

CONFIRMATION PARENT HANDBOOK: 2026–2027

WELCOME TO CONFIRMATION!

We welcome you to our Confirmation program at FaithPoint!

We are pleased that you have chosen to participate in FaithPoint's Confirmation program, and we look forward to working with you and your child throughout his/her middle school years. Our goal is to help students grow in their understanding of the Christian faith, know the good news of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, and that students will leave Confirmation not simply knowing more about Christianity, but knowing **why their faith in Christ matters to them personally**.

Our Confirmation program is built around God's Word and the teachings of the Christian faith. Over three years, students will study the **Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed**, while also exploring important questions about the Bible, Jesus, salvation, prayer, and what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus.

We also recognize that parents have a tremendous influence on the spiritual development of their children. We want Confirmation to be something we do **with your family**, not simply something we do **for your child**.

WHERE AND WHEN...

Confirmation is held on Wednesday evenings at FaithPoint Lutheran Church (1051 270th St. W., New Prague, MN).

Our weekly rhythm is built around **Belong, Believe, and Become**:

7:00–7:30 pm — BELONG

Connect Time: Large-group games, relationship building, and fun

7:30–8:00 pm — BELIEVE

Large Group Teaching: Biblical and catechetical teaching for the entire 6th–8th grade group

8:00–8:30 pm — BECOME

Small Groups: Students meet in grade- and gender-based groups with their adult mentors

We also have occasional service projects, retreats, and other activities throughout the year. Please pick up your child promptly at 8:30 p.m.

OUR THREE-YEAR JOURNEY...

Each year focuses on a major section of Luther's Small Catechism while connecting that teaching to Scripture and the real questions and challenges students face.

YEAR A — THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (2026-2027)*God's Word Shows Me My Need***YEAR B — THE LORD'S PRAYER (2027-2028)***God's Word Teaches Me to Trust My Father***YEAR C — THE APOSTLES' CREED (2028-2029)***God's Word Shows Me What I Believe*

THE CONFIRMATION BIBLE...

We believe Confirmation should not simply teach students **about** the Bible. We want to help them develop a habit of actually reading God's Word. Every student is encouraged to have an age-appropriate **ESV Study Bible** to use throughout Confirmation and beyond.

Each year students will receive a **One-Year Confirmation Bible Reading Map** guiding them through 15 key Scripture passages connected to that year's Confirmation theme so that at the end of the three years students will have read 45 scriptures. Students will also receive a **Confirmation Handbook** to record what they are learning, questions they have, and ways God's Word connects to their lives.

We encourage you, the parents, to read the Bible with their student and simply ask, **"What did you read in the Bible this week?"**

CONTACT & COMMUNICATION...

If you have questions or concerns about the Confirmation program or your child's progress, please contact us. **FaithPoint Lutheran Church Office:** 952-758-6297

Pastor Wes Asheim

952-500-2187 (Cell)

Wes.asheim@faithpointlc.org

Michelle Buetow, Confirmation Coordinator

952-239-5791 (Cell)

Confirmation@faithpointlc.org

Our primary method of communication is e-mail. Please provide an e-mail address you check regularly. We also utilize text messages for last-minute reminders and weather cancellations.

COSTS...

The registration fee is **\$70 per student** and covers curriculum, supplies, food, special activities, and the 8th-grade retreat. The fee is due at registration. Scholarships are available if the cost presents a financial

hardship. ESV Study Bibles will be available for purchase at registration for **\$20** or you can purchase them at Amazon by searching **ESV Student Study Bible**.

BEHAVIOR & CELL PHONE POLICY...

We expect all Confirmation students to follow one simple rule:

RESPECT.

RESPECT God. RESPECT people. RESPECT property.

We want Confirmation to be a place where students can learn, ask questions, build relationships, and grow in their understanding of God's Word. We will not tolerate vulgar language, disruptive or inappropriate behavior, bullying, or an unwillingness to participate.

CELL PHONES

To eliminate distractions and encourage greater focus and engagement, students will turn in their cell phones at the beginning of Confirmation and pick them back up at the end of the evening.

We want Confirmation to be a time when students can be fully present—listening, learning, asking questions, and building relationships without the distractions of their phones. If you need to reach your child during Confirmation, please contact the FaithPoint office, Michelle, or Pastor Wes.

If behavior expectations are not met, the student will receive a verbal warning. Continued issues may result in removal from the activity and parent contact. In cases of continued misbehavior, a parent may be asked to attend class and/or a conference may be scheduled with the student, parents, mentor, and pastor.

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS...

Students are expected to meet all requirements each year in order to be confirmed following completion of the third year (8th grade). One of these requirements, the confirmation retreat, is required once during the three years they are in the program. They are invited to come to the retreat all three years, but only one year is required.

Parents and students are responsible for fulfilling these requirements. We will periodically update you on your child's progress. If you anticipate difficulty completing a requirement, please contact Pastor Wes or Michelle.

EACH YEAR'S REQUIREMENTS:

- **Attendance:** 80% overall
- **Memory Work:** 100% completion
- **Sermon Notes:** 16 per year
- **Service Hours:** 10 per year

- **Individual Confirmation Sessions:** 2 per year
 - **Confirmation Retreat:** Required to attend once during the 3 years of confirmation
-

SERMON NOTES...

