



# Confirmation Program

For Youth Beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

School Year 2023-2024

Dear Youth,

Welcome to Confirmation! We are so excited to journey with you as you grow in your faith, and journey toward your Affirmation of Baptism Service! Together with a community of people who care about you, we hope to help you affirm the promises that were made on your behalf on the day of your baptism, promises 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.

We know there will be road bumps as we enter this journey together. This is normal. We simply ask that we try to stick on the path together – that we work together to communicate well, so that our program can meet its goals. Please reach out to us at any time with any questions, comments, concerns, and with feedback about this program! We want to hear from you!

The following pages will explain the content of this program in more detail. Should you have any questions or concerns at any point, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here for you!

In Christ,



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## Basics and Expectations

Confirmation will be broken up into Years 1, 2, and 3. Students may begin year 1 anytime beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or later. Our program will focus on four main experiences for these youth. Namely, Belonging & Community, Meaningful Worship Participation, Faithful Learning, and Impactful Service. These areas of focus will be achieved through **Worship** at Our Savior's Lutheran, **Classes** on Sunday mornings, a **Mentor Program**, and **Service Opportunities**.

Years 1 & 2 will meet nearly every week on Sunday mornings following worship. We will meet in a large group together (not divided by year) and our teaching focus (catechism) will rotate between a specific Bible focus and a Lutheran Theology focus (themes and thinking about God). You will also begin to develop a relationship with a Mentor from the congregation during these first two years. This final piece is NEW for 2023-2024.

Year 3 will meet once a month on Sunday mornings following worship alongside the Year 1 and 2 youth (highlighted in the schedule below), as well as their mentors but will have a breakout group of just Year 3 students on those Sundays. Year 3 will deepen their relationships with their adult church mentor. If you or your mentor has a specific conflict with the highlighted Mentor Class Sunday, let me know as you can substitute a different class as long as we communicate ahead of time.

**Class Participation:** We encourage all students to make their faith life a focal priority in their life, and during this season that includes confirmation.

Confirmation is a great opportunity to ask important faith questions and to grow in your faith and to grow close with your peers and church friends that may last a lifetime. We know that there are things that come up, there are competing commitments that we all have. I expect you at all of the classes unless you let me know ahead of time of your absence. You can text or call me, so it is easy to let me know. If something is going on talk to me, as communication is so important in all relationships and we can make a plan.

**Worship Participation:** A portion of EVERY confirmation class is going to be spent discussing a piece of the worship service that happened that day. You'll be able to process what you heard and experienced and get some answers to

questions you may have. You will have the opportunity within class to sign up for specific worship leadership positions on specific Sundays. Please plan to bring your calendars with you so you don't schedule a conflict for yourself. I also encourage you to plan on being in worship every week, as then when the occasional thing does come up you will have the flexibility to miss without feeling like you are missing out. Again, communication is important, and we certainly can come up with a plan to help navigate nearly anything. A new portion of the Worship Participation expectation is that you are encouraged to sit with your mentor at least once a month in worship.

**Service Participation:** We will have a number of opportunities to do meaningful service for God's world throughout the school year. In order to make sure those opportunities can be truly meaningful and responsive to the community these dates aren't on the calendar, but will be called out in regular email communication to you as well as in Sunday services and the weekly newsletter (The E-Blast).

**Mentorship Program:** Each confirmation youth will be partnered with an adult member of Our Savior's in good standing. You can absolutely select your own member if you have someone in mind (we actually encourage this!), yet we also know that many youth in our congregation don't know many adults that aren't related to them at church. If you are selecting your own, please know mentors must be a member of Our Savior's and an adult over 21+ that you are not related to. If not selecting your own mentor, we will work to partner you with someone who will walk with you throughout your confirmation experience. Our Mentorship program consists of 2 formal pieces, 1) Joining you in worship (see worship participation above); and 2) On the last class of each month Mentors will join us for class. These Mentor Classes are highlighted in in the Schedule.

**Youth Group:** Although not required in any way, you are encouraged to participate in our very active youth programming at Our Savior's. The youth group meets most Sunday nights to play and develop a great, supportive, community.

**Confirmation Day:** The confirmation service will take place on the first Sunday of May each year. (May 5, 2024 for this year!). Youth who have completed their 3 years will be invited to write their faith paper and prepare for Confirmation Day.

**Are you Ready?** If so please register online at [www.oursaviorshartland.org](http://www.oursaviorshartland.org) before the first week of classes so that we have updated contact information for you and supplies ready for you to fully participate this year. There is a \$25 materials fee per year which you can pay as a part of registration via card or by making a check out to Our Savior Lutheran with “Confirmation” in the memo line.

