



Confirmation Instruction Program



2017-2018



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
S66 W14325 Janesville Road
Muskego, WI 53150
414-422-0320

www.stpaulmuskego.org (Church)
www.stpmuskego.org (School)
www.TheBridgeMuskego.org (Bridge)

July 2017

Why Does St. Paul's Have Confirmation and the Instruction That Goes with It?



The Rite of Confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God's promise given in baptism, to make a personal, public profession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of faithfulness to Christ. Confirmation Instruction teaches baptized Christians who wish to become Lutherans and partake of the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion, Martin Luther's theology on the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, Confession, the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion, and the Ministry of the Keys. This is done primarily using Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

Confirmation Instruction provides the scriptural information youth (and adults) need to be able to examine themselves (1 Corinthians 11:28 - *see below*) and then the opportunity to make a public profession of faith and unity with other believers (1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26 - *see below*) as a prerequisite to taking the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion.

1 Corinthians 11:28 (NIV)

"Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup."

1 Corinthians 10:17 (NIV)

"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf."

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV)

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

For many Lutheran churches, including St. Paul's, Confirmation Instruction is completed by the 8th grade if the student is ready. If the student is not ready, Confirmation happens at the point in time when the pastors and family feel the student is ready.

How Does Confirmation Instruction for Non-St. Paul's Lutheran School Students Compare with What St. Paul's Lutheran School Students Do?



Students enrolled in St. Paul's Lutheran School complete their Confirmation Instruction as part of the religion curriculum prescribed by the school. In this curriculum, Bible History is covered weekly by the school teachers in all elementary grades 1st-8th. Confirmation Instruction is taught by the pastors in grades 7 and 8 for 90 minutes per week during the school day.

St. Paul's member children who do not attend St. Paul's Lutheran School attend weekday afternoon Confirmation Instruction classes over a span of three years (6th-8th grade). Each class

period is 90 minutes. The 6th grade course focuses on Bible History. The 7th and 8th grade courses cover Bible and Lutheran doctrine, using Luther's Catechism and the related Bible sections. Students in all three levels also attend the Sunday morning Kids Club (grade 6) and Boost (grades 7-8) classes. These more informal sessions offer additional Bible and religious teaching not covered in the Wednesday afternoon sessions.

What Are the Class Times, Dates, Locations?

Classes for all three levels of St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program for non-St. Paul's Lutheran School students are held...



- Every Wednesday, beginning September 6, 2017, and ending May 23, 2018. Wednesdays off are November 22, 2017 (Thanksgiving Break), December 27, 2017 (Christmas Break) and April 4, 2018 (Easter Break). This is a total of 36 in-class sessions for the year.
- At 4:30-6:00 p.m., with a break for all levels from 5:10-5:20 p.m.
- In St. Paul's Lutheran School: Grade 8-Room 8, Grade 7-Room-9, Grade 6-Room 10.

Confirmation Instruction classes for St. Paul's Lutheran School 7th-8th Grade students are held in their respective classrooms on Tuesday and Thursday mornings every week school is in session.

What Are the Expectations for Students?

Student expectations fall into three broad categories: **ACADEMICS** (how well students master the course content), **ATTENDANCE** (how regularly students attend class, Sunday Kids Club/Boost for non-St. Paul's Lutheran School students, and weekly worship services), and **ATTITUDE** (how positive, cooperative, and participatory students are). Additional expectations are detailed below:



- Bring required materials, books, and supplies to every class (see specific section).
- Successfully complete all required weekly assignments, both written and oral.
- Successfully pass all required written and oral exams.
- Complete one service project each semester—2 total for year—using the special forms and process (see specific section).
- Attend class whenever it is in session.
- (For non-St. Paul's Lutheran School students) Attend Sunday morning Kids Club or Boost class whenever it is in session
- Attend weekly worship services.
- (For non-St. Paul's Lutheran School 7th-8th Graders) Participate in the fall Confirmation Retreat at Camp Phillip (see specific section).
- Follow any other instructor-specific procedures, rules, requests.

What Are the Expectations for Parents?

