



## Confirmation Ministries

*"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."*

Proverbs 22:6

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As you brought your child for Holy Baptism you were entrusted with responsibilities:

To live with them among God's faithful people,

To bring them to the word of God and the Holy Supper,

To teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

To place in their hands the Holy Scriptures,

To nurture them in faith and prayer,

So that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through Word and deed,

Care for others and the world that God has made, and work for justice and peace. (Service of Holy Baptism, Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith;*

*this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God."*

Ephesians 2:8

## **What is Confirmation?**

Confirmation is an educational ministry of our church designed to help all baptized members grow in their faith. Confirmation begins at Baptism and lasts a lifetime. Public Affirmation of Baptism in the Rite of Confirmation marks the entry of the Confirmands into full confirmed membership in the congregation, usually at the end of the student's 8th grade year.

Many of you were baptized as infants or small children. At your baptism, God claimed you as His own and promised you new life in Jesus Christ. God promised to give you the Holy Spirit, to forgive your sins and give you eternal life. All of this God promised to you as a free and undeserved gift because God loves you and sent Jesus into the world to die for your sake.

When you were baptized, your parents and sponsors (sometimes called Godparents) made some special promises to God and to you. They promised to faithfully bring you to the service of God's house and Communion, to place in your hands the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) and to teach you the Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, and the Ten Commandments. The church, which is all the people who have been baptized in Christ, also promised to support your parents and sponsors in this promise. Your confirmation is the faithful fulfillment of these baptismal promises. At home, in Sunday School, in worship, and now in confirmation classes, the church works with your parents and sponsors to support them in seeing that you have the opportunities for growth in your relationship with God. During Confirmation you have the opportunity to explore what it means for you to be a baptized child of God and how faith in Jesus Christ is a life giving gift to you, so that you can affirm (say yes) to your own baptismal faith.

***"Faith is caught more than it is taught"*** Confirmation classes are a formal learning environment designed to teach students about the Bible and the faith they are about to profess. However, learning is not limited to confirmation classes at church. Faith is primarily and most importantly "caught" in the home. The confirmation experience is a family commitment. Worshipping, serving, praying and sharing your faith story with your child are the best tools we have to pass on faith to the next generation.

We believe that faith formation belongs at the top of the priority list and hope that families make the effort as best as they are able to ensure that full confirmation experience and participation are a priority during this three year journey.

### **Expectations:**

**Wednesday Nights: *Regular attendance and participation are required.*** Wednesday evening will begin at 6:30 with an opening that will introduce the lesson for the week. The students will then gather for large group instruction led by Pastor Beth, Pastor Trent, Pastor Peter, Donna or guest. There will be small group time each week led by mentors. Small groups will be divided by grade. This is a time where students will connect and form relationships with each other and their mentors. Class will end

with large group, where the lesson will be brought together and then end with a blessing the students and mentors will share with each other. Class ends at 8:00. The lessons covered over a three year period are: The Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, Holy Baptism, Communion, The Ten Commandments, a review of the Old and New Testaments as well as a Faith in Life series. "The Luther Movie" will be shown every other year.

All scheduled weeks are of equal importance. Regular attendance applies to all scheduled weeks of the year (Service nights, Family nights/ activity/small group nights and fellowship).

**Worship attendance: *Regular attendance at weekly worship is required.*** Regular worship is a vital part of confirmation instruction as well as our daily lives. In order for student and parents to grow in faith together we encourage families to worship together on a regular basis. Students will be responsible for completing "Sermon Notes". Each student will be required to complete twelve each "school" year. Six should be completed by January 1<sup>st</sup> and then six by May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are two Wednesday evening worship times scheduled (Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and Ash Wednesday). Attendance is encouraged for the Ecumenical Service and expected for the Ash Wednesday service.

**Curriculum:** Currently we use "Here We Stand" curriculum by Augsburg Fortress. Teaching opportunities are enhanced through various multimedia, worksheets, Bible study, The Lutheran Handbook, small group and large group format. Additional study materials are available for your review at any time, please don't hesitate to ask.

