

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We begin another year of growth as individuals, as students, as leaders, as God's children. What a privilege it is to help your children grow as students of God's Word so that they may know Jesus with a firm faith!

Confirmation has a long, and sometimes complex history in the Christian church. To Catechize, means simply, 'To Teach'. Confirmation is the process of teaching people the basics of our beliefs as Christians.

Confirmation does not make your children Christians, however. They are already part of God's family! That promise was given to them in their baptism. However, you might say that Catechism makes them Lutheran. Luther's Small Catechism (one of our main texts) gives a framework in which to understand God's Word, and how to apply it to our lives. It begins the process of expanding their minds, introducing concepts, and causing them to reflect upon their own beliefs and attitudes in comparison with God's Word.

Confirmation is really done by the parents and guardians at home. As Pastor, I help fill in gaps, and help answer questions raised by parents and students alike. However, without the active support of parents, very little I say or do can matter.

To this end, I ask that you make a commitment to your child to work weekly with them in their confirmation assignments. Help them memorize the assigned portions of the Catechism. Talk about these things over dinner, or when driving to and from sports and band practice. Use these opportunities to show your children the importance of learning God's Word, and take the chance to freshen up your own understanding.

I am also aware that Jr. High students can have attention spans as swift as shooting stars. We will have breaks in our class, and healthy snacks (fruit, granola bars, popcorn, low-sugar items) are always welcome. Somewhat humorously, I might add the observation that sometimes when children report what went on in a class their report bears little resemblance to what actually happened. I'll quote from a wise school teacher who once told me, "If you won't believe everything your child says about what went on at school, I won't believe everything they tell me about what goes on at home."

I am always available for any questions, concerns, or just to talk. You may call the church office at (661) 871-1289 or e-mail me at pastor@revrwl.com

Confirmation 2006-2007

Textbook: Holy Bible. (Any readable translation)
Luther's Small Catechism. Concordia. 1991
Keeping the Faith: God's Truth for Inquiring Young Adults.

Meeting time and Location: Wednesdays. 4:30pm - 6:00 pm. Education building library. First class is September 20th.

Student expectations:

- Class conduct

- Reading (average 4-5 pgs of textbook per week)

- Memory Work

 - Old Testament Books

 - New Testament Books

 - Catechism reading and Luther's explanation

 - Bible verses, as assigned

Parent (adult family member) Expectations:

- Assure student arrives at class on time

- Review reading assignments with student.

- Assure student has completed memory work

Tentative Calendar and Assignments:

September 20th. Class Begins. Reading assignment: Pg 5-15 in the text.

Memory work: Begin memorizing books of the Old and New Testament.

September 27th.

Reading assignment: Pg 53-61 in the text.

Memory work: First Article of the Creed and Explanation.

October 4th.

Class led by Ken Campbell. Pastor is out of Town.

Reading Assignment: Pg. 86-99 in the text.

Memory work: Be familiar with the Lord's Prayer and explanation. Bonus points if you memorize it!

October 11 th .	No Class. Pastor is out of Town. Keep working of First Article of the Creed, explanation, and Books of the Old and New Testament.
October 18 th	Reading assignment: Pg 53-61 in the text. Memory work: First Article of the Creed and Explanation.
October 25 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 62-74 in the text. Memory Work: Second Article of the Creed and Explanation.
November 1 st	Reading Assignment: Pg 62-74 in the text. Memory Work: Second Article of the Creed and Explanation.
November 8 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 62-74 in the text. Memory Work: Second Article of the Creed and Explanation.
November 15 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 75-85 in the text. Memory Work: Third Article of the Creed and Explanation.
November 22 nd	Reading Assignment: Pg 75-85 in the text. Memory Work: Third Article of the Creed and Explanation.
November 29 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 75-85 in the text. Memory Work: Third Article of the Creed and Explanation. <i>Have Books of Old and New Testament memorized.</i>
December 6 - January 3 rd	Classes on hold for Advent and Christmas

January 10 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 100-107 in the text. Memory Work: Baptism and Explanation.
January 17 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 100-107 in the text. Memory Work: Baptism and Explanation.
January 24 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 108-117 in the text. Memory Work: Confession and Explanation.
January 31 st	Reading Assignment: Pg 108-117 in the text. Memory Work: Confession and Explanation.
February 7 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 108-117 in the text. Memory Work: Confession and Explanation.
February 14 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 118-124 in the text. Memory Work: The Lord's Supper and Explanation.
February 21 st - April 11 th . Classes on hold for Lent and Easter	
April 18 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 118-124 in the text. Memory Work: The Lord's Supper and Explanation.
April 25 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 125-135 in the text. Memory Work: None. Catch up on missing memory work.
May 2 nd	Reading Assignment: Pg 125-135 in the text. Memory Work: None. Catch up on missing memory work.
May 9 th	Reading Assignment: Pg 125-135 in the text. Memory Work: None. Catch up on missing memory work. Preparation for Confirmation final exam.

Sunday, May 13. Confirmation.