The same, three broad categories that apply to students (academics, attendance, attitude) also apply to parents somewhat. For **ACADEMICS**, we pray that parents will actively monitor their children's work and performance, partnering with them to succeed to the glory of God. For **ATTENDANCE**, we pray that parents will stress the importance of the entire Confirmation Instruction process and see to it that their children participate as required. We also pray that parents will attend sessions/meetings required of them as part of the process. For **ATTITUDE**, we pray that parents will be positive and engaged partners, recognizing that they are the most influential people in their children's temporal and spiritual lives. Additional expectations are detailed below:



- Personally model the faith you seek for your child and be an example and leader in your own regular worship and use of the Means of Grace in Word and Sacrament.
- Pray for your child, his/her instructors, and yourself that all will be faithful partners in learning about Jesus.
- Assist your child to fulfill all obligations relative to Confirmation Instruction classes.
- Inform the instructor ahead of time (as much as practically possible) if your child will be absent and arrange for how to make up the material missed.
- Sign and return the envelope from the quarterly student progress reports (see specific section).
- Attend the Parent Partnership Session unique to your child's level (see specific section).
- Attend any special meetings or parent/instructor conferences that relate to your child's spiritual training and the Confirmation Instruction process.
- Contact your child's instructor with any questions or concerns as soon as you have them.

Why Are Parent Partnership Sessions Offered?

Parents are the most influential people in their children's lives. They are second only to the Holy Spirit when it comes to a child's spiritual development. Every positive inclination toward personality, intellect, even faith itself is formed in childhood. George Barna's research has revealed that regardless of culture, economics, or any other factor, the chances of a person coming to faith in Jesus go down dramatically after childhood. On the other hand, every sinful dysfunction, character flaw, and destructive tendency in any person's life are also formed in childhood – in the very womb itself. What we learn in childhood is so critical that the good of it sustains us throughout life and the bad of it takes a lifetime to try to overcome. The teachable moments of childhood are so significant that the wisest man ever in the world, King Solomon, encouraged, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). *CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.*



In recognition of this reality and as a way to improve the partnership with and strengthen the skills of parents, the following sessions for each of the Confirmation Instruction class levels will be offered Saturday, November 18, 2017, 8:30-11:00 a.m.

- **For Grade 6 Parents...**

What Makes Teens Tick? *Dr. Joel Nelson*

This session will look at what's going on in adolescent children physiologically, psychologically, and spiritually. It will reveal the three big questions all youth want answered. It will explore the journey to independence and how that journey involves tremendous peer pressure and strong urges to break free. It will leave parents with three simple rules that can make a huge difference in their relationship with their adolescent children.

- **For Grade 7 Parents...**

Christian Identity: The Key to Navigating Life *Pastor Jeffrey Bonack*

This session will explore how to manage the pressures parents and children face: anxiety, withdrawal, shame, depression, guilt, rejection, aggression, stress-induced illness, at risk behaviors, suicidal thoughts, and more. Parents will be reminded that the key to successful coping is Christ and their identity in him.

- **For Grade 8 Parents...**

Why Study the Bible, Pray, and Live for Christ? *Pastor David Kuehl*

This session will focus on the vital importance of striving to grow in our faith, our prayer life, and our walk with the Lord Jesus. It will also offer practical application on ways to incorporate the truths of God's Word into our hurried and hectic lives. The world in which we live is filled with a cacophony of voices, each calling us in a different direction. Referring to himself as the Good Shepherd, Jesus says that his sheep follow him "because they know his voice" (John 10:4). How can we know the voice of the Good Shepherd? By listening to him as he speaks to us in his Word.

Who Are the Program Instructors?

6th Grade - Dr. Joel Nelson

Dr. Nelson is in his 3rd year at St. Paul's and serves as Director of Discipleship. He is tasked with development and supervision of adult and youth spiritual growth programming. Dr. Nelson has been a teacher, principal, staff minister, and synodical administrator. Since 1978, he has served ethnically and numerically diverse congregations in Chicago-IL, Santa Barbara-CA, Milwaukee-WI, and Muskego-WI. He has a B.S. in Education, an M.S. in Family Studies, and an Ed.D. in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service.



- **Favorite Bible Passage:** Psalm 46:10 – *“Be still and know that I am God.”*
- **E-mail:** jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org
- **Office Phone:** 414-422-0320, ext. 145. **Cell Phone:** 414-750-2586.

7th Grade - Pastor Jeffrey Bonack

Pastor Bonack serves as St. Paul's primary worship and music planner. He oversees the Worship Team and all choral groups and instrumental ensembles. Pastor Bonack also coordinates and oversees pre-marital and other relationship counseling, as well as St. Paul's small groups ministry. He previously served a congregation in Benton Harbor, MI, and has been at St. Paul's since 1996. Pastor Bonack has a B.A. in Liberal Arts and M.Div. in Pastoral Studies.



- **Favorite Bible Passage:** Jeremiah 29:11 – *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*
- **E-mail:** jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org
- **Office Phone:** 414-422-0320, ext. 119. **Cell Phone:** 414-303-1241.

