

# CONFIRMATION GUIDE

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

### 2021-2022

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The purpose of Zion's Confirmation Program: To **nurture children of God** who are:

- **Faithful**
  - Grounded in God's grace, given to each of us as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ.
  - Rooted in the scriptures and the story of God's love as proclaimed in the Bible.
  - Equipped to grow in faith during a lifetime of daily discipleship.
- **Compassionate**
  - Identifying how God has equipped him/her with particular gifts.
  - Seeking opportunities to love and serve the neighbor in Jesus' name.
  - Showing respect and empathy for others, especially those who are suffering.
- **Connected**
  - Assured that baptism has initiated him/her into a cross+generational community in which they are accepted, known, and loved.

This document is your guide to the various components of Zion's confirmation program and the expectations for student participation. These pieces all work together to fulfill our purpose to equip students to be Faithful, Compassionate, and Connected.

**Throughout the year, Pastor Andrea will communicate with families in two ways:**

- **Email:** Weekly emails will include devotional scriptures, an overview of class topics to help parents check in with their student, and youth event announcements. To be added to the list, provide your email in the confirmation registration form or contact Pastor Andrea.
- **Text Messages through Remind:** Shorter reminders and announcements will be sent by group text. The Confirmation 2021-2022 class code is: **@zlccconf21**
- **Zion website:** Confirmation resources, schedules, forms and playlists will be posted on the Zion Website: [www.zionluthlakecrystal.org/confirmation](http://www.zionluthlakecrystal.org/confirmation).

## 2021-2022 CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

Month	Date	2020-2021 Description	Lesson
September	29	Kick-Off Meeting	
October	6	(M&M Ch. 1)	1
	13	(M&M Ch. 2)	2
	20	No class meeting Complete Playlist #1 by Oct 27	
	27	(M&M Ch. 3) <b>Deadline: Submit Mentor info to Pastor Andrea</b>	3
November	3	(M&M Ch. 4)	4
	10	No class meeting Complete Playlist #2 by Nov 24	5
	17	(M&M Ch. 5)	5
	24	<b>Thanksgiving Break: No Class</b>	
December	1	(M&M Ch. 6)	6
	8	(M&M Ch. 7)	7
	15	No class meeting Mentor Assignment #1 complete by Jan 5	
	22	<b>Christmas Break: No Class</b>	
	29	<b>Christmas Break: No Class</b>	
January	5	(M&M Ch. 8)	8
	12	(M&M Ch. 9)	9
	19	No class meeting Mentor Assignment #2 complete by Jan 26	
	26	(M&M Ch. 10)	10
February	2	<b>Special Event: Winter Meltdown (in Mankato)</b>	11
	9	(M&M Ch. 11)	12
	16	No class meeting Complete Playlist #3 by Feb 23	
	23	(M&M Ch. 12)	13
March	2	Ash Wednesday. No class meeting Complete Playlist #4 by Mar 30	
	9	Lenten Worship	
	16	Lenten Worship	
	23	Lenten Worship	
	30	Lenten Worship	
April	6	Lenten Worship	
	13	Holy Week – worship Thurs/Fri	
	20	No class meeting Complete Playlist #5 by Apr 27	
	27	(M&M Ch. 13)	14
May	4	(M&M Ch. 14-15-16)	15
	11	<b>Final Class</b>	

## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation instruction continues the faith formation journey that began for each student on the day of their baptism, and which extends through their whole lifetime.

Through water and God's Word, we are claimed as a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and marked with the cross of Jesus Christ. Parents (along with baptismal sponsors) make promises to instruct their children in the Christian faith, connect them with Christian community, and pray for them, **so that their children will learn to trust God, proclaim Christ, and care for the world**. Confirmation instruction is one way that parents and the congregation fulfill these promises together.

The Confirmation service is a celebration of the gift of faith, and a time of thanksgiving for God's steadfast presence in the life of each student as they become a young adult. As the student "confirms" their Christian faith, they are asked to affirm the baptismal promises made on their behalf:

*You have made public profession of your faith [through the Creed]. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:*

*to **live** among God's faithful people,  
to **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to **serve** all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth?*

**Confirmand: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

## When is Confirmation Sunday?

Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders (Class of 2026) will be confirmed on **Sunday, October 16, 2022** (i.e. the Sunday prior to the MEA break). Students participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Capstone in September and October. These events (usually held on Sunday evenings) invite students to reflect on their Confirmation experience and plan for continued faithful living and growth after Confirmation.

Current 7<sup>th</sup> graders (Class of 2027) will be confirmed on **Sunday, October 15, 2023**.

## COVID-19 Response

Zion Lutheran Church has developed a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, which is available to download from the church website. This plan provides detailed information about the personnel, building, and worship-related precautions that have been established to limit the spread of the virus and to protect Zion's members, staff, and community.

