

CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

2020-2021



Confirmation:

One step in a lifelong journey of faith.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

1800 West Maple Road

Birmingham, MI 48009

(248) 644-4010

www.redeemberbirmingham.org

Confirmation Calendar 2020-2021 | Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

All Confirmation Meetings are on Wednesday evenings, unless noted below.
This calendar is subject to change – notifications will be given.

Students are required to participate in all Wednesday evening meetings.
Parents are not required to be in class but are always welcome to come!

SEPTEMBER

September 30	6PM-7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting
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OCTOBER

October 7	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting
October 14	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting – How to Write a Sermon Report! (Year 1)
October 21	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting
October 28	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 1	Morning	Year 2 students attend All Saints Day Worship Services to walk candles to the altar!
November 4	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting – Family Service Night! (Everyone)
November 11	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting
November 18	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting
November 25	NO MEETING	Thanksgiving Eve (Go to Thanksgiving Eve Service with your family!)

DECEMBER

December 2	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting
December 9	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting
December 16	6PM -7:30 PM	Confirmation Meeting
December 23	NO MEETING	Enjoy Christmastime & New Years with your family!
December 30	NO MEETING	Enjoy Christmastime & New Years with your family!

** We are planning to return to Confirmation classes on **Wednesday 1/6**. A calendar for the rest of the year will be given to you when available. The Pastors & Elders are reevaluating church gatherings in December to ensure that Redeemer is gathering as safely as possible!

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

By the grace of God, through His Word and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the confirmand was brought into a faith relationship with his Heavenly Father and into the fellowship of the Christian Church. He became a member of God's family and the community of all believers. As the child grew, his faith was nurtured when he was reminded of his baptism and taught the truths of God's Word, first by his parents and then by Christian teachers as well.

Confirmation is a milestone in the lifelong journey of growing and maturing as a disciple of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28: 19-20). Confirmation is a young Christian's rite of passage into a more complete and greater understanding of the many truths of God's promises and blessings given to them at the time of their baptism. Confirmation is a caring, educational, faith building ministry in which the church assists each family by helping the parents teach their children the basic fundamentals and beliefs of Christianity and the Lutheran faith. Christian doctrine is taught through the Word and Sacraments as found in the Holy Bible and the Catechism.

Confirmation incorporates a variety of activities and experiences which will help each child to learn and appreciate the importance of a well-balanced Christian life. The Confirmation program includes classroom instruction, small group activities/discussion, fellowship, service projects, and mid-week worship services during Lent.

Confirmation is a tradition within the Lutheran Church and involves two significant steps in the process of learning and faith development. Step one is the process of learning and instruction when the student learns significantly more about the Bible and the Christian way of life. Secondly, faith development and growth occur when the teachings of God's Word are put into action in our everyday lives and God's ministry extends beyond the church, into the community and beyond. We serve the Lord by serving and teaching others about God's grace and love for each one of us. The Rite of Confirmation is the public confession of faith and lifelong pledge of faithfulness and commitment to Christ.

IS YOUR CHILD PREPARED FOR CONFIRMATION/FIRST COMMUNION?

A child is prepared for Confirmation when he or she has:

- + demonstrated an attitude of reverence for God and His Word by attending worship services regularly and by faithful attendance at Confirmation classes.
- + demonstrated an ability to give testimony or statement of belief of his or her faith in written and oral form.
- + demonstrated knowledge of the basic teachings of Scripture and the Lutheran confessions by completing a prescribed course of study on the principal Christian doctrines as found in the Holy Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Requirements include course work, tests, quizzes, memory work, and sermon reports [12 reports required each year].
- + demonstrated a willingness to serve the Lord by participating in service activities within the church and in the community [10 hours required each year].
- + completed fully the prescribed requirements of the Confirmation program by the deadline date issued at the beginning of each program year.

