



*Prince of Peace*  
*Confirmation*  
*Handbook*  
*2023-2024*

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
**2330 E. Calumet St, Appleton, WI 54915**  
**Ph. (920)739-5255/ Fax (920)831-2973**  
**[barbara@popappleton.org](mailto:barbara@popappleton.org)**

## **Why does the church have confirmation?**

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. **Impress them on your children.** Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”* Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Confirmation has been around in Lutheran churches for a long time, but it’s important for us to stop and think about what it is before we begin. Its purpose is simple:

**To help baptized people of the church**

**(1) identify more deeply with the Christian community and**

**(2) participate more fully in its mission**

Confirmation is more than a class or a program—***it is a ministry through which God is active in your life!*** Confirmation will help you feel more at home in the church as you learn by instruction, experience, and example ways to be active in faith and in the congregation. Regardless of how old we are, God’s plan for us does not begin nor end with confirmation—this is a step along our lifelong journey!

## **Promises made during the Lutheran rite of baptism:**

*To **profess & confess** your faith in Jesus Christ & the faith of the church,  
To **reject & renounce** sin, the devil, and the ways of sin that draw you from God,  
To **live** among God’s faithful people,  
To **hear** the Word and share in the Lord’s Supper,  
To **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
To **serve** all people, following the example of Jesus,  
To **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth.*

## **Confirmation helps young people take the faith nurtured by their parents & other influential adults and make it their own.**

Many of us were baptized as infants or young children, before we were able to make those baptismal promises ourselves. Our parents and baptismal sponsors made those promises of faith for us. In confirmation young people get the chance to learn about the faith into which they were baptized and prepare to affirm their own faith in Jesus Christ.

**OUR goal is to provide opportunities for the confirmation youth to CONNECT with Christ, the congregation of Prince of Peace, and the community, to show good in the world and to live out our purpose that God has for us.**

## **How do we do this?**

**Through teaching, small and large group activities, sermon notes, mentoring, and service projects.**

## **We aim for the confirmation experience that will teach our young people:**

- How faith plays an active role in your daily life
- About the promises that God has made to you and how you can depend on those promises during your life (how to trust in God)
- That trusting in God isn't just something we hear or talk about, but something we actively do every day.
- Ways to be involved in the ministries of the church.

**Acting as a partnership of church and home**, we (church and parents) will seek to teach by example, by experience, and by instruction how our young people can make their baptismal promises their own and:

- **learn to trust God,**
- **be a witness for Jesus' love with their words and their actions,**
- **care for other people and for creation, and**
- **make the world a more peaceful and justice-filled place.**

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

## **Your role as a parent**

Believe it or not, parents play the biggest role in the faith development of their kids. Study after study has proven that parents are the biggest influencers in the life of their kids. Parents are more effective than pastors, youth directors, congregation members, and even (believe it or not!) kids' friends when it comes to passing on values and beliefs. This is important! God is calling parents to pass on their faith!

Our confirmation program assumes involvement from parents – as group leaders, mentors, activity assistants, and *most importantly, as parents who engage and encourage the faith development of their sons and daughters at home.*

## **Schedule/Attendance / Being Prepared / Fulfilling Commitments**

Confirmation classes will meet on Wednesday evenings, and then we will take a break from classes on Wednesdays during Advent and Lent, to worship as a group or with your family.

### **Wednesday Evenings – LARGE/SMALL groups: 6:00-7:05**

#### **First Semester:**

**September 20, 27**

**October 4, 11, 18, 25**

**November 1, 8, 15**

#### **Second Semester:**

**January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**February 7, 14** (Ash Wednesday)

This year our Confirmation evenings will run from **6pm-7:05pm** at Prince of Peace. We will start out the evening in large group, with a warm-up activity. Then Pastor Jennifer or Pastor Roger will spend the first part of the evening teaching the lesson on the night's topic. Following that, students will be dismissed to their small groups where they will discuss the topic with their groups and their small group leader, as well as share highs and lows, and connect with their group. At **7:05** students will be dismissed.

**9<sup>th</sup> Graders** – Each of you will meet with both pastors to discuss the worksheet “Promises”. We ask that you pick a time after the confirmation class to meet with us for about an hour. We can begin meeting with you in October.

### **Service Projects:**

Students are required to participate in Service Projects. The goal of having these opportunities is to provide experiences to build connections across generations, and with different ministries in our congregation. **3** service project dates are required from each student. Barbara will have a completion sheet for you to turn in to keep track of your service date requirements.

Opportunities for Service Projects:

- PoP Pumpkin Patch: Volunteer time to sell pumpkins or help with set up or take down. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. This will only happen during October. You must have an adult congregation member with you during the shift.
- Friday, November 17 5:30-7:30pm: Family Fun Night, host a family fun station. (Barbara can give you all the information)
- Sundays in Advent & Lent there will be a service project available in the CLR from 9-11am.
- Being a Helper during Sunday FF classes 9:30-10:15am: Help the students with crafts, game, etc. (Talk to Barbara)
- Being a Helper in the Nursery during worship services. (talk to Anna Reinhold)
- Other opportunities will PoP up as the year goes on.

