

2020-2021 6th Grade Confirmation Guide Book

Trinity Lutheran Church

Confirmation

Congratulations on taking this first step in an amazing relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe that what we are doing in Confirmation is singlehandedly one of the most important things a young student can do with their time and energy. More important than school, sports, video games and EVEN the Kardashians (I know, right? Just making sure you're with me.) Following Jesus is not a lifestyle...it is LIFE! John 10:10 says:

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the full.

Confirmation is about building and growing a personal lifelong journey with God our Father so that we may live life to the fullest!

Confirmation Philosophy

In 1528, Luther published the Small Catechism with these words written to pastors in the introduction, "You should also take pains to urge governing authorities and parents to rule wisely and educate their children. They must be shown that they are obliged to do so, and that they are guilty of damnable sin if they do not do so, for by such neglect they undermine and lay waste both the kingdom of God and man" (preface-19). To be sure that every household was aware, he also wrote, "in the plain form in which the head of the family shall teach his household" at the beginning of five out of the six chief parts.

In these words, Luther may sound a little harsh. That is only because he takes Christian education very seriously and there is much at stake without proper instruction at an early age. However, an academic awareness of the Christian faith is only one part of being a Christian. Our philosophy surrounds the idea that being a Christian is something that happens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Because of this, we have the difficult task of *helping families grow together every day* instead of teaching kids information they might not completely understand or may forget. **We are in the life alteration business – we want to help people be fully committed followers of Jesus Christ in every part of their lives.**

In order to do this, **students** and **families** need to have experiences together, they need to review the scriptures and Catechism together, they need to grow in faith together, and they need to serve together. The more effectively we can do this, the easier a relationship with our Lord and Savior becomes. Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it." Being a Christian isn't easy; our Confirmation program shouldn't portray an easy road either.

Confirmation Goals

Trinity Confirmation Ministry aims to assist students in developing a deeper relationship with God, strengthen families, engage in authentic Christian service and worship. The goals are to come to a deeper understanding of who we are as God's chosen people, to be familiar with scripture, the 6 chief parts of Luther's Catechism and pursue excellence in ministry.

1. Strengthen families

It is our goal to provide support and opportunities for families to grow together so that our confirmation ministry can strengthen not only your child, but your whole family to be fully committed followers of Christ! This is a priority that can only be accomplished when families participate. Families are the primary support unit for spiritual growth and have been since the Old Testament times. It is critical that we are working together so that your child will receive the best Christian foundation formation possible!

2. Connect Youth

Young people are more relationally based than ever before. They are also way more connected to their friends through technology. In recent studies, youth said the first two people they would go to with a problem or concern are their friends first, then their parents (pastors and teachers combined were mentioned in less than 5% of teens surveyed). We want to give each Confirmation student a greater opportunity to build Christian connections with friends of all ages, adult mentors and provide training, hands-on experience, and resources for families to be the best they can be when their teen needs to connect with them most. They may not say it but they look up to you and they are watching.

3. Biblical Foundations

A large reason for extending our confirmation program to 6th grade is to ensure that each student is equipped with as much knowledge of all Biblical principles as possible. The Bible is a pretty thick book to digest so it is our goal to better enable students to familiarize themselves with the Word of God as well as be able to navigate through the Bible. 6th grade will be entirely focused on Bible Basics. Each student will get the chance to understand the foundations of our Christian faith.

Learning Resources

Required: (This will be used frequently during Confirmation meeting times)

1. **The Holy Bible** – Trinity will be providing an ESV TEEN STUDY BIBLE for each registered 6th grader.

Fees

Our 6th grade Confirmation fees are a small fee to order each student a new ESV Teen Bible and for any supplies or teaching materials. Each 6th grade family has a fee of \$25 due with their registration forms. Financial assistance is available on an "as needed" basis; please email your request to Confirmation assistant Brenda Connolly If you have the means to help someone else, please include that with your registration.

COVID- 19 Changes:

Due to the health and safety regulations in place by Illinois, Trinity has been working hard to update our confirmation program to provide a safe and healthy environment for the kids in the program.

Information and health updates change frequently so currently we are only releasing a schedule for the fall 2020 semester.

This fall we will be providing the opportunity for a modified IN PERSON confirmation, or the opportunity for students to live stream the confirmation and participate via ZOOM.

COVID-19 Safety Measures and Changes:

In order to keep our students and volunteers safe and healthy we will be implementing a few changes. Our program relies heavily on building up community and strong Christian support in the students' lives. We are working extremely hard to maintain the foundation of Christian relationships for the students while honoring social distancing. We are doing our best to make sure these changes don't impact or hinder their faith growth!

Temporary Confirmation Program Changes:

1. All students and volunteers will wear masks.
2. All teaching, worship, and breakout sessions will honor 6ft social distancing.
3. All students have the option to watch confirmation from home and zoom in.

Online Confirmation Options

For families that don't feel comfortable sending their child in person yet, or in the case we need to re-shut down, we will have the option of online confirmation this year. Students who choose to participate online will tune into watch the in-person confirmation live streamed.

If this is the right decision for your family we will send out specific instructions as confirmation approaches.

What will a typical Confirmation night look like?

The 6th Grade Confirmation season begins **Wednesday October 7th from 6:30pm-7:30pm** at The Community Center. The format below will be changed on occasion, but will always occur during the 6:30-7:30pm time slot. If there is a change in time, parents will be notified in advance.

6:30-6:45- 6th grade worship

6:45- Imagine the Bible Story~ Hear the Word of God read out loud

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7:00~ **Capture the Bible Story**~ Understand the story through interactive elements
7:20~ **Connect to the Bible Story**~ Small groups discuss how the story relates to them
7:30~ **Student Prayer and 6th Grade Dismissal**

Learning Requirements and Evaluation

1. **Regular Attendance:** Each student is required to attend Confirmation events each Wednesday from 6:30~7:30pm.

Communication and Frequently Asked Questions

The majority of communication will occur by email. We will rarely communicate in paper mail as it adds to our expenses and is not the best stewardship of the resources God has given us. There will be test emails sent out to confirm we have your email address on file. It's important that you are giving us the best way to contact you via e-mail and/or phone. We would also love to be able to notify you via text message or by voice message on your cell and/or home phone of any pressing need, event cancellation, emergency, or delay. Please be sure that the church has your updated information, we can only communicate with you if we have the correct info.

1. **Trinity Lutheran Church Web Site = www.trinityroselle.com**
Many of your questions can be answered by going to **trinityroselle.com/confirmation**. If you have a general question please check your guidebook or the confirmation website link before you call or e-mail.
2. Yes, we have **snow days**. If the schools are cancelled due to snow, Confirmation will also be cancelled.

Confirmation Contact Information

Director of Youth Ministry:	Mark Novacek; Vicar Ph: 630-894-3263 x 211 Email: mark.novacek@trinityroselle.com
Director of Family Ministry	Erica Davies; DCE Ph: 630-894-3263 x285 daviese@trinityroselle.com
Confirmation Assistant:	Brenda Connolly Email: brenda.connolly@trinityroselle.com

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Bookmark this link to forms and info you will need during the year:
<http://www.trinityroselle.com/confirmation/>

More forms will be added as they become available!

Students:

Bring a friend!

Like Confirmation? Jesus tells us to GO OUT and make Disciples. Why not bring a friend to confirmation? It could be fun and they can meet someone that could become very special to them...Jesus!