

CONFIRMATION

at First Lutheran Church, ELCA



Parent & Student Handbook
2021-2022

Welcome to First Lutheran's Confirmation Program!

NOTES

FLC's Confirmation program intends to give guidance to the confirmands and their parents as the students prepare to affirm their baptisms. We hope to provide opportunities for the youth to continually grow in their relationships with Jesus Christ through active worship, study and reflection on God's Word, serving others, and building lasting relationships.

Unlike the Catholic tradition, Confirmation is not a sacrament in the Lutheran church. Instead, Confirmation is another step in the students' lifelong faith journeys. At baptism, promises are made on behalf of the children by parents, sponsors, and the congregation. Confirmation is designed to be a time for the baptized youth to publicly claim those promises as their own and affirm their baptisms.

Coordination of Confirmation

Confirmation is coordinated by Pastor Scott Frederickson, Erika Cada, and the Confirmation Team. Teachers, Guides, and Faith Mentors enhance the program as we all fulfill our commitment to this special ministry. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us anytime!

- Pastor Scott Frederickson Ph.D., Senior Pastor
402-426-4073
pastorscott@firstlutheranblair.org
- Erika Cada, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
402-426-4073 or 402-533-0918
ecada@firstlutheranblair.org

NOTES

Curriculum

FLC uses a Lutheran curriculum called **Colaborate**. This curriculum uses a “problem-based learning” format. The Guides help the students discover how their faith is relevant in their lives through exploratory lessons, and the Teachers choose a “piece” of the topic to cover. The four units include Old Testament, New Testament, Lutheran History/Catechism, and Lutheran Living.

Materials

Students will share an orange workbook in class. These workbooks will remain in the classrooms. There is no cost for the materials used in the Confirmation program. We encourage students to use their Colaborate Bible that was presented to them by FLC. This Bible is directly connected to the curriculum.

Students are **REQUIRED** to take their Bibles to and from home and class each week.

Confirmation Schedule

6:15 – 6:45pm: Worship Lab

6:50 – 7:10pm: Small Group Learning Time

Group members share highs and lows from the week, pray with one another, work through the given lesson, and most importantly, build relationships.

7:15 – 7:30pm: Teaching Time

Teachers give a brief lesson focused on a “piece” of the night’s topic.

7:35 – 7:45pm: Small Group Wrap-up

Guides will conclude the evening with a wrap-up of the topic, and the group will pray together and recite Micah 6:8.

Behavior Expectations and Consequences

As God's children, all of us are expected to act with respect at all times. This is the overall expectation for all individuals who participate in activities at FLC.

Confirmation Students

Students are expected to do the following:

- *Arrive on time with Bible
- *Participate in activities with a kind & faithful attitude
- *Pay attention, listen well, and think
- *Treat others with dignity and respect
- *Care for one another & keep each other safe
- *Complete all work including memorization, worship notes, service opportunities, etc.
- *Keep cell phones and all electronic devices put away and turned off or silenced
- *Have fun!

If behavior becomes a problem for a student, a warning will be given. If the problem persists following the warning, parents/guardians will be contacted, and the appropriate individuals will meet to discuss the issue further.

Parents/Guardians

Each of you plays a vital role in this important step in your child's faith journey. Therefore, we ask that you make every effort to do the following:

- *Regularly attend worship as a family – "faithfully bring them to the services of the Lord's house".
- *Talk with your child about their confirmation classes, lessons, and discussions.
- *Pray with and for your child, and pray for the leaders and students in the Confirmation program.

A Confirmation Prayer

Holy Father, please bless all the students, parents/guardians, Guides, Teachers, Coordinators, and Faith Mentors who participate in this ministry. Bless them with loving hearts, curious minds, wise words, and humble souls. We thank you for your grace, your mercy, and your Word, dear Lord.

Amen.

