

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church: Youth Confirmation plan

Training the youth of the congregation is one of the most important tasks of the family and the church. Parents are primarily responsible for teaching their children the faith we share. The church assists in that instruction. We pray that the Lord will bless this work with His Spirit.

The purpose of the Victory in Christ confirmation program is as follows:

- To plant the Lord's Word (and especially the Small Catechism) deep into the hearts, minds, and imaginations of the congregation's youth,
- To prepare the students for worthy reception of the Lord's body and blood in the Supper,
- To help mature the student's faith so that they are ready for the office of confessor of the faith.

The program will last a total of three years. Any student entering 5th grade or above should participate in the program. Instruction will take place during the Sunday School hour and during an additional time period during the week (called Catechesis class) of about 45 minutes. Tentatively, Catechesis class is planned for 12:30 on Sunday mornings following lunch. Sunday School material will primarily consist of learning the various Biblical accounts. These accounts will be reinforced in Catechesis class. Catechesis class will also focus on learning Luther's Small Catechism, the liturgy, and life applications of the catechism and God's Word. The Catechism, the books of the Bible, some Bible verses, parts of the liturgy and hymns will be memorized by the students. The curriculum will include the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism, individual books of the Bible, and the hymns and liturgies of the church. The Confirmation curriculum will also include acolyte training (boys), altar guild training (girls), and taking sermon notes. There will be some at-home work to complete in addition to preparing the memory work. Regular church attendance is also a critical part of this process. The expectation is that the student will attend church/Sunday school/Catechesis class at least 30 times each calendar year.

Students will be eligible for Confirmation after:

- Completion of the three years of class.
- Completion of the memory requirements.
- A conversation with the pastor and their parents about the importance and seriousness of our faith in Christ.
- Examination by the pastor and elders regarding readiness to be confirmed

Students enrolled in Victory in Christ Classical Lutheran Academy (VICCLA) will notice some overlap especially with the memorization work. It is possible that VICCLA students will be able to complete the requirements in fewer than three years.

Understanding that it might be desirable, and many students will be ready to receive the Lord's Supper prior completing all three years of classwork, students will also be able to complete the Rite of First Communion and begin communing before Confirmation. This will typically take place toward the end of the first year (but could be earlier or later depending on the student's maturity in the faith. This will be part of the conversation between the student, parents, and pastor.)

Students will be eligible for the Rite of First Communion after:

- Discussion with their parents and pastor of their desire to come to the Lord's Table,
- Completion of the memory requirements (fewer than what is required for the entire three years).
- Completion of the Lord's Supper intensive class.

If a student (or parents) would like to wait until their Confirmation to also come to communion, this is also acceptable. Please let pastor know of your desire to start your child in confirmation, this fall.