

**Calvary Lutheran
Church
Confirmation
Handbook
2020-2021**



Why Confirmation?

**Gathered by God
Inspired by Love
Empowered to Serve**

Calvary Lutheran Church's Mission Statement reads, "*Gathered by God, Inspired by Love, Empowered to Serve.*" The confirmation program at Calvary seeks to encourage students to explore their relationship with God, who adopted them into his family when they were baptized, loved them so much that he sent his son, Jesus into the world to teach by example and die on a cross for their salvation and gifted them with abilities to change the world around them. Together with the Holy Spirit, families, and our church community, we nurture and equip young men & women for a lifelong journey of faith.

From Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, God speaks to our responsibility to pass on faith to the next generation:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

In Holy Baptism, promises were not only made by parents and sponsors, but by the entire church to God and to God's people:

In Christian love you have presented these children for Holy Baptism. You should therefore bring them to the services of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grow in years, you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ." (from the Lutheran Book of Worship)

This promise is about making disciples. It's about growing in faith and in faithfulness as a follower of our Lord. This promise is about faith formation. Faith formation does not occur only for an hour or two on Sunday morning; it happens throughout the week. Faith formation does not happen only in quiet solitude. Faith formation is a community experience. Growing in faith happens in a variety of settings, at church, at home, on Zoom (!) and during situations we encounter every day!

Confirmation is not a program from which young people graduate. Instead, it is about exploring what they believe and affirming their faith as their own, taking personal responsibility for their faith life going forward. Guided by faithful adults, young people will learn what it means to live daily as a child of God and participate in the church and the world as a Christian adult. This is just one more foundational stone in building their faith.

Confirmation Component: Confirmation Classes

Expectation: Attend Confirmation classes and complete the assigned work at home.

Confirmation sessions will cover the parts of Luther's Small Catechism over the course of two years. Sessions are primarily on Wednesday evenings. Because of the pandemic, we will start weekly classes online and move into in-person classes as the situation permits. During the Lenten season, there is a change of pace - students are expected to attend and help with the services.

Making the Most of Classes

- 1) Be on time for class.
- 2) Be equipped with your confirmation back sack, including bible, Lutheran handbook, notebook, and writing utensil.
- 3) Bring back material required from your homework and parent-student sessions.
- 4) Bring your best attitude and questions.

We understand that conflicts may arise from time to time. However, we expect that students will make up any assignments they have missed. The schedule as well as assignments will be posted on the website www.calvaryconfirmationsb.org. You also can email Teresa directly if needed.

If you know of conflicts beforehand, please contact Teresa so that she can let the teacher know and they can plan accordingly.

Pastor Larry Hand – clcpastor@calvarylutheranchurch.org

Teresa Kaldor – teresakaldor@calvarylutheranchurch.org (Confirmation program coordinator)

Jeff Moeller – jeffmoeller@calvarylutheranchurch.org

Diane Beckman (substitute) – ddbeckman@san.rr.com

Confirmation Schedule 2020-2021

Date	Topic	Notes
Sunday, September 20 @ 11:30 a.m.	Confirmation Orientation by Zoom	For Parents & Students
Wednesday, September 23	Introduction to the Lord's Prayer/Peer Connections Parent materials online	Lead Teacher: Pastor Hand
Wed., September 30	The Lord's Prayer: God's Kingdom & Will (Petitions 1, 2 & 3)	Lead teacher: Teresa Kaldor
Wed., October 7	God's Kingdom Review Peer Connections	Lead teacher: Teresa Kaldor
Wed., October 14	The Lord's Prayer: God Gives and Forgives (Petitions 4 & 5)	Lead teacher: Jeff Moeller
Week of October 21	God Gives and Forgives Review Peer Connections	Lead teacher: Jeff Moeller
Sunday, October 25	Reformation Weekend	Affirmation of Baptism for last year's students
Wed., November 4	The Lord's Prayer: Temptation, Trial, and Deliverance (Petitions 6 & 7)	Lead teacher: Pastor Hand
Wed., November 11	Temptation Review Peer Connections	Lead teacher: Pastor Hand Veterans Day Holiday
Weekend of November 14-15	Connecting with God and others through Prayer – Service Project – Prayer Lawn Signs/Prayer Pillows	Lead teacher: Teresa Kaldor, Jeff Moeller
(Break for Advent)		
Wed., January 13, 2021	Exploring the Sacraments: Baptism Parent materials online	Lead teachers
Wed., January 20	Baptism Review Peer Connections	Lead teacher
Wed., January 27	Exploring the Sacraments: Communion	Lead teacher
Wed., February 3	Communion Review Peer Connections	Lead teacher
Week of February 10	Sacraments Service Project - TBD	Lead teacher