**Service Events: *Participation in service events is required.*** Service points are not just a requirement of confirmation. They are intended to help youth and families recognize the value of service by creating a servant heart in each of us. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. It is through service that we live out our Christian faith. Each student will be required to complete 12 service points per "school" year. At least 8 of these needs to be within the congregation and up to four may be community based.

There are ample opportunities provided for the students, through the confirmation program, to complete their requirements. Often times, (but not all), these are scheduled on Wednesday evenings

**Usher/Acolyte:** All students and mentors will attend an Usher/Acolyte training workshop in October. Parents are encouraged to attend this training as well. Serving as an usher/acolyte during our worship services is an important role. All students will be required to serve in this capacity throughout the school year. A schedule will be made and distributed as soon as all registrations are collected. It is very important that each student show up when scheduled, or find their replacement. We will do our best to send home reminder emails/notes to assist you in planning your attendance.

**Fellowship Events:** There are several "fun nights" in the schedule. These fellowship events are an important part of the community and group building of our group. We hope that students form a bond with each other and the adults involved with the program as well as develop a sense of community within church. These events may include activities within our church, our community, yearly synod youth gathering and camp retreats. **All students are expected to attend these opportunities.**

**Annual Meeting:** Each student is required to attend one hour of the Annual Congregational Meeting. This meeting takes place on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 service. Please mark your calendar now.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade Retreat:** All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are expected to attend the Jr. High Blast weekend at Imago Dei Village. This weekend is scheduled for November 1-3, 2019. Please mark your calendar now.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Camp:** All students completing 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required to attend Confirmation Camp. This year's camp dates are not firmed up yet, but most likely will be July 5-10, 2020. Please mark your calendars now. Students attend as a group and we are along with Pastor Trent and/or Pastor Peter and Donna, Director of Faith Formation. This is a valuable time for faith exploration, group building and relationship building for our group. Students will participate in a variety of summer activities, Bible study, group building and faith exploration activities all in a Christ centered environment that promotes Christian community. *Deposits will be due to church no later than March 1, 2020.* Scholarships are available. Please do not hesitate to ask.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade JYG:** The East Central Synod Junior High Youth Gathering (JYG): All current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to attend this event. This event will take place in Manitowoc **February 15-16<sup>th</sup> 2020.** Please mark your calendars now.

**Annual "Faith Fair" and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Retreat:** The Faith Fair and 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat are required of all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This year's Faith Fair and retreat are scheduled on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 9am-5pm and takes place here at Bay View. Parents are expected to attend the Fair and lunch following the 10:30 service. Please mark your calendar now.

**Payment/Cancellation policy:** It is imperative to Bay View all that each youth be afforded every faith developing opportunity regardless of their ability to pay and without being a financial burden on their family. Partial and full scholarships are available and requests for scholarships are kept completely confidential. If you are in need of a scholarship please speak with Donna Van Ramshorst, Director of Faith Formation.

**Payment:** In an effort to help keep events affordable to all youth and their families, events are subsidized in varying amounts by the Learning and Youth Budgets. Parents will receive along with registration forms, information about the total cost of the event, along with what we are asking families to pay. Families will then have the option, if willing/able, to pay any amount from the minimum amount requested of families to the total cost of the event to help offset the cost to the budgets. Partial and full scholarships are available to those who need help to pay the minimum amount requested. If you are in need of a scholarship please speak with Donna Van Ramshorst, Director of Faith Formation.

**Cancellation:** In recent years there have been many instances where families have had to cancel their commitment of attendance at an event. This often leaves the full financial responsibility to Bay View. In an effort to responsibly manage the funds that have been appropriated for youth events and especially scholarships; Mission Boards on Youth and Learning have had to develop the payment and cancellation policy as outlined below:

Along with registration to events parents and youth will be asked to sign the following or similar statement:

I will attend: \_\_\_\_\_ on the following dates:  
\_\_\_\_\_. I understand the total cost for this opportunity is  
\_\_\_\_\_. I understand that I am being asked to pay \_\_\_\_\_. I understand  
that partial and full scholarships are available and all I need to do is to ask. I understand that my  
payment is non-refundable if I cancel after payments have been made to the organization hosting the  
event. I understand that if I cancel after payments have been made to the organization sponsoring  
this event, I am liable for the total cost for this opportunity. I understand that I will be billed the total  
amount. I understand that even if I receive a full scholarship, I will be billed for the entire amount  
paid to organization.

