

# Guiding Philosophy for Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

Faith Lutheran Church

## The Big Picture

*How do we pass a consequential faith to the next generation of Christian disciples?*

This is the million dollar question! In the earliest church, various forms of catechumenate processes helped incorporate new adult believers into the Christian faith. As the years went by, especially after the Church achieved official (and favored) status within the Roman Empire, the question became directed as much to the children of the faithful as to new adult converts. Confirmation (or Affirmation of Baptism), a systematic exposition of the Christian faith, elevated to the level of a sacrament, became the norm across the church.

For Luther and the reformers, in the earliest years of the reformation it became apparent that the working class people of the church had not been receiving the basics in Christian education. Confirmation had become less of a teaching process as a liturgical rite giving a bishop the opportunity to visit a local parish. Luther wrote both the Large Catechism (for parents) and the Small Catechism (for young people) as tools to offer a more informed, grounded, understanding of the basics of the Christian faith.

Over the years, use of the Small Catechism became normative among Lutheran churches. But how it was taught evolved over time without any standard practice. The age of those enrolled in confirmation instruction was lowered. In rural areas, it became customary for students to meet on Saturday mornings. In urban settings, Wednesdays after school was common. Instruction varied from one to three years. At one time confirmation was considered the threshold to begin receiving Holy Communion. Practices continued evolving.

Often shifting congregational practice was a reflection of the increasing marginalization of the Christian church in American culture. Families still value passing the faith on to young people but the goal of raising up life long disciples began to fade. For many, confirmation was a rite of passage that felt much like graduating from church attendance and participation. Kids, especially boys, dropped out. Across the United States, Christian education stopped at confirmation (except for the obligatory pastor's class that attracted 12-20 adults) for many congregations.

Still the question remains, "*How do we pass a consequential faith to the next generation of Christian disciples?*" Here is how we answer that question at Faith Lutheran Church.

## Key Shifts

FROM Confirmation as Rite of Passage TO Family Faith Formation

FROM Passing on Information TO Relationship Building

FROM Lecture by a Pastor TO Lay Led Small Group Process

## **Faith Five Process**

Each time we gather for a confirmation learning event we will incorporate the following faith practices:

**SHARE** – Everyone will get an opportunity to check in with their small group about their life. This time also includes the learning information presented to the whole group.

**READ** – Everyone will have opportunity to read from the Bible at every gathering.

**REFLECT** – Within our small groups, young people and their adult guides will process the learning for the evening, sharing their faith and insights with one another.

**PRAY** – Everyone will be given opportunity to pray and be prayed for at every gathering.

**BLESS** – Everyone will experience a safe personal blessing at every gathering.

## **Five Pieces to the Puzzle.....**

### **1) Family Faith Formation**

Parents are expected to attend all learning events with their young person. They will share the same large group experience and then process in their own small group. We will encourage parents to join their young people in journaling, and in bringing the faith home through family devotions and prayer.

### **2) Worship and Sunday School**

Sunday worship and learning are the primary times in the life of a Christian for joining others in prayer/praise, receiving the sacraments, and being encouraged and shaped as a child of God. Confirmation students will function as worship leaders, acolytes, and crucifers.

### **3) Junior High Sunday School**

We focus on service learning with our middle school kids to help them connect their faith with loving our neighbors in simple, practical, ways. Participation in the junior high Sunday School provides a “large group” experience for our kids. The varied activities, projects, retreats and interaction with the adults on the junior high ministry team helps kids grow in faith while having fun.

### **4) Servant/Fellowship Projects**

Servant/Fellowship projects build the bonds within small groups as well as give the young people opportunities to have fun and make a difference in the world. They put our faith in action both in serving others and in growing our community spirit.

### **5) Bible Camp**

There is simply nothing like the power of an experience at Bible camp! Each June we will take a group of students to camp – all but those who were just confirmed will go to camp.

## **The Key Players.....**

### The Students and Parents

Be prompt....

Be respectful of the right of others to share without interruption....

Be willing to share your questions, opinions and ideas....

Be courteous and helpful to your adult guides....

Be a role model to your peers and a Christian witness in the world....

### The Adult Guides

Be willing to fall in love with a group of 4-5 kids....