CURRICULUM:

Year 1

Selected Bibles Stories from the Old and New Testament

Assigned Memory Work

Year 2

The Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

Assigned Memory Work

Year 3

Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Office of the Keys / Confession

Stewardship

Assigned Memory Work

Confirmation Essay

Statement of Faith

CLASS LOCATIONS:

Year 1/ 6th Grade will be in the **Gym**.

Year 2/ 7th Grade will be in the **Scheidt Room** on the lower level.

Year 3/ 8th Grade will be in the **Fellowship Hall** on the lower level.

**Small Group locations will be determined on the first night of class and are subject to change.*

***Starting out the 2020-2021 year, we are not having small group time. This may change later in the program year.*

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM FEES

There are no registration or instructional material fees for the Confirmation program. There is a **\$25 Family Fee** to help defray the costs of the monthly dinners and weekly snacks (if your family is willing and able to contribute). **(**The Family Fee has been decreased by 50% for the 2020-2021 year due to there being fewer gatherings.)** Year 3/8th Grade Confirmand families will have a larger charge to cover the specific expenses for First Communion/Confirmation Sunday. This fee is subject to change each year. Both fees will be collected during the Orientation meetings and are **non-refundable**.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Once enrolled in the program, all students are required to attend Confirmation meetings each Wednesday evening. If a student is **unable to attend due to sickness or other unforeseen reasons, please contact Laura Vowell**. If there are pre-planned family functions where absences are unavoidable, please communicate these conflicts in advance. **Families are responsible for making up any classwork missed due to an absence, a late arrival, or early pick-up.**

ENTRANCE & EXIT

The **Town Square entrance of the church will be the only entrance and exit** that students will be allowed to use during Confirmation evenings. Once the students have entered the building at 6pm, they are expected to remain in the building until they are dismissed at 8pm. STUDENTS MAY NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING FOR ANY REASON! **If a student needs to leave early, a parent is required to enter the building and communicate with Laura that your child is leaving.** Students also need to stay in assigned rooms during Confirmation meetings. Students will ask the staff and volunteers for permission when they need to get a drink of water, use the restroom, etc.

*Students will be required to sign in on the sheet provided in the Town Square entrance.

****Starting out the 2020-2021 year, students will enter through their assigned entrance as stated in the "Confirmation COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan".**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices are not allowed to be used during Confirmation meetings. **This includes cell phones!** This rule will be strictly enforced for the entire evening of Confirmation time. If a student is found using an electronic device, the device will be confiscated and returned to the student's parent at the end of the evening. If your child needs to use his/her cell phone during Confirmation meetings due to health concerns, please communicate that with Laura.

CANCELLATION DUE TO BAD WEATHER

If the **Birmingham Schools are closed for the day due to dangerous weather conditions, then the Confirmation meeting will also be cancelled**. If the weather improves considerably throughout the day, the Confirmation meeting may still continue as scheduled. Laura will keep everyone updated via email.

MEMORY WORK

Memory work preparation and completion will take place at home by each student and their parents. Memory work for each student is determined by grade level and by the class instructor. Assignments are generally given weekly and are included on a schedule that will be distributed by the individual instructors. **Memory work is an activity that is to be done weekly by the student and a parent at home**. The parents will oversee this activity completely, as they assist their child with the memorization of Scripture. **Parents will sign the Memory Work sheet ONLY after they are satisfied that their child has completed the work satisfactorily.**

MAKE-UP WORK

All students must contact their instructor to complete any work missed due to an absence. Follow your class calendar to determine which session and lesson you may have missed and complete the assignments accordingly at home. Quizzes and tests must be made up at church at your earliest convenience. Contact your instructor to make arrangements to complete make-up work, quizzes, and tests.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will be made available for parents and students to review regularly throughout the year. These reports reflect individual progress on sermon reports, service hours, and Acolyting/Cross Bearing. The weekly progress reports will be located at the Confirmation Station outside of Laura's Office and will also be emailed out to families.

Parents whose child is significantly behind will be expected to make an appointment to meet with the instructor and/or Laura. This will be a critical point of evaluation for each child. It may be difficult to complete the requirements of the program if the child is significantly behind.

