

Confirmation Ministry Overview

Welcome to the *NEW* confirmation ministry at Epiphany Lutheran Church! This process will help you understand the basic teachings and history of the Christian church and help you to approach life in a Biblical way. This class is required for all youth wishing to be admitted to the Lord's Supper and become communicant members of the congregation. This ministry is designed specifically for 7th and 8th grade students, although 6th graders and high school students may participate as determined necessary by their parents and pastor in consultation.

Epiphany envisions a certain type of person who will emerge after completing all requirements of the confirmation ministry. These are the characteristics we desire for all members at Epiphany:

1. You will live by faith.
2. You will engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, worship, and giving.
3. You will be able to express your Christian beliefs in a compelling and relevant way (evangelism and apologetics).
4. You will share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of Christ's Kingdom.
5. You will share your faith in Jesus with unbelievers in a loving and respectful way.

Each of the components of the confirmation process is designed with these outcomes in mind.

MINISTRY COMPONENTS

There are five main requirements of each youth participating in Epiphany's confirmation ministry:

- Bible Survey Group Class – One-year overview of Old and New Testament Bible content and history
- Lutheran Catechism Class – One-year study of Dr. Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*
- Sermon Notes – minimum of 10 notes
- Service Hours – minimum of 20 hours
- Faith Expression Project (creative project completed during last semester of confirmation process)

Students will NOT be confirmed, regardless of age, without completing all components of this ministry. Students who have completed all five components will be recognized on a special Confirmation Celebration Sunday held annually on the 3rd Sunday in May. This year the Rite of Confirmation and First Communion will take place on **Sunday, May 21st, 2017, at the 8:00 AM worship service. Students will also share their Faith Expression Projects during the 9:30 AM education hour.**

LUTHERAN CATECHISM CLASS

This one-year group class will be taught by Pastor in years opposite of the Bible Survey Group Class. All classes meet on Sunday afternoons, 12:45-1:45 PM. **Due to Epiphany's "Two Adult" rule for children's and youth ministry activities, at least one parent MUST attend every class session.** You are more than

welcome to attend every session if you so desire. Instruction will focus on the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism: Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Absolution and the Office of the Keys, and the Sacrament of the Altar (Lord's Supper). This class begins August 2017.

BIBLE SURVEY GROUP CLASS

This one-year group class will be taught opposite years of the Catechism class. All classes meet on Sunday afternoons, 12:45-1:45 PM. Pastor Chris and Mrs. Kristi Brindle co-lead this class utilizing the *According to Plan* curriculum published by the Lutheran Church of Australia and distributed by Concordia Publishing House. Families will be responsible to pay the \$30 costs for Student Guide, Student Workbook, and other materials. Each class session includes homework preparation and family activities to be completed outside of class. This class begins Fall 2016. If materials cost presents a hardship for a family, please speak to Pastor privately regarding options.

SCHEDULE

The Bible Survey Group Class and the Lutheran Catechism Course are both one-year in length and will be offered in opposite years. The rotation is indicated below:

Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
2016-2017	Bible	Bible
2017-2018	Catechism	Catechism
2018-2019	Bible	Bible

All classes meet on Sunday afternoons, 12:45 – 1:45 PM.

Please Note: Neither class will meet on major holiday weekends: Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Easter, Mother's Day, or Memorial Day.

SERMON NOTES

Regular worship attendance is necessary for Christians of all ages. In worship we hear God's Word, receive his gifts (Baptism, Absolution, Lord's Supper), and respond to him with prayers, praise, and offerings. The Lord commands us to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. During confirmation, you will be required to turn in 10 sets of sermon notes. A form will be available for you to use for this purpose. If the pastor includes a sermon insert in the bulletin, you are encouraged to fill that out and attach it to your sermon notes. The best way to take sermon notes is *during* the sermon or soon after church. You might encourage your parents to take sermon notes, too, and then you can share and compare your answers! Completed sermon note forms may be slid under Pastor Chris's door.

SERVICE HOURS

One aspect of Christian character we value at Epiphany is the giving of our time, talents, and treasure for the support of Christ's mission. Therefore, an important component of our Confirmation ministry is serving our church and community. Every confirmation student is required to serve a minimum of 20 hours at Epiphany while they are in 6th-8th grade. These hours can be completed as an acolyte in worship services or volunteering with Vacation Bible School, Orphan Grain Train, or other approved ministries or non-profit organizations. Service hours must be recorded on the provided log form and

signed off by an adult ministry leader. Pastor Chris would be happy to help you brainstorm ways you can serve. **Please Note:** When you acolyte, regardless of how early you arrive or how short or long the worship service takes, acolyting always counts as 1 hour of service hours.

FAITH EXPRESSION PROJECT

This is the final component of the confirmation ministry. Please contact Pastor Chris for more specific faith talk guidelines at least 4 months prior to your desired completion of the confirmation ministry.

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Chris Matthis

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Pastor's Days Off: Friday & Saturday