Regular worship is an important part of the Christian life. We want students to understand that Confirmation is not separate from the life of the church—they are part of the church now. Students must complete **16 sermon notes** during the year. Green Sermon Note sheets are available at the Welcome Center. Students complete the form during worship, have a parent sign it, and return it to the Welcome Center or at Confirmation the following Wednesday.

We encourage parents to talk with their children about worship and what they heard. Simple questions like **“What was the main point?”** or **“What made you think?”** can help students become active participants in worship.

If your child attends another church, a sermon note may be completed with that church’s bulletin attached.

MEMORY WORK...

We believe memorizing God’s Word and the teachings of the Christian faith is valuable for all Christians. We memorize not simply for a test, but so that God’s truth can stay with us throughout our lives and come to mind when we need it most.

This year students will memorize:

- The Ten Commandments
- Luther’s explanations from *An Explanation of Luther’s Small Catechism*
- Selected Scripture passages

Memory work corresponds with each year’s Confirmation focus and is checked during small-group time with mentors. Students are required to complete **100% of the memory work**. Students who are absent or need additional time will have opportunities to make up their work.

If your child struggles with memorization, please speak with Pastor Wes or Michelle so we can find an approach that helps them succeed.

SERVICE HOURS...

Students must complete **10 service hours** each year. Hours may be earned during the school year or over the summer. Students must submit a **Gold Service Hour Report Form** signed by an adult for whom the service was performed.

Service hours cannot be paid work or regular household/family chores. Service should typically be performed outside the home. If you are unsure whether an activity qualifies, please contact Michelle or Pastor Wes.

Examples include:

- Serving at Sunday worship, KidsPoint, Sunday School, or on the Tech Team
- Volunteering at VBS or other church programs
- Helping an elderly neighbor
- Volunteering at school
- Helping with church cleaning, yardwork, or office work
- Participating in Summer Stretch or a mission trip
- Serving at Feed My Starving Children or a local food shelf
- Volunteering as a family

We want students to discover that following Jesus is not simply about what we believe. It is also about loving God and loving our neighbors through the way we live and serve.

INDIVIDUAL CONFIRMATION SESSIONS (ICS)...

An ICS is a brief, approximately 10-minute conversation with Pastor Wes, Michelle, or a student's mentor. Each year, a student and at least one parent must complete **2 ICS sessions**. Sessions will be scheduled during regular Confirmation hours, although alternate arrangements can be made if needed. These conversations give us an opportunity to check in with your student and family, answer questions, discuss how the year is going, and encourage your child's continued growth in faith.

OUR CONFIRMATION MENTORS...

Small-group mentoring is an important part of our Confirmation program. During the final 30 minutes each Wednesday, students meet in grade- and gender-based groups with an adult mentor. Mentors are more than discussion leaders. We want them to become trusted Christian adults who know your child, listen to them, pray for them, encourage them, and help them grow in their relationship with Jesus.

We encourage parents to see their child's mentor as part of their team. If your child has a question or concern that would be helpful for their mentor to know, please communicate with them.

ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS...

Parental involvement is essential to the success of FaithPoint's Confirmation ministry. It is our hope and prayer that this time of Confirmation instruction will deepen and strengthen faith throughout your entire family.

We ask that you:

- **Regularly attend Sunday worship** at FaithPoint with your son or daughter.
- **Encourage your child to read God's Word** or better yet...Read it together!
- **Pray for your child** and his/her faith development.
- **Faithfully bring your child to Confirmation** and help them fulfill their requirements.
- **Talk about faith at home** and make space for honest questions and conversations.
- **Attend Parent Nights** and participate in the program when possible.
- **Help your child see Confirmation as a beginning, not an ending.** Our hope is that students will continue growing in faith and become connected to FaithPoint's high school ministry after Confirmation.

Ways to volunteer include:

- Driving for retreats or fun nights
- Attending or chaperoning retreats
- Helping with special events or service projects
- Supporting our mentors
- Becoming a mentor
- Helping students become connected to the broader life of FaithPoint

WE NEED YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION TO MAKE THIS A GREAT YEAR!

Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to help the next generation know Jesus, understand the Christian faith, and grow into lifelong disciples.

A FINAL WORD TO PARENTS...

Our greatest hope for your child is not that they simply complete the requirements of Confirmation.

Our hope is that they would **know Jesus**.

We want them to know that they are loved by God, that they are sinners in need of grace, and that Jesus Christ has done for them what they could never do for themselves.

And when they say, "**I believe...**", we want those words to become more than words they memorized for Confirmation. We want them to begin to understand what they are saying.

Our prayer is that over these three years, your child will grow from simply learning about the Christian faith to personally trusting in Jesus Christ—and that Confirmation will be one part of a lifelong journey of faith.

Thank you for allowing us to partner with you. We are excited for the journey ahead!

In Christ,
~Pastor Wes Asheim

ALL CONFIRMATION FORMS

All Confirmation forms and additional information are available at:

<https://www.faithpointlc.org/wp/youth/middle-school/>

SUMMARY CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

Attendance — 80% overall

Individual Confirmation Sessions (ICS) — 2 required

Midyear: _____

End of Year: _____

Confirmation Retreat at Bible Camp — Required once during the 3 year program

(Attending more than once optional and encouraged!)

Date: _____

Memory Work — 100% required

Sermon Notes — 16 required

Service Hours — 10 required

Confirmation Bible Reading Map — Encouraged throughout the year