

Family Confirmation Handbook 2018-2019

Zion Lutheran Church

413 East Avenue D
Bismarck, ND 58501
Website: zionbismarck.org
Phone: (701) 223-8286



Pre- Confirmation & Confirmation Classes:
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm

Confirmation Coordinator

Kristin Nistler Director of Family Ministry	400-2069	kristin.nistler@gmail.com
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Teachers & Staff

Pastor Marcis, Sr. Pastor	220-8437	TMarcisJr@gmail.com
Kristin Nistler Director of Family Ministry	400-2069	kristin.nistler@gmail.com
Russ Weixel Director of Jr. Youth Ministry	400-6492	rweixelzion@aol.com
Brian Rosin	258-0377	brosin@nd.gov
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Jenny Zacher	391-5173	jdzacher@bis.midco.net

Acolyte Coordinator

Gary Semmel	204-3291	chps54@hotmail.com
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Why Confirmation?

Confirmation is a very important part of Christian education in the home and at church where you grow your faith, grow in God's love, and grow in living a Christian life. Students may begin confirmation as early as the 4th grade and are confirmed upon completion of requirements.

Your Confirmation Day is the time when you personally and publicly affirm the baptismal vows made for you when you were baptized. Your Confirmation Day marks a milestone; however, it is not the end. It is not a graduation, but rather it is a commitment we make to walk with Christ and live out our faith. You will continue to grow spiritually to understand how God and faith work in our every day lives in what we say ... in what we do ... and in how we live.

Goals and Responsibilities of Zion's Confirmation Program

There are 3 goals to our confirmation program:

1. To guide families in learning the foundation of our Christian Faith using the infallible Word of God and Luther's Small Catechism.
2. To encourage families to develop their faith together, affirm their baptismal promises and understand their assured salvation through Jesus Christ.
3. To assist parents in their journey of teaching their children about Christ and engage families to live a legacy of faith.

How will we do this?

Meeting these goals is done through a partnership with the student, the parents, and Zion Lutheran Church.

Zion Lutheran Church Responsibilities

1. Provide Biblically and doctrinally sound curriculum.

The pre-confirmation classes will be using the a combination of curriculum from CPH relating to the Old and New Testament Bible lessons.

The confirmation classes delve into Luther's Small Catechism using portions of curriculum from Concordia Publishing House called, Partners in Learning, a Family Confirmation Approach, and resources provided by the pastor.

2. Provide opportunities for learning and growing in faith through classes, worship and fellowship.
3. Provide pastors, staff and teachers who are concerned about the Spiritual well being of its youth.
4. Mentoring and helping youth and parents with their spiritual life.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents help meet these goals by:

1. A parent or other adult mentor must attend confirmation with the student.
2. Encourage your student in all areas of confirmation including helping with memory work, servant events, etc.
3. Worship with your child(ren) each week.
4. Bring your child faithfully and punctually to class and activities.
5. Notify the church staff if you and your child will miss class or any other information that would be helpful for the staff to know.
6. Pray for Zion's confirmation staff and confirmation program.

7. Pray for your child's continued spiritual growth in Christ Jesus.
8. Provide a Christ-centered home where you practice God's love and forgiveness and demonstrate Christian values.
9. Have family devotions daily (*My Devotions is provided for your use.*)

Faith is Taught in the Home

Confirmation class is a formal learning environment for students to learn about the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. However, Confirmation is not limited to the confines of the church. Faith is most importantly taught in the home and parents are an **INTEGRAL PART** of Zion's Confirmation ministry. It is primarily the parents' responsibility to teach faith to their children. Faith is the most precious treasure you have to share with your children!

Statistics clearly demonstrate the need for the parental involvement. A study has shown:

1. If **BOTH** Mother and Father attend church regularly, 72% of their children remain faithful in attendance.
2. If **ONLY** Dad attends regularly, 55% remain faithful.
3. If **ONLY** Mom attends regularly, 15% remain faithful.
4. If **NEITHER** Mom or Dad attends regularly, only 6% remain faithful.

