to June. The 1st year will follow the curriculum laid out in *The Story*, an excellent overview of the whole story of the Bible and Biblical themes. The 2nd year will use Luther's Small Catechism as a guide for understanding Lutheran Christian Teachings. The 3rd and last year will continue the teachings of the Christian faith but providing more application to life as a Christian adult. The last year will bring Biblical truth to speak to the situations in our culture.

Regular Schedule (September to June)

2 Confirmation Classes per month (every other week on the day that fits youth schedule)

Last Sunday – Circuit Churches Confirmation

*During Advent and Lent – Youth attends dinner & worship with family.

Worship, Services & Bible Class – Sunday Morning

Central to the Christian life is participation in the local congregation. Important for the formation of Christian youth to mature Christian adulthood is to receive the gifts and wisdom of God offered in Jesus Christ and praising his name at Worship. Attending church is not so much an expectation; it is a given reality for all Christians. It's time for the body of Christ to be together, share each other's burdens in fellowship, join in common union of faith around God's Word and receive Jesus Christ's body and blood in communion at the altar. Reality can often be less than ideal. So, confirmation will instill and cultivate good Christian habits by a simple **attendance requirement**.

In worship, Christians hear God's Word delivered to them through the Pastor. The sermon is God's Word delivered in a specific time and place to his people. Confirmation helps our youth learn to listen to a sermon, to hear and listen to God's Word. In the sermon, God is speaking his commands and promises in Jesus Christ, it is not a lecture or a motivational speech, it is a different event from any form of public speaking. Confirmation will teach the confirmand how to listen actively to a sermon by completing **sermon notes**.

Lastly, Sunday morning adult Bible class provides Christians the opportunity to dig deeper into God's Word, to dialogue with other Christians and their Pastor, and to answer important questions for faith and life. Bible class is time devoted to studying: 1) a book in the Scriptures 2) a Christian theological topic 3) Christian History and/or 4) Christian responses to the changing culture. In Bible class, topics not easily covered in the sermon are brought to this time of fellowship to learn the breadth and depth of God's Word for our lives. Confirmands will **attend a certain number of adult Bible classes** as part of the confirmation experience.

Writing Assignments-Confessing the Faith

As Christians, we have a particular responsibility to speak God's Word; whether by offering up our prayers to God, praying with other Christians, speaking God's truth to a fellow Christian, answering a difficult question posed by someone, or speaking the Gospel to someone outside the church for the first time. While the Scriptures and Luther's Small Catechism are perfect places to turn for answers and prayers, God gives us a voice and a language to articulate and express our faith in our own words. Therefore, writing assignments will prepare our young Christians to speak confidently and in their own words the Christian faith and life. Reciting the Catechism and memorizing Bible verses are excellent practices but, speaking and articulating these truths in your own words truly makes God's Word your own, and makes them your confession.

Writing Assignments – Hand written or typed(preferably)

- Story of Everything – the summer after 1st year
a 500 word paper on the story of everything. The confirmand should articulate in their own words the whole story of the Bible from the beginning to the end.
- The Good News of Jesus Christ – the summer after 2nd year
A 300 word paper on the Gospel message in Jesus Christ. The paper should give a brief description of Jesus's work to save, what is justification, and how the Word of God continues to proclaim that news today.
- The Christian's Relationship to God and to the world – the summer after 3rd year
A 300 word paper on our relationship with God and to the world. The paper should first describe how we are put in a right relationship with God. Then, secondly, how are we to be in a right relationship with our neighbor and the rest of the creation.

St. Timothy Church Connection

During the **first year** the confirmand and parents/sponsor will have dinner and **fellowship with 6 families/households** of the congregation. This is for the confirmand to experience fellowship with other Christians of the church outside of Sunday morning. The purpose of these times of fellowship is to learn hospitality, encourage conversation outside Sunday morning, sharing wisdom, listening, and speaking with members of their church family--ultimately, building relationships across different generations.

