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KLC CONFIRMATION

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation, properly known as Affirmation of Baptism, has been around in Lutheran Churches for a long time, but it is important for us to stop and think about what it is before we begin. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has said: *"Confirmation ministry is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church which helps the baptized person through Word and Sacrament to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission."*

What does this mean? It means that Confirmation is more than a class, it is more than a 2½ year program, It is a ministry through which God is active in your life. Confirmation is designed to help you feel more at home in the congregation and teach you how to have an active faith life as a member of the body of Christ. By the grace of God, we continue – each and every day of our lives – to walk our journey of life with God. We don't just go to church, we are the Church.

Confirmation, or Affirmation of Baptism, is a time for you to confirm, or affirm, the promises made to you by God in your Baptism. It is also a time to publicly announce the understanding of our responsibilities as Christians *"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"* ("Affirmation of Baptism", ELW pg. 236), knowing that we live under the forgiving power of the risen Christ.

Confirmation is a place where young people learn about the promises God has made, why they were made, and how this impacts our lives today. To understand this, we need to look deeply into the bible to see how God has worked throughout history and continues to work today, as well as how Martin Luther interpreted the meaning of those events in the Small Catechism. This will form the core of Kindred Lutherans confirmation program.

WHY GET CONFIRMED?

When you are confirmed (or affirm your baptism), you become considered an adult in the church. You have the opportunity to vote on matters pertaining to Kindred Lutheran, serve as a voting member of the congregational council, serve or chair different committees

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within the congregation, and be a voting member at the synod wide or churchwide annual meetings among many other things.

You take control of your faith life. If you think of it like a relay race, at your confirmation service you are handed the baton from your parents. They have been guiding you through your faith life, and now it is your turn to guide yourself. You will, of course, still have your family, congregation, and God who are willing to assist you and move through the journey of faith alongside you, but when you affirm your baptism, you take more control of your journey.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION LIKE?

Each Wednesday, we will begin gathering at 5:30. We will have a meal and time for you to have conversation with your fellow students. At 6:00 we will begin our large group lesson. Typically, around 6:30, we will split the grades up for a smaller group lesson digging deeper into the main topic for the day. Then, around 7:00 the groups will split into even smaller groups for a time of highs and lows, reflection or lesson, and prayer. Each week's lesson should take about an hour and a half. While we will not have anything planned until 5:30, you are welcome to come to the church building right after school. Unless otherwise stated, the basement will be available to you for hanging out, decompression, relaxation, and working on homework if you would like to use it.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO CONFIRMATION?

You should bring yourself, your Bible, a positive attitude, and something to write with every week of confirmation.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS OF CONFIRMATION?

As you go through confirmation classes, there are things that are expected and required from the congregation, from the KLC Pastor and Youth Director, from your parents, and from you. We make these expectations and requirements in the mindset that they will best help you grow throughout your faith journey.

Congregation

In Baptism, the congregation made promises to support and pray for you in your new life in Christ. As part of these promises, there are requirements and expectations of the congregation for your confirmation journey. The congregation is required and expected to:

Requirements:

- ✝ Pray for the learners and their parents; regularly checking their progress
- ✝ Provide a safe space for our learners where a sense of connection and ownership can develop

Expectations:

- ✝ Act as mentors and guides for learners, providing living examples of Christ's love
- ✝ Affirm and encourage all contributions our learners make, celebrating their holy successes and holy failures

- ✚ Encourage the participation of learners and their parents in the life of the congregation
- ✚ Helping in whatever way is needed to ensure all expectations and requirements can be met

Pastor and Youth Director

In Baptism, the congregation made promises to support and pray for you in your new life in Christ. The Pastor and Youth Director are a part of the congregation and thus are held by these same promises. But the Pastor and Youth Director also have a greater stake in your confirmation journey. As such, there are expectations and requirements for the Pastor and Youth Director for your confirmation journey. The Pastor and Youth Director are required and expected to:

Requirements:

- ✚ Pray for the learners and their parents; regularly checking their progress
- ✚ Develop a curriculum and lessons for each week that help to develop the faith life of the learners
- ✚ Provide opportunities for fellowship, growth, fun, volunteering, and engagement for learners
- ✚ Send a recap of weekly lessons along with opportunities to dive deeper to parents
- ✚ Act as mentors and guides for learners, providing living examples of Christ's love

Expectations:

- ✚ Go out of their way to connect with learners and engage in their lives both within KLC and the greater community
- ✚ Affirm and encourage all contributions our learners make, celebrating their holy successes and holy failures
- ✚ Encourage the participation of learners and their parents in the life of the congregation
- ✚ Helping in whatever way is needed to ensure all expectations and requirements can be met

Parents

In Baptism, your parents made promises to live with you among God's faithful people, bring you to the word of God and the holy supper, teach you the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in your hands the holy scriptures, and nurture you in faith and prayer so that you may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Your parents further promised to help you grow in the Christian faith and life. As a part of these promises, the expectations and requirements for your parents are as follows:

Requirements:

- ✚ Pray for all learners, leaders, and the community daily; reminding you to do likewise
- ✚ Assist with confirmation classes

Expectations:

- ✝ Participate in the life of the congregation by attending worship and taking part in fellowship
- ✝ Model faithfulness by volunteering to assist in the needs and activities of the church and throughout the community
- ✝ Encourage your participation in the life of our congregation
- ✝ Nurture you, and all their children, by learning alongside them, willingly admitting their own mistakes and flaws
- ✝ Help chaperone, drive, assist in youth activities
- ✝ Help you to develop your faith statement and faith project
- ✝ Living into the expectations and requirements of confirmation and encouraging you to do the same

Confirmands

Your journey in confirmation is about you and God, so, as should be expected, there are expectations and requirements for you during your confirmation journey.

Requirements:

- ✝ Pray for your fellow learners, your congregation, and your parent(s)/guardian(s) daily
- ✝ Be fully present during confirmation classes and activity days, attending and actively participating during all sessions. This includes leaving cellphones in designated cellphone space and refraining from talking to or distracting fellow students during lesson times.
 - ✝ Should 2 classes be missed consecutively without prior notification, a notification will be sent home to parents. Should 5 or more classes be missed in a confirmation year, a meeting with Pastor Kyle, learner, and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be required to discuss reasons for absences and ways to make up missed classes. Should half or more of the classes be missed, learner may be asked to postpone Confirmation by 1 year.
- ✝ Complete twelve (12) sermon notes per confirmation year
- ✝ Volunteer during worship or in the congregation at least six (6) times per confirmation year
- ✝ Participate in at least five (5) hours of community service per confirmation year
- ✝ Volunteer for the Kindred Days Burger Stand, KLC VBS, or other similar activities each summer
- ✝ Participate in at least one (1) camp experience throughout your time in confirmation
- ✝ Each confirmation year, join one (1) elective during Lent (electives and sign-ups will be available at a later date)
- ✝ Before your 9th Grade Confirmation date (last Sunday in October), write a faith statement to discuss with Pastor Kyle and prepare a faith project to be displayed for the congregation
- ✝ Follow the agreed upon behavior plan as stated in the KLC Youth Ministry Behavior Contract (included for your convenience)

Expectations:

- ✠ Participate in the life of our congregation by worshipping and being in fellowship every week
- ✠ Attend youth events, offering leaders and organizers assistance if/when needed

Explanation of Confirmand Requirements and Expectations

Worship

Worship is an extremely important part of the Christian life. As you grow in your life as a Christian, it is expected that you will attend and be a part of worship every week in the greatest capacity possible. Traditionally this means worshipping in-person in a pew. In some rare circumstances, it is not possible to be present in-person in your home congregation. During these times, we expect that you will be worshipping in-person at another congregation or worshipping online with KLC.

Worship Notes

Worship notes are a reflection on the entire worship experience, including prayers, music, readings, and the sermon. Because it is important to reflect on your worship experience, it is required that you complete at least twelve (12) worship notes per confirmation year. Worship note forms are available in the back of the sanctuary, along with clipboards and writing utensil, or online at kindredlutheran.com/worship-notes. If you would rather not use the form provided and would like to come up with your own format for doing worship notes, please feel free to do so, but remember to display a reflection on the entire worship service. Please remember to put your name on your worship note and write clearly, any worship notes without names or that are not legible will not be counted. All worship notes can be turned in to the designated basket outside of Trish's office.

Worship Volunteer

As you grow in your Christian Life, it is expected that you will be more than just a passive attendee in the church. It is required that you will volunteer to assist in the life of the church through worship at least six (6) times per confirmation year. Some options include volunteering to usher, serve communion, run the PowerPoint/online worship, or read during worship. If six times volunteering is too many or you would like to fulfill your worship requirements quicker, you can volunteer to be an assisting minister, which will count as two worship volunteer opportunities. The other option would be to volunteer to teach Sunday School for the entire program year. This would fulfill all your worship volunteer requirements, provided you volunteer for the entire program year, but space is limited to do this and must be approved by the Kindred Kids coordinator. With all worship volunteer opportunities, you must be at the church no later than twenty (20) minutes **before worship begins**.

Dates I have signed up to volunteer and what I will be doing

____ / ____ / ____	_____
____ / ____ / ____	_____
____ / ____ / ____	_____
____ / ____ / ____	_____
____ / ____ / ____	_____
____ / ____ / ____	_____

Community Volunteer

Being a Christian means serving not only in church but also throughout the community. We require that you will volunteer to serve in the community at least five (5) hours per confirmation year. This can be fulfilled through a worship through service day or any other community service opportunity you can think of. Please have a parent or volunteer supervisor sign and date something that explains how or where you served. If you are struggling to come up with ideas on how to volunteer in the community, please contact Trish or Pastor Kyle and we will help you find something to do.

Camp

Camp is an amazing opportunity to grow in your faith and meet others in the same situation as you. Some options to fulfill camp participation include attending Red Willow Bible Camp, Park River Bible Camp, or any other Bible Camp of your choosing during the summer. You could also attend the Synod Castaway retreat in the fall, the National Youth Gathering, or any Bible Camp's weekend retreats during the school year.

Breakouts

Lenten Breakouts are a new opportunity for you to continue to grow in your faith. These will be led by members of the KLC congregation and will focus on different aspects of faith life. Before Lent, you will have the opportunity to sign-up to be a part of one of these Breakouts. If you happen to miss the breakout sign-up day, you will be assigned a breakout group for Lent. In extreme circumstances, breakouts can be replaced with an alternative, as discussed and approved by Pastor Kyle and Trish.

Faith Statement/Project

During your ninth-grade year of confirmation, you will write a faith statement to discuss with Pastor Kyle. While there is no requirement for the length of your faith statement, a good faith statement will cover your entire life of faith and talk about how you got to the point of your confirmation and why it is you want to affirm your baptism. You will turn your faith statement in to Pastor Kyle at least one week before your scheduled meeting with him.

During your ninth-grade year, you will also complete a faith project that will be displayed in the church for the whole congregation. This faith project can be in any style you would like. Get creative with your project. Some examples you can do include a diorama, tri-fold, write and record a song, paint a picture, make a sculpture, or make a collage. Make this project your own. Please plan to have your project to the church by the Wednesday before Reformation Sunday.

Both your faith statement and your faith project will be available for viewing by the congregation. You will not be required to make a presentation on either of these, unless you would desire to do so.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS?

If you do not complete the requirements, learners and parent(s)/guardian(s) will have a meeting with Pastor Kyle to discuss reasons for not completing requirements and a course of action for moving forward. While some requirements are designed in a year by year basis, we will be looking at them in respect to the totality of the confirmation journey.

WHAT ARE ACTIVITY DAYS AND ARE THEY REQUIRED?

Activity Days are an important part of the KLC confirmation curriculum. These unique designated days are designed to facilitate learners growth in fellowship, service, and learning. Each Activity Day will be a little different, as some will be geared toward fun and fellowship, while others will be geared toward service and learning. **Each Activity Day is required for Confirmation and will count against learners if missed.**

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

KLC is requesting that each student contribute \$45 toward confirmation to cover the costs for the year. Please make checks payable to Kindred Lutheran Church or use an envelope to bring cash to the office. Please indicate that the money is for confirmation. If you are unable to afford this, please contact Pastor Kyle or Trish.

HOW DO I SIGN-UP?

If you haven't already, please make sure to fill out the registration form on our website at <https://www.kindredlutheran.com/youth/>.

HOW CAN I GET UPDATES?

To sign up for updates, please text **CONFIRM23-24** to **(877) 894-3679**. You will then be sent a link and be asked to fill out a brief informational form. If you have any questions about Text Updates, please contact Trish. By registering you have already been included in the email list, which will be used for emailing out session recaps and some confirmation updates, although more information for confirmation updates will come through the text updates. If you would like additional email addresses included, or would need to change your email, for emailed out recaps and some emailed updates, please contact Pastor Kyle.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have any other questions that are not answered in this document or at the confirmation orientation meeting on September 6th, please contact Pastor Kyle or Trish. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

TENTATIVE CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Confirmation Schedule is subject to change. When there is a storm day or school out day at Kindred Public Schools, we will not have Confirmation.

September 6	Confirmation Orientation Meeting for Students and Parents
September 13	Activity Day • Confirmation Kick Off
September 20	7th & 8th grade Confirmation begins – 6 pm • Topic: Christian Life
September 22-24	EaND Youth Retreat at Castaway Club (6 th –10 th grades)
September 27	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Jesus and His Teachings/Ministry
October 4	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Jesus and His Teachings/Ministry
October 11	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Jesus and His Teachings/Ministry
October 18	Activity Day – time TBA • AGAPE* & Joe Davis Concert
October 25	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Jesus and His Miracles
October 29	Reformation Sunday & Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) – 10am 9 th grade Faith Projects Presented
October 31	Early Registration Deadline for National Youth Gathering
November 1	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Jesus and His Miracles
November 8	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Jesus and His Miracles
November 15	Activity Day – 6 pm • Hunger Experience – <i>Parent Volunteers/Drivers Needed</i>
November 22	No Confirmation (Thanksgiving Break)
November 29	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: The Birth of Jesus
December 6	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: The Birth of Jesus
December 13	Activity Day – 6 pm • Christmas Party
December 20	No Confirmation (Christmas Break) • Blue Christmas Worship – 7 pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship – Times TBA
December 27	No Confirmation (Christmas Break)
2024	
January 3	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Acts of the Apostles
January 10	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Acts of the Apostles
January 17	Activity Day • TBD
January 24	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Pauline Epistles
January 31	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Pauline Epistles
February 7	Activity Day • TBD
February 14	No Confirmation (Ash Wednesday) • Ash Wednesday Meal at 6pm Worship at 7pm
February 21	Lenten Breakouts • Times TBD Meals at 6pm on Wednesdays Wednesday Worship at 7pm
February 28	
March 6	
March 13	
March 20	
March 27	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Holy Week
March 28	Maundy Thursday Worship – 7pm
March 29	Good Friday Worship – 7pm
March 31	Easter Morning Worship – Times TBA
April 3	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Resurrection
April 10	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Pastoral Epistles & Other Letters
April 17	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Pastoral Epistles & Other Letters
April 24	Activity Day • TBD
May 1	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Revelation
May 8	7th & 8th grade Confirmation – 6 pm • Topic: Revelation
May 15	Activity Day • End of Year Party
July 16-20	ELCA National Youth Gathering – New Orleans • Late Registration Deadline – April 15
Summer 2024	VBS & Kindred Days Burger Stand