



Confirmation Handbook: 2026-27

Welcome to Confirmation!

We're so excited to serve you and your family as you begin a new journey in your faith development. The purpose of this handbook is to clearly define Zion Lutheran's Confirmation process and better prepare you for the next few years ahead.

Confirmation at Zion Lutheran exists as an opportunity to build connections between God's Word, His promises and what it means for our daily lives, while at the same time learning about what a relationship with Jesus truly looks like. We are intentional about growing in our faith together, affirming the promises of our Baptism, and continuing to faithfully receive God's promises (*Hear the Word of God, share in the Lord's Supper, and proclaim the Good News of the Gospel*).

Our desire is to equip you to live a Christ-centered life in whatever vocation God has blessed you to live. You don't have to wait to be a part of the mission of the church until you are an adult...*you are a part of the Body of Christ right now!* You are gifted by your creator and He has given you a purpose to partner with Him in building His Kingdom.

Why Confirmation?

The purpose of Confirmation is to...

- gain a greater understanding of the Word of God and trust and believe that it is the authority in which we live our lives.
- gain knowledge of the teachings of the LCMS (*Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*), specifically what is found in Luther's Small Catechism.
- be equipped to defend your faith in Jesus and be able to give reasons as to why you trust Him as your personal Lord and Savior.
- engage and participate in the community of Zion Lutheran and understand your place in the body of Christ.
- continue your faith journey as a Baptized Disciple, actively participating in the body of Christ.

What Does the Confirmation Process Look Like?

- Confirmation consists of 9 units/courses as well as a few other additional requirements
- Students may start confirmation beginning in their 8th grade year
 - There is no set amount of time for this process
 - Our format offers a flexible approach that allows students to advance at their own pace, either a traditional pace (3 years), faster, or slower if needed.

All 9 courses will be offered twice throughout the year (*once in the fall and once in the spring*) at various times and days to allow confirmands to advance at their own pace and build around their schedule. A master calendar of when units are offered is provided so that families may plan which courses need to be taken throughout the year.

- Courses will have 2-10 students at a time

Course Order

The order in which a student takes the units will vary by individual, but the following guidelines must be followed:

- The **100 courses (green)** should be one of the first units to complete.
- The **200 courses (blue)** can be taken in any order.
- The **300 courses (red)** should not be taken until the students have completed the green courses and most of the blue courses
- *Being a Disciple of Jesus should be taken as one of the final courses.
 - Students can be working on a maximum of two units at one time.
 - *If a course works for you NOW...take it NOW.* Don't assume it will work later

Course Process

The units consist of a basic understanding of the Bible and Lutheran Theology, the 6 chief parts of Martin Luther's Small Catechism, and an introduction to Christian Apologetics.

* (BI) What Is the Bible?	100 Classes
* (LT) Being Lutheran	

(LP) Lord's Prayer	200 Classes
(10C) Ten Commandments	
(AC) Apostle's Creed	
* (MG) Means of Grace	

(CE) Creation and Evolution	300 Classes
* (AP) Christian Apologetics	
* (DJ) Being a Disciple of Jesus	

Each unit will consist of the following:

- 3-4 classes in consecutive weeks
- 3 completed Worship Notes/course
- Any required memory work
- Test/Quiz on the class material
- We strongly encourage regular participation in Worship, Sunday School, and Youth

Course Attendance

Confirmands must attend ALL course classes to receive credit

- If you know you can't attend all of the unit classes (*vacation, sports, etc*) then don't sign up for the class at that time
- If a confirmand is sick, the teacher will work with the student to get it made up
- We do not video record or offer private instruction of units except for extreme circumstances.

Classwork/Worship Notes/Tests and Quizzes

- Completed assignments/worship notes can be turned into your teacher OR be placed in the Confirmation mailbox in the office wing.
 - Students will have 1 week after the final class to complete and hand-in assignments, worship notes, and/or tests
 - If there is still missing work after 1 week has passed, the student will need to retake the class to receive credit.
- ****If your child has special learning needs, please set up a meeting with Jacob, the Director of Youth so we can plan to meet their individual needs.**

Is There an Order You Recommend My Student Takes These Courses?

(BI) What Is the Bible?

(LT) Being Lutheran

(LP) Lord's Prayer / (10C) Ten Commandments / (AC) Apostle's Creed

(MG) Means of Grace

(CE) Creation and Evolution

(AP) Christian Apologetics

(DJ) *Being a Disciple of Jesus (*this should not be taken until they are almost finished*)

How Do We Register for a Course?

- Scan the QR code on the registration form and fill out the Google form
- Keep the Registration form so that you have a record of what classes you signed up for



Parent Expectations

Our goal is to equip you as ambassadors of Jesus in your families. Matthew 28:19 says, *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* Your number one priority in this life is to disciple your kids. Parents fill the most important role in the faith development of their children. Research shows that the greatest adult influence in a child's faith life is their parents, and it's not even close. Confirmation is not to replace you but to assist and equip you in your God-given role as the spiritual instructor for your child. God has entrusted you with these children and given you the opportunity to model a Christ-centered life and to point them to His promises and the love and the grace that He offers us. What an honor to participate in the great commission by pouring the hope of Jesus into your children!

If at any time you do not feel able to answer questions for your students or help them through the process, don't be frustrated. In fact, you should expect good and challenging discussions with your children! There may even be questions that you may not be able to answer, and that is okay! Always feel free to contact any of Zion's staff and we would love to assist you.

Parent Attendance

Parents/guardians are always invited to attend any of your child's confirmation classes with them. In fact, we encourage it! But, there are 5 courses (*indicated by a star on the calendar*) in which at least one parent/guardian attendance is required. If you are unable to commit to the time that is given, you need to find a faithful adult/mentor that can fill this role for your child.

Worship and Youth Participation

Since confirmation ministry is one of many steps on the journey to spiritual maturity, it is important that habits of mature followers of Jesus be nurtured during this time. By building these habits in the process, we help young people grow in knowing and practicing God-pleasing spiritual disciplines. We believe that we need God's nourishment through the Word and Sacraments in order to face life's daily challenges and so we highly encourage family weekly participation in Worship, Sunday School and Youth Night.

What is the Confirmation Project?

Students who are on their way to completing all required units will begin work on their final project. To preface the final project, all students will need to attend the *Being a Disciple of Jesus* course. The purpose of the project is for the student to participate in ministry (*serving the Kingdom*) by using their spiritual gift. It should be something they enjoy and are excited to do.

The project will be completed prior to Confirmation Sunday and your student will be given the opportunity to share what they did during the adult Bible study time. More information on the project will be given as your student gets closer to finishing the courses.

Confirmation Sunday

After completing all the course requirements, and with the recommendation of the Ministry Team, confirmands will be invited to participate in the Rite of Confirmation on Confirmation Sunday, either in December or May.

The Rite of Confirmation involves a confirmand's public profession of their faith, an affirmation of their Baptism, and desire to continue receiving God's gifts. Prior to the Rite, students will complete their final Confirmation Project, write a faith statement, and select their Confirmation verse. To celebrate this with your family, the church offers a *Confirmation Dinner* for our confirmands and families the night before Confirmation Sunday.

Instructors Contact Information

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