

# **Martin's Lutheran Church**

## **Christian Education and Confirmation**

### **2019-2020**

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

Joshua 4:20-22 “Those twelve stones, which they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal, saying to the Israelites, “When your children ask their parents in time to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel crossed over the Jordan here on dry ground.’”

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to this year's Confirmation Program at Martin's Lutheran Church! When we were/are baptized into God's family these words are spoken from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, "... to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,  
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,  
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace."

Each of us as parents, sponsors, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, make a promise at this time to support and teach the faith which has been passed down to us from generation to generation.

### **Parents:**

This is a great opportunity for you not only to set a great example, but also to learn and grow along with your child by talking with and working with your child(ren) about what they are studying this year. We invite you to come to a session sometime throughout the year.

Parental involvement continues to be the most consistent indicator in nurturing and passing on faith and so we see you as essential to the effectiveness of confirmation ministry. Significant studies have shown over and over that **PARENTS ARE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FACTOR** in the faith life of the child. The leaders of the church cannot do it alone. In the year 1529 Martin Luther created and published the Small Catechism as a tool that would help parents teach their children the basics of faith and religious practice. To increase your child's potential for involving themselves in the faith, you need to be involved. You don't do this alone either. The church is present to support and help equip you specifically, and the community as a whole, to learn, live, and pass on the faith. The Confirmation program is one way we seek to do this.

The journey begins when your child is baptized and promises are made. Together we wish to fulfill these promises through the church education and faith formation programs while equipping you to nurture your family's faith at home. We pray for the Holy Spirit to cultivate the gift of faith in our children.

Ways in which you can be a positive influence on your child's faith development by being involved in the life of the church and grow as a disciple yourself are through: coming to worship, attending adult Bible studies, becoming involved in a ministry that interests you, be an adult leader on retreats, or performing service projects. Just saying that it is important is not very effective. Your child learns from your actions better than from your words.

Ways to affect a positive influence at home is through sharing and discussing faith and life issues with your children. Family devotions are priceless. We will be using the Faith 5 practice and encourage you to do a similar practice at home. **Doing the Faith 5 consists of: Share, Read, Talk, Pray, and Bless.** It is a good evening ritual before bed. Any effort you put forth will be seen as valuable to your child. It will tell them that this is important for them to learn and to live.

### **Students:**

The Confirmation years are a time where you seek to develop your faith further to then publically confirm that you understand the promises made on your behalf during your Baptism and will seek to continue exploring and living a life of faith as a disciple of Jesus. And so, we are anxious to work side by side with you and your family as you grow in your knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. It is our prayer that these years of intentional instruction will produce a solid foundation for living out the Christian life now and in the years to come.

### **Questions:**

Why am I here for Confirmation?

To learn, grow, and mature as a disciple of Jesus who has been baptized and nurtured in faith.

What can I get out of Confirmation?

- After Confirmation you are seen as an adult member of the church
- A solid grounding in the basic Lutheran Christian beliefs
- A good look at the Bible and all it has to offer
- A chance to spend quality time with other Christian young people
- A regular pattern of worship
- An opportunity to develop an active prayer life
- An understanding of your own particular gifts and how to use them in service to others
- A personal relationship with Jesus Christ

What am I expected to do?

- Attend times of instruction to learn the basics of the Christian faith as Lutherans.
- Attend B.L.A.S.T. or Acts 29
- Sermon notes (7<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>) to promote regular attendance at worship.
- Do Service/Faith projects both individually and as a group.
- Practice the Faith 5 to build skills and abilities of a mature Christian.
- Prepare to share what you have learned and believe with others.

Why do I have to do all this work?

The expectations asked of each of you provide intentional time, space, and practices for you to explore faith and what it means to you. It is a time to ask questions, wonder how faith and life come together for you, and gain abilities in articulating and expressing what you believe.

Confirmation is not a graduation; it is a proclamation of faith. Confirmation is meant to be a foundation from which our faith journey as an adult can be built upon which is lifelong process. Each student and parent will be asked to sign a covenant for showing their commitment to meet the expectations of the Confirmation program at Martin's Lutheran Church.