# 2023/2024 Confirmation Schedule

Date	Learning Theme (Blue Highlighted dates are Mentor Days)
9/10	<b><u>The City</u></b> Explore the theme of the city throughout the story of the Bible—from the first city built by Cain to the final garden city in the new creation.
9/17	<b><u>Anointing</u></b> What is the purpose of anointing? We'll work to understand this ritual throughout the Bible and how it relates to Jesus and his followers.
9/24	<b><u>The Last Will Be First</u></b> Trace the theme of the firstborn through the story of the Bible in this animated video. Discover how God overturns human systems and redefines power as love.
10/1	<b><u>Blessing and Curse</u></b> Trace the theme of blessing and curse in the Bible to see how Jesus defeats the curse and restores the blessing of life to creation.
10/8	<b><u>Eternal Life</u></b> Jesus offers people access to eternal life or “life unto the age.” What does that mean?
10/15	<b><u>The Test</u></b> Does God test people? Trace the repeated theme of testing in the Bible and see how God determines the loyalty and trust of his covenant partners.
10/22	<b><u>Water of Life</u></b> The water of life theme begins in the garden and continues through the biblical story, ultimately reaching its climax in Jesus.
10/28	<b><u>Sabbath</u></b> What is the Sabbath? Explore the biblical concepts of seventh day rest and Sabbath and see how we can adopt this important practice.

11/5	<p><b><u>Temple</u></b></p> <p>The temple is a rich biblical image, describing the place where God and humanity overlap. This isn't just a building, and never was!</p>
11/12	<p><b><u>Son of Man</u></b></p> <p>Jesus often referred to himself as the Son of Man. But what does this mean? Explore this fascinating phrase to see its significance.</p>
11/19	<p><b><u>Generosity</u></b></p> <p>God is a generous god, but throughout the Bible, humans hoard God's good gifts. We will look at how to live by God's generous example.</p>
11/26 12/3	<p><b>Thanksgiving Break</b></p>
12/10	<p><b><u>The Way of the Exile</u></b></p> <p>The Kingdom of God is our true home, so how should we relate to earthly rulers? We're called to live in this tension. That's the way of the exile.</p>
12/17	<p><b><u>The Messiah</u></b></p> <p>On the first pages of the Bible, we're introduced to the idea of a future deliverer who would confront evil and rescue humanity—the Messiah.</p>
12/24 12/31	<p><b>Christmas/New Year's Break</b></p>
1/7	<p><b><u>God</u></b></p> <p>The biblical concept of God is complex. It describes God as both one and three. We'll explore a biblically accurate description of God and God's identity.</p>
1/14	<p><b><u>Justice</u></b></p> <p>Why is justice such an important, and sometimes controversial, topic in our world today? What does the Bible have to say about justice?</p>
1/21	<p><b><u>Public Reading of Scripture</u></b></p> <p>The public reading of Scripture was an important ancient practice among God's people. And it's a practice that can still powerfully impact us today.</p>

1/28	<p><b><u>The Bread and the Cup</u></b></p> <p>Back to the basics as we dive into Communion, and it's benefits of Forgiveness of Sins, Life, and Salvation.</p>
2/4	<p><b>Confirmation Leads Sunday School</b></p>
2/11	<p><b><u>The Law</u></b></p> <p>God's 613 commandments in the Old Testament seem like a list of weird rules. Learn the purpose of these laws in the biblical story and if they still apply today.</p>
2/18	<p><b><u>Day of the Lord</u></b></p> <p>Trace the biblical concept of the Day of the Lord, a day where God will bring his judgment against evil and allow a new creation to flourish.</p>
2/25	<p><b><u>Image of God</u></b></p> <p>What does it mean to be made in God's image? We will explore the divine role of humans, established in the garden of Eden.</p>
3/3	<p><b><u>Holiness</u></b></p> <p>How do we understand God's holiness? And what does it mean for humans to share in this holiness?</p>
3/10	<p><b><u>The Way Back</u></b></p> <p>Explore one of the core themes of the biblical story and see how Jesus provides the way back from exile and to our true home in God's Kingdom.</p>
3/17	<p><b><u>Sacrifice</u></b></p> <p>From animal sacrifices in the Old Testament to Jesus' sacrifice of his life in the New Testament, understand how God gets rid of evil without removing humans.</p>
3/24 3/31	<p><b>Easter Break</b></p>



4/7	<p data-bbox="305 212 610 275"><b><u>Holy Spirit</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="305 289 1354 352">Study the theme of the Holy Spirit from the beginning to the end of the Bible. This video helps you get to know and understand who He is and what He does.</p>
4/14	<p data-bbox="305 386 740 449"><b><u>The Covenants</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="305 464 1393 527">In the Bible, humans continually fail as God's covenant partners, until Jesus came to fulfill what we could not, restoring us to relationship with God.</p>
4/21	<p data-bbox="305 562 974 625"><b><u>Gospel of the Kingdom</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="305 640 1360 703">What is the good news of the Gospel? Jesus' arrival on Earth was a royal announcement. He was there to establish God's Kingdom and change everything.</p>
4/28	<p data-bbox="305 739 753 802"><b><u>Heaven &amp; Earth</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="305 816 1344 879">What is the biblical view of Heaven, and how does it relate to Earth? The answer might surprise you.</p>