



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Confirmation
Handbook
2021-2022

Welcome to St. Mark's confirmation ministry!

What is confirmation?

Confirmation is a public affirmation of Baptism. At your Baptism, your parents and other members of the church community publically made promises to God to raise you in faith so that you might learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. St. Mark's confirmation ministry helps prepare you to be an adult of the church who boldly claims their identity in Christ's family before the congregation and the world. By being confirmed, you are promising to...

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

The confirmation ministry at St. Mark's will help you understand these promises and their importance while learning about God's Word (the Bible) and Lutheran traditions of faith.

How will life be different once I'm confirmed?

Once you are confirmed, you will be a full voting member of St. Mark's with all the rights and responsibilities of membership (students under 18 do not vote on financial matters in accordance with Virginia State Law). You will be asked to serve on ministry teams, committees, and even council. You will also be encouraged to continue worship leadership roles you began in confirmation and possibly add more.

How long will I be a part of the confirmation ministry program?

Confirmation is a two and a half year program (typically beginning when a student is in 7th grade and ending with Affirmation of Baptism at the 10AM Reformation Sunday service in the fall of their 9th grade year). Confirmation is a launching pad for adult participation in the church that will last a lifetime.

What is expected of confirmation program participants?

✓ **Attend confirmation class**

Attending confirmation class is part of living among God's faithful people.

Years 1 & 2

You will meet on Sunday mornings from 11:00 - noon with Ms. Peggy Harris and Mr. Peter Weekly either by Zoom or in the education wing Room 216 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church as safety allows. Over these two years, you will discuss the Bible, the Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion (the two Sacraments of the Lutheran Church).

Confirmation Year

In the fall of your confirmation year, you will participate in high school Sunday School instead of confirmation class to discover what it is like to live into the promises you make while you publicly profess your faith during the confirmation ceremony. Typically, this ceremony will take place on Reformation Sunday (last Sunday in October) after you have written and reviewed your statements of faith and met with a pastor. Because of Covid, there is more flexibility in the confirmation ceremony for 2021-2022 and we will decide as a group how to mark this special and important occasion.

✓ **Regularly participate in worship**

Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper.

Worship notes are an excellent faith practice. They help your spiritual development as you discern making these promises to God and the world. You should complete a total of 15 worship note sheets per academic year and turn them in to the youth director, Grace Casola, by June 2022. You can find [blank worship notes](#) on the Confirmation page of the website and in the appendix of this document.

*Note: Because the confirmation program is a joyful time of claiming your faith for yourself, **you** are responsible for getting these notes to your confirmation class teachers or Grace by email (or in person, as safety allows). If you do not turn in 15 notes by June 2022, you, a pastor, and Grace will meet to discuss your confirmation program experience and your readiness for the next steps towards your confirmation.*

✓ **Serve in worship**

Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

You will be a part of worship leadership once a month (12 times a year). This can be through being an acolyte, crucifier, usher, reader, by singing in the choir, offering special music, or sharing a witness of God's action in your life through a temple talk. The ways to glorify God are plentiful! If you need ideas, speak to a pastor or Grace. *Note: this expectation is not in place if we are not meeting in person due to Covid-19.*

✓ **Serve others**

Serve all people, following the example of Jesus

You will engage in at least four service events each year to connect with St. Mark's neighbors, as Covid allows. Possible events include making and delivering casseroles and brownies during Advent and Lent, participating in *Food for Others* at the church on Tuesdays, helping with ECHO flea markets that occur twice a year, or other service projects in which you participate. You will complete a [service project reflection sheet](#) after each service event you attend and turn it in to Grace Casola (again, these sheets are your responsibility). **Students will also be asked at the beginning of each confirmation class "How were you Christ-like in your life this week?"**

✓ **Strive for justice and peace in all the earth**

This is a promise that we make in confirmation and an attitude we must practice (because it's hard!). Practical strategies to do this include praying for peace among nations and people, talking to/befriending people who are not like you, and working to love all people, respect everyone, and see differences as a gift from God.

✓ **Confirmation Camp**

St. Mark's confirmation students attend confirmation camp at Mar Lu Ridge Lutheran Camp every July (as safety allows). Every confirmation student is required to attend confirmation camp at least once, after either Year 1 or Year 2 of the program, but is encouraged to go after Years 1 and 2 as well as

their confirmation year. Financial aid is available, so don't let cost prevent you from attending. Those who do not attend will be required to write a 3-5 page reflection paper on a topic to be determined in conversation with a pastor and Grace.

