

Christ Lutheran Church
Madley, PA

Confirmation Ministry

Adopted by Council: September 13, 2007

Introduction

Confirmation Ministry is a ministry of this congregation that leads to the Affirmation of Baptism (formerly known as the Rite of Confirmation). As with other ministries, Confirmation Ministry is made up of multiple components. Confirmation Ministry involves 1) Worship Participation, 2) Catechetics, 3) Service Ministries, and 4) Fellowship Opportunities.

Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation) is not an ending, but is a continuation of active participation in the life of the Church. Confirmation Ministry is intended to prepare the youth of our congregation to assume for themselves responsibility for the promises made by their parents at Baptism.

The expectations outlined below are intended to establish regular patterns that will continue beyond the catechetical years through adulthood. These levels of participation may require some extra effort -not just from the student, but also from the entire family and congregation.

Worship

Active, responsible members of the Church regularly attend and participate in worship. Worship is the central activity of the Christian faith. Therefore, it is expected that the confirmands regularly attend worship -both Sundays and "special" services. Regular attendance may be defined as attending 75% of the worship services of this congregation. This expectation is intended to highlight the importance of worship and to establish a lifetime pattern of worship.

Worship attendance records will be maintained. After each service, the confirmand should sign his/her bulletin and give it to the Pastor. Attendance records will be based on the bulletins that are handed in. Should it be necessary for a confirmand to be away from our congregation for worship, he/she should sign and bring back a bulletin from the congregation where worship was attended.

Catechetics

Catechetics is the portion of Confirmation Ministry dealing with education. Catechetical instruction includes the study of Scripture (both Old and New Testaments), the study of Church History, the study of Church Doctrine (specifically *The Small Catechism*), and applying these areas of study to daily life. It is expected that confirmands attend class sessions regularly. Again, regular attendance is defined as being 75% of the class sessions. Recognizing that occasional illnesses and emergencies arise, it is expected that confirmands will make up material missed during times of absences.

Catechetical classes will meet Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. These sessions will be taught by a lay instructor. During the course of Confirmation Ministry, portions of the catechetical instruction will be led by the Pastor at times other than Sunday mornings. Confirmands are expected to participate in these sessions with the Pastor.

Service

Being an active member of a congregation implies a desire to serve. Confirmands are expected to participate in one or more service ministries while in Confirmation Ministry. At least one of these service ministries should be within the congregation. Areas of service within the congregation include acolytes, ushers, lectors (lay readers), Communion Assistants, and other tasks. Areas of service outside the congregation include volunteering at Pennknoll Village or Donahoe Manor, TLC-SHARE, the American Cancer Society, and other community organizations. One of the roles of a baptized Christian is sharing the Gospel beyond the four walls of the congregation. Those who need assistance in choosing an area of service should speak with the Pastor or the Catechetical Instructor.

Fellowship

Christian fellowship is the time when Christians come together to offer help, encouragement, support, and friendship to each other and to receive the same. This may be done in times of fun-filled activity or moments of quiet conversation/reflection. Those participating in Confirmation Ministry are expected to participate in fellowship activities of this congregation, especially those specifically intended/or the youth.

Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation)

At the conclusion of Confirmation Ministry, the Catechetical Instructor and the Pastor will consult with each other regarding the readiness of the confirmands to Affirm their Baptism. The recommendations of the Pastor and Catechetical Instructor will be presented to the Christian Education Committee, and in turn to the Congregation Council for approval.

The Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation) will take place within the context of a regularly scheduled Sunday morning worship service on a date mutually agreed upon by the Pastor and the confirmands and their families.