

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

413 EAST AVENUE D | ZIONBISMARCK.ORG



# Confirmation Handbook

## 2025-2026

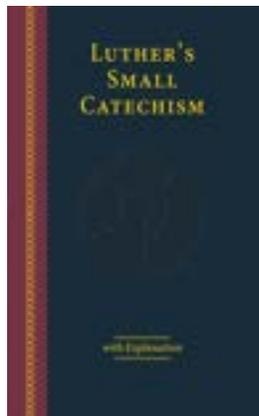
Parent meeting ..... 09.03.25 @ 6 pm  
Classes begin ..... 09.10.25 @ 6 pm

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# Why do we have confirmation classes?

Confirmation is a very important part of Christian education in the home and at church, where you grow in your faith, grow in God's love, and grow in living a Christian life. Partnering with parents, we study Luther's Small Catechism, which consists of six chief parts:



- The Ten Commandments
- The Apostles' Creed
- The Lord's Prayer
- Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- Confession and Absolution
- The Sacrament of the Altar

*"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord."  
- Psalm 78:4*

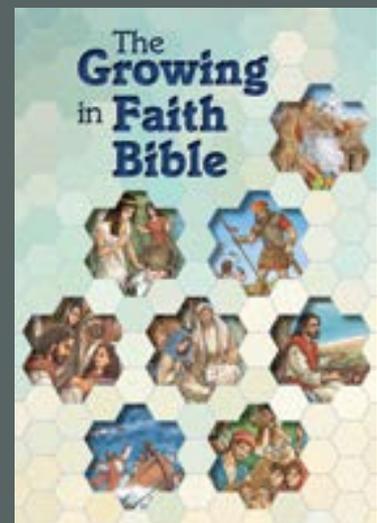
## REGISTRATION



## Pre-Confirmation Program

Our pre-confirmation consists of mostly fifth and sixth grade students. Prior to diving into Luther's Small Catechism, students get a comprehensive look at Old Testament and New Testament Bible lessons to serve as a foundation.

Occasionally siblings who are close in age can attend classes together (which means an early start for the younger sibling). Pastor Otto teaches these Bible lessons in fun and engaging ways for students and parents. It is a great time to ask questions, spend time in God's Word, and grow in faith together!



# PROGRAM INFORMATION



## Ages

Beginning in fifth grade, students are encouraged to attend catechesis (confirmation classes) with a parent or involved adult at Zion.

## When do we meet?

Classes are on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 pm beginning after Labor Day and concluding at the end of April. Please see the Family Ministry annual calendar for more information.

## Fees

There is a \$15/year confirmation fee to cover the cost of materials, curriculum, and resources. This can be paid at the confirmation parent meeting or deposited in the black mailbox outside Zion's office.

Students who are confirmed also pay a fee for flowers and professional photos.

## Worship & Education

Regular worship and Sunday School attendance is a vital practice of our faith, and therefore an expected part of confirmation instruction. This practice is important to instill the habits of regular church attendance.

- Sunday Divine Services 8:30 & 10:45 am
- Saturday Divine Service 5:00 pm
- Sunday School 9:30-10:30 am



# SERMON NOTES

*Listening to God's Word strengthens our faith and reinforces the lessons taught in confirmation class. Sermon summaries inspire reflections on weekly worship to ensure they have a clear understanding of each week's message.*

## **60 completed sermon summaries are required to be confirmed (approx. 20/yr)**

- Summaries should be written neatly on the provided forms (distributed in class or by the church greeters on Sunday mornings).
- You may turn in completed summaries from another church as long as it is accompanied by the corresponding bulletin for the service attended.
- Summaries can also be completed for Divine Services at Bible camp, Jr. High Gatherings, Higher Things Gatherings, or other worship opportunities.
- Sermon summaries are to be recorded and handed in to your teacher. They will be returned to you to place in your binder. For those who have been in confirmation already, your binder will accurately reflect the number you need to complete.

*There are 66 worship opportunities in a typical calendar year. A summary sample is provided at the back of the handbook.*



## **SERMON SUMMARY SUNDAY**

**Sunday, October 12 | Noon–2:00 pm**

All confirmation students and parents are invited to join us for Sermon Summary Sunday. Students will learn how to complete sermon summaries, identify law and gospel, locate sermon questions, and reflect on what they've heard. By the end of the class, each participant will have five completed sermon summaries.

# SERVANT EVENTS

*"The greatest among you will be your servant." – Matthew 23:11*

*As Christians, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Servant events help students explore to the various functions of the church, establish the habit of serving others – locally or out in the community – and nurture students to become active members of the church body.*

## 15 family servant events are to be completed outside of class, before confirmation

Servant events should demonstrate a generous contribution of time and talents (90-120 minutes/event). For smaller projects, 2 or 3 events will qualify as 1 full servant event (ex: running the computer during worship or helping with a Wednesday meal).

Servant events may be completed any time during the year.

After completing an event, please file a completed *and signed* Family Servant Event Report in your confirmation binder.

## Servant Event Opportunities

*Watch Life & Growth and emails for details.*

### **ZION CHURCH MAINTENANCE**

**Travis Rau 471-9113**

Yardwork, painting, cleaning basement chairs, washing windows outside, shoveling snow, etc.

### **ZION EVENT SETUP/TEARDOWN**

**Russ Weixel 400-6492**

Table set-up & take-down for funerals/events

### **ZION LIVE NATIVITY**

**Josh Albers 471-0642**

Help with set-up, take-down, participant, organize costumes

### **ZION QUILTERS**

**Phyllis Weist 226-1521**

Setup, teardown and quilt tying

### **ZION SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS**

**Kristin Nistler 400-2069**

Greet people by main doors before church services

### **ZION ADVENT/LENT SUPPERS**

**Gayle Little 223-8286**

Setup, serve and cleanup dinner

### **ZION COMMUNION PREPARATION**

**Carol Baker 530-9981**

Help with setup/cleanup

### **NURSING HOMES/SHUT-IN VISITS**

**Pastor Marcis 223-8286**

### **LITTLE FREE PANTRY**

**Kristin Nistler 400-2069**

Purchase groceries, stock pantry or arrange donations

### **MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS**

**John Dolbec 223-6315**

Help sort food pantry items

### **HEAVENS HELPERS CLOSET**

**(701) 751-1468**

Laundry, sort, press, hang clothing

### **DREAM CENTER**

**Doreen Quist 955-2150**

Prep for sack lunch program, serve breakfast or dinner

### **CARRIE'S KIDS**

**Carrie Grosz (Text) 390-3201**

Prep Christmas baskets for needy families

### **DAKOTA BOYS & GIRLS RANCH**

**Pastor Otto 319-5667**

Make Christmas treat boxes, host Christmas party for residents, misc. special projects

### **HEAVEN'S HELPER'S SOUP CAFE**

**Mark Meier 751-7687**

Chop vegetables, wait tables, serve food, wash dishes, cleaning, etc.

### **MERCY MEALS**

**Kristin Nistler 400-2069**

Package meals to send to impoverished countries



# ACOLYTE PROGRAM

Serving as an Acolyte (candle lighter) is a great opportunity to serve the Lord in a meaningful way and to learn more about the important elements of public worship at Zion. As an Acolyte, you are one of the assistants in Zion's worship service. The main duty of the Acolyte is to light the candles before the services and extinguish them during the final hymn. Students may also be asked to assist with Communion.

## Each student in grades 5-8 is asked to serve as acolyte for 2 services/quarter

You can choose between either service on Sunday morning (8:30 or 10:45). There are also some options for Wednesday services during Advent and Lent.

- Acolytes should arrive at least 15 min. before service
- The candles should be lit 5 min. before service begins
- Acolytes should be dressed in the proper vestments (robes), be dressed appropriately for church, and participate in the service with a positive attitude
- Confirmation students are expected to be at their assigned services or to secure a replacement and notify the church office of the change
- An elder will assist the acolytes each Sunday
- Parents are welcome to sit in the pew behind the acolytes so you can still worship as a family

An Acolyte Handbook is available on our website for more information.

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."  
- John 8:12*

## SIGN UP



Reminder emails available to help with busy schedules!



The acolyte schedule is listed in Life & Growth each Sunday.

# CHURCH LEARNING FAIR



*The goal of the Church Learning Fair is to allow all confirmation students a creative way to glorify and serve God with their talents. Some projects center around service to church and community, while other projects witness through visual art or displays.*

## Church Learning Fair | April 29, 2026

- Projects will be displayed throughout the basement in science fair style
- A meal is served for families, followed by the Learning Fair and a cake reception for confirmands
- Each student being confirmed will be gifted a Lutheran Study Bible from the Board of Youth

*Projects and topics must be approved by April 1.*



## Project Ideas

- Faith-inspired original artwork (sculpture, painting, drawing, etc.) – must include a Bible verse and at least one paragraph explaining how it relates to your faith
- One-page typed report
- Slide presentation
- Science fair style display – larger topic (ex: Martin Luther/the Reformation or history of the Apostles' Creed)
- Write/record a Christian song
- TV commercial for Zion
- Video journal
- Devotion (see Mrs. Nistler for format)
- Christian themed comic strip
- Tshirt design for VBS
- Collage
- Portfolio of your favorite devotions, Bible verses, and special faith moments in your life (Baptism, Sunday School, King's Kids, confirmation, birth/death of a loved one, etc)
- Woodworking or glass project
- Banner design for the Sanctuary
- Drama presentation – dress up as a Bible character and tell a Bible story (ex: dress as Moses and tell us about the 10 commandments, the golden calf, talking to Pharaoh, etc.)
- Write/illustrate a children's book
- Create a faith-based game
- Plan and implement a service or outreach event and tell us about it (ex: a clothing drive, volunteering at a shelter or soup kitchen, assembling health kits or school kits for Mexico)
- Write/teach a Sunday School or King's Kids lesson; take pictures to display
- Sew a prayer buddy or pillowcase
- Prepare food/a meal from scripture – bring samples to share
- Organize a plan for offerings at VBS
- Find/fill a need for a local non-profit

Topic ideas: church history, something from the Catechism, Martin Luther, the Reformation, Bible lessons, seasons/colors of the church year, Chrismons, etc.

# RITE OF CONFIRMATION

*“Confirmation is a public rite of the church preceded by a period of instruction in which baptized Christians learn about the confession, life, and mission of the Christian Church ... The Rite of Confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God’s promise given in Holy Baptism, to make a personal, public confession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ.”*  
- Luther’s Small Catechism

## **First Communion | October 25, 2025 | 10:45 am**

Zion holds First Communion on Reformation Sunday, the last Sunday in October. Only students in their final year of catechesis receive First Communion. This happens after students have been instructed in the Sacrament of the Altar and Confession and Absolution.

## **Rite of Confirmation | May 3, 2026 | 10:45 am**

The Rite of Confirmation is held at Zion’s 10:45 Worship Service the first Sunday in May each year for students who have successfully completed the confirmation program.

*Public questioning takes place at 9:30 am the same day.*



## **Public questioning**

In public questioning, students are able to profess all they have learned in the confirmation program before the congregation, which happens between services at 9:30 am on the day of confirmation. Our pastors ask questions from a predetermined list (found on Zion’s website) and students faithfully proclaim answers which come from Luther’s Small Catechism. Students spend time practicing the questions and answers at home and in class, so they are well prepared.





# CONFIRMATION MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Foster  
spiritual  
growth

Encourage  
church  
participation

Connect  
students &  
caring adults

Celebrate  
milestones &  
together

We have recently established a Confirmation Mentorship Program to establish a structured relationship between confirmation students and adult members of Zion (typically not a family member). The purpose is to connect students with a mentor to help them grow in their faith and prepare for the future. The mentor's role is to be a friend who encourages the student during confirmation and beyond.

## Mentor suggestions

- Encourage the student to ask questions and express their faith
- Attend the Church Learning Fair to see student projects
- Attend First Communion and the Rite of Confirmation
- Give small notes of encouragement
- Support learning memory work on occasion
- Greet the student on Sunday mornings
- Share their confirmation experience with the student
- Volunteer together

*Zion will host "meet and greets" throughout the year to encourage interaction and facilitate relationship building.*

# MEMORY WORK

*Peter encourages all Christians in 1 Peter 3:15 "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."*

Memorizing scripture and its meaning is one of the best ways to always be prepared to state your beliefs. Reading and learning scripture also serves to comfort and strengthen us in time of trouble. This is why memory work is an integral part of Zion's confirmation program.

- **Memory work is required to be practiced at home and recited in class each week**
- Parents will record memory work in the binder
- This does not need to be said to a teacher, but you may request that a teacher be involved



**Copies of the memory work schedules are in your binder or online at [www.zionbismarck.org](http://www.zionbismarck.org)**

## Contact Information

### **PASTOR MARCIS**

701-220-8437  
TMarcisJr@gmail.com

### **PASTOR OTTO**

701-319-5667  
Rev.VincentOtto@gmail.com

### **KRISTIN NISTLER**

*Director of Family Ministry*  
701-400-2069  
kristin.nistler@gmail.com

### **GAYLE LITTLE**

*Zion Office*  
701-223-8286  
zionlcmsbis@gmail.com

### **BRIAN ROSIN**

*Acolyte Coordinator*  
701-202-3428  
b\_r.rosin@midco.com

# FALL SCHEDULE

DATE	NOTES	PRE-CONFIRMATION	CONFIRMATION
9/3/25	Parent Meeting 6 pm		
9/10/25	First Day of Class 6 pm & Acolyte Signup (2 Sun)	Birth of John the Baptist	Scripture & Christianity
9/17/25		Birth of Jesus	Intro to LSC Law & Gospel
9/24/25		Boy Jesus in the Temple	1st Comm.
10/1/25		Baptism of Jesus	2nd Comm.
10/8/25		Temptation of Jesus	3rd Comm.
<b>Sun 10/12</b>	<b>SERMON NOTE SUNDAY</b>	<b>SERMON NOTE SUNDAY</b>	<b>SERMON NOTE SUNDAY</b>
10/15/25	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
10/22/25	Mentorship Event 6:00-6:30 pm	Peter's Catch of Fish	4th Comm.
10/29/25		Water into Wine & Jesus Calms the Storm	5th Comm.
11/5/25		Jesus Feeds 5,000 Widow's Son & Jairus' Daughter	6th Comm.
11/12/25		Jesus Walks on Water The Ten Lepers	7th & 8th Comm.
11/19/25	Acolyte Signup (2 Sun)	Transfiguration Jesus Blesses the Children	9th & 10th Comm.
11/26/25	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
12/3/25	Advent Worship 7pm	Zacchaeus	Close of Comm.
<b>Sun 12/7</b>	<b>LIVE NATIVITY</b>	<b>LIVE NATIVITY</b>	<b>LIVE NATIVITY</b>
12/10/25	Advent Worship 7pm	Parable of the Lost Sheep & Coin	Review 10 Comm.
12/17/25	Family Christmas Event Advent Worship 7pm	Attend Event	Attend Event
12/24/25	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
12/31/25	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS

# SPRING SCHEDULE

DATE	NOTES	PRE-CONFIRMATION	CONFIRMATION
1/7/26		Parable of Pharisee Foolish Rich Man	Intro to Creed
1/14/26		Good Samaritan	1st Article Part 1
1/21/26	Mentors invited to class	Triumphal Entry & Anointing	1st Article Part 1 Cont.
1/28/26		Lord's Supper	1st Article Part 2
2/4/26		Gethsemane Jesus Betrayed & Arrested	1st Article Part 3
2/11/26		Jesus before Sanhedrin Peter Disowns Jesus	2nd Article Part 1
2/18/26	Ash Wednesday Worship 7 pm	Pilate & Crucifixion	2nd Article (Cont.)
2/25/26	Lenten Worship 7pm Acolyte Signup (2 Sun)	Jesus Dies & is Buried	2nd Article Part 2
3/4/26	Lenten Worship 7 pm	Resurrection	2nd Article Part 3
3/11/26	Lenten Worship 7 pm	Appearances of Risen Lord	3rd Article Part 1
3/18/26	Lenten Worship 7 pm	Ascension & Pentecost	3rd Article Part 2
3/25/26	Lenten Worship 7 pm	Stephen	3rd Article Part 3
<b>4/1/26</b>	<b>FAMILY LENTEN EVENT</b> Lenten Worship 7pm	<b>Family Lenten Event</b>	<b>Family Lenten Event</b>
4/8/26	Learning Fair Projects Approval Deadline	Peter Freed from Prison	3rd Article Continued
4/15/26		Paul's Conversion	Review of Creed
4/22/26	Summer Acolyte Signup (2 Sun)	Paul's Ministry	Year End Review
<b>4/29/26</b>	<b>CHURCH LEARNING FAIR</b>	<b>Church Learning Fair</b>	<b>Church Learning Fair</b>
<b>Sun 5/3/26</b>	<b>RITE OF CONFIRMATION</b>		

# Zion Lutheran Church Confirmation Sermon Summary & Questions

This can also be done on Zion's App: "Zion LCMS"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Who is preaching the sermon today? \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Text (*Bible verse Pastor is preaching about*): \_\_\_\_\_

<p>Law in the Sermon: Shows Our Sin</p> 	<p>Gospel in the Sermon: Shows Our Savior</p> 
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What was the MAIN IDEA in the sermon:

*(Note: Usually this is emphasized & repeated a few times during the sermon.  
Listen at the beginning and end, or for a repeated phrase).*



<p>Questions I have about what I heard in the sermon or during the service:</p> 	<p>Words I didn't understand:</p> <p>This week I can pray about:</p> 
<p>How will the message impact your week? (sports, school, activities, home, etc.)</p>	<p>These Sacraments were part of the Worship Service:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Baptism    <input type="checkbox"/> Communion</p>

Answer Sermon Questions: (*Found in Life & Growth*)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

*Record the completion date, sign & file this form in your confirmation binder.*

# FAMILY MINISTRY CALENDAR

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH | 2025-2026

SEPTEMBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1 Labor Day  
 3 6:00 pm Conf Parent Mtg  
 7 9:30 am Rally Sunday  
 10 6:00 pm Conf & Kks begin  
 28 9:30 am NYG Presentation

MARCH '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

1 Family Sunday School  
 29 10:45 am - Palm Sunday  
 SS Sings

OCTOBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

3 Lock-in Grades 5-8  
 12 12:00-2:00 pm Sermon  
 Note Sunday  
 14-21 LEM Mission Trip  
 15 No Confirmation or KK  
 16-18 ND Dist Gath (Gr 6+)

APRIL '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1 Family Lenten Event  
 2 Maundy Thursday  
 3 Good Friday  
 5 Easter Sunday – No SS  
 10 Lock-in Grades 4-8  
 29 Church Learning Fair –  
 Confirmation Recognition  
 & Last Day Kks

NOVEMBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

9 Family Sunday School  
 SS Sings at 10:45  
 26 No Confirmation or KK  
 Thanksgiving Worship w/  
 Comm  
 27 Thanksgiving Day  
 30 No SS Thanksgiving Break

MAY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

3 Confirmation Sunday  
 10 Mother's Day  
 17 Last Day of SS  
 25 Memorial Day

DECEMBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

7 65th Annual Live Nativity  
 Family Christmas Event  
 17 Children's Christmas  
 Program  
 24 Christmas Eve Worship –  
 2, 4 & 11 pm  
 25 Christmas Day – 9:30 am  
 28 No SS  
 31 New Year's Eve Worship

JUNE '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

7-10 VBS  
 14 Father's Day

JANUARY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

4 Sunday School Resumes  
 7 Confirmation & KK  
 Resumes

JULY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

4 Independence Day  
 TBA Bible Camps

FEBRUARY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

1 Grandparent's Sunday  
 10:45 am SS sings  
 13-20 LEM Mission Trip  
 18 Ash Wednesday

Zion Family Ministry Engaging Families to Live the Legacy  
of Faith "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy  
deeds of the Lord."  
Psalm 78:4

Sunday School– 9:30 am  
 Wednesdays  
 King's Kids – 6:00-7:30 pm  
 Confirmation – 6:00-7:30 pm  
 Youth Group – 7:30-9:00 pm

[www.zionbismarck.org](http://www.zionbismarck.org)  
 Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church  
 Church Office: 701-223-8286