

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Guidebook

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. Committing to this Confirmation process is one of the most important things a young person can do with their time and energy. Growing in and strengthening your faith is more important than school, sports, or any other activities in which you choose to participate. Following Jesus is not just another activity or even a lifestyle. Following Jesus 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.”*

School and other activities are only temporary, but faith and the life of which Jesus taught last forever! So, the Confirmation process is about developing and strengthening your personal, lifelong relationship with God and spiritual habits, so you are equipped and strengthened to live life to the fullest!

Confirmation Philosophy

In 1528, Luther published the Small Catechism. In its introduction he wrote,

“Young people should be thoroughly instructed in the various parts of the Catechism...Therefore, it is the duty of every head of a household to examine his children and servants at least once a week and ascertain what they have learned of it, and if they do not know it, to keep them faithfully at it” (Luther, 1528, “Preface”).

Luther took Christian education very seriously because there is so much at stake without proper instruction at an early age. However, an academic awareness of the Christian faith is only a small, initial 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, 365 days a year. Therefore, Confirmation instruction requires a partnership between parents and the church to help young people truly grow as lifelong disciples. Without that partnership of parents and church working together and touching the lives of students every day, Confirmation becomes nothing more than teaching kids some information they might not completely understand or will forget.

The mission of Trinity Lutheran Church is “growing lifelong disciples.” We want to help people be fully committed followers (i.e., disciples) of Jesus Christ in every part of their lives.

To do this, **students and their families** need to have experiences together. They need to review the scriptures and Catechism together. They need to grow in faith and serve together. The more effectively we can enable you to do this, the easier and stronger 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 is not easy; our Confirmation program should not portray an easy road either.

Confirmation Goals

Trinity’s 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 so that **families** grow in faith together and are strengthened and equipped to become fully committed followers of Christ! This is a priority that only happens when families participate. God gives parents the primary responsibility for spiritual development and growth of their children. The church supports parents. It does not nor can it replace them or be as effective. Therefore, it is crucial that parents and the church work together so that your child receives the best Christian foundation possible!

2. Connect Youth

Young people are more relationally based than ever before. They are also more connected to their friends through technology. Recent studies show that the first two people youth go to with a problem or concern are their friends followed by their parents and their friends’ parents. Pastors, teachers, DCEs, and other professional church workers combined were mentioned by 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 experiences, 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, parents, and they are watching.

3. Authentic Christian Service

Each student and their families are encouraged to become active in serving. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that we are saved by [God's] grace through faith in Christ Jesus and that works do not save us. However, verse 10 says we have been created for good works, which we do in response to what Jesus has done for us. To that end, service opportunities are being added to a "credit" system that includes sermon notes, ushering, acolytes, and other ideas that might yet have not been thought of.

In addition, families are asked to attend the Family Service Night on **Wednesday, February 21, 2024**, at Feed My Starving Children. We include this as a built-in opportunity within the Confirmation program to enable students, parents, and families to serve together side-by-side and better understand why Jesus calls us to serve. We will also be performing various service projects to better our community.

4. Excellence in Ministry

There is no such thing as a perfect Confirmation program. However, we do believe we have well-trained and dedicated staff who love Jesus and the students in our Confirmation ministry. The staff and materials will seek to use techniques that meet students' learning styles. They will also integrate relational skills to facilitate safe interactions between students, parents, leaders, the church, and the community.

Required Textbooks & Learning Resources

1. **NIV Teen Study Bible** – Provided to each student when they start the program. If you need a replacement, please let us know.
2. **Luther's Small Catechism** – 7th graders receive Catechisms on the first night of class.

Fees

Our Confirmation fees are bundled to cover the annual cost of materials, supplies, and activities (Walcamp retreat/Creation Museum trip). ***Refunds will not be given for any missed Confirmation components or functions.***

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 Brenda

Connolly (brenda.connolly@trinityroselle.com). If you have the means to help someone else, please include that with your registration.

What will a typical Confirmation night look like?

The Confirmation season begins **Wednesday September 13th from 6:30pm-8:00pm** in the Family Life Center. Parents will be notified if changes occur.

6:30 – 6:50pm Worship

**6:50 – 7:45pm 7th & 8th grade transition to teaching and small groups
6th moves to Heritage Center for Echo the Story**

7:45 – 8:00pm Closing worship, prayer, announcement

Service-Learning Requirements and Evaluation

1. **Regular Attendance:** Each student is required to attend Confirmation each Wednesday from 6:30-8:00pm beginning on September 13th. Attendance will be taken.
2. **Church Attendance:** Worship is how we receive God's word, sacraments, and fellowship with fellow believers. All Confirmation students are expected to attend worship services at Trinity. Attendance will be taken. To accomplish this, only students should check in with the person located at the front desk. Parents, other relatives, or friends may not sign-in students, and calling to state the check in was forgotten will not be accepted.
3. **Learning & Service Credits (30 credits required per year)**
 - a. **Sermon Notes: (1 credit per sermon note)** – Sermon notes forms are available online at www.trinityroselle.com/confirmation. Paper versions of the sermon notes form are in the lobby at church. Sermon notes are expected of 7th and 8th grade confirmands. Students may begin taking sermon notes immediately and may continue until August 31.
 - b. **Acolyte: (2 credits per worship service)** – Acolyte training will be held at the end of September. You will receive an email Brenda Connolly with a link to sign up to acolyte. Two acolytes will be scheduled for each worship service.
 - c. **Other: (2 credits per service opportunity)** – Other service opportunities (usher, greeter, communion prep, hospitality, volunteering for clinic/toy store etc.) will be presented throughout the year.

4. **8th Grade Catacombs** – During spring, 8th graders will participate in this special series from 6:30-8:00pm each Wednesday per the master schedule included with the handouts. This series is intended to complement the Catechism yet focuses on faith witnessing and strengthening of faith.
5. **Communion Training** – Training for the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) takes place beginning 5th Grade. After the training, families together can decide when they are ready to receive the Supper for the first time. Any students who were not present for any of the training sessions are welcome as well. 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, worship attendance, learning and service participation, and Family Service Night attendance.
2. **Trinity Lutheran Church Web Site** – 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 schools are cancelled due to snow, Confirmation will also be cancelled.
4. **Join REMIND** – On the first night of Confirmation, students will be asked to download the Remind app to their cell phones, if they have one, and will be instructed how to join the Confirmation class. Instructions will be emailed to parents so they can join the class also.

Group Guides

Group guides are awesome! These are parents and other adult volunteers who help a small group of 4-7 same gender students learn how and what it means to follow Jesus. They are heroes to a few and help to change the worlds of many. Sound important? It is! We need your help. See the handout on group guides for more info!

Communication

Most 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 give 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 ensure the church has your updated contact information. We can only communicate with you if we have the correct info.

Confirmation Contact Information

Director of Discipleship

Dr. Kevin Borchers, DCE

Ph: 630-894-3263 x276

Email: borchersk@trinityroselle.com

Confirmation Assistant:

Brenda Connolly

Email: brenda.connolly@trinityroselle.com

Pastor

Pastor Jonathan Petzold

Ph: 630-894-3263

Email: petzoldj@trinityroselle.com

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

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