

Perry Highway Evangelical Lutheran Church

Confirmation Program *2012 -2013*



2012 - 2013
Tentative Confirmation Dates
(Dates may be changed & added throughout the year)

September 30th FIRST CLASS

November 4th & 11thFOOD DISTRIBUTION AND COLLECTION

November 25th NO CLASS

December 23rd and 30th NO CLASS

January 25 -27.....YOUTH QUAKE

February 24.....BIBLE BOWL

March 24 (Palm Sunday)..... NO CLASS

March 31 (Easter) NO CLASS

April 5-7.....YOUTH FEST @ CAMP LUTHERLYN

April 15.....PRESENT FAITH STATEMENTS TO CHURCH COUNCIL

May 12THLAST DAY OF CLASS FOR 6TH & 7TH GRADERS

May 12TH..... CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL

May 19th CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

June 24 - 30 (tentative date).....CREATION MUSIC FEATIVAL

July 14 -21 (tentative date).....MISSION TRIP

I. Introduction

For many Christians today, confirmation is a rite of passage that has no meaning or is only an inconvenience that must be endured so the relatives won't complain. Unfortunately both of these views miss the wonderful moment in a child's life that confirmation really is. Confirmation is more than a meaningless ritual. It is a young man or young woman's renewing of their baptismal vows and professing before God and their congregation the faith that has been instilled in them. It is a special time of preparation, study and soul searching in which each student learns about the richness of their God given faith and how to put that faith into action in service to their Lord and others. It is a time of personal growth and maturity in the Christian faith.

Therefore, confirmation is more than a hoop to jump through. Confirmation at Perry Highway Evangelical Lutheran is a three-year journey starting in the fall of sixth grade, and ending in the spring of student's eighth-grade year. The main goal of Confirmation instruction at Perry Highway Evangelical Lutheran is to equip youth to be committed lifelong disciples of Jesus. Maturing, strengthening, broadening the faith that began in Baptism and ends with our entry into heaven.

This handbook is intended to inform all the participants in Confirmation instruction at Perry Highway Evangelical Lutheran of the expectations for them. While we have tried to be as complete as possible in outlining expectations, there may be some details that are added or clarified during the year.

Confirmation will equip youth to be committed lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ by...

1. Giving students a strong foundation in the truths of the faith they desire to confess.
2. Helping students to build a personal relationship with their Lord that goes beyond head knowledge.
3. Giving opportunities for the student and their family to grow together in faith.
4. Teaching students how to defend their faith, in a loving way, to a world that is increasingly hostile to Christianity.
5. Creating chances for the student to build relationships with other Christian young men and women.

II. Expectations

Parents

Parents are key in the spiritual nurture of their children. Without the support and witness of the parents, any instruction is greatly hindered. Therefore parents of all Confirmation students are expected to:

- Be faithful in worship and participation in the Lord's Supper.
- Be involved in personal Bible study.
- Set a Christian example in word and deed.
- Strive to grow in their Christian walk.
- Give positive encouragement to students to study.
- Assist students in learning memory work and material.
- Help students apply teaching to everyday life.
- Cooperate with pastors and teachers in the requirements.
- Pray for their student and the whole Confirmation ministry.

** All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the class with their child.*

Students

At the end of the instruction process, the students will make a solemn promise before God and the congregation. To make the most of the instruction process the students are expected to:

- Be faithful in worship attendance. Not missing more than 3 Sundays when class is in session.
- Be faithful in instruction classes. Not missing more than 3 classes.
- If a Sunday is missed the student responsible for getting the homework assignment and turning in the work by the next Sunday.
- Complete and hand in 15 worship notes each year.
- Participate in Sunday worship by acolyting, serving in the nursery and helping with Children's church. Students are expected to be on time and be appropriately dressed.
- Perform at least 3 service projects during the year.
- Make up missed work and get missed class notes.
- Complete all work to the best of their ability.
- Strive to lead and grow in their Christian life at all times.
- Pray daily for spiritual guidance during this time.
- Share and discuss the material with their parents.
- Demonstrate an intention to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Instructors

The pastors and other instructors present God's Word to the youth. Instructors can be expected to:

- Be faithful in their Christian walk.
- Prepare lessons fully and adequately.
- Get to know the students to the best of their ability.
- Pray for the students and their families.
- Support parents in their role as the primary faith nurturers.

III. Curriculum

God's Word is the "sole rule and norm" for Christian life. Therefore, it is the basis for what we teach in our Confirmation instruction. We will use the "Six Chief Parts" of Luther's Small Catechism as an outline for the basic beliefs of the Christian faith.

The Six Chief Parts are:

- The Apostle's Creed
- The Ten Commandments
- The Lord's Prayer
- Baptism
- Holy Communion
- The Office of the Keys

Other topics covered will be:

- Old Testament Overview
- New Testament Overview
- Our Neighbor's Faith
- Stewardship
- Witnessing

Classroom activities will include lecture, group discussion, small group learning activities, and guest speakers.

IV. Worship Notes

Every year the confirmand is required to complete **15** worship notes. These can be all done in a row or spread throughout the year. The worship note form can be found in the student's notebook, on the usher's table in the church narthex or downloaded from the Group's section of the church website. Students should attend worship with a parent or family member. Worship notes can be taken at any service and at a church. If the worship notes are taken from another congregation please include that Sunday's bulletin.

