



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK
2022–2023

BASIC PURPOSES OF CONFIRMATION

- Students will grow in relationship with God, their peers, and adults of Shepherd of the Hills.
 - Students will experience God and discover stories of God's faithfulness throughout time and history, including today, and be grounded in the foundations of faith.
 - Students will understand what faith means to them, grow in it, and live it out the rest of their lives.
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More specifically, students will:

- Have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Be disciples engaging in the mission and ministry of Christ both within and outside of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.
- Know they are saved by grace through faith.
- Have knowledge of Church history.
- Have greater understanding of the Bible, how to use it, and its key themes.
- Understand and live out what it means to be a Christian.
- Understand basic theology and Lutheran tradition and doctrine.
- Identify and share the Church's confession of faith.
- Understand more about the Apostle's Creed, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments.
- Understand what it means to be a steward and how to live out that calling.
- Have strong relationships with caring adults in the congregation.
- Have strong relationships with peers and be able to talk about their faith with them.
- Be able to see the difference their faith makes in their daily life and apply what they have learned.
- Be ready to affirm/confirm their faith.
- Have a solid foundation in faith that will help and guide them in future years.
- Continue to learn and grow in their faith after they affirm their Baptism.

CONFIRMATION COURSE OF STUDY

2022–2023

The Sacraments – Baptism and Holy Communion

The Bible

The Apostles Creed

Ten Commandments

2023–2024

The Church: History of the Church, Denominations, the Lutheran Church

The Lord's Prayer

The Bible

The “Marks of Discipleship”

CONFIRMATION EXPECTATIONS FOR 2022–2023

During a “regular” confirmation year, all students are expected to do the following:

- Attend Confirmation class regularly.
- Worship regularly.
- Attend the youth overnight Friday, September 23 to Saturday, September 24. See the Fall 2022 Children, Youth, and Family Ministry brochure for details.
- Attend gatherings with “Faith Friends” and engage in this ministry and relationship.
- Attend at least one Lenten dinner and worship service with Faith Friends and family.
- Serve as an acolyte or in some other way on Sunday mornings (i.e. usher, assisting minister, fellowship host). More details will be shared after Confirmation begins.

Interview and hear the faith story of 3 people (parent, godparent, mentor, friend, any member of Shepherd of the Hills, etc.) Fill in their answers on the faith interview form. Turn in the form to Pastor Darcy. The first one is due by *November 13, 2022*; the remaining two are due by *March 19, 2023*.

8th Graders attend:

- Youth overnight or retreat as planned in the spring. More details to come.
- Confirmation Sunday rehearsal on June 4, 2023
- Worship service, including Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation, June 11, 2023

All students are encouraged to do the following:

- Participate in youth group activities. See newsletters, emails, and texts from Shepherd of the Hills Youth ministry team for more information. Activities include serving, fellowship, fundraising for special events, faith growth opportunities, trips, and retreats.
- Go on the 2023 Summer Youth Trip. More details to come.
- Participate fully in the life and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills. Attend worship and special events. Serve in various ways, like being an usher, greeter, reader, help with special events, host and bake for fellowship activities, etc.
- Live the Marks of Discipleship (Habits of Faith – see next page).
- Participate in “Faith Five” with families each day. The five steps are:
STEP 1: **SHARE** your highs and lows
STEP 2: **READ** a Bible verse or story
STEP 3: **TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows
STEP 4: **PRAY** for one another’s highs and lows
STEP 5: **BLESS** one another

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GROWING IN FAITH

“Marks of Discipleship” or “Habits of Faith” – Individually and as a Family

Pray daily

- Say a prayer before meals as a family.
- Pray before bedtime, thanking God for His blessings throughout the day and lifting up concerns.
- Parents: say a blessing for your child before school or before bed (i.e. “You are a child of God. God loves you and so do I.”).

