

2023-2024 Light of the Hills Confirmation Class

Purpose: Confirmation aims to nurture our youth in the historic Christian faith through faithful teaching (catechesis) of the Old and New Testaments (the Bible), so that they may live more fully and confidently in their relationship with Jesus. The program lasts for two years, and is typically begun around the time students enter Jr. High. Upon completion, students will: 1) be able to explain the basic teachings and foundations of the Christian faith; 2) grasp how the different scenes of Scripture fit together in a unified narrative that climaxes in Jesus' saving work; and 3) be equipped to act out their part in God's *History* today as they embark on a lifelong journey of faith toward God and service toward their neighbors.

Important Dates

Classes for the 2023-2024 year will run from September 17th, 2023 to March 24th, 2024, with breaks for holidays (see schedule). Confirmation Sunday will be held on April 7th. A weekly schedule will be distributed on September 17th. Second-year confirmands who have completed all requirements will be confirmed on April 7th. First Communion will take place on Maundy Thursday, March 28th for first year students who have completed First Communion instruction. First year parents are required to attend First Communion instruction with their children, which will take place during Confirmation class on March 24th. Classes will be held on Sundays from 1:00 PM till 2:30 PM in the Education Building's Conference Room (upstairs).

Class Time Structure

1:00 PM – 1:10 PM	Visit and Pray.
1:10 PM – 1:45 PM	Lesson/discussion
1:45 PM – 1:55 PM	Break
1:55 PM – 2:30 PM	Lesson/Discussion

The teacher(s) reserve the right to modify the usage of time for each class session. Likewise, the class schedule/content may be altered at the teacher(s)' discretion, but this will always be in a way that benefits the students.

Notes about Food

Students can feel free to bring a snack or light lunch since we will be meeting around lunch. Students are free to eat before or during class.

Materials for Class

Each student should have the following materials and is expected to have them ready to go at the beginning of each class.

- One Bible (e.g., Faith Alive Student Bible: English Standard Version) (provided)
- One Luther's Small Catechism (New 2017 Edition with Explanation) (provided)
- Enduring Faith Bible Student Workbook (provided)
- Two Mechanical Pencils
- A folder to store any class handouts or papers.

The students are required to bring their supplies with them to every class. There are a couple of "loaners" if someone does forget, but not enough for everyone. Please take ownership of your materials and bring them every class.

*In addition to materials, students are required to turn in sermon notes at the start of every class. This is outlined in full below.

Expectations for Students

Confirmation Class marks the beginning where you learn about what you believe and why you believe it. Since your faith in Jesus given to you in your baptism shapes who you are and how you act, you should take class seriously. While there will be classwork, homework, and exams, Confirmation Class is unique because there is no letter grade assigned. The teacher(s) really want you to ask questions, and for you to learn, not just pass the assignments. At the end of two years, the pastor(s) will determine if you are ready to make a public confession of your faith in front of the congregation or not yet. It's for this purpose that the teacher(s) expect you to do your work and pay attention. Here's what is expected of you:

- Be on time to class. Be in your seat and ready to go by 1:00 PM. Tardiness will result in the entire class being let out later. Repeated tardiness will count as absences. *
- Have homework completed by the start of class and ready to turn in.
- Turn in all required sermon notes.
- Ask questions!! We're learning about God's Word here, and it's deep! No one – even the pastors – are ever done learning. So if you don't understand something, please ask! No sincere question will offend us or be off-limits.
- Feel free to do anything that does not cause a problem for anyone else. Problematic behavior includes: obscene language, engaging in sinful behavior, and demeaning your fellow students.
- Please treat me with the same respect I treat you.

*If you know that you are going to be absent, please notify the teacher by the Friday evening prior to the absence. I understand that unforeseen circumstances occur, but please do your best to keep me informed via email at pastor.weeks@loth.org or my cell at (530) 647-6498. Students are permitted to miss a maximum of three classes during the year (1 per trimester).

Expectation for Parents

The Fourth Commandment "Honor your Father and your Mother" is not put in God's Law carelessly. It comes between the commandments that talk about our relationship with God and marks the beginning of the commandments that deal with our relationships between others. The implication is that the parents are responsible for teaching and passing on the faith to their children. Put simply, *it is not the teacher(s) that will have the greatest impact on forming your child(ren)'s faith, but you.* The teacher's role is to walk alongside students and parents alike in helping you in your God-given calling to teach your child(ren). There are many ways that this happens, but for the purpose of Confirmation, here's what's expected of you:

- Make sure your child has all materials ready for class.
- Make every effort to come to church as a family.
- Be an active participant in Bible Study.
- Ask how they are doing and what are they learning in class.
- Provide food for class and volunteer when opportunities arise.
- Pray together (and give them opportunities to pray as well).
- If you are able to stay, then feel free to join class!

What you can expect from the Teacher

We take the instruction of our youth very seriously and promise to be prepared to teach your child(ren) when they come to class. We will always strive to keep the schedule that we have outlined and live according to the standards that have been set for our students. In addition to preparation for class time, the teacher will also:

- Work with you as much as is possible to accommodate life events and family needs (if you have questions or concerns, please ask!)

- Notify the parent/guardian if there are issues with their child(ren).
- Make time outside of class to answer questions and address any concerns.
- Prompt replies to all emails.
- Advance notice of schedule changes.

Memory Work

Memory work is an important aspect of learning of Confirmation. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” When we commit God’s Word to memory, then we are making the words of the Creator part of us. For every unit, we’ll have memory work assigned. While technically these are not due until the exam, it will be much easier if they are memorized gradually over the course of the entire unit. By memorizing them gradually, there’s also a better chance that your youth will remember them for life!

Sermon Notes

Beginning with Confirmation, we begin to develop actively paying attention to the finer points of the worship service. When we hear the pastor preach, we are hearing God’s Word being spoken to us in our context. Lutheran pastors study carefully so that they may faithfully preach on a portion of Scripture in order to show us our Savior, Jesus. The Confirmation student is expected to pay attention to worship and start listening to the purpose of the sermon. Confirmation students will fill out three sermon notes a month and turn in each month’s notes by the first Sunday of the following month. If a student will be visiting a different church, an outline can be filled out for that sermon and the bulletin stapled to the outline. Copies of the sermon outline form can be found online and outside of Pastor Weeks’ office door. Students are required to turn in a minimum of 60 sermon notes over the two-year program (30 per year).

Embodied Faith Opportunities

Another aspect of learning about the faith is also getting to put that faith in Jesus into action. Confirmation students have multiple opportunities to practice. The first is being an **acolyte** during worship services where you get to serve God’s people by lighting the altar candles, assisting with communion, and other various duties depending on the time of the year. The second is **Faith in Action** projects which are service or learning opportunities. Such experiences will be paired with reflection questions designed to help students and parents process these together. For example, the opportunity to visit a soup kitchen when discussing caring for our neighbors may be offered, or to attend a funeral home and cemetery when learning about the resurrection.

Exams

Student learning will be evaluated on the basis of exams at the end of each unit (see schedule), rather than a cumulative examination in front of the congregation (second-year confirmands will still undergo the rite of confirmation in front of the congregation on Palm Sunday, however). Exam questions will be drawn from memory assignments and student workbooks, as well as any other handouts used in class. A study guide will be distributed at least two weeks in advance of each exam. Questions may be presented in the form of T/F, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, memory work, or short answers.

Contact information:

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