Essential Components for Confirmation

Suggested Service Opportunities

Within FLC:

- Vacation Bible School Teacher/Helper (2021 helpers may fill out a Service Reflection Sheet)
- Yard work – Clean-up day at FLC
- Tie quilts for Love Days
- Worship leadership role such as: read scripture, participate in the praise band, provide special music, serve on a Sunday morning Hospitality Team, and more
- Help at FLC Halloween Party
- Collect items and assemble school/health kits
- Work for FLC – cleaning, organizing, moving things at FLC
- Assemble and/or maintain the FLC children’s quiet bags

Outside FLC:

- CROP Walk - usually in October
- Write letters for the Bread for the World campaign
- Write letters to military servicemen and women (Erika can assist in delivery)
- Washington County Recycling Center
- Collect food for Washington County Food Pantry
- Visit residents of a local nursing home – Good Shepherd, Crowell Home, Carter Place – play games or visit
- Create Smile cards to send to Open Door Mission, survivors of natural disasters, Prison Ministries, etc. (Erika can assist in delivery)
- Create Kindness Rocks to share with others (Erika can assist in delivery)
- Assemble Blessing Bags to share with those who are homeless (Erika can assist in delivery – in Omaha or Minneapolis)

There are countless options for service opportunities. Please ask your Guide for approval of any activity not listed here before participating.

1. Family Worship

We strongly encourage families to regularly attend one weekly worship service together.

First Lutheran Church Worship Services

*Saturday, 6:00pm (recorded and available online)

*Sunday, 8:15am and 10:15am

*Wednesday, 6:15pm

2. Confirmation Classes

Consistent attendance is expected. After 3 consecutive absences or 6 total absences, the student and parents will be contacted to talk with the Pastor.

3. Worship Notes

Each student is expected to complete a given number of approved Worship Notes each year. The notes will be reviewed. If a worship note is not approved, the student will receive feedback on how to improve next time.

6th grade: 12

7th grade: 12

8th grade: 15

If a student is falling behind during the year, parents will be contacted. Up to 4 Worship Notes from other churches will be accepted each year (please attach a bulletin, if possible), and there will be no carry-over. If your child needs assistance please speak to their Guide(s).

4. Memorization

Students will be expected to memorize the Lord’s Prayer (6th), the Apostle’s Creed (7th), the 23rd Psalm (8th), Micah 6:8 (all), and a Bible verse of the child’s choice (all).

5. Service Opportunities

Confirmation students are expected to complete 2 service opportunities. 1 opp should be completed within FLC, and 1 opp should be completed outside FLC. A list of suggestions is included on page 8. These opportunities should be completed by the end of the current Confirmation year. A Service Reflection Sheet should be completed and handed in within one week of the opportunity, and it must be approved in order to receive credit.

6. FLC Plunge – if we are able to schedule one

Each Confirmation student is expected to attend **ONE** FLC Plunge activity during each year. This activity will include one or two service opportunities, lunch, relationship building, and discussion about the world and people around us. There will be a limited number of spots for each trip. Signup will be on a first come, first served basis with priority given to the students who have not previously participated in a Plunge and by grade (8th, 7th, 6th).

Schedule Changes

If Blair Community Schools' activities are cancelled or dismissed early due to inclement weather, all LIFE Night activities at FLC are cancelled, including Confirmation. We try to announce cancellations via TV, email, and social media.

We will continue to monitor the status of Covid-19 in our community. If circumstances require a change to our program, we will share those with you as quickly and efficiently, as possible. All decisions will be made through our FLC Church Council, and those decisions are always made with the safety of our congregation and community as their first priority.

Third Year Requirements

1. Confirmation Verse

Each student will choose their personal Confirmation verse in the fall. They will memorize this verse and recite it at the Confirmation Service.

2. "My Faith" Project

To conclude the third year of Confirmation, students will complete a project of their choice to describe their faith. This project will describe what the student believes and how they plan to live out the promises made on their Confirmation Day. Creativity is encouraged and many forms of expression are accepted. A brief written explanation is required to accompany the project. These projects will be shared with the congregation.

3. Pastor Interview

Each third year student will have an informal conversation with Pastor Scott and 2-3 other students regarding faith, their Confirmation experiences and what getting confirmed means to them. The interviews will be held during Holy Week in April, 2022.

4. Confirmation Stole

Each student will create their own unique stole to wear on Confirmation Day. This project is done during class time in the spring semester.

Important Dates

(all dates are tentative given the uncertainty of the times we are living in, currently.)

April 27, 2022

Rehearsal, photos, and celebration dinner, 6:15pm

May 1, 2022

Confirmation Service, 2pm