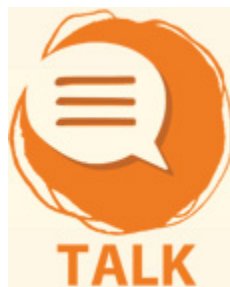


Martin's Lutheran Church Confirmation Handbook 2021-2022



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to this year's Confirmation Program with Martin's Lutheran Church! This ministry provides a structure for us to live out our baptismal promises and responsibilities as the Holy Spirit grows the gift of faith in our lives. During baptism these words are spoken from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, "As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace."

Parents, sponsors, and fellow sisters and brothers in Christ, make a promise to support, teach, nurture, and pray for the person and their new life in Christ growing in the Christian faith.

Parents and Guardians:

You have an opportunity to set the tone as you also learn and grow along with your child(ren) by talking with them and working through what they are studying. Listen to what questions they are asking this year. You can lead the way to bring this conversation, learning, and faith practices into your home as your family grows together knowing how your faith is important.

Adult involvement in the household continues to be the most consistent indicator to nurturing and passing on faith. We acknowledge you as essential to the effectiveness of confirmation ministry. Significant studies have shown over and over parents are the most influential factor in the faith life of the child. The leaders of the church do not do it alone, but we are partners with you on this journey. A tradition in this partnership started in the year 1529 when the priest and professor **Martin Luther created and published the Small Catechism as a tool that would help parents teach their children the basics of faith and religious practice in their home through conversation and prayers around the dinner table and before bed.** The church is present to support and help equip you as parents specifically to learn and pass on the faith. The Confirmation program is one way we seek to do this.

The formal journey begins when your child is baptized, and promises are made. Together we pray for the Holy Spirit to cultivate the gift of faith in our children. You can be a positive influence on your child's faith development by being involved in the life of the church and grow as a disciple yourself through coming to worship, attending adult Bible studies, team up with other parents and become involved in a ministry that interests you, be an adult leader on retreats, or service projects. Your child learns from your actions often more than from your words.

Discussing faith and life issues in your household is priceless. Daily or weekly family devotions give a consistent time for these to happen. We introduce and offer resources on the Faith 5 practice and encourage you to do a similar practice at home. **Doing the Faith 5: Share, Read, Talk, Pray, and Bless** is a good evening ritual before bed or a way to check in during supper. Any effort you put forth will be seen as valuable to your child. It will tell them that this is important for them to learn and to live as a person of faith.

Students:

The Confirmation years are a time where you seek to further develop your faith by engaging in the program offered and being open to the Holy Spirit. You are then offered a time to publicly confirm that you understand the promises made on your behalf during Baptism and will seek to continue exploring and living a life of faith as a disciple of Jesus. And so, we are excited to walk alongside you and your family as you grow in your knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. It is our prayer that these years of intentional instruction will produce a solid foundation for living out the Christian life now and in the years to come.

Why am I here for Confirmation?

To learn, grow, and mature as a disciple of Jesus.

What can I get out of Confirmation?

- Confirmation designates you as an adult member of the church
- A solid grounding in the basic Lutheran Christian beliefs
- A closer look at the Bible
- Spending quality time with other young people exploring their faith
- A regular pattern of worship
- An opportunity to develop an active prayer life
- An understanding of your own unique gifts and how to use them in service to others
- Recognizing your personal relationship with Jesus Christ

What am I expected to do?

- Engage during meeting times of instruction to learn the basics of the Christian faith as Lutherans
- Attend B.L.A.S.T. or Acts 29
- Sermon notes (7th thru 10th) to promote awareness during regular attendance at worship
- Do Service Hours and Faith projects both individually and as a group
- Practice the Faith 5 to build skills and abilities of a mature Christian
- Prepare to share what you have learned and believe with others

Why do I have to do all this work?

The expectations asked of you provide intentional time, space, and practices for you to explore faith and what it means to you. It is a commitment of time and opportunity to ask questions, wonder how faith and life come together for you, and gain abilities in articulating and expressing what you believe.

What if I cannot make it to a meeting?

The expectation is that by communicating to the leaders ahead of time, when possible, an appropriate plan and action can be taken. Some options may be to read or watch something on your own to cover the material. Also, Zoom or other technology for live streaming may be available to participate during the meeting time while away from the group. We publish the schedule for the year early and hope that helps in scheduling other activities around this priority. We also understand if you have to miss a meeting whatever the circumstance, just let us know if you can.