During the **second year and third year**, the confirmand is expected to develop connections; between being a Christian and living out in the world. Instead of visiting with a family of the congregation for dinner and conversation, the confirmand will be expected to connect with specific people and/or aspects related to the church and concerns that arise in Christian adulthood. Third year Confirmation classes pair with the experiences of each of these types of connections. The confirmand is responsible do **6 of these connection experiences each**

year of their 2nd and 3rd year. Parents or sponsors are encouraged to participate. Below is a list of these types of connections:

Church Connections

- Make a homebound visit with the Pastor or with another member of the church
- Make a hospital visit to a member with the Pastor
- Visit a funeral home with Pastor **or** attend a funeral at the church
- Visit with a Christian involved (or previously involved) in mission work **or** take part in a Mission trip.
- Take part in a church related camp/event/conference/gathering.
- Visit with a state (or federal) representative and interview them about the role of Church and State
- Visit with a representative of Cops & Clergy in Lynnwood and interview them about their relationship with other religious organizations.
- Invite a friend to come to church and Bible class with you.
- Visit a different church that is non-Lutheran and fill out reflection form.
- Attend Church Council Meeting and meet with the President of the Congregation to interview them about different roles volunteers serve in church leadership and church volunteers.
- Attend Elders Meeting and meet with an Elder to interview about the role of an Elder.
- Make an offering to one of the congregation's annual or monthly donations. (ex. Missions, Scholarship, New Growth, Music, Christmas Stocking, LWML, Food Banks, or local charities as they arise)
- Visit with a Doctor/nurse who serves a Crisis Pregnancy Center.
- Host fellowship time after service.
- Bring an item for Midweek soup supper.
- Attend Congregational Voters Meeting.

Mentoring

We believe that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone by Christ alone. This does not mean our faith is ever alone, and neither are we alone in our faith. These expectations are designed to build relationships within the congregation. These only scratch the surface. A more substantive mentor relationship can be forged in a variety of ways, which would require training for potential mentors.

1. Read a book with mentor (book list will be provided, as well as a list of mentors)
2. Interview three people from three different generations (20-35, 40-65, 70+)
 - a. Conversation will explore how society has changed, and how Jesus has impacted their life over years. A form to guide the conversation will be provided.
3. Marriage Mentors (when 14 years old)
 - a. Go to dinner at the home of a married couple in the congregation. Discuss blessings and benefits and challenges of marriage, and what they have learned as a married couple. A form to guide the conversation can be provided.

Circuit Churches Confirmation – Last Sunday of the month

Once a month the confirmands from other churches in St. Timothy's circuit gather. A Director of Christian Education organizes these gatherings so confirmands from other churches can be with kids their age, experience the wider church working together, and learn from other Christian leaders. These gatherings will be classroom style and include assignments from *The Story* and

Luther's Small Catechism. Part of the experience is to learn from other established leaders of the church, and further develop relationships with the wider church and youth their age.

*The partnership with other churches in the circuit will also try to include opportunities for events and/or retreats. (ex. Kick-Off BBQ, Spring service project retreat, & End of the year gathering etc.)

Responsibilities & Expectations Outlined

Church Attendance – 40 each year

- If 40 seems like a lot, consider this: St. Timothy schedules 65 services a year (Sundays, Evening Midweeks, Holy Week & Holidays) anywhere from 30 minutes to one hour. To attend the minimum of 40 would be 61.5% of all service opportunities. A number any other institution (like school) would consider inadequate.
- A separate sheet will be provided to keep track of attendance with parent or sponsor initials.
- Any church service can count (special services, midweeks) or other LCMS if on vacation.
- Attending 3 Sunday services a month will keep you on track to meet the 40 in a year.
- ****Attending Holy Week each year is a requirement (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter).**

Adult Bible Class – 26 each year

- There are 52 Sundays in a year: Confirmands are expected to attend only half each year. There are other opportunities outside Sunday morning.
- Provided is a separate sheet to keep track of attendance with parents or sponsor signature.
- Any adult Bible class can count. Sunday Mornings, there are opportunities for Wednesday Mornings and during summer Wednesday evenings.
- Attending about 2 a month will keep the confirmand on track for the year.