**For Example:**

- The Senior High Youth Gathering total cost: \$150
- I am being asked to pay: \$75 Bay View will pay the remaining \$75
- If I cancel after payment has been made to the synod on \_\_\_\_ (date entered here) \_\_\_\_ I will be billed for the unpaid balance of the total cost of \$150

Enclosed is my non-refundable payment of: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Points”:** Please be sure to fill out the appropriate forms to document your service/sermon notes. It is each student’s responsibility to keep track of their participation by filling out the appropriate forms. We will help with reminding youth to fill out their forms but cannot keep track of points for you. There is a crate located at the back of sanctuary with individual folders for each student. Place your slips in your folder. Additional sermon notes/service point slips available in a folder at the front of the crate. If you notice them getting low just let me know!

I will send out updates at least twice a year to help keep you informed of your child’s progress. Please feel free to check your child’s folder at any time to check on their progress.

**Fundraising:** *ALL* confirmation students are expected to participate in fund raising events. Service points will be awarded. All fundraising money helps to cover the costs of confirmation camp, which all

*students are encouraged to attend and those completing 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required to attend. Since this is a requirement of all 7<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students, fundraising money will first be put toward their payment for camp. We have been very fortunate that in past years we have been able to pay the cost for all 7<sup>th</sup> graders to attend, less the \$150 deposit paid by the families. It is our goal to have that continue. If additional monies are available through fundraising, additional camperships may be given to 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as well as other youth campers.*

**Parent Involvement:** All parents are welcome and invited to join our class at any time during the year. Confirmation is a **family** commitment. There will be scheduled “Family Nights” for confirmation. These nights will provide opportunity for parents to share in the confirmation experience firsthand, equip families for faith conversations, information to be shared, questions to be asked, and faith stories to be shared. ***We ask that each student is accompanied by at least one parent for “Family Night”, however the whole family is invited to join us as well!***

Parent volunteers are vital in making the service and fellowship activities possible. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children the basics of faith which are being taught in confirmation class. Parents are encouraged to review the small catechism, and the lessons in their student’s confirmation binders, which are provided for all students. There are many activities included to help bring faith into the home and our daily lives. We encourage you to discuss your own personal faith journey with your child. We appreciate you making Confirmation activities and the faith life of your student a priority.

**Registration Forms/Fees:** Registration forms are available online at [bvlc.org](http://bvlc.org) and in print in the education wing of church. A new form is required each year. There is an **annual fee** for confirmation of \$25. This fee helps offset the cost of supplies and activities. Each student will be given a binder, pens, pencils and highlighter. Students will be given a Student Study Bible and a Lutheran Handbook in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Scholarships are available. Please do not hesitate to ask.

**Supplies:** Students are expected to bring to class every week their Bibles, handbooks, binders and GOOD ATTITUDE! Cell phones will be turned off (except in emergency cases) and put in a bin by the door for class time.

**Discipline:** We are in need of your help. In the past, we have had some difficulty with a few behavior issues. We would appreciate it if you could review **your** expectations of behavior with your child. Give them a reminder of how you expect them to act while at confirmation.

Each small group will develop a “Covenant” for behavior/expectations. These covenants will include promises like....

- Keep hands to yourself
- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Listen to others
- Bring supplies(Bible, handbook, binder)

Our goal in confirmation is to provide a safe Christian environment where all youth and adults feel respected and are encouraged to grow in relationship with one another and with God. Each of the rules listed above are an excellent example of what it takes to provide a safe, Christian environment for all students. However, at times there is difficulty within the group to follow their own set of rules.