V. Service

We have been saved to live for Jesus, who lived and died for us. *We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19)*. Because Jesus died and rose for us, we are free to live not for ourselves, but for others. Jesus modeled service many times, showing us exactly what it means to serve. In fact, right before He was arrested and ultimately crucified, He took the lowest slave job and washed His disciples' feet. He WANTS us to live a life of service. More than that, He promised that whatever service we do for others is the same as doing it for Him! We serve others because we love Jesus and want to serve Him. We require service projects for Confirmation because Confirmation is about far more than just head knowledge; it is also about a change of heart. Jesus said, "You will show that you are my disciples by bearing fruit" which includes doing acts of service as a lifestyle. We encourage families to be part of at least one service project with their student. It is a great learning lesson, and kids need to see their parents serving too.

Service is ANY time we do something nice or helpful for a person, a group, or the community. For example, it is service to pick up garbage on the ground. It is service to volunteer at church. It is service to rake an elderly neighbor's yard. ANY kind or helpful act is indeed service to Jesus.

Because service to others and the church family are part of the Christian life each student will be required to do a minimum of **3** service projects each year. Each project must be a minimum of 1 hour. One of the service projects should be serving the family of Christ (The Church) and one should be done outside the church (The Community) and the third is one the student will build. To get credit for the service project students will need to fill out a service project form and turn it in. The service project sheets can be downloaded from the member section of the church website: www.phlc.org

Some opportunities for Service include:

- Serving on the Youth Committee
- Lenten Suppers
- Summer Mission Trip
- Vacation Bible School
- Altar Guild
- Adopt a Grandparent
- Youth Service Projects
- Thanksgiving Food Collection

VI. Personal Growth

"I am a child of God and I have special gifts, which I may use to serve others." This is the beginning of the discovery process that will hopefully become a way of life. Growth occurs in a positive environment, one that offers encouragement to act on knowledge and experience, connecting the head and the heart. Through this we realize:

1. Christian growth is a life long process, and
2. We understand the church as the people of God in many various ways, not only through learning and service.

This will be learned through small group settings, retreats, worship and camp experiences.

It is in the 'Growing in Faith' component that the confirmation student begins to develop skills and patterns that are the basis for spiritual growth the rest of his or her life. Each individual is challenged to continue to grow in faith, but is also introduced to the faith community experience and allowed the freedom of safe and loving group development.

The activities in this section emphasize community, the need for friends, for love, respect and support. They make an attempt to connect heart and head, what we need with what we know. Community in the body of Christ is being supported and cared for by God and by others who know God.

each student will be required to do a minimum of **2** Growth projects each year

Opportunities to Grow Together:

- Youth Retreat
- Youth Monthly Bible Study
- Creation Festival
- Mission Trip
- Youth Fest
- Spirit Fest
- Bible Bowl

VII. FAITH STATEMENT

At the end of the 8th grade year, each confirmation student is to create a personal faith statement. This faith statement can be a drawing, a piece of art work, a banner, a set of photos, or a written piece. It is whatever most appropriately represents the person and the personal faith journey. This is to promote creativity and thoughtfulness regarding this personal expression of faith.

VIII. Acolyting, Nursery & Children's Church

Another way students are given a chance to serve their Lord is by Acolyting, assisting in the nursery and during Children's church. The days they are scheduled to serve will be listed on the church Sunday volunteer schedule that can be found on the church website. You will also be mailed a copy of the schedule. The schedule is usually made out 6 months to a year ahead so you can plan. If a student is unable to make a day when they were scheduled they are responsible for getting a replacement and then informing the church office..

IX. Confirmation Date

The confirmation rite for those students who wish to be confirmed, who have met the requirements and are approved by the church council will be on Sunday, May 19, 2013.

(Note: Just because a child is enrolled in the class **does not** mean a student will be confirmed)

X. Details

Class Time:

-Sunday Mornings 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Materials needed every class session

- Lutheran Study Bible (NIV)
- Workbook
- Pen or pencil
- Catechism

Assignments

§Assignments are given to supplement lecture and small group activities. Some assignments will be done in class. There will be occasional assignments to be completed with parent(s). Parents should ensure students are actively involved in all aspects of class.

§Please include name on all turned in items.

**Perry Highway Evangelical Lutheran Church
Confirmation Ministry**

Service Project Report

Name: _____

Date of Project: _____

Name of Service Project : _____

Location of Project : _____

Why I chose this project:

One significant thing I learned from this experience: (use the back of this page if necessary)

Youth Signature _____

Adult Signature _____
(who you served/or an adult you served with):

**Perry Highway Evangelical Lutheran Confirmation Class
2012-2013 - Worship Notes**

Name _____

Date _____ Church Year Season _____

1. List the readings for the day:

a. Old Testament: _____

b. Epistle/New Testament: _____

c. Gospel: _____

2. What was the text for the sermon? _____

3. What would you title the sermon? _____

4. Who was the preacher? _____

5. Sermon Notes:

What was the main point of the sermon? _____

6. What was your favorite hymn or song? Why? _____

7. What thought from the sermon or the service helped you most in your spiritual life?

8. What was one thing your parents or a member of your family heard in the sermon?

Parent Signature _____