Worship weekly

- Worship at Shepherd of the Hills on Sunday mornings.
- During Lent, worship at Shepherd of the Hills on Wednesday nights. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Worship at 7:30 p.m.

Read Scripture regularly

- Participate and read the Bible during Sunday school or adult education opportunities.
- Put your Bible next to your bed and read a little before falling asleep.
- Get a year-long devotional book and read it together as a family.
- Do “Faith Five” each day as a family or as often as possible.

Serve others at and beyond Shepherd of the Hills

- Serve as an usher, greeter, or lay reader and/or help out with fellowship events, and Vacation Bible School in the summer.
- Go on the youth Summer Mission Trip.
- Help out with putting together Crossroad-Connections kits for students in need at various times throughout the year.
- Clean up at a park or serve at Haymarket Food Pantry.

Build caring relationships

- Students: Attend the youth events for middle and high school students and young adults.
- Talk through “Faith Interview” questions in the car and/or at mealtimes together as a family.
- Visit around worship. Attend Lenten dinners, services and/or other special events.

Give generously of time, talent, and resources

- Put aside money each week to give to the Church and charitable organizations.
- Sponsor a child in Haiti at the Village of Hope School (\$35 a month).
- Sign up on the Sunday “Let’s Connect” insert to help out with specific projects.

General Information

To register for Confirmation

Please complete and hand in the Children and Youth Participation Form.

Materials

Students are asked to bring their Bible to class every week.

Shepherd of the Hills has Bibles to use but students getting to know their own is best.

The Lutheran Handbook will be provided to each student to use as a resource as well as a pen and a folder for storing paper items.

Curriculum Reviews

After each major session, there *may* be a review to ensure that students have grasped the material and can apply it to life. If there are any special considerations to be made for students when taking a review, which they may associate with test-taking, parents/guardians should contact Pastor Darcy.

Cancellations

If there is bad weather or a prediction of it, check your e-mail or phone for a message, and/or Shepherd of the Hills website, www.sothva.org.

Absences

If a student will be absent from confirmation class, parents are asked to please send Pastor Darcy an e-mail.

Confirmation Teachers

Pastor Darcy and David Moyle

Contact Information

Shepherd of the Hills: www.sothva.org, (703) 754-3640

Pastor Darcy Percy: pastordarcy@sothva.org (general information)

Nancy Griffin-Bonnaire: nbonnaire@sothva.org (general information)

Amanda Odendahl: admin@sothva.org (registration and forms)

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT SOTH

8:30 AM and 10:45 AM

Worship services

9:30 AM through after the 10:45 AM service

Fellowship, Food, and Fun

Students are especially encouraged to come early and stay late around confirmation to make friends and enjoy games (in and outdoor, board games, cards, and puzzles)

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM *Confirmation*

Important Dates

Classes take place on Sundays throughout the year unless otherwise note - are subject to change.

September 11, 2022 Rally Sunday – Confirmation students will participate with Sunday School children and high school students in opening activities

October 28 - 30, 2022 Congregation retreat at Caroline Furnace Camp;
Food, fun, and fellowship during regular Confirmation time

November 27, 2022 No class

December 18, 2022 to January 1, 2023 No class

March 1, 2023 Lenten Dinner & Worship opportunities with Faith Friends

March 8, 2023 Lenten Dinner & Worship opportunities with Faith Friends

March 15, 2023 Lenten Dinner & Worship opportunities with Faith Friends

March 22, 2023 Lenten Dinner & Worship opportunities with Faith Friends

March 29, 2023 Lenten Dinner & Worship opportunities with Faith Friends

April 2, 2023 No Class – Enjoy Palm Sunday breakfast

April 9, 2023 No Class – Easter

TBD Youth overnight or retreat

May 21, 2023 Last Day of Confirmation for 7th-grade students

May 28, 2023 No Class – Memorial Day weekend

June 4, 2023 Confirmation Rehearsal for 8th-grade students

June 11, 2023 Confirmation Sunday, Worship Service