In compliance with this policy:

- Any student who is currently quarantined by their school's guidelines, or experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, will not attend in-person classes. If a student has had a

confirmed close-contact and is or awaiting results of a COVID-19 test, they will not attend in-person classes. Make-up work will be provided.

- Class will meet in the Youth Room, where it's not possible for students to be safe-distanced. Students are always welcome to wear a mask if this helps them feel more comfortable. All students will be asked to wear a mask during class during those times when Zion's COVID precautions are requesting masks in worship.

Pastor Andrea and the Congregation Council will continue to monitor local conditions with regard to the pandemic and make adjustments to the class schedule or format accordingly. It is reasonable to assume that as long as LCWM Secondary students are meeting in person or in hybrid formats, Confirmation classes will be held in-person as well. Should the school district announce a shift to distance learning for Secondary students, Confirmation classes will shift to an online format as well.

## Confirmation Participation Expectations

Full participation in the confirmation program will include regular participation in all classes and worship, including the following:

- **Confirmation Classes: Wednesdays (6:00-7:15 pm)**  
This is the heart of Confirmation, where students explore the Bible to dive into deep questions about life and faith. Please contact Pastor Andrea in advance to let her know about a student's absence. Make-up work will be expected when a student misses class. Excessive absences may require additional make-up work and/or one-on-one instruction time.
- **Playlists and At-Home Assignments**  
Each month, students will complete an assignment outside of class. Two of these assignments will be conversations with their Faith Mentors. The others will be "playlists" that help them dig deeper into Bible readings and skills for reading and interpreting the Bible. These playlists and assignments will be published on the Confirmation webpage. The playlist will usually be posted on the first Wednesday of the month, and is to be completed no later than the last Wednesday of the month.
- **Family Devotions at home:** see below regarding how families can grow in faith together through practices like doing Faith5 together.
- **Sunday Worship (Sundays at 9:00 am)**  
*Frequent worship alongside God's faithful people is the central practice of Christian discipleship.* Students are expected to attend worship regularly in order to be nurtured in faith and equipped for daily life. Right now this includes either attending in person or through Zion's Livestream available through Facebook Live. Students are welcome and encouraged to share their gifts in roles such as reading, ushering, serving communion, or helping with our video ministry.
- **Wednesday Lent Worship (Ash Wednesday and 5 Wednesday services)**  
During Lent, Zion's Lent services take the place of our regular class time. Worship notes are required. These services also include a time for conversation with their mentor. Students are strongly urged to also attend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

## Curriculum & Experiential Learning

Zion Confirmation follows a two-year cycle, alternating between Year A and Year B content. Students will experience both years during their two years of Wednesday classes. **The 2021-2022 program focus is Year B – The Bible**

## **YEAR B: BIBLE**

The Bible is the source and norm of our Christian Faith. It's also an amazing story of God's love for God's people and creation through all generations. A high-level overview of the Bible will equip students for greater Biblical literacy, so that they can continue exploring scripture as they mature. Our primary classroom resource will be *Manna & Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*. Written and illustrated by a Lutheran pastor named Daniel Erlander, *Manna and Mercy* is a retelling of the Bible that reads like a graphic novel and helps students understand the gift and calling of Christian discipleship.

## **YEAR A: DISCIPLESHIP & LUTHERAN IDENTITY**

Students will explore what it means to be a Christian and a Lutheran in a pluralistic world. As we engage student's big questions about faith and life, we will draw on **Luther's Small Catechism** as a guide to what we believe. We'll also learn about the reformer Martin Luther, and the centrality of grace for the Christian life.

## **SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

Serving our congregation and community is one way we live out our response to God's love and generosity. Each student is asked to complete **6 hours of service** to their church and community each year of confirmation (12 hours total over two years). Service hours for the current school year should be completed by **May 11, 2022**.

Typical ways of serving at church include: serving congregational meals, serving on a Zion Action Team by reading in worship or being a communion assistant, or participating in other projects. Service to the wider community through individual or group events is also encouraged. There are two ways to report your community service hours:

1. Complete a service slip (available on the Youth bulletin board) and place in the tray with completed Worship Notes.
2. Email the church office ([zioninfo@zionluthlakecrystal.org](mailto:zioninfo@zionluthlakecrystal.org)) with a description and date of the service completed.

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

Frequent worship alongside God's faithful people is the central practice of Christian discipleship. In worship, we're gathered together to hear the word and be fed by the Lord's Supper, and then sent out for love and service.