#### **Sundays in Advent:**

December 3, 10, 17

#### **Sundays in Lent:**

February 18, 25

March 3, 10, 17

#### **Wednesdays in Advent:**

November 29, December 6, 13, 20

#### **Wednesdays in Lent:**

February 18, 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20

We understand that schedules are hectic and there are many demands on students and parents. Regular practices/rehearsals and games/performances is mandatory for many activities. You cannot be a member of the team without showing up regularly and being prepared! The same goes for confirmation. **Attendance is required for Wednesday evening lessons & small group sessions, as well as for Sundays in Lent and Advent. Students can miss one Wednesday night class per semester. If there is more than one absence per semester, Barbara will e-mail the lesson and worksheet from class, and that will be completed at home and given to Barbara the following Wednesday.** We hope that families make the effort as best as they are able to ensure that full confirmation participation is a priority during this four-year journey.

## Behavior during Large and Small Groups

It is expected that students will be respectful during large and small group time. Small groups are an opportunity to participate through discussion and through being an active listener. Cell phones are to be turned off and put away, and attention is expected to be on the moment, and to take in the experience. Doing this will allow you to get the most out of the lesson, building your life as a faithful servant of God.

## Materials Needed:

**Bible\***- CEB Student Bible (given to you in 2nd grade) If you need one, please let Barbara know and she will get one for you.

Pen/Pencil

Highlighter -optional.

## Curriculum

We will be using the "Here We Stand" curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. This curriculum covers the Small Catechism, the 10 Commandments, the Old and New Testaments, as well as "Faith in Life" topics valuable to developing a well-rounded faith.

## Student Requirements:

- **Whole Group Warm Up:** Barbara will lead a warm-up activity for the night. (6:00-6:05pm)
- **Pastors Lesson:** Pastor Roger or Pastor Jennifer will present a lesson for the students during our group time based on the week's topic. (6:05-6:35pm)
- **Small Groups:** 6<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> Graders are also required to participate in small group on Wednesday evenings. These will follow the large group. (6:35-7:05pm)
- **Sermon Notes:** Students are expected to complete **10** sermon notes over the course of the year from October-April. These will be available by the Youth Bulletin Board outside of Barbara's office, and for printing off of the website (a link will be sent home). And we will also email home a PDF, so if want to fill it out on the computer you can as well. During Advent and Lent, you may also complete a note for Sunday worship or Wednesday worship which can be counted towards your 10 sermon note requirement. Sermon notes are turned in on the bulletin board by Barbara's office.
- **Service Projects:** (see above section) Student are required to participate in 3 service project opportunities by the end of the school year.
- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Mentoring:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade faith mentoring will be a part of this year as it has been in years past. However, we would like you to ask members of the congregation (not pastors) to be your mentors. If you are not sure who to ask, we can help you. You have until December 3<sup>rd</sup> to pick a mentor. This is a valuable experience both for the mentees and their mentors as we seek to learn about each other's faith. You will meet with your mentor on **January 10, 17, 24, 31**. This meeting will last an hour and is in lieu of regular class that Wednesday.

- **6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mentoring:** During the month of January, 6th, 7th and 8th graders will meet with a mentor. After the whole group lesson, the student and mentor will meet one on one to discuss this lesson and complete an activity together. The mentor will be a member of Prince of Peace. The Pastors will pick a mentor for you. Mentor meeting dates are: **January 10, 17, 24, 31.**

### **Confirmation Retreat:**

This year we are bringing back the Confirmation Retreat Weekend as a way to build relationships with God, each other, and our partnership with Crossways Camp. The Confirmation Retreat is **November 3-5** at Imago Dei Village in Clintonville. There will be transportation to and from church. There is no cost to students for this retreat. This weekend retreat is not mandatory, but highly encouraged. This will be one of the highlights of the whole year.

### **Fees / Registration Forms**

Confirmation is free to all participants. If you wish to make a donation to cover the cost of confirmation supplies, Bibles, retreat, activities, etc, please feel free to do so. Donations can be given in your offering or to Barbara or Cindy in the office. Thanks!

### **Ways to Stay Connected:**

We will try to keep everyone informed as the year progresses, but we need your help too! We try to send out weekly email updates, sometimes they have new info and sometimes they are filled with reminders. We try to include previous emails so that you can always refer back for more details on things if needed. If you are not getting those emails, please reach out to Barbara so that we can make sure you are on the email lists. Here are a number of convenient ways to keep tabs on what's happening and to receive updates for Youth news:

#### General Church Info:

PoP Website: [www.popappleton.org](http://www.popappleton.org) (will be further updated once new Coordinator position filled).

PoP Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/princeofpeace.appleton/>

PoP Families Fellowship Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1336288513222291>

#### Constant Contact:

This is the digital email/text resource we will use to communicate updates for various activities and shared information for most grades; please add Constant Contact as an accepted/safe "Sender" so emails aren't sent to your SPAM folder.

Cancellations will be communicated via Facebook, and the Prince of Peace General Website.