We also expect a medical and permission form to be filled out that will be kept on file for each child at the beginning of the program year, as that will accompany them on any off-site activity in case an emergency should occur.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail Pastor Keith and if he is not available then Pastor Mike. We will usually pick up voicemail and e-mails on a daily basis.


Church office (701) 347-4289

Pastor Keith Email: [associatepastor@martinslutheran.com](mailto:associatepastor@martinslutheran.com) Phone: (701) 335-6213

Pastor Mike Email: [srpastor@martinslutheran.com](mailto:srpastor@martinslutheran.com) Phone: (701) 789-1857

Blessings,

  
Pastor Keith Walka

  
Pastor Michael T. Jacobson

## **2019-2020 Martin's Confirmation Program Schedule/Expectations**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** This 5-week course, **Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Feb 19<sup>th</sup>**, will cover an overview of: The Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles' Creed, and the life of Martin Luther. Expectations are attending scheduled classes.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** This 5-week course, **Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**, will cover the **Ten Commandments**. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, turn in 15 sermon notes, attend 15 B.L.A.S.T. sessions on Sunday morning, and 2 youth events during the year. Give 3 hours of service to both the church and community. **Take part in the poverty exercise November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm.**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** This 4-week course, **Sep 18<sup>th</sup> – Oct 9<sup>th</sup>**, will cover the **Apostles' Creed**. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, turn in 15 sermon notes, attend 15 B.L.A.S.T. sessions on Sunday morning, and 2 youth events during the year. Give 3 hours of service to both the church and community. Do a Faith Project. **Take part in the poverty exercise November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm.**
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade:** This 5-week course, **Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Feb 19<sup>th</sup>**, will cover the **Lord's Prayer**. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, turn in 15 sermon notes, attend 15 Acts 29 sessions on Sunday morning, and 2 youth events during the year. Give 3 hours of service to both the church and community. **Take part in the poverty exercise November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm.**
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:** This 5-week course, **Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**, will cover the **Bible and how it relates to our lives, Faith and Money**. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, turn in 15 sermon notes, attend 15 Acts 29 sessions on Sunday morning, and 2 youth events during the year. Give 3 hours of service to both the church and community. **Take part in the poverty exercise November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm.**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** This 4-week course, **Sep 18<sup>th</sup> – Oct 9<sup>th</sup>**, will cover a review of the years in confirmation. Expectations include attending scheduled classes, write a faith paper, and have an individual meeting with the pastor to recite the Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and the Ten Commandments.

### **Youth Events:**

During the year there will be a variety of events to participate in to reach the expected 2 youth events per year for those in 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade. These can be life changing and are great opportunities to have shared experiences with others who are on a similar faith journey as you. Many people have created lifelong friendships at these events. One day events such as FCA huddle big events, 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter, etc. qualify as 1 event each. Multi-day events such as weekend retreats, Bible Camp experiences, and the ELCA Youth Gathering qualify as 2 events and meeting the expectation.

## **Behavior and Expectation Policy**

### **A. Rules**

1. Respectful polite behavior is expected and adherence to the Confirmation Covenant and Behavior and Expectation Covenant.

### **B. Discipline -- a warning system**

1. 1st warning - private discussion w/ pastor following class
2. 2nd warning - a discussion with student and parent
3. 3rd warning - student can only return to class if accompanied by parent or parent-appointed sponsor

### **COST:**

The program cost of \$5 per year, for 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grade covers the cost of the Poverty Exercise. Please let Pastor Keith or Pastor Mike know, if this is a problem as we don't want anyone to feel a hardship because of the expense for this experience.