Sermon notes – 20 each year

- There will be a stack of sermon notes in the narthex (church entrance). The front side is to be completed during the sermon, and the backside should be completed after the service. Turn in the following week.
- Sermon notes can be returned to Pastor's mailbox in the narthex.
- Confirmands are welcome to use sermon notes when attending a different church on vacation.
- 2 every month would exceed the expectations for the year.

Writing Assignments – 3 Assignments

- A paper on the Story of Everything: At the end of the first year, during the summer, the confirmand is to write a 500 word paper on the story of everything. The confirmand will articulate in their own words the whole story of the Bible from the beginning to the end. Graded on a pass/rewrite basis.
- A paper on the Gospel Message: At the end of second year the confirmand is to write at least a 300 word paper on the Gospel message talking about Jesus, justification and the Word of God. Graded on a pass/rewrite basis.

- A paper on a Christian's Relationship with God and to the World: During the summer at the end of the third year, the confirmand is to write a 300 word paper on passive and active righteousness. Graded on a pass/rewrite basis.

Church Fellowship Dinner [1st year] – 6 dinner visits

- Between September and June there will be 6 opportunities to go have dinner (lunch, breakfast, brunch) with another family of the congregation. These times of fellowship can be done at any time.
- Pastor or the church office will reach out before hand to secure a family of St. Timothy to set aside an evening to host the confirmand and parent or sponsor.
- If the scheduled time is not feasible for the confirmand and family, it is the confirmands responsibility to reschedule.
- These are the months that will be scheduled: September, October, January, February, May, June

Church Fellowship "Visits" [2nd & 3rd year] – 6 special visits (12 over 2 years)

- These visits will be up to the confirmand and parent/sponsor schedules to fulfill these expectations. There is no set time to finish these "visits."
- A sheet is provided for each visit to be signed off. (Pastor will sign off if Confirmand chooses to attend funeral)
- Confirmand and parent or sponsor are responsible for setting up these "visits."
- Reach out to Pastor or the church if the confirmand needs help scheduling any of these visits or would like to receive word about specific opportunities. Obviously, visits with homebound members will be done through the church and Pastor can reach out when he is planning to visit a member in the hospital or make a homebound visit. Just notify him if that is what you wish to do.

Church Mentoring – 3 mentoring experiences

- Read a book with a mentor of the congregation
- Interviewing 3 people from different generations: 20-35, 40-65, 70+
- Dinner with married couple

Circuit Churches Assignments

- The circuit churches that meet each month will have simple assignments to complete for each session.

Materials

Materials will be used for classroom discussion and aid for different assignments from St. Timothy and the Circuit Churches. All materials are provided by St. Timothy.

- *My First Catechism*, CPH 2003
- *Luther's Small Catechism*, CPH 2017
- *This is the Feast Student Book*, CPH 2015
- *The Story*, Zondervan 2011
- personal Bible

The End

In reality, there is no end to Christian learning and growth, but this specific confirmation process does have an endpoint. In order to complete this process (and thus be “confirmed”) the youth must complete all the requisite expectations.

Sometimes life can bring seasons of inactivity and put us behind in our responsibilities. 3 years is merely a set schedule and a reasonable timeframe to complete these tasks, but it does not mean all of this needs to be done in 3 years (highlighting, there is no actual end to Christian learning and growth). If the confirmand has not met all the expectations in 3 years, the confirmand can simply postpone being confirmed until the next year. **The whole experience will end with a meeting with the Pastor and final spoken exam.**

Confirmation Sunday takes place on Reformation Sunday (last Sunday of October) following their 3rd year (or completion of tasks) and involves a simple confession of faith with the Lord’s Supper celebrated and the confirmand receiving communion.