

# Why Confirmation?

Picture a young family standing around the baptismal font with pastor and sponsors. Everyone is smiling (except perhaps the one being baptized, a baby or young child who isn't quite sure what's going on here.) It's a joyous day! In the water and the word God is claiming this child, forgiving sins, granting new life and salvation. God is making promises to build up and to call this child to a life of faith, to love and forgive her (or him) – FOREVER! Yes, God is the one acting on this holy day, but in response to God's great gifts Little One's parents make some promises too:



*To live with their children among God's faithful people,  
Bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,  
Teach them the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the  
Ten Commandments,  
Place in their hands the holy scriptures,  
And nurture them in faith and prayer...*

And they do. The parents bring their child to worship and Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and the music ministry at church. They read the children's bible with her and pray with her at meals and before bed.



And here we are a decade or so later. Little One is not so little anymore. He (or she) has a much better idea what's going on when he comes to church. Growing One is much better able to contemplate God's great love for her and to hear God calling her to a life of faith.

## Confirmation Ministry at Christ Lutheran Church



Confirmation, then, is not something new at all, but a continuation of the life that was begun at the baptismal font. *The Confirmation Ministry at Christ Lutheran Church is an intentional time of learning, discerning, serving and growing together as youth prepare to affirm their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation.* At the baptism of a young child, along with God, parents and sponsors, the congregation makes a promise too – “...to support and pray for them in their new life in Christ.” Confirmation Ministry is one of the ways we can support both young people and their families as they strive to live each day in the covenant of baptism.

To understand the purpose of Confirmation Ministry it is also helpful to know what it is not. Confirmation Ministry and the Rite of Confirmation is NOT:

- 1) a graduation from the educational life of the church. God calls us to a lifetime of study and learning about the faith we've been given.
- 2) Neither is it a decision regarding salvation. God has already claimed us in the waters of baptism.
- 3) Finally, Confirmation is NOT a requirement. Participating in Confirmation Ministry and the Rite of Confirmation is something young people and their families decide to do as part of their faith journey. It is a big commitment and should not be taken lightly. If youth and their families feel unable to make this commitment at this time, they should be assured, however, that they are welcome to participate fully in other ministries of the church.

Confirmation Ministry at Christ Lutheran Church includes:

- \*Monthly Learning/Fellowship Events*
- \*Monthly Mentor/Student Conversation*
- \*Regular Participation in Worship*
- \*Family Projects throughout the Year*
- \*Service within the Congregation and/or Community*

During the Service of Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation) the pastor will ask the confirmands:

*“Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you*



*in Holy Baptism: to live among God’s faithful people; to bear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper; to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through words and deed; to serve all people, following the*

*example of Jesus; and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?”*

The components of the Confirmation Ministry Covenant are intended to prepare youth to answer that question with a confident “yes!” and to strive to keep those promises throughout their lives.

**Why Confirmation?** Because learning to live as God’s loved and forgiven people starts at baptism, matures in our youth, and continues all our lives long. Affirming our faith is part of the baptismal journey that never ends! Welcome to Confirmation Ministry at Christ Lutheran Church!

