

St. John's Confirmation Program Introduction

September 10, 2023

I. Class times, special dates, and special circumstances

- a. Confirmation is from 8:30 to 9:30 every Sunday morning.
- b. There will be NO confirmation classes...
 1. December 17 Christmas Program (?)
 2. December 24 Christmas Day
 3. December 31 New Year's Break
 4. March 31 Easter Breakfast.
- c. Since the pastor lives next door to the church, we will rarely cancel Sunday morning activities for bad weather. Church policy states we only cancel at Level 3. For anything less, please use your best judgment on whether or not you should travel.
- d. May 19, 2024 is the last day of Confirmation class.

II. Communication

There is an email list for confirmation through Google Groups

<https://groups.google.com/u/0/g/st-john-confirmation>

A reminder email for this class was sent. Please confirm that you are on the mailing list. If you would like to be added to the list, email

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org .

III. What we will study this year

Martin Luther, Lutheranism, Faith, Service and the Apostles' Creed.

Tammy Mazur and Pastor O'Brien are each teaching different sections of material. Parents, if you are willing to teach, team-teach a series of lessons, or substitute teach a lesson or two please let me know.

IV. Expectations

a. of Students

1. In class -be on time, participate in class activities/discussion, complete assignments (Sermon Notes and Service Points), ask questions and learn.
2. Bring your Bible, book(s), paper, and something to write with every week.
3. Outside of class –come to church, participate in youth activities, and search for ways to live your faith.

b. of Parents

1. In class –bring your child to class on time.
2. Worship with your child.
3. Encourage your child to participate in church activities and help them find ways to live their faith.

4. Outside of class –talk to your child about what they have been learning, talk about faith stories, encourage their commitment to growing in faith, bring them to church and youth group activities.

V. Sermon Notes and Service Points

a. Sermon Notes

The purpose of confirmation is to teach the basics of Lutheran/Christian belief and help students become responsible, active church members. But becoming a responsible, active church member is not something that can happen only in the classroom. Therefore, as part of confirmation, each year students are required to turn in notes on 7 different sermons. The goal is to lead them to a more mature participation and involvement in the worship service. “Sermon Note” forms are available in the confirmation class room. **All 7 must be turned in to your confirmation teacher/pastor no later than the end of confirmation.**

- This may sound overwhelming, but consider that confirmation spans 9 months. That’s about (actually less than) one per month.
- You may use any schedule you wish. That is to say, you can do one a month for seven months, you can do them all within the first seven weeks, or you can do them all in the last seven weeks. (I would, however, discourage the last option. It results in lots of stress.) The choice is yours as long as you have turned in seven before confirmation Sunday.
- Some students prefer to fill out the form while they sit in church. Others jot down notes and fill out the form later, and others listen attentively to the sermon and fill out the form after a discussion with friends and family. Again, the choice is yours as long as you have turned in seven before confirmation Sunday.
- Occasionally students will attend another church with friends or while on vacation. Yes, you may turn in “Sermon Notes” from a church other than St. John, but please include a bulletin from that church. I would prefer not *all* your “Sermon Notes” be from another church, but again, the choice is yours as long as you have turned in seven before confirmation Sunday.

b. Service Points

Another part of this year’s Confirmation class is service points. Again, another aspect of Christian life that expands beyond the classroom. You earn one point for each hour of community or church work you perform. It must be something you DO NOT get paid for and it must be service to someone outside of your own family. **You must do 10 hours before the end of confirmation.**

- This may sound overwhelming, but consider that confirmation spans over 35 weeks. That’s about one hour of service or volunteering every 3 ½ weeks.

- There are several opportunities for service here at the church, but you need to take the initiative. Joining the lector rotation, helping usher, etc. would count toward service points. God’s Work, Our Hands at LHM today would count toward service points.
 - At various times during the year the youth or various groups of the church will do service oriented activities. In the past money has been raised for outside organizations with a dinner or breakfast. People have worked at the food pantry (Sept. 16 is the next date). People have served during the Easter Breakfast, VBS, etc. Any of these activities would count toward service points.
 - Many times your school or your neighborhood or your parent’s workplace will sponsor service activities. Your participation in any of these will count toward service points.
 - My one request is that you don’t do 10 hours all in one place. (i.e. 10 hours at Vacation Bible School.) Strive for some variety in your service.
- c. If you have any questions about “Sermon Notes” or “Service Points”, please contact Pastor O’Brien

VI. Church Council

Students are required to attend one Church Council meeting and fill out a short note/reflection form (available in the Confirmation classroom). Church Council meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00. In confirmation, not only do we learn about faith and service, but also the business side of the church in which you will be confirming your faith.

VII. Discipline matters

First I talk to the student, then parents, then church council, then removal from program.

VIII. Attendance

- a. If students are going to be in the program, they must attend the classes. 90% attendance is required for confirmation. That translates to no more than four absences for sickness, family travel, school activities, etc. The student is responsible for making up missed classes.
- b. If more than four classes are missed, the student and parent must meet with the pastor/teacher to discuss remaining in the program.

IX. Confirmation – May 18 or 19, 2024

X. Questions