Youth Events:

There will be events to participate in during the year to reach the expected 2 youth events per year for those in 7th-10th grade. These are often fun and provide great opportunities to have shared experiences with others in person or online who are on a similar faith journey. Listening to and learning from others promotes respect and friendships that can last a lifetime. One day events in person or online like 5th Quarter qualify as 1 event each. Multi-day events such as weekend retreats, Bible Camp experiences, and the ELCA Youth Gathering qualify as 2 events and meet the full expectation. Please fill out a form and turn in to record your attendance at events.

Cost:

The program cost of **\$5 per year**, for 7th – 10th grade covers the cost of the Poverty Exercise. Please let Pastor Keith or Pastor Mike know, if this or any other cost is prohibitive as we want everyone to feel that they can be part of the confirmation and related experiences. We appreciate you making this contribution on or before November 17th when the Poverty Experience is scheduled. This event is subject to change due to COVID-19.

Behavior and Expectation Policy

A. Rules

1. Respectful and polite behavior is expected. The Confirmation Covenant has more specific descriptions of what is expected of you to adhere to.
2. Seating is one person per seat. For example, a loveseat sits two people, not more and not laying on each other. This allows you to be more attentive and shows respect for each other while being good stewards of the space we have the privilege of meeting in.

B. Discipline -- a warning system

1. First verbal warning - private discussion with pastor may follow class time
2. Second verbal warning - a discussion with student and parent
3. Final warning - student can only return to in person or online class if consent of instructors is granted in writing assuring student is accompanied or monitored by parent or parent-appointed sponsor

Confirmation is not a graduation; it is a proclamation of faith. Confirmation is offered as a foundation from which our faith journey as an adult can be built upon which is a process that lasts a lifetime. Each student and parent will be asked to sign a covenant for showing their commitment to meet the expectations of the Confirmation program at Martin's Lutheran Church.

We also expect a medical and permission form to be filled out that will be kept on file for each child at the beginning of the program year in case an emergency occurs while participating in the program and the child is in the care of others.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact by phone or e-mail Pastor Keith and if he is not available then Pastor Mike. We will usually pick up voicemail and e-mails daily.

Church office (701) 347-4289

Pastor Keith Email: associatepastor@martinslutheran.com

Phone: (701) 335-6213

Pastor Mike Email: srpastor@martinslutheran.com

Phone: (701) 789-1857

Blessings,


Pastor Keith Walka


Pastor Michael T. Jacobson

2021-2022 Martin's Confirmation Program Schedule/Expectations

- 6th Grade:** This 5-week course, **Jan 5th – Feb 9th**, will cover an **Overview** of all topics. Expectations are attending scheduled classes which cover the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and the life of Martin Luther.
- 7th Grade:** This 5-week course, **Oct 27th – Dec 15th**, will cover the **Ten Commandments**. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, turn in 15 sermon notes, attend 15 B.L.A.S.T. sessions Sunday morning, and 2 youth events during the year. Give 3 hours of service to both the church and community. Take part in the poverty activity November 17th, at 6pm and serve on assigned week for Lenten supper.
- 8th Grade:** This 4-week course, **Sep 29th – Oct 20th**, will cover the **Apostles' Creed**. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, turn in 15 sermon notes, attend 15 B.L.A.S.T. sessions Sunday morning, and 2 youth events during the year. Give 3 hours of service to both the church and community. Do a **Faith Project**. Take part in the poverty activity November 17th, at 6pm and serve on assigned week for Lenten supper.
- 9th Grade:** This 5-week course, **Jan 5th – Feb 9th**, will cover the **Lord's Prayer**. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, turn in 15 sermon notes, attend 15 Acts 29 sessions Sunday morning, and 2 youth events during the year. Give 3 hours of service to both the church and community. Take part in the poverty activity November 17th, at 6pm and serve on assigned week for Lenten supper.
- 10th Grade:** This 5-week course, **Oct 27th – Dec 15th**, will cover the **Bible** relating to life. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, turn in 15 sermon notes, attend 15 Acts 29 sessions Sunday morning, and 2 youth events during the year. Give 3 hours of service to both the church and community. Take part in the poverty activity November 17th, at 6pm and serve on assigned week for Lenten supper.
- 11th Grade:** This 4-week course, **Sep 29th – Oct 20th**, will cover a **Review** of all topics. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, write a **Faith Paper**, and have an individual meeting with the pastor to recite the Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and the Ten Commandments.

Service Project Hours

Each student is expected to participate in a total of 6 hours of service each year by spending **3 hours in service to the church** and **3 hours of direct service in the community** to the needy, elderly, or poor. If you have any questions on appropriate service projects, contact either Pastor Keith or Pastor Mike. This can be one of the most fulfilling experiences of the discipleship training. Filling out and turning in a form to Pastor Keith is needed to record your completed hours. Students really make a difference in the world with faithful serving.

