

Confirmation Handbook



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SparkHouse, Minneapolis, MN

Bethel Lutheran Church

2016-2017

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

—Matthew 28:18-20

What is Confirmation?

- Preparing young people to affirm their baptism
- Most young people are baptized as infants
- In baptism, promises were made by God, the church, parents, and sponsors
- In the Affirmation of Baptism, young people make promises even we would find pretty overwhelming, but we want them to take it seriously

What are the promises made in Affirmation of Baptism?

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236)

What confirmation is NOT:

- Graduation from church
- A list of requirements that you must fulfill in order for God to love you
- Your only chance to get offering envelopes

Large Group/Small Group Model

What do our evenings look like?

- **Gathering Time**
 - 5:00-5:30 meal - \$3/meal
 - It is important to learn when not hungry! We welcome everyone into an upbeat, lively atmosphere, have some delicious food and decompress from the day so we are ready for learning!
- **Teaching Time**— One week large group lesson; Next week small group
 - 5:30-6:30 Education Hour
- **Worship Time**
 - 6:45-7:30
- **High School Youth Group**—For 9th Graders and older only
 - 7:45-8:30

2016-2017 Confirmation Expectations

Students:

- Be at church on time and ready to begin at 5:30 pm. We would love to have you join us for the meal from 5:00-5:30!
- Attend classes regularly
- You may keep your Bible at the church in your small group bins or you may take it home and bring it with you the following week
- Be open-minded and willing to learn and experience new things
- Be respectful of your surroundings and the other people that are here
- Be respectful and leave your hats at home.
- No fighting, name-calling, or making fun of other people or their opinions

Confirmation Guides and Leaders Expectations:

- Be here on time and ready!
- Find a substitute if you cannot make it.
- Provide an atmosphere of love and learning for all.
- Answer every question to the best of your ability and with respect.
- Respect people's differences of opinion.
- Sit with your small group at worship and model good worship etiquette. Correct youth when necessary.
- Attend the required 9th grade confirmation retreat in February. **February 19-20 in Verona, ND.**

Parent's Role in Confirmation

- Bring students to confirmation events.
- Be supportive of church's role in Confirmation. Communicate with your child and church staff if any questions or problems should arise.
- Have conversations about faith outside of church.
- Pray for your student and the adult leaders who are involved in confirmation.
- Provide for their instruction in the Christian Faith.

Technology Policy

Cell phone use for the purposes of texting, email, games or other social media is not permitted. You may use your cell phone to look up scripture. The Bible Gateway app is the recommended bible use, please use the NIV version of the bible. We may have activities where cell phone is required; those are also acceptable times to use your cell phone. Also cell phone or other cameras may be used to photograph activities. There are appropriate times to have your cell phone out and inappropriate times. We expect you to learn the difference. If caught using your cell phone inappropriately, you will lose the privilege of having your cell phone for activities for the rest of the evening.

Mentor Program

All 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade confirmation students are expected to have a mentor. Please use the same mentor for all three or four years.

Definition of Mentor:

A trusted counselor or guide

A mentor is an individual, usually older, always more experienced, who helps and guides another individual's development. This guidance is not done for personal gain.

Confirmation Students:

This is an important relationship. Choose someone you want to spend time with, someone you respect, who you wish to be at your school activities, someone who is not a relative.

Event and Last Minute Change Reminders

6th and 7th Grade—If you'd like to get free text about confirmation events or last minute changes, go to <https://www.remind.com/join/lrohd> to join the class. This is totally optional but a great way for us to send out mass texts saying that a mentor event has been changed, or to remind you of deadlines to sign up for Valley Scare.

8th and 9th Grade— If you'd like to get free text about confirmation events or last minute changes, go to <https://www.remind.com/join/8ak2kf> to join the class. This is totally optional but a great way for us to send out mass texts saying that a mentor event has been changed, or to remind you of deadlines to sign up for Valley Scare.



EXPECTATIONS

6th Grade Year

- Attend confirmation weekly.
- Submit at least 10 sermon notes over the course of the year.
- Find a mentor and finish the 6th grade mentor booklet. Return the mentor books to the youth director by **April 15th**.

7th Grade Year

- Attend confirmation weekly.
- Submit at least 12 sermon notes over the course of the year.
- Find a mentor and finish the 7th grade mentor booklet. Return the mentor books to the youth director by **April 15th**.
- Attend the Baptism mentor event on **Wednesday, October 12th** with your mentor.

8th Grade Year

- Attend confirmation weekly.
- Submit at least 15 sermon notes over the course of the year.
- Continue your mentor relationship and finish the 8th grade mentor booklet. Return the mentor books to the youth director by **April 15th**.
- Attend the Funeral mentor event on **Wednesday, March 8th** with your mentor.

9th Grade Year

- Attend confirmation weekly.
- Continue your mentor relationship and finish the 9th grade mentor booklet over the course of the year.
- Submit at least 20 sermon notes over the course of the year.
- Continue your mentor relationship and finish the 9th grade mentor booklet. Return the mentor books to the youth director by **April 15th**.
- Attend the Book of Mark mentor event on **Wednesday, January 18th** with your mentor
- Attend the 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat – **February 19-20**.
- Create a creative arts project that expresses your faith or part of your faith journey –**due May 6th**.
- Write Statement of Faith paper – details can be found in the back of your 9th grade Mentor Booklet
- Confirmation Interview with a Pastor or youth director.