Wed., February 17	Ash Wednesday – NO CLASS	Students and parents should come to service.
(Schedule Change with Lent)	Students Attend Lenten Services and Activities	
Wed., February 24	Attend service and activities	
Wed., March 3	Attend service and activities	
Wed., March 10	Attend service and activities	Second Year students with parents meet after service about projects
Wed., March 17	Attend service and activities	
Wed., March 24	Attend service and activities	
Wed., March 31	NO CLASS – Holy Week	
Sunday, April 4	EASTER: Help with Easter breakfast	Proceeds go to support youth events
Wed., April 14	Exploring Lutheran Worship	Lead teacher:
Wed., April 21	Planning a Worship Service	Lead teacher:
Wed., April 28	Leading a Worship Service/ or Christian Denominations	Lead teacher:
Wed., May 5	Early Church – Sharing Your Faith	Lead teacher:
Wed., May 12	Sharing Your Faith - Interviews	Lead teacher:
Sun., May 16	Presentation of Projects	
Sun., May 23	Affirmation of Baptism (2 nd years)	
Summer 2021	Confirmation Camp	

2020-2021 will cover the Small Catechism topics: Lord's Prayer and Sacraments along with other topics.

Confirmation Component: Involve yourself in all aspects of the Journey

Come

- Come just as you are and be part of a Christian community.

Connect

- Connect with God and others in authentic relationships.

Serve

- Serve at church and in the community and make a difference in the world God made.

Share

- Share your time, talents, and financial resources to further God's mission.

Go

- Go live out your faith in what you say and do; invite others.

Participate in the Journey yourself and with your family!

Come to worship and other special events.

Connect with God, your peers, and other Calvary members in classes, youth group gatherings, and faith webbing opportunities.

Serve at church and in the community in creative ways during this time of social distancing. You can make a difference in small and large ways.

Share your time and talents. Think about what you do well or time you can give to help others.

Go out into the community and live out your faith by how you interact with others. Build bridges, help those in need, listen to others and **share your story**.

Confirmation Component: Home & Church Partnership

Expectation: Share the Experience

Confirmation needs to be a church/family partnership! It should involve every member of your immediate family, as many of your extended family members (and faithful friends) as possible, and your church family, too. Why? Because, when we're baptized, all those people promise to support and encourage us in our faith journeys. Because the learning and growing that prepares us for affirming that baptism ("being confirmed") can't happen in the 1-2 hours/week that we spend on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Because faith is formed through personal, trusted relationships, most often in our own homes.

Connect with Learning:

To help you stay connected, at least one parent of each student is expected to attend a parent class on each unit of the Small Catechism to give you an overview of what your sons and daughters will be studying. These classes will be held during the first or second week of each new unit.

In addition, this year we are designing the curriculum so that you and your student can dive into the topics together at home with resources we provide you online.

We also encourage you to:

1. pray regularly for and with your child and for class leaders, fellow students, and their families;
2. provide opportunities to answer questions about your faith and life on an ongoing basis.

And students- make the most of this partnership!

1. pray regularly for yourself and others;
2. use your Bible;
3. ask questions;
4. share your thoughts, feelings, and doubts;
5. talk about what you are learning;

Join in the Journey Together and as Individuals:

Come to Worship and other special events.

Connect with others at Calvary in service, fellowship, and learning.

Serve at church and in the community.

Share your gifts and financial resources – discuss how you give of yourselves.

Go live out your faith in the world.

Parent Support Positions

In addition to supporting your son or daughter in their confirmation studies, there are several key parent volunteer positions that keep our program running smoothly. Please take some time to prayerfully consider whether one of them is a good fit for you.

1. Middle School Fellowship Coordinator(s)

This person will work with Jeff Moeller to help coordinate at least one middle school family fun event gathering or middle school peer event during the year when it is safe for us to do so.

2. Confirmation Reception Coordinator(s)

This person is responsible for organizing the Sunday reception on the day students affirm their baptism (usually cake and punch). Traditionally, this has been a parent from the seventh-grade class.

Confirmation Component: Worship

Expectation: Regular participation in Worship & 10 Sermon Notes

Just as worship is primary for our Christian life, it remains central to the Confirmation program. It is in worship that we are gathered together around God's Word, celebrate the sacraments and are reminded of our call to live as God's children in the world. We ask that you make worship a priority for your family.