Suggested Church Service Opportunities

- Volunteer to serve at the Annual Church Dinner
- Volunteer to clean the church

- Volunteer to teach Vacation Bible School
- Volunteer with Giving Tree of Hope Project
- Rehearse to lead worship by singing or playing in the band
- Volunteer to work the soundboard or run the PowerPoint for worship (Contact Evan Anderson)
- Volunteer to usher (Contact the Derek Flanagan and come 15 minutes before worship)
- Volunteer to mow church lawn/help with cleaning and landscaping
- Volunteer to read Scripture on Sunday morning
- Volunteer to share your gifts in another way

Suggested Community Service Opportunities

- Volunteer to help serve meal at MICA Mission Homeless Shelter in Moorhead
- Volunteer at Good Samaritan Center in Arthur or Bethany Homes
- Volunteer to help at Casselwood in running Bingo or other activity
- Volunteer to deliver flowers following Easter or Christmas Services
- Volunteer to serve your neighbor by raking leaves, shoveling snow, clean gutters, put up storm windows etc.
- Volunteer for Special Olympics
- Bake some cookies and bring them to a non-relative neighbor or someone in a nursing or retirement home
- Volunteer to share your gifts in another way

The following are not acceptable for Service Projects:

- Service time done during school hours or already part of a school project or sports team event.
- Fundraisers
- Anything you are paid to do

Faith Papers Guidelines for 11th grade Confirmation Class of 2021

1. Choose a Bible Verse that has become meaningful to you. Write the Bible verse and explain why this verse is meaningful to you in your faith journey.
2. In your own words talk about what you've learned in Confirmation these past five years. Maybe you could share what the Gospel is and what that looks like in your life. How does grace work? (Example, the good news of Jesus Christ, the Word of God found in Jesus, God's saving act in Jesus...) "The 10 commandments made an impression on me because..." "The Creed has taught me that..." "I believe ..."
3. What people have influenced your faith journey/walk thus far? How? (Example, parent, grandparent, teacher, coach, Uncle, God parents etc.)
4. In the future, how will you live out your commitment to God in your daily life? "I would like to go to college and get married, have a family and teach them about Jesus in my home;" or in college, "I would like to play basketball and dedicate my contribution to Jesus..." continue to worship each week; intentionally help others, etc.

Write at least two paragraphs, for each section listed above. Please write this paper from your heart, as it is the affirmation of your faith journey. It is recommended that you work on these papers with your family, but what is ultimately written in this faith paper is yours and not someone else's.

These will be displayed in the church entry for all people in the congregation to read the week before Confirmation Sunday, your Affirmation of Baptism celebration, on October 31st, 2021. Please use the computer (if you have one) to print them out for ease of others to read. If not, use your BEST handwriting. Take time to really say what you think and how you feel.

Please turn in your Faith Papers by Wednesday, October 20th, 2021, to Pastor Mike.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact by phone or e-mail Pastor Keith and if he is not available then Pastor Mike. We will usually pick up voicemail and e-mails daily.

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Faith Project Expectations for 8th Grade

Here are the expectations for the **8th grade Faith Project** to express his or her faith journey. These projects will be put on display in the church for all to see how you have grown and wish to demonstrate your own personal faith journey. The purpose of the project is for you to reflect upon your faith journey. Since this is a personal journey, there are many ways to complete this task. Remember, the purpose is not just to make something, but also to create something that has spiritual meaning to you. We hope that you really take the time to think about this project. The final date to turn in completed projects is **Wednesday October 20th**. Remember you have freedom to consider how to express your faith journey in this project.

Here are just a few ideas and remember your project can be **ANYTHING** that represents your faith journey.

- Scrapbook including birth, baptism, communion, retreats, or any other spiritual events
- Personal narrative highlighting your confirmation journey
- Video interview family and friends about faith
- Video of your own faith journey
- Create a symbol of your faith and explain what it means to you (In the past students have used wood, plaster, clay, fabric, or anything else you can think of!)
- Journals
- Find a Bible passage and explain what it means to you
- Poetry
- Create a photo album of things around town that represents your faith
- Collage
- PowerPoint of your faith journey

Faith Interview: Develop a list of questions that seek to learn about the Christian faith and its importance from another person. After making a list of questions, ask someone who you know to be a Christian and interview them. Maybe this would be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, coach, baptismal sponsor, or someone in your life who can speak honestly about the faith and why Christianity is important to them. The interview might be a video or audio taped to help you remember their comments or you might take good notes so you can write up a short paper about what you learned from their personal story and how it might relate to your own.

