



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

# Confirmation Handbook

## 2026-2027



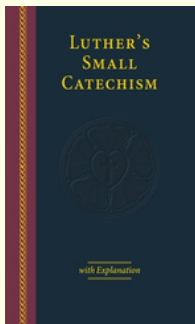
*Parent Meeting September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm*  
*Class begins September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm*

*Zion Lutheran Church*  
*413 East Avenue D*  
*[zionbismarck.org](http://zionbismarck.org)*

# 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

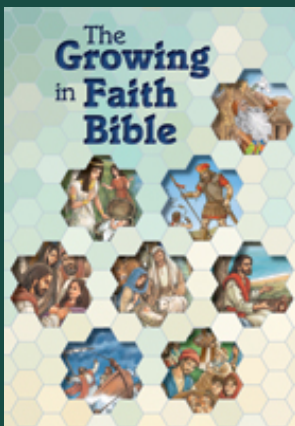


*Confirmation  
Registration Form:  
(same as Sunday School)*



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

## *Pre-Confirmation Program*



Our Pre-Confirmation consists of mostly 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Prior to diving into Luther's Small Catechism, students will 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

Regular worship & Sunday School attendance is an expected part of Confirmation instruction as well as a vital part of our daily faith. It is important to instill the habits of regular church attendance. Our Divine Services are Sunday mornings at 8:30 & 10:45 am and Saturday evenings at 5 pm. Sunday School is from 9:30-10:30 Sunday mornings.



# Sermon Notes



**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): \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Law in the Sermon:</b><br>Shows Our Sin<br> | <b>Gospel in the Sermon:</b><br>Shows Our Savior<br> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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.)

|                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Questions I have about what I heard in the sermon or during the service:</b><br> | <b>Words I didn't understand:</b><br><br><b>This week I can pray about:</b><br> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>How will the message impact your week?</b><br><small>(sports, school, activities, home, etc.)</small> | <b>These Sacraments were part of the Worship Service:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Baptism <input type="checkbox"/> Communion |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Answer Sermon Questions: (Found in Life & Growth)  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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

A Sermon summary is a form that helps a student take notes about the sermon and inspires reflections regarding worship. The number of sermon summaries required to be confirmed is **60 (approximately 20 per year)**. For those who have been in confirmation already, your binder will accurately reflect the number you still need to complete. In a regular calendar year, there are 66 worship opportunities. Sermon summaries should be written neatly on the sheets provided (in class or from the church greeters on Sunday mornings). Sermon summaries are used to ensure that the youth has a clear understanding of each week's lesson. Listening to God's Word will strengthen faith and reinforce the lessons being taught in Confirmation class. You may turn in completed sermon notes from another church as long as it is accompanied by the corresponding church bulletin for the service attended. An example of the Sermon summary form is at the end of the handbook. Sermon summaries are to be recorded and handed in to your teacher. They will be returned to you to place in your binder. Sermon Summaries can also be completed for Divine Services at Bible camp, Jr. High Gatherings, Higher Things Gatherings, or other worship opportunities.

All confirmation students will learn more about how to complete sermon notes during Sunday school in the month of September. Students will learn how to complete sermon summaries, identify Law & Gospel, locate sermon questions, and reflect on what they've heard. Those attending these Sunday school lessons will be get to check off extra sermon notes in their binders.

# 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. These servant events are an effort to establish the habit of serving in the church and community. Servant events will also help in preparation to become an active member of Zion Lutheran Church and to help youth explore various functions of the church. Most of our servant event opportunities will be during Confirmation class or Sunday School times. Other church-wide service opportunities are available. Information can be found in Life and Growth.

For those who miss a scheduled servant event, we ask the you make it up by serving an hour (or longer) in a different way. For service projects involving smaller periods of time, 2 or 3 may count as 1 servant event. For example, running computer during worship service or helping during a Wednesday meal. These may be done during the school year or over the summer.

## *Servant Event Suggestions*

Church Properties: Travis Rau 471-9113 (yardwork, painting, clean basement chairs, wash windows outside, shoveling snow, etc.)

Nursing Homes/Shut-in Visits: Pastor Marcis 223-8286

Live Nativity: Josh Albers 471-0642 (Help with set-up, take-down, participant, organize costumes)

Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch: Pastor Otto 319-5667 (Make Christmas treat boxes for residents, host Christmas party for residents, special projects at the Ranch)

Heaven's Helper's Soup Cafe: Mark Meier 751-7687 (Chop vegetables, wait on tables, serve food, wash dishes, cleaning, etc.)

Ministry on the Margins: John Dolbec 223-6315 (Help sort food pantry items)

Heavens Helpers Closet (701) 751-1468 (Launder, 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 (Christmas baskets for needy families)

Event Set-up/Take-down: Russ Weixel 400-6492 (Table set-up & take-down for funerals/events)

Quilters: Phyllis Weist 226-1521 (Set-up, Take-down & Quilt Tying)

Sunday Morning Greeters: Kristin Nistler 400-2069 (Greet people by main doors before services)

Communion Preparation: Carol Baker 530-9981 (Help with set-up and clean-up of Communion)

Advent/Lent Suppers: Gayle Little 223-8286 (Set-up, Serve & Clean-up for Wed suppers)

Little Free Pantry: Kristin Nistler 400-2069 (Purchasing groceries & stocking pantry or arranging donations)

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 for you to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in a special way and to learn more about the important elements of public worship services here at Zion. As an Acolyte, you are one of the assistants in Zion's worship service. This is an important job that contributes to the Divine Service in meaningful ways. The schedule is listed in Life & Growth each Sunday. Confirmation students are responsible to be at their assigned services or to secure a replacement and notify the church office of the change. (An Acolyte Handbook is available for a more detailed description and illustrations.)