✓ **Spiritual Direction**

Students in grades 7 and up will meet with Grace once a month for one hour to talk about how they are feeling about their faith. Some questions may include: What confuses you about God or church? Do you feel close to God or far away? Does any of the stuff you are learning in confirmation help you with your daily life? This is a time to sort through questions and apply faith to your life in particular. Sign up for your one-hour spiritual direction here: <https://calendly.com/gracecasola>

St. Mark's Behavior Policy

The expectation is to remain in an environment filled with respect. This includes all youth and adults. If there is problematic behavior, these steps will be followed:

1. Verbal warning.
2. A parent will be called and the student and parent will discuss the problem. A confirmation ministry member will also be a part of the conversation.
3. If problematic behavior continues the student will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period or event. A parent will need to come get him/her immediately.
4. If problematic behavior becomes chronic, deeper conversation will need to occur between the student, the parent, and a confirmation ministry member. A pastor may also be part of the conversation, if necessary.

St. Mark's Electronics Policy

Our shift to Zoom means we have more distractions around us than ever! To cut down on these distractions and help us center on God, all cell phones need to be kept on silent and placed out of sight of the student for the duration of confirmation class and any other confirmation activities.

Students participating on Zoom are expected to keep their cameras turned on for the duration of the online class, unless special permission is made in consultation with the teachers.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the Confirmation program, please contact Youth Director, Grace Casola by email at gcasola@stmarks-elca.org or by phone at 540-519-2150.

Teachers:

Mrs. Peggy Harris - harris.vizcarra@verizon.net

Mr. Peter Weekly - pweekly@aol.com

Appendix A: Worship Notes

Confirmation Worship Notes

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Liturgical Season (Circle One): Advent – Christmas – Epiphany – Lent – Easter – Ordinary Time



In the Banner below write one word that describes the Theme of today's sermon:

Write down two things that you heard in the sermon that led you to choose the word above:

- 1.
- 2.

How does the sermon apply to your faith and/or life?

How did you experience God's presence in worship service today?

After hearing the sermon, what questions do you have for the Pastor?

What part of today's service would you change? How and why?

What is God inviting you to do this week to embody God's love and presence in the world?



Please hand in your Confirmation Worship Notes in Confirmation Class!



Appendix B: Service Reflection Sheet

Confirmation Reflection
Service to Others / Service in Worship



Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

What was the Event:

Service to Others: _____

Service in Worship: _____

What did I learn about my church?

What did I learn about Faith-Filled Living?

AUTHORIZED ADULT SIGNATURE: _____

[St. Mark's Confirmation Ministry Member, Parent or Adult Supervising the Activity

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Appendix C: Track Your Yearly Expectations

Worship Notes

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⑬ ⑭ ⑮

Service Through Worship

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫

Service to Others

- ① ② ③ ④

Confirmation Camp (*as Covid-19 safety allows*)

- ①

Strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Am I praying for peace? How/When?

Am I working to love all people, respect everyone, and see differences as a gift from God? How/ when?

Spiritual Direction

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫

**ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONFIRMATION
LESSON PLAN 2021-2022**

Class Date (Sundays)	Lesson Title	Notes
9/12/21	Getting started	Reconnect Sunday - PH
9/19/21	Martin Luther and the Reformation	PW
9/26/21	Introduction to the Commandments	PH
10/3/21	Exploring the Commandments: Part One	PW
10/10/21	Exploring the Commandments: Part Two	PW
10/17/21	Exploring the Commandments: Part Three	PH
10/24/21	Exploring the Commandments: Part Four	PH
10/31/21	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Reformation/Confirmation</i>
11/7/21	Law + Gospel and Sinner + Saint	PW
11/14/21	Love Your Neighbor	PH
11/21/21	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
11/28/21	Creed Overview	PW
12/5/21	Exploring Article One	PH
12/12/21	Exploring Article Two	PW
12/19/21	Exploring Article Three	PH
12/26/21	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Christmas Break</i>
1/2/22	Stewardship of Creation	PW
1/9/22	Stewardship of Money	PH
1/16/22	World Religions	PW
1/23/22	Christian Denominations	PH
1/30/22	The Greatest Prayer	PW
2/6/22	God's Kingdom and Will	PH
2/13/22	God Gives and Forgives	PW
2/20/22	Temptation, Trial, and Deliverance	PH
2/27/22	Connecting with God through Prayer	PW
3/6/22	Serving Others Through Vocation	PH
3/13/22	The Sacrament of Baptism	PW
3/20/22	Word with Water	PH
3/27/22	The Sacrament of Communion	PW
4/3/22	<i>No class</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
4/10/22	Take and Eat	<i>Palm Sunday - PH</i>
4/17/22	<i>No class</i>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
4/24/22	Theology of the Cross and Theology of Glory	PW
5/1/22	Forgiveness	PH
5/15/22	Lutheran Worship Practices	PW
5/22/22	Sharing Your Faith	PH
5/29/22	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>
6/5/22	Confirmation Review	PW