Parents and students must work together to complete the program on time. The Confirmation staff is here to assist you, but we need your firm commitment to the program.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your child's instructor or Laura.

MEDICATIONS & MEDICAL INFORMATION

If your child has specific medical needs (or have any learning disabilities), please be sure they are indicated on the online registration forms that were submitted. Laura will relay these needs to the instructors and small group leaders. If your child needs to have his or her medication with him/her in the event of an emergency, please indicate that to Laura. If you wish to have an inhaler, EpiPen, or other medication on site with your child in the event of an emergency, please also discuss this with Laura. **All medical concerns will be kept private to other Confirmation students and families.**

PROPER ETIQUETTE

Students are required to exhibit behavior in which their Heavenly Father would be proud. This includes, but is not limited to: picking up after themselves (after class, after snack, after small group, etc.), respecting the staff, pastors, volunteers, other students, & the building, etc. We are called to be the salt and the light of the earth – let's practice here in church so that we can do it when we're out in the world too!

JAMS & RYG!

JAMS (Jesus and Middle Schoolers) is Redeemer's Middle School Ministry program that provides fellowship events for middle schoolers. Events include: game nights, lock-ins, weekend retreats, field trips, etc. Watch for flyers and announcements via email/bulletin/LAMP regarding these activities. Laura is also in charge of JAMS!

If you have older siblings in your family that are in high school, be mindful that RYG (Redeemer Youth Group) meets on Wednesdays from 6pm – 8pm too! They meet downstairs in the Youth Room for hang out time, snacks, and Bible Study! How cool! You can bring your high school kids and your middle school kids to church on Wednesdays to learn about God and have fellowship with their church friends! **Gia Scheidt (gscheidt@redeemberirmingham.org) and Eric Wisniewski (ewisniewski@redeemberirmingham.org) are in charge of RYG!**

SERMON REPORTS

12 sermon reports TOTAL → at least 2 need to be from Lenten Worship Services

All confirmation students are required to complete twelve (12) sermon reports each year of Confirmation. **At least two (2) of the sermon reports need to be from Lenten Worship Services.** Sermon reports are due by the last Confirmation session of the year. **(The end date for the 2020-2021 year is TBD.)** If students do not complete the 12 sermon reports by the due date, then they may continue their progress the next year (unless they are in Year 3 – they must have all sermon reports complete before being confirmed).

All sermon report forms can be obtained from the Confirmation Station outside of Laura's Office. If forms are unavailable for some reason, write your report on a blank piece of paper and transfer it to an official form when they become available. Clipboards and staplers are available by the Confirmation Station too! **(Starting off the 2020-2021 year, clipboards and staplers will NOT be provided; however, clean pens will be available for student use.)** Please neatly return all materials to the same location when you are finished using them.

Redeemer offers 4 weekly worship opportunities:

- Sunday mornings at 8am (Chapel), 9am (Sanctuary), & 10:30am (Sanctuary)
- Monday evening at 7:30pm (Chapel)

COVID-19 weekly worship services:

- **Sunday mornings at 8am (Chapel), 9am (Sanctuary & front lawn – weather permitting), & 10am (Gym)**
- **Monday evening at 7pm (Chapel)**
- **YOU MUST SIGN UP ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE IN ORDER TO ATTEND WORSHIP!!!!**

Redeemer also offers special worship opportunities (see church calendar for specifics):

- Lenten services
- Holy Week services
- Holiday services (Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Easter, etc.)