Be available to help plan and lead servant/fellowship projects....

Be honest and transparent about your faith in Christ....

Be supportive to your fellow Guides....

### The Pastor

Share the faith with clarity, honesty and truthfulness....

# Confirmation Orientation

Welcome

Songs

Introductions

- AROUND TABLES, FILL IN PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Philosophy of Youth/Family Ministry

Purpose of Confirmation Ministry

- AROUND TABLES, TAKE A MOMENT TO FILL OUT PURPOSE
- Ministry is all about relationships
- Equip young people for active participation in the life of a congregation

Our Program

- 3 year rotation
- Large group/small group
- Worship and learning attendance and participation

Faith 5 Discipline (Faith Active In The Home)

Share – Read – Reflect – Pray - Bless

<u>Group One</u>	<u>Group Two</u>	<u>Group Three</u>
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.
7.	7.	7.
8.	8.	8.
Guide:	Guide:	Guide:
Guide:	Guide:	Guide:

## Confirmation Roster Information

Student name and cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name and cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name and cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Favorite Faith Camp/Lutherhill songs:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

The purpose of confirmation is:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

*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.*

## ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmands - Formation of Faith Paper***

**Through your time in confirmation you have been involved in a concentrated study of the basics of the Christian faith.** You have been exposed to a lot of information, some of which you will always remember, some of which you won't.

**The reason why the Church encourages young people to take part in confirmation instruction is to help train and equip you as a person of faith, now and on into the rest of your life.** As a child is baptized, parents and congregations promise to work together in helping the baptized person come to know who he or she is as a child of God, and what that will mean for their lives and their life choices.

As the final project in your confirmation instruction, you will prepare a Formation of Faith paper. **This is your opportunity to think deeply about who you are as a child of God, what you believe and don't believe, how it was that you have come to believe as you do, who it was who God used to help you on the way, and what difference all this will make in your life.**

**You will write the Formation of Faith paper in three stages.** Each week you will be responsible for bringing in the section assigned to that week. Write carefully, thoughtfully, creatively. Draw upon your own experiences as well as the resources of the church: **worship, the Bible, the Creed, the Small Catechism.**

When we gather together, you will be sharing your work with others. We will listen respectfully to one another's work, ask questions, and perhaps offer suggestions for improving or expanding upon your work.

**The final product will be a paper that will be a "signpost" in your Christian experience,** the kind of paper that you will be able to read again in a few years, witnessing how your faith experience continues to mature as you mature.

**Confirmation Sunday will happen on May 15<sup>th</sup>.** You will read your paper to the congregation at 9:45 am. Once the papers have all been read, we'll have a reception for you in the Fellowship Hall.

**You will be confirmed at the worship service you normally attend.**

## **Formation of Faith Paper Content and Due Dates**

### **Week One Due Sunday, April 3 at 4:00 pm - 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet in Pastor Nelson's office**

What do you believe as a Christian? While our faith is personal, it is more than just our opinions - I want to see evidence that you have drawn from the teachings of the church (Bible, Small Catechism) in the formulation of your faith.

How have you come to believe what you do?

Who are the people, the events, the experiences, that have affected your life and your growth in the faith?

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### **Week Two Due Sunday, April 10 at 4:00 pm - 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet in Pastor Nelson's office**

What practical difference does your Christian faith make in your life? How does your faith affect the decisions you make, your hopes in life? Include stories, real life examples, of how your faith is influencing your life.

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### **Week Three Due Sunday, May 1 at 4:00 pm - 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet in Pastor Nelson's office**

What does the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism mean to you? What does it mean to you that you are being confirmed?

What questions do you still have?

How do you plan to continue growing in the faith?