In order for our time together in confirmation to be rewarding all youth must agree to cooperate and participate, this includes following rules and meeting expectations for behavior.

Behavior issues will be addressed in the following manner:

- **ONE** verbal warning will be given
- If verbal warning ignored, student will be asked to leave the room and join Pastor Beth/Donna/Pastor Trent/Pastor Peter in the media room for the rest of the small group time.
- If, behavior continues to be a problem, parent will be notified.
- If, after parent notification, behavior continues to be a problem, a meeting with student/parent/Pastor and Director of Faith Formation will be scheduled **and** the parent will be asked to join their child in confirmation.

We also strive to create an environment of acceptance, grace and love, modeling the behavior of Christ. We recognize that each and every family has an expectation of respect and responsibility from their child. We just want to be proactive in addressing the concerns/issues early on, to prevent them from growing into bigger issues and inhibiting the group's ability to grow and flourish. As always, communication is vital in our relationships. If your child is expressing difficulty or experiencing hardships in any area, please share with us so we can help everyone involved work through in a positive and productive way.

**Mentors:** Faith is formed through the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Mentors have been selected for their ability and desire to relate to and engage our youth. Their primary role is to be authentic, available and affirming adults in the faith life of our youth. They are here to provide support and guidance as positive role models of an active faith. Mentors are expected to be present in mind, body and spirit at all events. All mentors must complete a background check on a yearly basis.

### **2019-2020 Mentors**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Rebekah Propsom, Dave Slamka and Alicia Schopf

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Tracy Andropolis and Heather LaVine

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Missy Forry and Prisca Benson-Fittshur

**Affirmation of Baptism:** is not an end to instruction and participation in church life. In fact, Affirmation is a new beginning in your own commitment to Christ and your Baptismal Covenant. Once you are confirmed, you accept responsibility for your behavior and Christian witness in the church community and the world. You will be responsible for continuing your education and stewardship (giving of time, talents and financial resources).

**Schedule:** Confirmation classes will meet most Wednesdays during the school year (September-May). A calendar and schedule of events have been provided for you. While most events are scheduled to take place on Wednesday night from 6:30-8, there are exceptions. We will always try to communicate dates and events to you as far in advance as possible. We need everyone's help and commitment to make this a successful program.

**Communication:** We do our best to maintain regular communication with parents and students through various outlets. Please be aware of the following communication outlets:

- [Email-youth@bvlc.org](mailto:Email-youth@bvlc.org)
- Bulletin Board flyers/announcements (outside confirmation classroom)
- Verbal and written communication with students on Wednesdays
- Church newsletter and weekly bulletin inserts
- Bay View website at [bvlc.org](http://bvlc.org)
- Facebook-Find me on Facebook, send a friend request and I will add you to our Bay View Youth page
- The Home Page monthly newsletter
- Weekly updates about upcoming events are emailed each Monday
- **Remind!** A group texting app that we will be using this year for confirmation students and families if someone can instruct me-Donna in how to get and use this app.

**Please indicate your preferred method of communication when filling out your child's registration form.**

**Contact information:** Open communication is important to us. Please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Beth through the church office (743-4705) or Donna Van Ramshort, Director of Faith Formation at any time with questions, comment or concerns. Church office 743-4705; Email [youth@bvlc.org](mailto:youth@bvlc.org) or Cell: 920-495-0621.

We look forward to walking alongside you and your child as we grow and mature in faith together.

God's Peace,

Pastor Beth Macha-from Bay View Lutheran Church  
Pastor Trent Zeitler-from Hainesville Lutheran Church  
Pastor Peter Mannoja-from Tanum Forest Lutheran Church  
Donna Van Ramshorst, Director of Faith Formation

Mentors:

Rebekah Propsom,  
David Slamka  
Alicia Schopf  
Tracy Andropolis  
Heather LaVine  
Missy Forry  
Prisca Benson-Fittshur



# HERE WE STAND

Updated: August 2018