The main duty of the Acolyte is to light the candles before the services and to extinguish them during the final hymn. Students may also be asked to assist with Communion. Acolytes should arrive at least 15 minutes before the service starts. An elder will assist the acolytes each Sunday. The candles should be lit about 5 minutes before the service begins. Acolytes should be dressed in the proper vestments (robes). Please dress appropriately for church and participate in the service with a positive attitude. Parents are welcome to sit in the pew behind the acolytes so you can still worship as a family.

Each student in the confirmation program is automatically signed up to acolyte about 7-8 times a year. We do our best to assign families to the services they attend. We also assign acolytes for the evening services during Lent and Advent, as well as the special services for holidays. If your child cannot acolyte on the days assigned, please use the calling list to switch days, or find someone to cover the service.

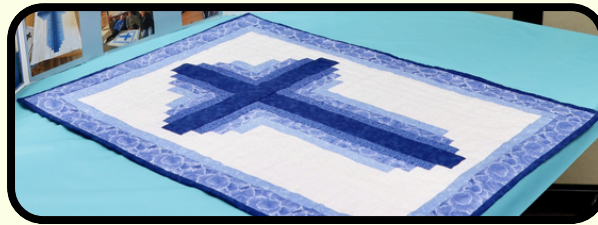


*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12*

# 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. Projects will be displayed throughout the basement (science fair style). Students should have their project approved their teacher by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Church Learning Fair is April 28, 2027. A meal is served for families, followed by the Learning Fair and a cake reception for the Confirmands. Each student being confirmed will receive a Lutheran Study Bible from the Board of Youth as a gift to continue using at Youth Group and Adult Bible Study.



## Ideas

- Christian Artwork: Any piece of faith-inspired, original art created by you. This could be a sculpture, painting, drawing, etc. that you have created. You will need to include at least one paragraph explaining how your art relates to your faith. Please also include a Bible verse.
- A one-page typed report on a topic approved by the teacher.
- A presentation in Google slides or Canva on an approved topic (Church history, Something from the Catechism)
- A display (science fair style) on a larger topic, for example, the Reformation & Martin Luther, or history of the Apostles' Creed.
- Write a Christian song and record it to play during the fair.
- Record a TV Commercial for Zion Lutheran Church or do a video journal.
- Write a devotion! (see Mrs. Nistler for format)
- Create a Christian themed comic strip.
- Create a collage describing your faith, or a collage of Bible lessons/Catechism lessons you have learned this year.
- Make a small portfolio that could include your favorite devotions, Bible verses, and special faith moments in your life (Baptism, Sunday School, King's Kids, Starting confirmation, birth or death of a loved one, etc).
- Woodworking or glass project.
- Display and explain the seasons/colors of the church year, Chrismons, etc.
- Design a banner for the Sanctuary.
- Dress up as a Bible character and tell your story (Example: Dress as Moses and tell us about the 10 commandments, the golden calf, talking to Pharaoh, etc.)
- Write & illustrate a children's book about a Bible lesson.
- Create a game board with faith-based questions.
- Plan and implement a service or outreach event & tell us about it. (Examples: a clothing drive, volunteering at a shelter or soup kitchen, assembling health kits or school kits for Mexico).
- Write a lesson plan and teach a Sunday School or King's Kids class. Take a few pictures to use for the display.
- Sew a prayer pillowcase or a stuffed animal to hold while you are praying.
- Cook a food/meal found in Scripture and bring samples to share
- Design a shirt for VBS!
- Organize a plan for offerings at VBS
- Try to fill a need for a local non-profit

# 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

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.

The Rite of Confirmation is held at Zion's 10:45 Worship Service the first Sunday in May each year for students who have completed the confirmation program. Public Questioning takes place at 9:30 am the same day.

## *Public Questioning*

In public questioning, students are able to showcase all they have learned in the confirmation program. Our pastors ask questions from a set list (found on Zion's website) and students are able to 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



We have recently incorporated a Confirmation Mentorship Program at Zion. This is a structured relationship between an adult Zion member and a confirmation student that helps the student grow in their faith and prepare for the future. The mentor is usually an adult who is not a family member of the student. The mentor's role is to be a guide and friend who encourages the student during confirmation classes and beyond.

## *Program Goals:*

- Connect students to caring adults in our congregation
- Encourage participation in church activities and church attendance
- Foster spiritual growth for congregational youth
- Celebrate milestone events with students and families

## *A few things a mentor might do include:*

- Encourage the student to ask questions and express their faith
- Attend the Church Learning Fair to see the projects
- Attend First Communion and the Rite of Confirmation (both on Sunday mornings)
- Give small notes of encouragement
- Perhaps practice memory work on occasion
- Notice the student's presence on Sunday mornings & greet them
- Talk about your confirmation experience with the student
- Talk about volunteering 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 to “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 those ways to always be prepared to state your beliefs. Scripture also serves to comfort and strengthen us in time of trouble. These reasons are why memory work is a part of Zion’s Confirmation Program. Memory work is to be practiced at home and recited 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 on Zion’s website.



## *Contact Information*

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