## **Service Project Hours**

Each student is expected to participate in a total of 6 hours of service each year by spending 3 hours in service to the church and 3 hours in the community in direct service to the needy, elderly, or poor. If you have any questions on appropriate service projects, contact either Pastor Keith or Pastor Mike. This can be one of the most fulfilling experiences of the discipleship training. The students really make a difference in the world by serving. Here are some examples:

### **Church**

- Help serve at the Annual Church Dinner
- Help with Family Night
- Volunteer in the Nursery
- Help teach Vacation Bible School
- Help with Giving Tree of Hope Project
- Help clean or paint rooms in church
- Rehearse to lead worship by singing or playing in the band
- Working the soundboard for worship
- Usher (Contact the Lead Usher and come 15 minutes before worship)
- Mow church lawn/help with cleaning and landscaping
- Help with "Dress Down/Spruce Up" Sunday
- Read Scripture on Sunday morning
- Sing a solo
- Run PowerPoint slides for worship

### **Community**

- Help serve meal at Homeless Shelter in Fargo
- Volunteer at Good Samaritan Center in Arthur/Bethany Homes
- Help with bingo at Casselwood
- Deliver flowers following Easter or Christmas Services
- Provide service like rake leaves, shovel snow, mow lawn, help with storm windows etc. for an elderly or handicapped person
- Volunteer for Special Olympics
- Bake some cookies and bring them to a non-relative on your visit to a nursing/retirement home

Please let us know your own ideas also!!

### **The following are not acceptable for Service Projects:**

- Service time done during school hours
- Fundraisers
- Anything you are paid to do

## **Faith Papers Guidelines for 11<sup>th</sup> grade Class of 2019**

1. Choose a Bible Verse that has become meaningful to you. Write the Bible verse at the top of your paper and explain why this verse is meaningful to you in your faith journey.
2. In your own words talk about what you've learned in Confirmation these past five years. Maybe you could share what the Gospel is and what that looks like in your life. How does grace work? (Example, the good news of Jesus Christ, the Word of God found in Jesus, God's saving act in Jesus...) "The 10 commandments made an impression on me because..." "The Creed has taught me that..." "I believe ..."
3. What people have influenced your faith journey/walk thus far? How? (Example, parent, grandparent, teacher, coach, Uncle, God parents etc.)
4. In the future, how will you live out your commitment to God in your daily life? "I would like to go to college and get married, have a family and teach them about Jesus in my home;" or in college, "I would like to play basketball and dedicate my contribution to Jesus..." continue to worship each week; intentionally help others, etc.

**Write at least two paragraphs, for each section listed above.** Please write this paper from your heart, as it is the affirmation of your faith journey. It is recommended that you work on these papers with your family, but what is ultimately written in this faith paper is yours and not someone else's.

These will be displayed in the church entry for all people in the congregation to read at your Affirmation of Confirmation celebration on the October 27th, 2019. Please use the computer (if you have one) to write them up. If not, use your BEST handwriting. Take time to really say what you think and how you feel.

***Please turn in your faith papers by October 9th, 2019, to Pastor Mike.***

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail Pastor Keith and if he is not available then Pastor Mike. We will usually pick up voicemail and e-mails on a daily basis.

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## **Faith Project Expectations**

Here are the expectations for the **8<sup>th</sup> grade faith project** to express his or her faith journey. These projects will be put on display in the church for all to see how you have grown and wish to demonstrate your own personal faith journey. The purpose of the project is for you to reflect upon your faith journey. Since this is a personal journey, there are many different ways to complete this task. Remember, the purpose is not just to make something, but also to create something that has spiritual meaning to you. We hope that you really take the time to think about this project. The final date to turn in completed projects is **Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>**. Remember you have complete freedom in this project to express your faith journey.

Here are just a few ideas, but remember your project can be **ANYTHING** that represents your faith journey.

- Scrapbook including birth, baptism, communion, retreats or any other spiritual events
- Personal narrative highlighting your confirmation journey
- Video interview family and friends about faith
- Video of your own faith journey
- Create a symbol of your faith and explain what it means to you (In the past students have used wood, plaster, clay, fabric or anything else you can think of!)
- Journals
- Find a Bible passage and explain what it means to you
- Poetry
- Create a photo album of things around town that represents your faith
- Collage
- PowerPoint of your faith journey

**Faith Interview:** Develop a list of questions that seek to learn about the Christian faith and its importance from another person. After making a list of questions, ask someone who you know to be a Christian and interview them. Maybe this would be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, coach, baptismal sponsor, or someone in your life who can speak honestly about the faith and why Christianity is important to them. The interview might be a video or audio taped to help you remember their comments or you might take good notes so you can write up a short paper about what you learned from their personal story and how it might relate to your own.