In addition to being in worship, we require that students complete ten sermon notes during their two years (5 are due in 1st year, 5 are due in 2nd year). Blank worship note forms are available on the confirmation website. Completed forms can be scanned in and emailed to Teresa or can be mailed to church at 424 Via de la Valle, Solana Beach, CA 92075, ATTN. Teresa Kaldor. When we return to church, forms can be returned to the Confirmation box in the narthex or the table in the WAVE. See sample on the next page.

Making the Most Out of Worship

1. Try different services - you may be surprised by the ways that God uses different worship experiences to touch our lives.
2. Do not neglect the "What Did Someone Else Learn" question on your sermon Notes – talk this over with your parents, mentor, and friends
3. Get a head start on your sermon notes! Do not turn them all in at the last moment. We want to be able to respond to them and return them to you.

CONFIRMATION WORSHIP NOTES

Name: _____
Date: _____ Worship Notes # _____



BEFORE WORSHIP, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Today I am attending worship with: _____
Examples: family, mother, brother, friends, by myself.

2. I am coming to worship feeling: _____
Examples: happy, sad, angry, peaceful, stressed, overwhelmed, etc.

3. Which season of the church year is it and what is the color of that season?

Examples: Pentecost (Red), Ordinary Time (Green), Lent (Purple)

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

The Music

4. Which hymn/song did you like best today and why?

The Sermon:

5. What stories, examples or illustrations helped you best to understand the sermon?

6. Explain 2 or more things you learned from today's sermon:
a. _____

b. _____

7. One thing that I learned about *God* from worship today is:

(over)

8. A question that I have for the Pastor, my family, or someone in my faith web about today's worship, sermon or about God is:

9. This week I will pray for: _____

10. One part of the message I can apply this week in my daily life is: (explain how)

10. One member of my **church family** heard this message in worship today:
(You can ask anyone in the congregation, your family or friends what they heard.)

Name: _____

A message that he or she heard today: _____

Teacher Response:

Confirmation Component: Synod Gathering / Confirmation Camp

Expectation: Attend at least one of the synod gatherings or confirmation camp during confirmation.

Calvary takes sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to Confirmation Camp each summer and seventh and eighth graders to the Middle School Youth Gathering each November. These are times of learning, making friends, creating a safe place to discover and become who God has called us to be and having FUN! They are opportunities to interact with people from other Lutheran churches and with high school and college students who are passionate about their faith.

For many of our students, these synod opportunities, especially camp, are remembered as the highlight of their confirmation years. Scholarships are available.

Unfortunately, the Middle School Youth Gathering has been cancelled for 2020 because of the pandemic. Therefore, this requirement will be waived as necessary for current eighth graders. (Some of them have already met this requirement so there are no concerns.) Seventh graders still have a chance to go next year.

Confirmation Component: Service-Learning Projects

Expectation: Complete Five Projects (recommendation is 3 during 1st year and 2 during 2nd year grade)

Service learning projects are meant to encourage students to put their faith into action. Projects may be done alone but we encourage confirmands to do at least one with their family, one with someone in their faith web and one with a group. At least two projects a year will be done together as a confirmation class. In addition, there are many opportunities at church to get involved with service projects, including Christmas Angels and Calvary Cares. All projects completed **outside** of Calvary's ministries should be approved by Pastor or your confirmation teachers. If you need ideas, please come to one of us and ask.



After completing each project, a reflection piece should be typed up and turned into Pastor Hand. He will set a time to discuss the projects with you at the end of the year.

Guidelines for the reflection:

Summarize what you did and then pick 2-3 of the following questions to cover in your reflection:

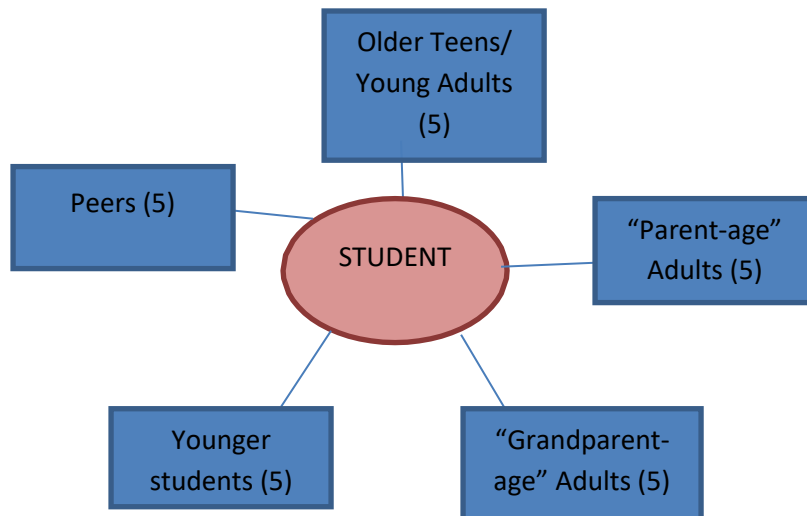
- What did I learn about myself from this experience? What did I learn about others?
- In what ways did the experience challenge my values, my beliefs, my faith?
- Which of my values or beliefs were affirmed by this experience?
- What emotions did I experience while I was involved in this experience? Which ones surprised me?
- What was the most successful part of this experience for me? What was the most frustrating part?
- If I could do any part of this experience over, what would it be? Why?
- What did I like best/least about my experience?
- What did I gain from the experience? What did I contribute?
- How might the person I was working with (tutoring, serving, etc.) feel about working with me? How successful might they feel our experience was together? what did the person I was working with share with me, teach me, give me?
- How does this experience relate to things I am learning in class?
- How has this experience raised awareness for me of community needs?
- How has my understanding of God's presence and my role in the world changed?

Confirmation Component: Faith Web

Expectation: Experience Faith in Community and complete a Faith Web of at least 25 people including people from Calvary

Faith Webbing is a purposeful approach to connecting youth to caring, faithful individuals and the ministry of the church. Research shows that students who are engaged and continue to grow in their faith throughout their lives have at least 8 meaningful adult relationships in their teen years.

During your confirmation studies, you will get the opportunity to begin to define your own personal faith network of people whose faith you admire. You will contemplate who is in your faith web already and who needs to be in your faith web. We will discuss the quality traits we see in the people who are in your faith web and how you can develop these qualities in your own life. You in turn can be a part of someone else's faith web. Once areas in need of fostering are identified, relationships will be prayerfully, purposively, and intentionally sought, built, and sustained during the confirmation years, weaving people together in a faith-based environment. You will then be surrounded by numerous faith walks that you can emulate. The hope is that one or more of these relationships will continue for years to come.



We are all rooted in the love of Christ and nourished through the Holy Spirit. To thrive, we need to reach out and get involved in what God is doing all around us and help others thrive as well! Your Faith Web will help you intentionally go about engaging with others and growing your faith. As this occurs, God will use your hands and lives to be a blessing to Calvary and the world

Confirmation Component: Faith Journey Project

Expectation: Complete a faith journey project at the end of your 2nd year to be displayed for the congregation.

Confirmation studies are designed to help students explore their faith and Lutheran theology. It is important that students take the time to reflect on how their faith is growing and what it means to them as an individual in relationship with Jesus Christ and as part of a community of faith.

Each student is expected to complete a project describing their faith journey to this point. These projects will then be on display for the congregation with students on hand to answer questions. The projects also will include their faith web.

Steps for the project:

1. Think about the following questions. Jot down some thoughts and ideas that you have. Decide on which ones you would like to concentrate.

- What did you do to go deeper in the five aspects of the Journey? (COME, CONNECT, SERVE, SHARE, GO) In what areas of my faith have I grown the most?
- From birth until now, who have been the people who have primarily influenced my faith? How have they influenced me? Who are in my faith web?
- In what way did the experience of Confirmation challenge my beliefs and my faith?
- In what way did confirmation studies affirm my beliefs and values?
- What part of my study of the Small Catechism was the most impactful to me? Why?
- What bible story or stories have influenced the way I view myself or the world?
- What did I learn about myself from this experience?
- Where topics/areas related to my faith do I want to pursue next?
- What questions do I still have about my faith, God, the world?
- How has my understanding of God's presence and my role in the world changed?
- What does it mean to me to be a Child of God?



2. Discuss your thoughts with your family members, mentor, and teachers.

3. Decide how you will present your project:

Chose the medium to convey your faith journey:

WRITE: a journal, a story, a poem, music lyrics

DEVELOP: a poster display, informational brochure, newspaper, slide presentation, website

DO: a collage, photo essay, video, sculpture, scrapbook, mural, cartoons

4. Complete your project and be prepared to answer questions about it. Ask for guidance when you need it.