
Confirmation Syllabus 2024-2025

Faith Lutheran Church – Rochester, NY 14625



Goals

The Confirmation experience has a number of goals. They are to assist the confirmands to:

- grow in their faith in Jesus Christ.
- build/strengthen relationships with other youth and adults at Faith.
- better understand God's Story.
- gain a deeper appreciation for Lutheran theology.
- talk about their faith with their parents.
- prepare for making a lifelong commitment to Christ.

At the end of the Confirmation experience, it is hoped that each young adult will have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, will be serving Him by using the gifts that He has given to them, will be actively involved in the worship and life of our congregation, and will have a strong relationship with their family.

In order to achieve these goals, we need the commitment and involvement of:

- the confirmands
- the parent(s)
- Faith's staff
- other adults

Confirmands

1. This school year, confirmands will be reading through "The Story" from Genesis to Revelation. They will learn how God's Upper Story relates to their own Lower Stories. The Story (aka God's Word) provides a foundation on which we all can stand upon!
2. Participation in Sunday worship, Confirmation classes, Sunday Night FLY, service projects, and other Faith activities help develop a confirmand's faith as we journey through life together. These activities also help us develop friendships with other Christians who journey with us through life. It is expected that confirmands actively participate in the life of the church and our youth group. Confirmation is just one part of the overall youth ministry at Faith. If there will be an ongoing reason for absence from these activities, please inform Pastor Peter Johnson.
3. The church staff and Youth Advisors understand that school athletics and extra-curricular activities are part of many people's lives. The time and energy put into these activities reflect priorities. We simply ask confirmands and parents to make Confirmation and FLY a priority. In FLY, we are working on something that is not only lifelong, but will also last for all eternity. We urge that parents and students, early in the year, approach coaches and extra-curricular coordinators to explain the priority of Confirmation class and our FLY activities.

4. Students are responsible for the subject matter and homework missed due to absences. Following an absence, you must turn in any missed homework to Pastor Peter and/or fill in your missed lesson material in your binder. All assignments are found in the Confirmation white binder and online at: <http://faithpenfield.org/ministries/youth>. After each lesson, the PowerPoint presentation will be uploaded online for youth & parents to review at: <http://faithpenfield.org/ministries/confirmation-lessons>.
5. During our worship services, confirmands will be required to take sermon notes. Sermon notes are found on the usher shelf each week and also at the back of the white binder. Students should complete the forms and place them in the blue shoebox on the usher shelf. Each student needs to complete at least 15 sermon notes by May 1, 2025.
6. Students are to serve others as part of their Christian growth. Each confirmand is required to complete at least 15 hours of service by May 1, 2025. Service hours can include: Sunday morning roles (acolyte, crucifer, nursery duty, Livestream producer, usher, reader, greeter, Kid's Time, & running PowerPoint), FLY FUNdraisers (Hotdog/Burger FUNdraiser, Coffee House, Spaghetti Dinner, & others), Rise Against Hunger, or something done for anyone (other than a family member) who is in need. As service hours are completed, you should complete a report form (found at the back of the white binder, and also online) and submit the form to Pastor Peter.
7. Throughout the year, progress reports with the number of sermon notes & service hours earned so far will be sent to each confirmand.

Parents

1. Please recognize that you are the primary teacher and spiritual leader of your household! God has given you the responsibility and task of teaching your child. Look for opportunities to talk about your faith and how it applies to your life. Your relationship to the Lord and His Church is the most important influence on your child's faith. Staying in the Word, attending Sunday worship, and building relationships with other Christians are just a few of the many ways you can grow as a follower of Jesus Christ.
2. Confirmation ministry is one of the key places where your role as spiritual leader and teacher of your child overlaps with the congregation's role of providing resources and opportunities for spiritual growth for all members. You are still the primary teacher of your child as God dictated in His Word (Deut. 4:9, 6:4-9 & 11:18-20), but the staff and members of Faith Lutheran Church want to assist you in their spiritual development.
3. Work with your child in preparing for Confirmation class. Discuss what is being learned with your child. Tell them how the material being covered relates to your life and ask how it relates to their life.
4. "Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy," (Ex. 20:8). Worship regularly in-person with your family and the Body of Christ. It is through the Word and the Sacraments that we are spiritually fed. Sabbath can also be "kept holy" when you read and discuss the Word together. Find a time to pray and grow together in your faith in Christ!

5. We are asking for at least one parent to be in attendance in 50% or more of the Confirmation classes. Your role in class will be to work with your child (to discuss questions, to explain things that aren't clear, etc...), to grow spiritually yourself, and to be a role model for your child. There may also be opportunities to facilitate some conversations with other parents and students sitting near you in the class.
6. All Confirmation forms can be found online at <http://faithpenfield.org/ministries/youth> and scroll down to the Confirmation section.

Additional Information

1. Each student is asked to have an NIV, ESV, or NRSV translation of the Bible and "The Story" Teen Bible.
2. The class will meet in-person on Sundays in Room 204 at 9:45-10:40am (see class schedule).
3. There are no fees for this class.
4. Pastor Peter Johnson is the lead teacher of our Confirmation class. Mark Harstad will be co-teaching our class this school year. Many thanks to Mark for jumping in this year!
5. Confirmation Sunday for current 8th grade students is scheduled for Oct. 19, 2025 (in the fall of their freshman year).
6. In the fall of their 9th grade year, confirmands will complete their Faith Art & Faith Statement projects which they'll present to the congregation. This is the last requirement of the Confirmation journey.
7. Parents and students should feel free to contact Pastor Peter if you have any questions or thoughts about Confirmation.

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