8th Grade - Pastor David Kuehl

Pastor Kuehl oversees Member Care at St. Paul's, which focuses on strengthening the relationships between people in the congregation, as well as welcoming those outside the congregation. His duties include meeting with newly transferred members, coordinating pastoral work schedules, visiting homebound and hospitalized, and organizing the youth Confirmation process. Before coming to St. Paul's in 1990, Pastor Kuehl served a congregation in Inver Grove Heights, MN. Pastor Kuehl has a B.A. in Liberal Arts and M.Div. in Pastoral Studies.



- **Favorite Bible Passage:** Romans 8:28 – *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*
- **E-mail:** dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org
- **Office Phone:** 414-422-0320, ext. 121. **Cell Phone:** 414-861-0635.

What Is the Curriculum at Each Level?

6th Grade – Dr. Joel Nelson

- This level is for non-St. Paul's Lutheran School students and covers Bible History and the plan of salvation from the first promise at Creation, through the stories of God's people in the Old and New Testaments, culminating in Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension.
- This level uses the following materials:
 - 120 Bible Stories and 120 Bible Stories Activity Book (available for purchase)
 - NIV Bible (available for purchase)
 - 1" or greater, 3-ringed binder, loose-leaf paper
 - Pens/pencils/colored pencils



7th Grade – Pastor Jeffrey Bonack

- This level covers five of the six chief parts of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism: 1) Ten Commandments and Conclusion, 2) Apostles Creed, 3) Baptism, 4) Holy Communion, 5) Lord’s Prayer.
- This level uses the following materials:
 - Luther’s Small Catechism (available for purchase)
 - NIV Bible (available for purchase)
 - 3-ring binder with pre-printed note sheets (provided)
 - Loose leaf paper, pens, and pencils

8th Grade - Pastor David Kuehl

- This level covers four of the six chief parts of Martin Luther's Small Catechism: 1) Ten Commandments and Conclusion, 2) Apostles' Creed, 3) Sacrament of Holy Communion, 4) Use of the Keys and Confession.
- This level uses the following materials:
 - Luther's Small Catechism (available for purchase)
 - NIV Bible (available for purchase)
 - Luther’s Catechism Notes Sheets in 3-ring binder (available for purchase)
 - Loose leaf paper, pens, and pencils

What Is the Cost to Participate?

The costs for participating in the Confirmation Instruction Program are primarily those for books and supplies needed at each grade level. For 8th graders being confirmed, additional expenses are incurred for gown, flowers, certificate, and pictures. These are paid in the spring and usually vary from family to family. Below is a table of costs for each level. All of the books noted are available for purchase from St. Paul’s and need not be purchased year-to-year if good care is taken of them. Other supplies, like folders, paper, pens, etc. are not provided by St. Paul’s.



GRADE 6 – Dr. Nelson	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
120 Bible Stories Book	\$18.00
120 Bible Stories Activities Book	\$13.00
GRADE 7 – Pastor Bonack	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
Luther’s Small Catechism	\$20.00
GRADE 8 – Pastor Kuehl	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
Luther’s Small Catechism	\$20.00
Luther’s Catechism Notes Sheets	\$10.00
CONFIRMATION-SPECIFIC COSTS	
Gown, Flowers, Certificate, Pictures	Varies

For 7th and 8th grade, non-St. Paul’s Lutheran School students, additional expense is required to participate in the autumn Confirmation Retreat at Camp Phillip in Wautoma, WI (see special section). This amount is \$80.00 and covers travel, lodging, meals, activities, and materials for this Friday night through Sunday morning experience. Final details are shared about this retreat after the Confirmation Instruction Program year begins.



How Is Student Progress Reported?

In addition to students bringing home graded classwork and exams, at the end of each quarter (October, January, March, and May) the "Confirmation Instruction Student Progress Report" (see right) is sent home with the students in a special envelope. The envelope is to be signed by a parent and returned. The Progress Report should be viewed as an update of performance not a report card "grading" faith.

Sometimes an instructor may request a face-to-face meeting with parents to discuss student progress. Parents should also feel free to contact their child's instructor at any time to ask questions or discuss concerns.

What Is A Student Service Project?

St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program has a service project component to emphasize putting faith in action and serving others. Two service projects are required during the year for students at all levels. One is to be completed in the 1st semester and one in the 2nd semester.

Students are to obtain the "Confirmation Instruction Service Project Report" form from their instructor (see right). The students complete correctly the pre-and post-project information, and return it to their instructor. Parents and instructor must pre-approve the project.



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CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION STUDENT PROGRESS REPORT

Student Name: _____ Grade: 6 7 8
 Instructor: Nelson Bonack Kuehl Year: 2017-18

What follows is a report indicating how your child is progressing in St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction program for his/her grade level. The letter system below is used to indicate quarterly student achievement.