Favorite Bible Passages: Maybe with the help of your parent or another adult, go through the Bible finding important passages of scripture. Make a list of the Bible favorites that you might hope every student in confirmation, or every member of our congregation would be familiar with during the course of their life. Make a bookmark that you can use in the future that lists these scriptures. Don't forget to make many more that you can share with others.

Christian Symbols: Use the Internet, library, or a resource from a pastor as you try to find as many of the important symbols that you can of the Christian Faith. Draw and illustrate these symbols and write a short statement about the meaning of each symbol.

Artistic Expressions: Use an interest such as poetry, painting, drawing, crafts, sewing, needlepoint, or woodworking to express why your Christian faith is important to you. After you finish your project, write a few comments on an index card to express in a written way the project that you created. An example would be that if you create a special cross, you will write a statement in your own words expressing what the meaning of the cross is in the Christian faith.

Scrapbook Page: Create a memory page of your own faith journey. Include a picture of your home congregation, baptismal date, baptismal or first communion pictures, favorite Bible verse and a short statement of faith.

Music, Speech or Drama: Learn a Christian song and prepare to sing it in confirmation or at church, write a speech that expresses your Christian faith and give it as a testimony, or put together a skit or drama with other students that would communicate your love for God and the church.

Basics of Faith: Use *Luther's Small Catechism* and after studying it thoroughly, write a statement that would communicate many of the essentials of the Christian faith as they are expressed in the Lutheran tradition. Or go to the library or onto the Internet and find out as much as you can about Martin Luther. Make a collage that would communicate who he is and how he influenced and continues to influence the world and the Lutheran Church through his teachings.

Remember, these projects are due Wednesday **October 20th**. If you have ideas for your project but do not see them as a choice, please talk to Pastor Keith or Pastor Mike.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact by phone or e-mail Pastor Keith and if he is not available then Pastor Mike. We will usually pick up voicemail and e-mails daily.

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2021-2022 Confirmation Information/Medical Form

Youth's Name (first, **middle**, last): _____

Parent(s) First and Last Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Parent Contact Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Parent cell to call/text: _____ Alternate phone: _____

Youth's cell to call/text: _____ Youth's E-mail: _____

Birth date: _____ **Baptism date:** _____ Grade: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Family Dentist: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Person & phone: _____

Please check all that apply

_____ I give my child permission to participate in confirmation activities at Martin's Lutheran Church.

_____ I give my child permission to participate in confirmation activities sponsored by Martin's Lutheran Church that are not at the church.

_____ I give my child permission to be driven by an adult from Martin's Lutheran Church.

_____ I give my child permission to be driven by other confirmation parents to church and confirmation sponsored activities like retreats, service events, fellowship events, etc.

Authorization for Medical Treatment of Minors:

I/We, as the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the above-named minor, hereby authorize a representative of Martin's Lutheran Church to act on my/our behalf in obtaining and authorizing unexpected medical, dental, surgical and/or hospital care for the minor in my absence from September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

CONFIRMATION COVENANT

The Confirmand's Covenant:

I agree to

- Attend every scheduled Confirmation Class, and to actively participate in class
- Participate in Sunday Worship on a regular basis
- Be involved in service within our congregation and community
- Keep my cell phones and other electronic devices on silent during class
- Show respect to all adult leaders, other students, and the gathering space whether in person or online and to exhibit positive polite behavior whenever I am involved in a church function
- During a pandemic I will keep recommended physical distance, wash/sanitize hands regularly, and wear a mask when asked or required indoors

The Parent's Covenant:

I agree to

- Pray for my son(s) and/or daughter(s), the other confirmands, and the teachers
- Openly share my faith with my son(s) and/or daughter(s)
- Worship regularly with my son(s) and/or daughter(s)
- Be involved in their discipleship and faith development
- Notify a pastor directly or the Church Office at (701) 347-4289 if my son(s) and/or daughter(s) will not be attending class
- During a pandemic I will keep recommended physical distance, wash/sanitize hands regularly, and wear a mask when asked or required indoors

The Pastor's Covenant:

We agree to

- Pray for confirmands, parents, and teachers
- Openly share my faith journey
- Be involved in discipleship and faith development while supporting the welfare of the students.
- During a pandemic I will keep recommended physical distance, wash/sanitize hands regularly, and wear a mask when asked or required indoors

Confirmand signature

Date

Parent or Guardian signature

Date

Michael T. Jacobson
Senior Pastor Martin's Lutheran

Keith Walka
Associate Pastor Martin's Lutheran