

Confirmation Handbook 2024-25



What is Confirmation?

During baptism, parents and sponsors answer “I do” to the following statement from the pastor:

As you bring your children 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. Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Confirmation helps families fulfill the promises made at Baptism, providing a space for 7th and 8th graders to explore what it means to live as people of faith—not just on Sundays, but throughout the week. Through confirmation classes, you will have the opportunity to learn, question, and grow in your faith while building meaningful relationships within and beyond our church community. Guided by pastors, mentors, and adult leaders, confirmands engage with scripture, exploring Jesus's life in the New Testament, God's actions in the Old Testament, and the Ten Commandments. Confirmation students also delve into the work of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to be Lutheran. Most importantly, confirmation is a time for you to strengthen your connection with God and actively live out your faith.

You are already a full and complete member of Christ's Church. That happened the moment you were baptized. Yet, there are still opportunities to learn, grow, and explore the ways in which you are part of the community. Confirmation is a time to consider—with the help of others—what it might mean for you to be a member of Christ's Church. Confirmation is not graduation; it is another step on your life-long journey of faith.

We hope to:

- Grow together in knowledge and faith in Jesus at worship
- Connect inside with the church and its people-serving together
- Connect outside in the world with a living faith active in love through vocation and service to neighbors and others

An Overview

Worship

- Attendance
- Participating in worship
- Worship notes

Education

- Life! Jesus taught in a classroom without walls
- Monthly classes
 - Bible: Old and New Testaments
 - The Lord's Prayer
 - Worship
 - The Sacraments
 - Lutheran Identity
 - Martin Luther's Small Catechism
 - Ten Commandments
 - Family Relationships, Mentoring, and Friendships

Service in the Wider Community

- New Creation's Food Ministry
- Welcome Home/Lutheran Social Service Family Program Apartments
- Meals on Wheels
- Every Meal
- So much more!

Fellowship

- Retreats at Luther Park
- Youth Events including the Youth Musical
- Summer Trips

Retreats, lock-ins, and summer trips aren't 'required,' but they offer you an opportunity to enrich your experience at Diamond Lake Lutheran. These activities create lasting memories and strengthen relationships that inspire continued involvement in church and its events, even long after confirmation. Don't miss out on these meaningful experiences!

Schedule on Wednesdays

5:30 pm

Community Meal

All are welcome to the community meals on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be prepared by our cook, and we ask for a freewill donation to cover costs. The church depends on help from everyone in the congregation for clean-up.

During the Lenten season, we invite you to attend Dinner + Church, 6–7 pm, together as a family. Afterward, we meet in the North Room for “Sundaes on Wednesdays” and to continue the conversations from dinner.

6–6:30 pm

Youth Musical Rehearsals

For 6th through 12th grades

Fall rehearsals focus on learning music for the February Youth Musical. Rehearsals after Christmas include read-throughs, blocking, and more music practice!

6:30–7:30 pm

Kids Club

For ages four years old through 6th grade with middle school and high school youth as mentors

Kids Club meets in the lower level Birch Room and is for kids from four years old through sixth grade. Upper middle school and high school youth are invited to join as peer mentors to develop leadership skills and foster relationships with the younger kids.

7:30–8 pm

Youth Group

For 7th through 12th graders

After Kids Club, 7th–12th graders meet in the youth room for half an hour to do weekly check-ins and hang out. There are often snacks or a brief discussion question if time allows, but it is mostly a time for friends and fellowship.

Schedule on Sundays

Monthly Confirmation Class

5–8 pm

From September through May, confirmation students participate in classes one Sunday a month. We start with a shared meal, followed by a lesson and fellowship time. Throughout the year, we cover topics including the Old & New Testaments, Luther's Small Catechism, and what it means to be a Lutheran. Families help provide the meal each month and one adult a month is asked to stay as a helper during class.

Confirmation Timeline

Year 1 & Year 2

Students typically begin your confirmation journey in the 7th grade. We meet monthly to share a meal, check in about the progress on your service requirements, and learn a lesson together. These class times are three hours long to allow us time to learn together and to build relationships with one another as well as the adult helpers who take turns volunteering each month. Outside of confirmation class, students are asked to attend worship, serve in the community, and serve in worship.

As you complete your second year of confirmation, a spring meeting will be held for all Year 2 students to outline the next steps. During this meeting, you will receive details about expectations for the summer and fall as you prepare for confirmation on Reformation Sunday. Lacy will introduce the confirmation project you will be asked to create and provide time for initial brainstorming.

Year 3

Year 3 is a short but meaningful three-month journey. Over the summer, you will meet with Lacy to discuss your confirmation project. In early fall, the group will attend a retreat at Luther Park to reflect on the confirmation journey. Following the retreat, confirmands and their families will gather for a rehearsal dinner, where students will try on their robes, take pictures, review the order of service, and share a meal in celebration. The journey culminates with the Affirmation of Baptism service at the end of October. All fall dates will be provided at the May meeting.

Note: Participation in the confirmation program does not mean you are required to be confirmed. Confirmation is a personal commitment—an affirmation of the baptismal promises made for you and a decision to take ownership of your faith. If you are not ready, we will support you in whatever way you need. This timeline is a guide and can be adjusted to fit the needs of students and families.

Expectations of Confirmands and Families

Regular Class Attendance: Students get the most out of Confirmation when they are all together each month. We understand that many things demand our time and attention. We request that students miss no more than two classes during the year and complete makeup work whenever a student is absent. Please notify Lacy in advance when you need to miss class.

