



CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

for 7th & 8th graders and their families

2022-2023 School Year

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
210 E. Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066
(262) 567-5001
www.splco.org

What Is 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. For many catechumens, confirmation is the necessary period of instruction before admission to The Lord's Supper (cf. 1 Corinthians 11.28).

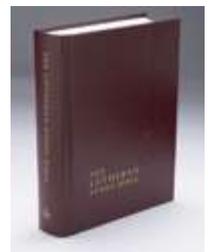
Our Goal

We prepare our catechumens to make confident, public confession of their faith. We will do everything within our power—together—to help them understand the gift of Christ's forgiveness and how that is expressed in worship and life. To that end our practice is pretty simple: teach kids the *Catechism* and help them begin to live it out.

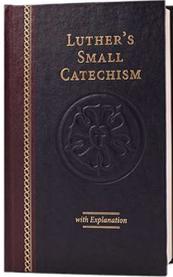
Necessary Resources

ESV Bible

The English Standard Version is the Bible translation used in our curriculum. Any ESV Bible will do, but we highly recommend *The Lutheran Study Bible*, which is the only English study Bible built from the ground-up by confessional Lutherans. It has excellent maps and study notes that make it very valuable for confirmation. It can be ordered from the office or Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org). The hardback version holds up better, especially with a Bible cover, but the compact paperback is the same text.



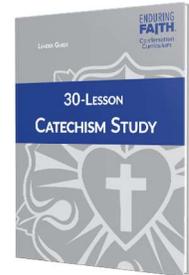
Luther's Small Catechism (2017)



The 2017 edition of *Luther's Small Catechism* matches the curriculum that we use. This may be purchased at www.cph.org or from the school office (262-567-5001) for \$21.

30 Lesson Catechism Studies

The combined 7th and 8th grade public school confirmation class is taught primarily by the pastors. The 30-lesson workbook is available at www.cph.org or from the office for \$20. At St. Paul's school the catechism study is done in 7th grade and an apologetics study is done in 8th grade as part of the St. Paul's school religion curriculum.



If cost is a hardship, please speak to one of the pastors.

Learning Log Notebook

8th graders will need a spiral notebook to write in a learning log. In addition, several writing assignments will be turned in via the catechumen's Google Classroom account.

Confirmation Requirements

Worship

Since worship is the central part of the Christian life, and since the confirmation vows include a promise to "hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully," we expect confirmands to have 75% weekly worship attendance.

Class Attendance and Parental Involvement

It is primarily the parent's vocation to "train up the child in the way he should go." (Pr 22.6) Catechists (teachers of the faith) at St. Paul's welcome the partnership with parents and the opportunity to discuss ways to improve this partnership.

- **Public School.** Confirmation classes are on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. A parent or guardian is expected to be present along with their catechumen.
- **St. Paul's School.** Confirmation is part of the religion curriculum at St. Paul's school. An excellent way for SPL parents to augment their support is to attend the 7th and 8th grade public school class on Sundays.
- **Retreat?** We are attempting to plan a mid-year retreat for all confirmands.
- **Youth Group.** Attending middle school youth group events is an *excellent* way for 7th and 8th graders to get to know one another and deepen their faith.

Foundational Knowledge (Memory Work)

A key goal of the whole catechetical process is to give the catechumen a mastery of the *Small Catechism*, which summarizes The Faith and provides a life-long foundation.

Prerequisite

Those entering Confirmation should know by heart (memory) "The Primary Texts of the Christian Faith" (See summary at the end of this handbook.) If the catechumen does not know these before 7th grade confirmation begins, please contact the pastor.

7th Grade

1. Learn by heart (memory) the *weekly* material from the workbook.
2. Additional memory work may be added if necessary.
3. By the end of 7th grade, the catechumen will have mastered at least the 10 Commandments, the Creed, and Baptism *with explanations*.

8th Grade

1. Learn by heart (memory) the *weekly* material from the workbook.
2. Additional memory work may be added if necessary.
3. By the time of Confirmation (1st week of May) the catechumen will have mastered the remainder of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer, Confession and the Office of The Keys, and The Sacrament of the Altar (Lord's Supper).

Applied Knowledge

1. Learning Logs (for 8th grade confirmands)
2. Confession of Faith (for 8th grade confirmands)
 - a. Write a *Confession of Faith* (rubric distributed separately).
 - b. Present this confession publicly at a worship service.
3. Service in Church (7th and 8th Grade)
 - a. Confirmands will serve with responsible adults on at least two worship-related teams during the 7th and 8th grade years.
 - i. **Acolyte Corps.** Acolytes are specially trained to assist the pastors by lighting candles, collecting offering, carrying the cross, etc.
Contact: Mr. Dave Meyer (dave.meyer@splco.org); 920-279-5860
 - ii. **Usher Team.** Ushers serve by welcoming people to worship. They distribute the bulletin and other materials, help people find a seat, and collect the offering.
Contact: Mr. Rick Zastrow (rick.zastrow@splco.org; 414-379-2837).
 - iii. **Altar Guild.** The altar guild serves by keeping the altar for worship, including preparing and caring for the sacred vessels and elements for Holy Communion, and decorating according to the church season.
Contact: Mrs. Wendy Tesch (wendyltesch@gmail.com; 920-366-2099)
 - iv. **Technology Team.** The tech team serves by enabling the technological aspects of in-person and on-line worship, including: sound mixing, video mixing, or camera operator.
Contact: Pastor O'Donnell (interim) (podonnell@splco.org.262-567-5001)
 - v. **Music Team.** Musicians bring beauty to the congregation and uphold the Word of God by playing instruments or singing for worship. *Note:* You are not guaranteed a place on this team. Contact: Miss Allison Mackie (allison.mackie@splco.org; 262-567-5001).

- b. *Team schedules will be communicated by the team leader. As with any team, if you are unable to serve you are responsible for contacting your team leader in advance about a replacement.*

Key Dates for 2022-2023

- Tue, 8/30/22 @6:30pm or Wed, 8/31/22 @7:30pm. Informational meeting for all potential 7th and 8th grade confirmands and their parents
- Sun, September 11, 2022. Public school confirmation class (& Sun. Schl.) begins.
- Sun, September 18, 2022. Turn in signed "Covenant of Participation."
- Sun, December 18, 2022. Foundational Knowledge Assessment (8th grade catechumens significantly behind are notified that spring confirmation may not be possible.)
- Sun, March 12, 2023. Foundational Knowledge Assessment
- Sun, May 7, 2023. Spring Confirmation at 8:00 am service.
- Sun, May 21, 2023. Last day of public school confirmation

The Primary Texts of the Christian Faith

(What you need to know at the *beginning* of the Confirmation process)

Books of the Bible (Old and New Testament, in order)

See *Small Catechism*, pp.369-371

The Ten Commandments (Commandments only, not explanations)

See *Small Catechism*, pp.13-15

The Apostles' Creed (Creed only, not explanations)

See *Small Catechism*, pp.16-17

The Lord's Prayer (Intro, petitions, & Conclusion only, not explanations)

See *Small Catechism*, pp.19-22

Key Texts for Baptism (Matt. 28:19: Mark 16:16)

See *Small Catechism*, pp.23-24

Key Text for Holy Absolution (John 20:22-23)

See *Small Catechism*, pp.27

Words of Institution of The Lord's Supper ("Where is this written?")

See *Small Catechism*, pp.28-29