

# Confirmation Handbook



## **St. Peter's Lutheran Church**

W4661 County Road MM

Lebanon, WI 53047

Website: [www.stpetersoflebanonwi.org](http://www.stpetersoflebanonwi.org)

Phone: (920) 925-3547

**Confirmation Classes:** Wednesdays, 4:30pm-6pm  
LLS—Tuesday & Thursday 8am-9am

**7 & 8 Grade Leader:** Pastor Bergelin

*Cell: (920) 988-7924*

*[pastorbergelin@stpetersoflebanonwi.org](mailto:pastorbergelin@stpetersoflebanonwi.org)*

## **Why Confirmation**

Confirmation is a very important part of our Christian education program where you grow your faith, grow in God's love, and grow in living a Christian life. Students begin confirmation in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and are confirmed in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Your Confirmation Day is the time when you personally and publicly affirm the baptismal vows made for you when you were baptized. Your Confirmation Day marks a milestone; however, it is not the end. It is not a graduation, but rather it is a commitment we make to walk with Christ and live out our faith. You will continue to grow spiritually to understand how God and faith work in our every day lives in what we say ... in what we do ... and in how we live.

## **Goals and Responsibilities of St. Peter's Confirmation Program**

There are 3 goals to our confirmation program:

1. To teach the foundation of our Christian Faith using the infallible Word of God
2. To teach the foundations of the Lutheran Doctrine using Luther's Small Catechism
3. To encourage students to develop their faith, affirm their baptismal promises and understand their assured salvation through Jesus Christ.

### **How will we do this?**

Meeting these goals is done through a partnership with the student, the parents, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

### **St. Peter's Lutheran Church Responsibilities**

1. Provide Biblically and doctrinally sound curriculum.  
The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes delve into Luther's Small Catechism also using a curriculum from Concordia Publishing House called, Partners in Learning, a family confirmation approach.
2. Provide opportunities for learning and growing in faith through classes, worship and fellowship.
3. Provide pastors, staff and teachers who are concerned about the Spiritual well being of its youth.
4. Mentoring and helping youth with their spiritual life.

### **Parent Responsibilities**

Parents help meet these goals by:

1. Encourage your student in all areas of confirmation including helping with homework and memory work.
2. Worship with your child(ren) each week.
3. Bring your child faithfully and punctually to class and activities.
4. Notify the church staff if your child will miss class or any other information that would be helpful for the staff to know.
5. Pray for St. Peter's confirmation staff and confirmation program.
6. Pray for your child's continued spiritual growth in Christ Jesus.
7. Provide a Christ-centered home where you practice God's love and forgiveness and demonstrate Christian values.
8. Have family devotions daily.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the confirmation program by any of the following:

- Bring or serve snacks at Power Hour
- Help serve, cook or purchase supplies for Lenten Suppers
- Chaperone for youth events, lock-ins, etc.
- Help weekly by being a Small Group Leader

### **Faith is Taught in the Home**

Confirmation class is a formal learning environment for students to learn about the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. However, Confirmation is not limited to the confines of the church. Faith is most importantly taught in the home and parents are an **INTEGRAL PART** of St. Peter's Confirmation ministry. It is primarily the parents' responsibility to teach faith to their children. Faith is the most precious treasure you have to share with your children!

Statistics clearly demonstrate the need for the parental involvement. A study has shown:

1. If **BOTH** Mother and Father attend church regularly, 72% of their children remain faithful in attendance.
2. If **ONLY** Dad attends regularly, 55% remain faithful.
3. If **ONLY** Mom attends regularly, 15% remain faithful.
4. If **NEITHER** Mom or Dad attends regularly, only 6% remain faithful.

## **Student Responsibilities & Requirements:**

### **Classroom Attendance**

Class begins at 4:30 pm and concludes at 6pm on Wednesday evenings during the school year. Students will be allowed 2 excused absences. If a student has any unexcused absences or more than 2 excused absences, they will be required to attend a make-up session with one of the pastors. Please notify the church office if your child is sick, or your child's teacher if it is a planned absence.

### **Classroom Locations**

⇒ 7th & 8th grade class meets in St. Peter's Church office. & LLS 7th & 8th Grade Classroom.

