
What is Confirmation and How Do I Do It?

WHAT IT IS

Confirmation at Silverdale Lutheran Church is an event filled with celebration; a rite of passage in the church for young men and women as they affirm the faith of their baptism. We like to say it is “grasping the hand that has grasped you.” In your baptism you were claimed as a child by the Holy Spirit and made a part of God’s family forever. Nothing can take that away. You were buried with Christ – drowned in the waters – and raised to new life in Him.

Confirmation is affirming the faith of your baptism, saying, “Yes, I want to continue in my faith journey.” You are not saying yes to having it all figured out, being sure of everything all the time, or being free from any doubts or questions. God has a firm and eternal grip on your life. At times you will grasp back, hold on for dear life, or even let go and turn away for a time. But affirming your faith is saying yes to God’s promises.

HOW YOU DO IT

We understand faith as a gift given by God, a gift you get to open and use. You wouldn’t leave Christmas presents unopened and neither should your faith sit on a shelf. So we have all kinds of ways to engage with your faith. First and foremost is your home and family – devotions, faith conversations, attending worship together – all of these are key in building your faith. We also offer ***middle sundays*** and ***wednesday*** youth nights to feed your faith in community with other youth. ***middle sundays*** offer a walk through the Bible and a look at why we believe what we believe. These offer a firm foundation in understanding why you believe what you believe. ***middle wednesdays*** add a meal and games to the learning and focus more on how faith plays out in our day to day life. Ideally, youth would participate as much as possible in both offerings. We also offer cohort groups for youth that cannot attend on Sundays or Wednesdays but want to partner with one or more other youth for home-based learning.

In 9th grade, students will take their foundation of practice and learning and begin the process of five experiences we think will help them prepare to affirm their faith. With pastors, mentors, family, and the community, they will have 5 meaningful experiences:

- SERVICE – this gives each youth a chance to use their gifts to connect with the community and do something that matters.
- SACRAMENT – this involves visiting someone who cannot get to worship because of health or other issues. Youth will go with a pastor or other leader to share Holy Communion and visit.
- SIT DOWN – this gives you a chance to hang with your mentor, hear their faith story, and share where you are in your faith.
- SABBATH – this retreat is just for those getting ready to affirm their faith and will usually happen in early fall.
- STATEMENT – this is an essay, poetry, art or other physical project – that shows where you are in your faith. These will be part of Confirmation Sunday. This will happen each year at the end of October.

The Affirmation of Faith can happen anywhere along the high school journey, starting in the fall of 10th grade. This is an important step into adult faith, and that will happen at different times for different youth. Ultimately, we seek to offer the best support AND opportunity to know and love Christ Jesus and connect more deeply with Christ and the people God loves.