

Confirmation Ministry 2023-24 **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, by building relationships within our families and church, and by serving God and others. 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.

Participants *Note changes for 2023-24!*

The Peace confirmation ministry is intended for **7th and 8th grade students** and their families. Confirmation is separate but complimentary to our Jr. High Youth Ministry at Peace, which is intended for 6th – 8th graders.

7th Graders who attend Peace Lutheran School will not be required to attend the 7th Grade Bible overview confirmation class that will meet on Wednesdays after school twice a month. However, all 7th graders in the confirmation program are required to attend the Confirmation Camp at Camp Luther August 15-17. See below for more information about Confirmation Camp. 7th Grade Peace School students will need to achieve at least a passing grade of 70% in their religion class in school, or will be required to attend the after school class on Wednesdays.

7th Graders who do not attend Peace Lutheran School will be required to attend the Bible Overview class twice a month with Pastor Jarod Fenske, our new Associate Pastor. This class will meet on Wednesdays from 3:45-5:00PM.

All 8th Grade Confirmation students will attend the 8th Grade Confirmation Class with Pastor Dave after school on Wednesdays, from 3:45-5:00PM twice a month. They will also be required to attend Confirmation Camp at Camp Luther Aug. 15-17.

Jr. High Youth Ministry for 6th-8th graders will meet on the other Wednesdays after school twice a month.

The Role of Parents/Guardians: Parents have been given the important task of teaching the Christian faith to their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). The ministry staff of Peace has the duty to partner with parents in their Christian duty, but not to take the place of parents/guardians. Parents are asked to listen to any memory work, help with homework as needed & appropriate, and encourage confirmands to complete work to the best of their ability.

This year each student in our Wednesday classes will be asked to have a mentor.

Mentors do not need to attend class with the student, although they are certainly welcome to do so! However, each student in either the 7th Grade Wednesday after school class, or the 8th Grade class, will need a caring adult who can help them with their assignments, memory work, etc. **You are asked to indicate the name of the student's mentor on the registration form.**

Expectations Peace's confirmation ministry is self-driven, not required.

Confirmation culminates in a series of vows taken before God. These young Christians literally confirm their faith in the One True God and this commitment 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. **When a family enters our Confirmation Program, these are the expectations of each student:**

- a. Attend class sessions as outlined above.
- b. Attend Confirmation Camp.
- c. Complete one Worship Report each month of the school year.
- d. Strive for regular worship attendance, with a minimum requirement of 50% of weekends during the school year, at least 20 times in worship from Sept.-May, either in person or online. Students will need to fill out the attendance pad in the pews or the attendance form online.
- e. Successfully complete tests, quizzes, and other evaluation tools.
- f. Serve in worship services (Acolyte or A/V Team).
- g. Completion of any and all assigned work.

If your child has special circumstances or needs, please contact either Pastor Dave (8th Grade) or Pastor Jarod (7th Grade).

Evaluations

Tests/quizzes will be used to monitor the progress of the students. 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 biblical and catechical materials presented in class?
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 learning and growing in their faith?
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?

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 mentor.** This provides 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 them.
- 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.
- 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 for non-Peace school 7th graders and all 8th graders meet Wednesdays 3:45-5:00pm, about two times a month.**

If a confirmand is unable to come to class, they will need to watch the video of class and fill out the accompanying work.

Schedule

The first day of Wednesday after school confirmation classes will be **Wed. Sept. 6.** A class schedule will be sent via email at a later date.

Service Opportunities, Special Activities, and Confirmation Camp

Giving Tree - In December of each year our church participates in the community Giving Tree program. 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 in the spring at Peace to write their Statements of Faith. This event is totally free for confirmands.

Confirmation Camp is a 3-day, 2-night experience at Camp Luther in Three Lakes on August 15-17. Time will be used doing team builders, having 4 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 activities at Camp Luther (swimming, canoeing, games, campfires devos, etc.) This is always one of the most memorable events for our confirmation students! If the cost is a hardship, contact one of the pastors.

Jr. High Youth Group will meet approximately every other Wednesday after school, alternating with the confirmation classes. This youth group will be for all 6th-8th graders, whether they attend Peace school or not, and whether they are members of Peace, or not.

Materials

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

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

Catechisms may be purchased via the Registration Form.

Bibles will be provided at no cost to any student that needs one.

Public Confession of Faith

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

Questions

Please direct your questions about confirmation to Pastor Dave at d.karolus@peaceantigo.org or call 715-623-2200 ext. 103. We pray that the Confirmation ministry at Peace will be a blessing to you and your family!