Requirements for sermon reports to be counted:

- sermon report forms must be filled out completely (using complete sentences!)
- sermon report forms must be legible (pencil or pen is acceptable)
- the student must be present at the worship service
- worship bulletin must be attached to the **back** of the sermon report form
(Starting out the 2020-2021 year, sermon reports can just be tucked inside a bulletin.)
- a sermon must be preached during the service

****Do not hand sermon reports to anyone, please place them neatly in the designated slot at the Confirmation Station.**

****Sermon reports from sermons from another church will be accepted as long as the other church's bulletin is attached to the sermon report form.**

All sermon reports will be returned to students (via the file boxes in classrooms) after they have been reviewed by the Pastors. **(Starting out the 2020-2021 year, completed sermon reports will be given directly to the students.)** The entire review process takes 2 to 3 weeks to complete. Please be patient. Progress Reports for each class will be updated regularly and posted at the Confirmation Station outside Laura's office. **It's a good idea for students to save all returned sermon reports in case there is a discrepancy with the record keeping.** If a report is unacceptable, it will be returned to the student for completion, corrections, or a rewrite. Students must resubmit their corrected sermon report in the designated slot. A Pastor will review your report with you to assure that you understand the information correctly.

If a student is having trouble with sermon reports, parents are allowed (and encouraged!) to help. Laura and the Pastors can help answer any questions that you may have. Students can take sermon reports home to finish them. If students need to listen to the sermon again, they can watch the sermon on LiveStream.

SERVICE HOURS

(10 service hours → including 3 family & 2 or 3 acolyte/cross bearer)

All confirmation students are required to complete ten (10) service hours each year of Confirmation. **Three (3) of the service hours need to be done as a family, and two or three (2 or 3 – depending on your grade level) of the service hours need to be as an acolyte or cross bearer.** Service hours are due by the last Confirmation session of the year. (The end date for the 2020-2021 year is TBD.) If students do not complete the 10 service hours by the due date, then they may continue their progress the next year (unless they are in Year 3/8th Grade – they must have all service hours complete before being confirmed).

All service hour forms can be obtained from the Confirmation Station outside of Laura's Office- they are green! They can also be downloaded via the church website.

IMPORTANT SERVICE HOUR NOTES: All of the following service hour opportunities are part of the Confirmation program, but will count towards your 10 service hours requirement 😊

- 3 family hours (**required**) Your "family" includes EVERYONE who lives at home!
- 2 or 3 acolyte/cross bearer hours (**required**)
- Family Service Nights (students will be there anyway!)
- Coffee Hour (each class is hosting once during the year, so students will probably be helping anyway!)
(If coffee hour starts up again during the 2020 – 2021 school year, each class will host.)

Requirements for service hours to be counted:

- service hour forms must be filled out completely (with adult supervisor signature) for **ALL** services performed!
WHEN IN DOUBT, FILL A GREEN SHEET OUT!
- no payment may be accepted for any service performed
- the service must be approved by Laura, if you turn in a sheet and it is not truly community service, then it will not be counted
- students/families **MUST** attend worship if service hours are performed on a Sunday morning
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**Do not hand service hour forms to anyone, please place them neatly in the designated slot at the Confirmation Station.

Redeemer offers MANY different opportunities for students and families to earn service hours, however, service hours can be earned outside of Redeemer as well! Laura will communicate service hour opportunities throughout the year during Confirmation meetings and via email. **Service hours opportunities given during Confirmation meetings (Family Service Nights) are required as part of the Confirmation program, regardless if a student has all of the service hours needed.** This is part of the Confirmation attendance.

ACOLYTE AND CROSS BEARER PROGRAM

All Confirmation students are required to participate in this program. This program provides an opportunity for our young people to serve their Lord and the congregation in a very meaningful way by participating in worship services throughout the year. Initial training for acolytes begins in Year 1 and cross bearer training is done as needed. Training for all students takes place on Wednesday evenings or times to be determined by Pam Lucas. **All Year 1 students are required to be an acolyte or cross bearer no fewer than two (2) times and Year 2 & Year 3 students no fewer than three (3) times.** They are expected to honor their commitment and if they are unable to fulfill their commitment, Pam Lucas must be notified as soon as possible.

One (1) service hour can be earned for each time a student participates and remains for entire service. Students can sign up via the church website. Please see the Acolyte/Cross Bearer information sheets for more information.