### **Expected Behavior**

- Come prepared: notebook, Luther's Small Catechism, Bible, and a writing utensil
- Be on time
- Have a positive attitude
- Be prepared to have fun and learn
- A Christ-like attitude toward teachers and peers. Respect the adults and teachers in the room by listening and following directions
- Accept responsibility for your behavior
- Be kind, polite and cooperative
- Treat other people and property appropriately and respectfully

### **Discipline Policy**

Order in the classroom is essential to spiritual learning. If students cannot control themselves learning is or can be disruptive for everyone. If necessary, teachers may seek help of the parents in enforcing proper discipline in class. If students are acting contrary to the conduct expected by the teacher, they will be given a warning. If they still deliberately persist in disruptive conduct they will be asked to leave the class. They will then have to make up the class; in addition, a parent must accompany them to the next class.

## **Regular Worship & Sunday School Attendance**

Regular worship & Sunday School attendance is an expected part of Confirmation instruction as well as a vital part in our daily faith. It is important to instill the habits of regular church attendance. Students will be required to complete sermon summaries.

### **Sermon Summaries**

A Sermon summary is notes about the sermon and reflections regarding worship. The number of sermon summaries required each year is dependent upon the grade. Sermon summaries should be written neatly on the sheets provided (in class or from the church greeters on Sunday mornings). Sermon summaries are used to ensure that the youth has a clear understanding of each week's lesson. Listening to God's Word will strengthen faith and reinforce the lessons being taught in Confirmation class. You may turn in completed sermon notes from another church as long as it is accompanied by the corresponding church bulletin for the service attended. An example of the Sermon summary form is at the end of the handbook. Sermon summaries are to be turned in to your teacher as they are completed.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—20 Sermon Summaries

8<sup>th</sup> Grade—20 Sermon Summaries

### **Memory Work**

Peter encourages all Christians in 1 Peter 3:15 to "Always be prepared to give and answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." Memorizing scripture and its meaning is one of those ways to always be prepared to state your beliefs. Scripture also serves to comfort and strengthen us in time of trouble. These reasons are why memory work is a part of St. Peter's Confirmation Program. Memory work is to be practiced at home and recited each week at home to a parent/guardian. A memory work sign off sheet is included in this packet. Extra copies of the memory work schedules are on St. Peter's website.

Memorizing portions of Luther's Catechism is a vital component of the confirmation process. The challenge with this tradition in the early years of confirmation lies in the understanding of the content. Words such as sanctification, communion, consecrate, petition, etc. are not part of the every day vocabulary of most confirmands. Rather than just memorizing the words, students will be presented with a number of options they can use to demonstrate their understanding of the vocabulary. We hope this will equip students and help them succeed with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation memory work.

### **Servant Events**

As Christians, we are to be the hands and feet of Jesus. One of the ways to follow Him is to show His love through acts of service. Servant events will also help in preparation to become an active member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and to help youth explore various functions of the church. Three servant events are **required** during the course of the year to be completed as a family outside of class. When a servant event is completed, the family completes a Family Servant Event Report and returns to their Confirmation leader. A copy of the Family Servant Event Report is at the end of the handbook. Also, watch the Grapevine for additional servant event opportunities. All servant events for the 2015-2016 school year must be completed by April 20, 2016.

## **SERVANT EVENT OPPORTUNITIES**

<b>Organization/Event</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>St. Peter's Seniors</b>	Pastor Bergelin	925-3547	Help some of our senior members who may be in need of yard clean up, snow removal or other special needs.
<b>Church Properties</b>	St. Peter's Lutheran	925-3547	Help with yard work, painting, clean basement chairs, sharpen pencils in sanctuary, wash windows outside, etc.
<b>Nursing Homes</b>	Pastor Bergelin	925-3547	Visit St. Peter's shut-ins, make Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter baskets and deliver.
<b>Ruby's Pantry</b>	Deb Groeler		Help with set-up, take-down, participant, organize costumes
<b>Bethesda Lutheran Homes/Thrift Store</b>			
<b>Salvation Army</b>			Bell Ringers
<b>LWML</b>			Table set-up and take-down for funerals and special events
<b>Sunday Morning Worship Helpers Greeters Ushers Communion Preparation</b>			Hand out bulletins and greet people. Usher Clean up bulletins and replace ribbons in the hymnals. Help the ladies with setup and clean up of the altar area for communion.
<b>Childcare</b>			Childcare at St. Peter's during various meetings and church events.
Cookie Bake	Deb Groeler, Debbie Behl, Kim Budewitz		
Habitat for Humanity	Pat Cunderman		