**Favorite Bible Passages:** Maybe with the help of your parent or another adult, go through the Bible finding important passages of scripture. Make a list of the Bible favorites that you might hope every student in confirmation, or every member of our congregation would be familiar with during the course of their life. Make a bookmark that you can use in the future that lists these scriptures. Don't forget to make many more that you can share with others.

Christian Symbols: Use the Internet, library, or a resource from a pastor as you try to find as many of the important symbols that you can of the Christian Faith. Draw and illustrate these symbols and write a short statement about the meaning of each symbol.

Artistic Expressions: Use an interest such as poetry, painting, drawing, crafts, sewing, needlepoint, or woodworking to express why your Christian faith is important to you. After you finish your project, write a few comments on an index card to express in a written way the project that you created. An example would be that if you create a special cross, you would write a statement in your own words expressing what the meaning of the cross is in the Christian faith.

Scrapbook Page: Create a memory page of your own faith journey. Include a picture of your home congregation, baptismal date, baptismal or first communion pictures, favorite Bible verse and a short statement of faith.

Music, Speech or Drama: Learn a Christian song and prepare to sing it in confirmation or at church, write a speech that expresses your Christian faith and give it as a testimony, or put together a skit or drama with other students that would communicate your love for God and the church.

Basics of Faith: Use *Luther's Small Catechism* and after studying it thoroughly, write a statement that would communicate many of the essentials of the Christian faith as they are expressed in the Lutheran tradition. Or go to the library or onto the Internet and find out as much as you can about Martin Luther. Make a collage that would communicate who he is and how he influenced and continues to influence the world and the Lutheran Church through his teachings.

Remember, these projects are due **October 9<sup>th</sup>**; if you have ideas for your project but do not see them as a choice, please talk to Pastor Keith or Pastor Mike.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail Pastor Keith and if he is not available then Pastor Mike. We will usually pick up voicemail and e-mails on a daily basis.

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## **2019/2020 Confirmation Information/Medical Form**

Youth's Name (first, **middle**, last): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) First and Last Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent cell #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent cell #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth's cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Baptism date:** \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Dentist \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person & phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply

\_\_\_\_\_ I give my child permission to participate in confirmation activities at Martin's Lutheran Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give my child permission to participate in confirmation activities sponsored by Martin's Lutheran Church that are not at the church.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give my child permission to be driven by an adult from Martin's.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give my child permission to be driven by other confirmation parents to confirmation sponsored activities, i.e. Retreats, servant and/or fellowship events, etc.

Authorization for Medical Treatment of Minors:

I/We, as the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the above-named minor, hereby authorize a representative of Martin's Lutheran Church to act on my/our behalf in obtaining and authorizing unexpected medical, dental, surgical and/or hospital care for the minor in my absence from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **CONFIRMATION COVENANT**

### **The Confirmand's Covenant:**

#### **I agree to**

- Attend every scheduled Confirmation Class, and to actively participate in class
- Participate in Sunday Worship on a regular basis
- Be involved in service within our congregation and community
- Keep my cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices on silent during class
- Show respect to all adult leaders, other students and the gathering space and to exhibit positive polite behavior whenever I am involved in a church function

### **The Parent's Covenant:**

#### **I agree to**

- Pray for my son/daughter, the other confirmands and the teachers
- Openly share my faith with my son/daughter
- Worship regularly with my son/daughter
- Be involved in their discipleship development
- Notify the Church Office at (701) 347-4289 or a pastor directly if my son/daughter won't be attending class

### **The Pastor's Covenant:**

#### **We agree to**

- Pray for confirmands, parents and teachers
- Openly share my faith journey
- Be involved in discipleship development and the other areas of life

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Confirmand's signature

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Date

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Parent's signature

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Date

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Michael T. Jacobson  
Senior Pastor Martin's Lutheran

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Keith Walka  
Associate Pastor Martin's Lutheran