Student Responsibilities & Requirements:

Classroom Attendance

Confirmation will meet from 6:00-7:15 pm on Wednesdays, followed by a brief family worship time.

Classroom Locations

Pre-Confirmation

Confirmation Section 1

Confirmation Section 2

MLS 2nd & 3rd Grade Rooms

MLS 5/6 Grade Classroom (near MLS office)

South Classroom

Expected Behavior

- Come prepared: notebook, Luther's Small Catechism, Bible, and a writing utensil
- Be on time.
- Have a positive attitude.
- Be prepared to have fun and learn.
- A Christ-like attitude toward teachers and peers. Respect the adults and teachers in the room by listening and following directions.
- Accept responsibility for your behavior.
- Be kind, polite and cooperative .
- Treat other people and property appropriately and respectfully, especially in the MLS classrooms.
- Complete make-up work for classes missed.

Discipline Policy

Order in the classroom is essential to spiritual learning. If students cannot control themselves learning is disrupted for everyone. If necessary, teachers may seek help of the parents in enforcing proper discipline in class. If students are acting contrary to the conduct expected by the teacher, they will be given a warning. If they still deliberately persist in disruptive conduct they will be asked to leave the class. They will then have to make up the class.

Regular Worship & Sunday School Attendance

Regular worship & Sunday School attendance is an expected part of Confirmation instruction as well as a vital part in our daily faith. It is important to instill the habits of regular church attendance.

Sermon Summaries

A Sermon summary is a form that helps a student take notes about the sermon and inspires reflections regarding worship. The number of sermon summaries required to be confirmed is **60 (approximately 20 per year)**. For those who have been in confirmation already, your binder will accurately reflect the number you still need to complete. In a regular calendar year, there are 66 worship opportunities. Sermon summaries should be written neatly on the sheets provided (in class or from the church greeters on Sunday mornings). Sermon summaries are used to ensure that the youth has a clear understanding of each week's lesson. Listening to God's Word will strengthen faith and reinforce the lessons being taught in Confirmation class. You may turn in completed sermon notes from another church as long as it is accompanied by the corresponding church bulletin for the service attended. An example of the Sermon summary form is at the end of the handbook. Sermon summaries are to be recorded and filed in your confirmation binder in the Conference Room as they are completed.

Memory Work

Peter encourages all Christians in 1 Peter 3:15 to "Always be prepared to give and answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." Memorizing scripture and its meaning is one of those ways to always be prepared to state your beliefs. Scripture also serves to comfort and strengthen us in time of trouble. These reasons are why memory work is a part of Zion's Confirmation Program. Memory work is to be practiced at home and recited each week parents will record memory work in the binder. This does not need to be said to a teacher, but you may request that a teacher be involved. Copies of the memory work schedules are in your binder or on Zion's website.

Pre-Confirmation

- What used to be 5th and 6th grade confirmation is now pre-confirmation.
- This is where they get a comprehensive look at Old Testament and New Testament Bible Lessons to serve as a foundation for work in the catechism.
- This can now be started by 4th graders if they are ready, or if they have an older sibling currently in the confirmation program.
- Checklist is similar to the confirmation attendance sheet.
- Classes will be offered Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights...which means a person could go through pre-confirmation in one year if they worked hard and attended classes!

Servant Events

As Christians, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. One of the ways to follow Him is to show His love through acts of service. Servant events will also help in preparation to become an active member of Zion Lutheran Church and to help youth explore various functions of the church. Fifteen family servant events are **required** to be completed outside of class before you are confirmed. When a servant event is completed, a Family Servant Event Report must be filled out, signed and placed in your confirmation binder. Again, students who have been in confirmation will find the number needed in their binders.