# Three Year Confirmation Cycle

Faith Lutheran Church

Week	Year 1 2014-2015	Year 2 2015-2016	Year 3 2016-2017
1	10 Commandments – God	Lord’s Prayer – Talking With God	Bible – Timeline
2	10 Commandments – Family	Lord’s Prayer – God’s Will	Bible – Pentateuch
3	10 Commandments – Life	Lord’s Prayer – Our Needs	Bible – Historical Books
4	10 Commandments – Sex	Lord’s Prayer – Forgiveness	Bible – Wisdom
5	10 Commandments – Neighborhood Life	Lord’s Prayer – Protection & Praise	Bible – Prophets
6	Apostle’s Creed – God	Sacraments – Baptism as Event	Bible – Mark
7	Apostle’s Creed – Jesus	Sacraments – Baptism as Life	Bible – Matthew
8	Apostle’s Creed – Holy Spirit	Sacraments – Promises of Communion	Bible – Luke
9	Apostle’s Creed – Vision Map	Sacraments – Practices of Communion	Bible – John
10	Apostle’s Creed – Faith Stories	Sacraments – Power of Community	Bible – Acts
11	The ELCA – History	Luther/Reformation	Bible – Paul’s Life
12	The ELCA – Churchwide	Roman Catholic Church	Bible – Paul’s Journey’s
13	The ELCA - Synod	Episcopalian Church	Bible – Paul’s Letters
14	The ELCA - Faith Lutheran	Methodist Church	Bible – Early Church
15	The ELCA – Caring Ministries	Other Protestants	Bible – Revelation
16	Hot Topics – God & Science	Hinduism	Judaism
17	Hot Topics – Body Care	Buddhism	Hot Topics – Media & Internet
18	Hot Topics - Drugs & Alcohol	Islam	Hot Topics – Death
19	Stewardship	Mormonism	Evangelism
20	Worship & Liturgy	Worship & Mission	Worship Leadership



# Faith Lutheran Church 2014-2015 Confirmation Plan - Year #1

Date	Topic	
August 24	Confirmation Orientation – Faith5	
September 7	10 Commandments – God	
September 14	10 Commandments – Family	
September 21	10 Commandments – Life	
September 28	10 Commandments – Sex	
October 5	10 Commandments – Neighborhood Life	
October 12	Apostle’s Creed – God	
October 19	Apostle’s Creed – Jesus	
October 26	Apostle’s Creed – Holy Spirit	
November 2	Apostle’s Creed – Vision Map	
November 9	Apostle’s Creed – Faith Stories	
November 14-16	NO CLASS - Family Camp at Lutherhill	
November 23	Hot Topics – God & Science	
December 9	SERVICE PROJECT – CCSC Jingle Bell Express, Bellaire Methodist Church	
ADVENT BREAK		
January 4	The ELCA – History	
January 11	The ELCA – Churchwide	
January 18	The ELCA - Synod	
January 25	The ELCA - Faith Lutheran	
February 1	NO CLASS – Souper Bowl of Caring	
February 8	The ELCA – Caring Ministries	
February 15	Stewardship	
LENT BREAK		
April 12	Hot Topics – Body Care <i>(3:00 – 4:00) 8<sup>th</sup> grade Formation of Faith paper prep.)</i>	
April 19	Hot Topics - Drugs & Alcohol <i>(3:00 – 4:00) 8<sup>th</sup> grade Formation of Faith paper prep.)</i>	
April 26	Worship & Liturgy	
May 2 (Saturday)	Confirmation Luncheon	
May 3	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	
June 6	Faith Camp training	
June 8-26	Faith Camp – Online Applications for Staff opens on February 1 <sup>st</sup> for 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders	
July 27-31	Lutherhill Summer Camp	
<b>Learning Event Schedule</b>		<b>Faith5</b>
4:00 – 4:10 PM	Welcome and Review	Share
4:10 – 4:40 PM	Learning Time	Read
4:40 – 5:20 PM	Small Groups and Faith5	Talk/Reflect
5:20 – 5:30 PM	Closing and Blessing	Pray
		Bless
<b>Group One</b> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.  Guide: Guide:	<b>Group Two</b> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.  Guide: Guide:	<b>Group Three</b> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.  Guide: Guide:

# Faith Lutheran Church 2015-2016 Confirmation Plan - Year #2

Date	Topic	
August 30	Confirmation Orientation – Faith5	
September 13	Lord’s Prayer – Talking with God	
September 20	Lord’s Prayer – God’s Will	
September 27	Lord’s Prayer – Our Needs	
October 4	Lord’s Prayer - Forgiveness	
October 11	Lord’s Prayer – Protection and Praise	
October 18	Sacraments – Baptism as Event	
October 25	Sacraments – Baptism as Life	
November 1	Sacraments – Promises of Communion	
November 8	Sacraments – Practices of Communion	
November 15	Sacraments – Power of Community	
November 22	NO CLASS – Middle School Retreat at Lutherhill	
December 8	SERVICE PROJECT – CCSC Jingle Bell Express, Bellaire Methodist Church	
ADVENT BREAK		
January 10	Luther and the Reformation	
January 17	Our Neighbors’ Faith – Roman Catholic Church	
January 24	Our Neighbors’ Faith – Ecumenical Partners	
January 31	Our Neighbors’ Faith – Other Protestants	
February 7	NO CLASS – Souper Bowl of Caring	
LENT BREAK		
April 3	NO CLASS	
April 10	Our Neighbor’s Faith – Hinduism/Buddhism (3:00 – 4:00) 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Formation of Faith paper prep.)	
April 17	Our Neighbor’s Faith – Islam	
April 24	Worship & Mission (3:00 – 4:00) 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Formation of Faith paper prep.)	
May 1	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	
TBA	Family Camp at Lutherhill	
TBA	Faith Camp training	
TBA	Faith Camp – Online Applications for Staff opens on February 1 <sup>st</sup> for 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders	
TBA	Lutherhill Summer Camp	
<b>Learning Event Schedule</b>		<b>Faith5</b>
4:00 – 4:10 PM	Welcome and Review	Share
4:10 – 4:40 PM	Learning Time	Read
4:40 – 5:20 PM	Small Groups and Faith5	Talk/Reflect
5:20 – 5:30 PM	Closing and Blessing	Pray
		Bless
<b>Group One</b>	<b>Group Two</b>	<b>Group Three</b>
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.
7.	7.	7.
8.	8.	8.
Guide:	Guide:	Guide:
Guide:	Guide:	Guide:

## Faith Lutheran Church 2016-17 Confirmation Plan - Year #3

Date	Topic	
August 28	Confirmation Orientation – Faith5	
September 11	Bible – The Big Picture Timeline	
September 18	Bible – The Pentateuch	
September 25	Bible – The Historical Books	
October 2	Bible - Wisdom	
October 9	Bible - Prophets	
October 16	Bible - Mark	
October 23	Bible - Matthew	
October 30	Bible - Luke	
November 6	Bible - John	
November 13	Bible - Acts	
November 20	Bible – Paul’s Life	
November 25-27	NO CLASS – Middle School Camp at Lutherhill	
December 9	SERVICE PROJECT – CCSC Jingle Bell Express, Bellaire Methodist Church	
ADVENT BREAK		
January 8	Bible – Paul’s Journeys	
January 15	Bible – Paul’s Letters	
January 22	Bible – Early Church	
January 29	Bible - Revelation	
February 5	NO CLASS – Souper Bowl of Caring	
February 12	Our Neighbor’s Faith - Judaism	
February 19	Hot Topics – Media and Internet	
February 26	Hot Topics – Death <i>(3:00 – 4:00) 8<sup>th</sup> grade Formation of Faith paper prep.)</i>	
LENT BREAK		
April 23	Evangelism <i>(3:00 – 4:00) 8<sup>th</sup> grade Formation of Faith paper prep.)</i>	
April 30	Worship & Liturgy	
May 3	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	
TBA	Faith Camp training	
TBA	Faith Camp – Online Applications for Staff opens on February 1 <sup>st</sup> for 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders	
TBA	Lutherhill Summer Camp	
<b>Learning Event Schedule</b>		<b>Faith5</b>
4:00 – 4:10 PM	Welcome and Review	Share
4:10 – 4:40 PM	Learning Time	Read
4:40 – 5:20 PM	Small Groups and Faith5	Talk/Reflect
5:20 – 5:30 PM	Closing and Blessing	Pray
		Bless
<b>Group One</b>	<b>Group Two</b>	<b>Group Three</b>
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.
7.	7.	7.
8.	8.	8.
Guide:	Guide:	Guide:
Guide:	Guide:	Guide: