

2022~2023

Confirmation Guide Book

Trinity Lutheran Church

Please check this guide and the schedule often. It should answer many of the questions you may have throughout the year!

Confirmation

Congratulations on taking this first (or second, or third!) 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 Snapchat streaks! (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 be able to 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. Authentic Christian service

Service hours: each student and their families are encouraged to attend the big family service night in the spring. We will serve at Feed My Starving Children! The opportunity will allow the students to serve side by side with their parents and family to better understand why Jesus calls us to serve. We will be performing various service projects to better our community.

4. Excellence in ministry

There is not a perfect Confirmation program that exists, but we do have access to one of the most well-rounded and educated staffs in the Lutheran Church. The staff and materials will not only provide the most advanced brain-based learning techniques, they also integrate very natural interactions between students, parents, pastors, the church, and the community. We will not be limited to one pre-written curriculum; instead we will pull from a variety of sources to offer the best hands on and experiential learning environment possible.

Textbooks & Learning Resources

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

1. **The Holy Bible** – Trinity will be providing a TEEN STUDY BIBLE for each registered 7th grader and newly registered 8th graders who need a Bible. Let us know if you are in 8th grade and are new to the Trinity Confirmation Ministry!
2. **Luther's Small Catechism** – 7th graders will receive their Catechisms on the first day of class. (September 12)

Fees

Our Confirmation fees are bundled so that Confirmation materials and supplies are paid for and no additional cost will be included throughout the year.

This will not be a 'menu based' program and refunds will not be given for missing certain functions. Your child will need to participate in every element of the program to get your money's worth.

The cost for each 7th and 8th grade student will be \$195 for this current year. Financial assistance is available on an "as needed" basis;

please email your request to Confirmation assistant Brenda Connolly
brenda.connolly@trinityroselle.onmicrosoft.com If you have the means to help
someone else, please include that with your registration.

7th/8th Grade Fees Cover:

- Bibles/ Catechisms
- Supplies/ Materials
- Snacks
- Creation Museum/Walcamp Retreat

What will a typical Confirmation night look like?

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The Confirmation season begins **Wednesday September 14th from 6:30pm-8:30pm** at The Community Center. The format below will be changed on occasion, but will always occur during the 6:30-8:30pm time slot. If there is a change in time, parents will be notified in advance.

**6:30 – 6:50pm = 7th and 8th graders will attend large group together in the
Worship area. This portion of the evening will be devoted to worship**

**7:00 – 7:45pm = 7th graders will be in Faith Foundation Groups
8th graders will be in Life Groups**

**7:45 – 8:30pm = 8th graders will be in Faith Foundation Groups
7th graders will be in Life Groups**

Learning Requirements and Evaluation

- 1. Regular Attendance:** Each student is required to attend Confirmation events each Wednesday from 6:30-8:00pm beginning on September 14th.
- 2. Church Attendance:** The purpose of confirmation is to help students declare their faith in Christ and become active members in the body of Christ. One of the ways to be an active and growing member of Christ's body is through church attendance. Worship is how we receive God's word, sacraments, and fellowship with fellow believers. If you intend to have your child confirmed we please ask that worship be a regular part of your families routine.
- 3. Sermon Notes: (20 notes are required per year)–** You can find these forms online at www.trinityroselle.com/confirmation . Online church service notes are accepted

but in person is preferred. Paper versions of sermon notes are in the lobby at church. Sermon notes are expected of 7th and 8th grade confirmands. 20 per year. Students may begin taking sermon notes immediately.

4. **8th Grade Catacombs** – During spring, 8th graders will participate in this special series from 6:30-8:30pm each Wednesday per the master schedule included with the handouts. This series is intended to compliment the Catechism yet focus on Faith Witnessing and strengthening of faith.
5. **7th Grade Communion Training** – Training for the Lord's Supper takes place during 7th Grade. After the training, families together can decide when they are ready to receive the Supper for the first time. 8th grade students who were not present for one of the training sessions are welcome as well. We will be offering online communion training this year. Dates TBD. **At least one parent is required to attend this training with their child.** Students are not able to be confirmed without going through Communion Training.

Confirmation Progress and Information

1. **Written Progress** – Students will be given written progress via e-mail throughout the year to see where they are in the learning process. Additional items will appear on the students' progress sheet: Confirmation attendance, Sermon Notes, and Service Nights Attendance.
2. **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.
3. **Confirmation Cancellation**= If the schools are cancelled due to snow, Confirmation will also be cancelled. In the case of being re-shut down for state mandates we will go to all online confirmation.
4. **Join REMIND**- Download the app REMIND for updates via text for confirmation classes and cancellations. Join using class code @trinitycon

Group Guides

Google 'totally awesome' and you will see pictures of our group guides. It's true (from a certain point of view. Well, the awesome part anyway). These are adult volunteers just like you helping a small group of 4-7 same gender students through following this man named Jesus. You get to be a hero to a few and change the worlds of many. Sound important? It is! And we are looking for help. See the handout on group guides for more info!

Communication

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. You may also join the Trinity Confirmation Remind text service. Download the app and enter class code @trinitycon

Confirmation Contact Information

Director of Youth and Family

Erica Davies; DCE

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daviese@trinityroselle.com

Confirmation Assistant:

Brenda Connolly

Email: brenda.connolly@trinityroselle.onmicrosoft.com

Pastor Mark Novacek

Pastor Mark Novacek

Ph: 630-894-3263 x 211

Email: novacekm@trinityroselle.com

(Erica Davies will be on maternity leave Oct- November 2022. Please contact either Brenda or Pastor Mark with any questions 😊)

Bookmark this link to forms and info you will need during the year:

<http://www.trinityroselle.com/confirmation/>