- **A Servant event should be a substantial or continuous contribution of time and talents. A good guide would be about 90-120 minutes per servant event.**
- **For service projects involving smaller periods of time, 2 or 3 may count as 1 servant event. (For example, running computer during worship service or helping during a Wednesday meal.)**
- **A mission trip = 5 servant events.**
- **These may be done over the summer!**

Servant event opportunities available throughout the year, watch Life & Growth for details.

SERVANT EVENT OPPORTUNITIES listed on following page.

Organization/Event	Contact	Phone	Description
Zion's Seniors	Kristin Nistler	400-2069	Help some of our senior members who may be in need of yard clean up, snow removal or other special needs.
Church Properties	Dave Kemnitz	663-6793	Help with yardwork, painting, clean basement chairs, wash windows outside, etc.
Nursing Homes	Pastor Marcis	223-8286	Visit Zion's shut-ins, make Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter baskets and deliver.
Live Nativity	Kristin or Gayle	223-8286	Help with set-up, take-down, participant, organize costumes
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch	Pastor Marcis	223-8286	Make Christmas treat boxes for residents, host Christmas party for residents, special projects at the Ranch, DBGR Thriftstore
Riverside Harvest on Tuesdays	Charity Lutheran - Doug Leet	258-1228	Serving, Set-up, Clean-up
Ruth Meiers		222-2108	Bake treats and deliver
Salvation Army		223-1889	Bell Ringers
Carrie's Kids	Carrie Grosz	Text: 390-3201	Christmas baskets for needy families
LWML	Mavis Goetz	751-4748	Table set-up & take-down for funerals/events
Quilters	Janice Guenther	255-3567	Set-up, Take-down & Quilt Tying,
Sunday Morning Worship Helpers Greeters Ushers Communion Preparation	Mark Gruenberg Gary Semmel	663-8639	Hand out bulletins and greet people. Usher Clean up bulletins and replace ribbons in the hymnals. Help the ladies with setup and clean up of the altar area for communion.
Wednesday Suppers	Gayle Little	223-8286	Set-up, Serve & Clean-up for Wed suppers.
Childcare	Kristin Nistler	400-2069	Childcare at Zion during meetings/church events.

"The greatest among you will be your servant." Matthew 23:11

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Acolyte Program

Acolyting is a great opportunity for you to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in a special way and to learn more about the important elements of public worship services here at Zion. As an Acolyte, you are one of the assistants in Zion's worship service. People will watch you, and their impression of you will either enhance or hinder their worship experience. You are witnessing for God during the entire service, so make you witness a strong, positive one. Gary Semmel is the Elder in charge of the Acolyte Program. You will receive a monthly schedule and a postcard to remind you when you are scheduled to acolyte. The schedule is also list in Life & Growth. Confirmation students are responsible to be at their assigned services or to secure a replacement and notify the church office of the change. (An Acolyte Handbook is available for a more detailed description and illustrations.)

1. The major duty of the Acolyte is to light the candles before the services and to extinguish them afterward. It is possible that other responsibilities would be added as the need arises.
2. Acolytes should arrive at least 15 minutes before the service starts. The candles should be lit about 5 minutes before the service begins.
3. Acolytes should be properly dressed in the proper vestments. The Acolytes shall maintain cleanliness, good grooming, and appropriate dress.
4. As important as proper dress, is a proper attitude: no gum is to be chewed during the service. You should sing all the hymns, listen carefully to all the scripture readings and messages, and be an active participant in every way possible.
5. Immediately after the service, the Acolytes should make sure their vestments are hung

neatly in the closet.

Wednesday Evening Meals

Come have supper with your church family on **Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15 pm, beginning September 13, 2017**. The purpose behind providing a meal is so that families can eat together, and we can have fellowship time with our church family. This should cut down on running to get fast food, then rushing off to confirmation, King's Kids, or church music activities.

Please sign up on the sheet in the lower foyer if you are interested in taking part in the meals. You will need to sign up each week...there are 4 weeks posted at a time. The deadline for each week is the Sunday prior.

