

Confirmation 2023-2024 Information & Expectations

Over the multi-year Confirmation program (typically sixth through eighth grade) at St. Paul's, we focus on a mix of these areas:

- Scripture - Old and New Testament
- Lutheran Catechism (The Ten Commandments, The Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments)
- Christian and Lutheran Faith Life
- Fellowship
- Service (Faith in Action)

Equipping the faith lives of our youth is a joint effort that includes the participation of parents with guides and leaders. None of what we teach and discuss during Confirmation can bear fruit in the students' lives without the ongoing commitment and cooperation of the family unit.

The following information defines the program and the expectations for parents AND youth for the upcoming year.

1. **Class Attendance:** We would ask for 75% attendance at classes. Attendance is necessary and critical for both learning and developing ongoing relationships fostered in the small groups. All classes will meet from 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday mornings in the parsonage. Please communicate with the coordinator when there will be an absence from Confirmation.
2. **Worship Attendance:** Regular attendance at worship is important as one of the primary settings for growth, inspiration and community in the Christian faith.
3. **Sermon Notes:** Complete ten sermon notes over the course of the year. This is an opportunity for students to think more deeply about the worship message. This would be ideal while attending worship, but it can also be accomplished while watching the service online. (All services are available at [YouTube.com/StPaulsLionville](https://www.youtube.com/StPaulsLionville).) The pastor will write back to the students so they can be in dialogue about what they heard and learned from the messages.
4. **Service Projects:** Complete 2 service projects over the course of a year. St. Paul's is a congregation that deeply believes in living out our faith, hence the second part of our mission statement to, "...Serve with Love." There are always opportunities to serve and we will highlight them throughout the year, both as an individual or class opportunity.
5. **Church Visits:** This year we are going to try the addition of visiting other churches as an opportunity to broaden our understanding about other faith practices and to learn what is unique about Lutherans.
6. **Parents Participation:** The Confirmation program yields the best results when supported by family participation and interaction. To facilitate this, we ask parents and

students to be in regular communication about what they are learning. Weekly emails with program information and discussion questions will help facilitate this conversation.

We have also planned for opportunities for parents and guardians to gather and support each other throughout the year.

7. **Youth Ministry Opportunities:** Our cooperative youth ministry with St. Matthew's provides monthly opportunities for fun, fellowship and faith. Please take these opportunities for further growth!

Please review these expectations as a family so there is clarity about the expectations and the need for accountability. Thank you in advance! Contact Joan at jstrawbridge52@yahoo.com or PastorStuart@StPaulsLionville.org with any questions.