

Confirmation Hopes & Goals

Peace Lutheran Church – Antigo, WI

Purpose

The overall goal of confirmation is to fulfil the Great Commission – to make disciples. At Peace we define discipleship using three words: **Praise - Prepare - Produce**. We **Praise** God in worship and in all we do as Christians. We **Prepare** our hearts to serve Him through the study of His Word, the Bible. We **Produce** fruits of faith as we live out our Christian life and make other disciples. We do this with an in-depth overview of the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism and by building relationships within our families and within our church. We strive to prepare students and families to be able to confess their Christian faith and then live it out daily as followers of Christ. In short, to be the hands and feet of God in our world today.

Peace's Confirmation Philosophy

1. **The Role of Parents:** Parents have been given to children for many reasons. The most important of these is to teach the faith to them (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). However, we know that is not an easy or comfortable task for many. We as a church are here to provide support to the parents and confirmands. This is why we ask those who participate in Confirmation to walk through materials with their child and fulfill their Christian calling. When a question cannot be answered by the parent(s) we are more than willing to give assistance. None of us have all the answers, but it is our goal to empower parents to be the first person their child turns to. Parents will also be asked to listen to any memory work and encourage confirmands to complete work to the best of their ability.
2. **Peace's confirmation preparation process is self-driven, not required.** Confirmation culminates in a series of vows taken before God. This is literally confirming faith in the One True God and as such should not be taken lightly. Confirmation is also NOT a requirement to get to heaven. It is simply a requirement to become a confirmed member of Peace Lutheran and partake in Holy Communion in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. **When a family enters our Confirmation Program, there are Hopes and Goals that we intend to hold each other to:**
 - a. Attend class sessions, service opportunities, special activities, and Confirmation Camp.
 - b. Complete one Worship Report each month of the school year (Sept.-May).
 - c. Strive for worship attendance. Our goal would be at least twice a month.
 - d. Tests, quizzes, and other evaluations done in a timely manner (see Evaluations).
 - e. Serve in worship services (Acolyte, Usher, or A/V Team).
 - f. Completion of any and all assigned work.
3. **We will honor parents' decisions while speaking the truth in love.** We are committed to partnering with parents in the confirmation process and will be happy to discuss your child's particular needs.

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Evaluations

Tests/quizzes will be used to monitor that confirmands understand what is presented. At the end of each year we will have an evaluation determining the readiness of confirmands to progress to the next level. This will be done in a meeting with their instructor and potentially parent(s). Confirmands will be evaluated based on three benchmarks in a casual **Faith Conversation**:

1. **Knowledge** – Does the confirmand have a basic knowledge of the materials presented in class, assigned readings, etc.?
2. **Attitude** – What is the confirmand's view of God and His church? How do they see themselves becoming involved in the church? What was their attitude toward class?
3. **Behavior** – Does the confirmand demonstrate a commitment to live in the forgiveness of God, a willingness to serve, and a Christ-like behavior as evidenced through participation in and completion of confirmation assignments and interactions with peers and other parents?

Faith Conversations will be arranged for 6th and 7th grades by the families and instructor towards the end of each year of confirmation. In 8th grade, this meeting will be with Pastor Dave prior to Confirmation Sunday. The goal of these conversations will be to evaluate an individual's readiness to take the next step in the confirmation program and ultimately to profess and live out his/her Christian faith.

Program

Peace's Confirmation Program is as follows:

- a. **Confirmands will receive assigned readings, questions, and/or activities to complete at home with the guidance of a parent/guardian/mentor.** This provides parents/guardians/mentors a valuable opportunity to grow together in the Christian faith with their child and carry out their God-given calling as adults. This will also strengthen the trust and faith-relationship between confirmand and adult(s).
- b. **Class time will be used to go through materials done at home as well as to introduce new materials.** Any and all questions students have may be asked, especially those an adult was unable to answer at home. Please know that we also do not have all the answers.
- c. **Parents play an important role in the faith.** We STRONGLY encourage parents to accompany their child to class. However, this is NOT required. Parents that do attend class would provide help with oversight of behavior and encourage students to participate.
- d. **Classes meet Sunday mornings, 9:15am-10:15am,** about two times a month (please see Schedule).

As stated in "Evaluation," tests/quizzes will be used to monitor confirmand's understanding of materials. Those will almost always be take-home (done at home and

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brought back to class). At the end of each year a Faith Conversation will be arranged, with a final Faith Conversation needing to take place before Confirmation of Faith.

All Confirmands will be asked to strive for the **Hopes and Goals** listed under “Philosophy.” If a confirmand is unable to come to class, they will need to watch the video of class.

Schedule

All classes are Sunday mornings between services – 9:15-10:15. Schedule is subject to change:

September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24, November 7 & 21, December 5, January 9 & 23, February 6 & 20, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 24, May 15

Service Opportunities, Special Activities, and Confirmation Camp

In December of each year our church participates in the Giving Tree. Members buy gifts for those in need in our area, and the confirmands and families wrap the gifts. This traditionally takes place on a Sunday with pizza and drinks provided.

8th Graders will be asked to attend a one-day retreat here at Peace to write their Statements of Faith. This event is totally free for confirmands.

Special Activities would include Junior High Youth Group, other servant event opportunities, and more. We hope that your confirmand (and maybe a friend) will want to join us for Junior High Youth Group, but this is not required.

Confirmation Camp is a 3-day, 2-night experience at Camp Luther in Three Lakes on August 17-19. Time will be used doing team builders, **having class sessions**, enjoying Camp Luther, and more. The total cost is \$140, of which families will pay \$70 and the church will pay \$70, and includes lodging, meals, and Camp Luther Staff. We do not want money to be an object – if assistance is needed for this, please talk to Blake or Pastor Dave as we have a fund for Youth Assistance.

Materials

6th and 7th graders will need: a three-ring binder with pockets and a Bible.

8th graders will need: a three-ring binder with pockets, a Bible, and their own copy of Luther’s Small Catechism – 2017 Edition.

Catechisms may be purchased via the Registration Form.

Fees – Fees are listed on the Registration Form.

Public Confession of Faith

Confirmands will be asked to express their faith publicly on Confirmation Weekend. Confirmands will be Confirmed on Confirmation Sunday during the 10:30 service.