Sunday Worship: In worship we are fed by God's Word and by the support of the community of faith. Students and parents/guardians are expected to attend worship regularly while in the confirmation program. Students must submit worship notes at least twice a month during the school year. To submit sermon notes, please use a form from the table outside of the Sanctuary and place it back into the folder when it is complete, or use the Google form that is linked on page 9 of this booklet.

Wednesday Evenings During the Lenten Season: Students and parents/guardians should attend worship on Ash Wednesday, Dinner + Church throughout the Lenten season, and at least once during Holy Week. We will meet for half an hour following worship for ice cream sundaes and to discuss the topic for the week.

Serving in Worship: Students should serve in worship a minimum of five times a year. Serving can consist of reading, ushering, serving Holy Communion, or being an assisting minister. Sign-up sheets are available under the name tags in the Commons Area and they are sent out via email weekly.

Serving in the Wider Community: As Christians, we are called to love our neighbor and be of service to our wider community. Students are asked to volunteer/serve in the community at least ten hours each year, helping a cause you care about. After volunteering, students please complete a brief reflection using the QR code linked on page 9 of this booklet.

Serving in Worship

Students should serve in worship a minimum of five times a year but are welcome and encouraged to serve even more. Students are responsible for scheduling your own serving dates on the sign-up forms that the office issues. Families, you're encouraged to volunteer along with your youth! When your child is serving in church, please consider serving with them as an usher, reader, Communion server, or assisting minister.

Lector (Reader)

Read the scripture of the day in service standing at the lectern. You will get a copy of the scripture in advance if you would like to practice.

Usher

Ushering can be done with the whole family, or confirmation students can sign up and learn the ropes from experienced ushers! Ushers greet people as they arrive, hand them bulletins, release pews for Communion, and collect the offerings.

Communion Server

Assist with serving Holy Communion. After the Lord's Prayer, head to the altar to sanitize hands and receive directions from the pastor. The pastor will make sure you know what you are supposed to say when serving the congregation.

Assisting Minister

Assisting ministers assist the pastor during worship by reading some of the liturgy, assisting with Holy Communion, and providing the prayers of the day. You can do this with a friend, and either Lacy or Pastor Andrea will help you write the prayers.

Serving in the Wider Community

New Creations Food Ministry

5144 13th Ave. South

Mondays, 3–5 pm, 5–7 pm

Volunteers at the first shift (3–5 pm) sort food donations into boxes for distribution. You don't have to be there the whole time—if you have an early release from school, show up when you can. Volunteers at the second shift (5–7 pm) pack and/or carry out boxes, help people take boxes to their cars, clean up, and more. Some jobs are inside and some are outside; please dress for the weather.

Welcome Home/Lutheran Social Service Family Program Apartment Building

Varying Days and Hours

This long-standing ministry of Diamond Lake Lutheran helps provide furniture and supplies to outfit apartments for families in transition. Move furniture (great for families with trucks or vans), shop for groceries (can be reimbursed by the church office), assemble supplies at church, or go thrift store shopping (specific items needed).

Every Meal

This organization provides meals on weekends for schoolchildren throughout the state of Minnesota. Sign up for the next packing event at the Every Meal warehouse in Roseville.

Meals on Wheels

Every Six Weeks, Monday–Friday, 11:30 am–1 pm

With a parent or guardian, deliver meals to people who are homebound in South Minneapolis over the lunch hour Monday through Friday (in the summer or during school breaks). Watch for Diamond Lake Lutheran drive weeks in email announcements or on the website calendar.

Feed My Starving Children

Grab a group of friends or family and sign up together for a packing event. Kids and adults of all ages hand-pack nutritious MannaPack meals specifically designed to assist in reversing and preventing undernutrition.

Email John Pedersen, Director of Community Outreach, at john.pedersen@dllc.org for more information or to sign up for any of these service opportunities. You are welcome to provide service for organizations not listed in this guide.

Helpful Links and Information

To submit sermon notes, please use a form from the table outside of the Sanctuary and replace in the folder when it is complete. You can also scan this QR code to submit a digital sermon note via Google forms:



To submit a reflection after serving in the wider community, please scan this QR code and follow the prompts on the Google form:



Thank you for entrusting me to be a part of your family's faith journey during these special years. If you have any questions, please reach out!

Lacy Tooker-Kirkevold (she/they)
Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
Lacy.Tooker-Kirkevold@dllc.org
612-895-5915

2024–2025 Calendar

September

15 First Confirmation Class
22 All Ages Sunday School
29 Board Games and Puzzles

October

4-6 Confirmation Retreat
13 All Ages Sunday School
13 Confirmation
27 Affirmation of Baptism
30 Boo Bash

November

3 All Ages Sunday School
8-10 Congregational Retreat
17 Board Games and Puzzles
24 All Ages Sunday School
24 Confirmation

December

15 Confirmation

January

12 Confirmation

February

9 Confirmation
21–22 Youth Musical

March

5 Ash Wednesday
12 Dinner + Church
19 Dinner + Church
21–23 Congregational Retreat
26 Dinner + Church

April

2 Dinner + Church
9 Dinner + Church
13 Palm Sunday
17 Maundy Thursday
18 Good Friday
20 Easter
27 Holy Humor Sunday

May

4 Confirmation

Dates are subject to change. Please read the weekly email or check <https://www.dllc.org/about/calendar/> for updates.

Notes



DIAMOND
LAKE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

5760 Portland Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417
612.866.2579
www.dllc.org