### **Acolyte Program**

Acolyting is a great opportunity for you to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in a special way and to learn more about the important elements of public worship services here at St. Peter's. As an Acolyte, you are one of the assistants in St. Peter's worship service. People will watch you, and their impression of you will either enhance or hinder their worship experience. You are witnessing for God during the entire service, so make you witness a strong, positive one. You will receive a monthly schedule and a postcard to remind you when you are scheduled to acolyte. Confirmation students are responsible to be at their assigned services or to secure a replacement and notify the church office of the change. (An Acolyte Handbook is available for a more detailed description and illustrations.)

1. The major duty of the Acolyte is to light the candles before the services and to extinguish them afterward. It is possible that other responsibilities would be added as the need arises.
2. Acolytes should arrive at least 15 minutes before the service starts. The candles should be lit about 5 minutes before the service begins.
3. Acolytes should be properly dressed in the proper vestments. The Acolytes shall maintain cleanliness, good grooming, and appropriate dress.
4. As important as proper dress, is a proper attitude: no gum is to be chewed during the service. You should sing all the hymns, listen carefully to all the scripture readings and messages, and be an active participant in every way possible.

5. Immediately after the service, the Acolytes should make sure their vestments are hung neatly in the closet.

### **Church Learning Fair — Grades 7-8 (also open to older & younger participants)**

All Confirmation students will be required to participate in the church Learning Fair on April 25, 2018. Projects will be displayed throughout the church. Projects should be your own work & could include any of the following:

- Christian Artwork: Any piece of faith-inspired, original art. This could be a sculpture, painting, drawing, etc. that you have created. You will need to include at least one paragraph explaining how your art relates to your faith. Please also include a Bible verse.
- A one page typed report on a topic approved by the teacher.
- A power point presentation on an approved topic.
- A display (science fair style) on a larger topic, for example, the Reformation & Martin Luther, or history of the Apostles' Creed.
- You could write a Christian song and record it to play during the fair.
- Record a TV Commercial for St. Peter's Lutheran Church, or do a video journal.
- Write a devotion! (see Pastor Bergelin for format)
- Create a Christian themed comic strip.
- Create a collage describing your faith.
- Make a small portfolio that could include your favorite devotions, Bible verses, and special faith moments in your life (Baptism, Sunday School, Starting confirmation, birth or death of a loved one, etc).

Check St. Peter's Facebook page for Church Learning Fair pictures from previous years. Please use your best effort in displaying these projects. Projects will need to be approved by the classroom teacher by Wednesday, April 11, 2018. All the projects will be displayed for Confirmation Sunday, April 29, 2018. Please make sure your project has your name and age.

#### **Schedule for the Learning Fair: All are Welcome!**

5:15 pm	Confirmation Meal
6:00 pm	Learning Fair
6:30 pm	Cake reception for 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmands

### **Important Confirmation Dates**

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- A meal to recognize our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmands will be held Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 5:15 pm. You and your family are encouraged to attend.
- Public questioning will take place Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 9:15 am in the sanctuary.
- Confirmation Sunday is April 29, 2018. Students will be confirmed at the 10:30 am worship service. Class and individual pictures will follow worship.



**St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Confirmation Sermon Notes**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday in the Church Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Text: \_\_\_\_\_

**Law in the Sermon:**  
(Remember: The law shows us our sin.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Gospel in the Sermon:**  
(Remember: The Gospel shows us God's Love.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What is the main idea that the pastor made in the sermon:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Sermon Summary & Questions  
Parent & Student Discussion Questions**

**What point made you think ... even struggle?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How will you use today's message this week?**  
(Home, school, activities, sports, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What part of worship are you going to remember most?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Family Servant Event  
Report**



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Description of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Did a parent help with this project?    Yes    No**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*"... the Son of Man did not come to be served,  
but to serve ..." Matthew 20:28*