We are asking for a donation of \$5 per adult and \$3 per child with a family cap of \$15. Meals could include wraps, soup, sandwiches, pasta, chicken, etc. The menu will be in Life and Growth and it will be available online.

We are also looking for some host families/groups of people to help host the evenings. The host would set out supplies, serve the meal and clean up afterwards. NO cooking or dishes involved! Please email zionlcmsbis@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with this project. Hosting 2 times counts as 1 servant event!

Church Learning Fair — 3 required before student is confirmed

Pre-Confirmation and all Confirmation students will be required to participate in the church Learning Fair on April 25, 2018. Projects will be displayed throughout the church. Projects should be your own work & could include any of the following:

- Christian Artwork: Any piece of faith-inspired, original art. This could be a sculpture, painting, drawing, etc. that you have created. You will need to include at least one paragraph explaining how your art relates to your faith. Please also include a Bible verse.
- A one page typed report on a topic approved by the teacher.
- A power point/technology presentation on an approved topic.
- A display (science fair style) on a larger topic, for example, the Reformation & Martin Luther, or history of the Apostles' Creed.
- You could write a Christian song and record it to play during the fair.
- Organize a servant event.
- Record a TV Commercial for Zion Lutheran Church, or do a video journal.
- Write a devotion! (see Mrs. Nistler for format)
- Create a Christian themed comic strip.
- Create a collage describing your faith.
- Make a small portfolio that could include your favorite devotions, Bible verses, and special faith moments in your life (Baptism, Sunday School, King's Kids, Starting confirmation, birth or death of a loved one, etc).
- Learn & use family talents, such as woodworking, glass work, etc.

Please use your best effort in displaying these projects. Projects will need to be approved by the classroom teacher by Wednesday, April 10th. All Projects will be displayed for Confirmation Sunday, May 6th. Please make sure your project has your name and age.

Schedule for the Learning Fair: All are Welcome!

5:15 pm	Confirmation Meal
6:00 pm	Learning Fair
7:00 pm	Cake reception for Confirmands

Important Confirmation Dates

First Time Confirmands

- First time confirmands will receive Catechisms on Rally Sunday, September 9, 2018 at the 10:45 am worship service.
- First year confirmands (Kristin's class) and their parents are required to help with the Confirmation Recognition dinner on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 5:15 pm.

Those being Confirmed

- First Holy Communion for those being confirmed is held on Reformation Sunday, October 28, 2018 at the 10:45 am worship service.
- A meal to recognize our Confirmands will be held Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 5:15 pm (Learning Fair). You and your family are encouraged to attend. Cake and meal are provided.
- Confirmation Sunday is May 5, 2019. Public questioning will take place at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. Students will be confirmed at the 10:45 am worship service. Class and individual pictures will follow worship. Family photos will also be offered at this time.

Zion Lutheran Church Confirmation Sermon Summary & Questions

This can also be done on Zion's App: "Zion LCMS"

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Date: _____ Sunday in the Church Year: _____

Sermon Theme: _____

Sermon Text: _____

Law in the Sermon: *(Remember: The Law shows us our sin.)*

Gospel in the Sermon: *(Remember: The Gospel shows us God's Love.)*

What is the main idea that the pastor made in the sermon:

What point made you think ... even struggle?
(This could be a question you want answered during confirmation class.)

How will you use today's message this week? *(Home, school, activities, sports, etc.)*

What part of worship are you going to remember most? *(Could be a song, psalm, reading, etc.)*

Answer Sermon Questions: *(Found in Life & Growth)*

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Record the completion date, sign & file this form in your confirmation binder.



Zion Lutheran Church Family Servant Event Report



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Project: _____

Project: _____

Project Location: _____

Description of Project:
(What did you do? Who did you meet? What did you learn?)

Did a parent/adult help with this project? Yes No

If possible, please email a photo to Kristin.nistler@gmail.com of the servant event for our bulletin board.

Record the completion date, sign & file this form in your confirmation binder.

Student Signature: _____

Adult Signature: _____

"... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve ..." Matthew 20:28