Completing Worship Notes helps students develop a greater awareness of what happens in worship, and how to listen more actively to the sermon. Each student is expected to complete **15 worship notes per year of confirmation** (30 worship notes total over two years). Worship Notes for Wednesday Lent services count toward this yearly total. **This year's notes should be completed by May 11, 2022**. A chart posted on the Youth bulletin board will provide periodic updates on student progress. Students who are

traveling may complete notes for services held at another church, using our form or whatever form is used by that congregation's students (please attach the worship bulletin).

There are two ways to complete your worship notes:

1. Blank Worship Notes can be found by the Youth Bulletin Board; completed notes should be returned in the labeled tray.
2. An Online Worship Notes form is available on the Confirmation Website.

## **FAITH MENTORS:**

For each year of confirmation, students will seek out a Christian adult (age 21 or older) to serve as their Faith Mentor. Members of Zion are preferred, but those outside the congregation are also welcome. Students may choose to ask the same mentor for both years of confirmation, or work with a different mentor each year. Students may not choose parents or siblings as mentors, but are encouraged to ask godparents, neighbors, church members, or family friends. They don't need to be Lutheran. They do need to be practicing Christians who are available to participate in our Mentor events. **Please provide your mentor's name, phone, and email to Pastor Andrea by October 27, 2021.**

Faith Mentors will work with their students in two ways:

- Discussions on Christian Faith in Daily Life: Pastor Andrea will provide two discussion guides for students to complete with their Mentor. Mentor Discussions will be scheduled by the student and mentor at time convenient to them. Meeting in person is preferred. Mentor Assignment #1 is due January 5, and Mentor Assignment #2 is due January 26.
- Wednesdays in Lent: Worship & Conversation (March 9 through April 6, 2022): Mentors are asked to worship at Zion with their student during Lent and to participate in discussion following the service. (Note: there are no formal Mentor discussions on Ash Wednesday or during Holy Week.)

## **NURTURING FAITH AT HOME: FAITH5**

Conversations with parents and at-home faith practices play a critical role in forming faith and faith practices as students mature. Throughout our youth programming, Zion Lutheran Church seeks to equip and support families in building a consistent practice (5 nights a week) of devotions and "God talk" at home. Whatever your current faith practices at home, we want your family to be equipped to pause in the busy rush of life to connect in a meaningful and faith-centered way.

Confirmation will introduce your family to a simple tool called "FAITH5," which helps families connect in five simple steps: Share, Read, Talk, Pray, and Bless. You'll learn about (and practice) FAITH5 at our Confirmation Orientation. Our students continue practicing FAITH5 during class in their small group time.

Each week, the Confirmation News email will provide five short scripture readings that connect with our class themes for the week. By using these readings at home, and continuing your FAITH5 or other faith practices at home, you'll grow in faith together and reinforce what your student is learning in class.

**Mid-Winter Meltdown: February 2, 2022**

This is an annual ministry event for Mankato-area confirmation students.. The event will take place at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Mankato). Parent volunteers will be needed as carpool drivers. Please stay tuned for details about the theme for this year's event, costs, and deadline for payment.

## Acolyte Responsibilities

An acolyte is a worship leader who assists the pastor by lighting candles, receiving the offering, and helping serve communion. All confirmation students will be scheduled to serve as an acolyte during the year.

I will be seeking volunteers to serve as acolytes in October! A full schedule for 2021-2022 will be distributed soon, together with a Confirmation Roster. **If you cannot serve as assigned, please find your own replacement** and then notify the church office (zioninfo@zionluthlakecrystal.org). We count on acolyte ministry! We need you!

## Weather Cancellation Policy

Confirmation classes and youth events will be cancelled whenever the LCWM school district cancels classes, closes early, or cancels evening activities due to inclement winter weather. Parents will be notified by email and Remind.

## Behavior Expectations

Appropriate student behavior and respect is required at all times:

- Students will treat everyone with respect in words and actions. We will not use crude or cruel language. We will not belittle or judge people based on race, gender, sexual orientation, appearance, or age.
- Students will give their respect and cooperation to all adult leaders.
- Students will cooperate with any COVID-19 precautions established by the Zion Congregation Council, which may include the use of masks and safe-distancing of 6-feet from other students.
- We will not physically harass one another. Rough-housing, wrestling, sitting on laps, etc. will NOT be tolerated.
- Students will not bring any of the following to confirmation or any Zion activity: cigarettes or vaping devices, lighters, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any weapon.
- Students will remain in authorized areas of the building. We gather for class in the Fellowship Hall. During Small Group discussion, the group may move to another part of the building with their Small Group Leader.
- Students will be on time and prepared for all events. Students will arrive for class with a Bible, writing utensil, and other workbooks as instructed.
- **Phones and other electronics will be collected at the beginning of class** so that they will not become a distraction during our time together.

Pastor Andrea reserves the right to remove students who violate behavior expectations, and contact a parent as needed.