E = Exceptional, **G** = Good, **S** = Satisfactory, **N** = Needs Improvement, **U** = Unsatisfactory, **I** = Incomplete

	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
Class Work				
Memory Work				
Class Participation				
Overall Attitude Toward Class				
Class Attendance				
Church Attendance				
Kids Club/Boost Attendance				
Service Projects <i>(2 are required for the year)</i>				

Promoted to Next Level Must Retake Current Level

Any additional comments are written on the back. Please call your child's instructor if you have any questions. Please sign the envelope in which this progress report came, and return it with your child. Thanks for your prompt cooperation.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!"
2 Peter 3:18





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CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION SERVICE PROJECT REPORT

2017-2018

Student Name: _____

(Circle) Grade: 6 7 8 Quarter: 1 2 3 4 Instructor: Nelson Bonack Kuehl

Service Project Selected: (Enter number from the back of this sheet): _____ If different, describe below.

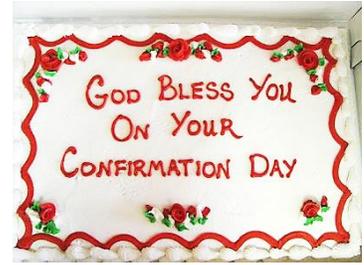
Tell below why you have chosen this project.

- Parent's approval to do this project: _____ Date: _____
(Must be given before you do it.)
- Instructor's approval to do this project: _____ Date: _____
(Must be given before you do it.)
- Verification that project was done: _____ Date: _____
(Signature of person for whom project was completed.)

In the space below, report on your service project experience. Give specifics about what you did, saw, heard, felt, said, etc. Make sure that you tell how you think the project served the Lord. Be complete. Use the back or another sheet if needed.

What Procedures Are Specific to 8th Grade Confirmation?

If the pastors feel a student has successfully met the academic, attendance, and attitudinal requirements of St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program, the child is confirmed in a special worship service usually the first Sunday in May. The 2018 Confirmation Service will be Sunday, May 6. Exact service times are based on family preferences. Families will be informed which service applies to them as the date approaches. Other important, Confirmation-related benchmarks/dates are these:



- Student selection of a Confirmation Bible verse (lifelong motto) – Done in September.
- Student-written “profession of faith” essay – Assigned in January, completed in March.
- Parents’ informational meeting to discuss the day of Confirmation details and all costs is Tuesday, March 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Grace Room.
- Students measured for robes in March-April. Expense for these varies family to family.
- Parent and student exam correction meeting – Thursday, May 3, 7:00 p.m. in the Grace Room.
- Confirmation Service rehearsal and pictures taken – Saturday, May 5, 8:30 a.m. in church.
- First opportunity for confirmand to receive the Lord’s Supper – weekend of May 13.
- Costs for Confirmation-related items listed in the table on page 6 are due the end of March.

What Is the Fall Student Retreat?

This retreat is currently offered to the non-St. Paul's Lutheran School students. During this weekend retreat at Camp Phillip in Wautoma, WI (128 miles from Muskego), the goal is to build Christian unity among members of the Confirmation Instruction classes, helping them to experience fellowship and encouragement with each other, their instructors, parent chaperones, Camp Phillip staff, and confirmands from other Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) churches. Last year roughly 150 teens and chaperones from 8 other WELS churches participated in the retreat.



The retreat is a great opportunity for students to look at the important promise they will make at their Confirmation. Some parents would need to volunteer to be chaperones along with the Confirmation instructors. The retreat includes lively discussions, Bible study, prayer, outdoor activities, team-building exercises, music, good food, and great fun. Per-student costs for the retreat are \$80.00 and cover travel (school bus), 2 nights lodging, 4 meals, low ropes course, and materials. Chaperones going along to assist would not be charged.

The 2017 St. Paul's Confirmation Retreat at Camp Phillip is Friday evening, September 22, through Sunday morning, September 24. Our group would leave St. Paul's around 4:30 p.m. in

order to arrive at Camp Phillip by the 7:00 p.m. check-in time. The retreat ends on Sunday morning 11:15 a.m. St. Paul's group would be back to Muskego by roughly 1:45 p.m. if they did not stop for lunch. Below is the basic schedule for the retreat.

FRIDAY EVENING

7:00 Arrival/check-in
8:00 Welcome and mixers
9:00 Campfire
10:30 Head back to cabins
11:30 Lights out

SATURDAY

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Game
9:30-12:30 Girls: Team challenge course
9:30-12:00 Boys: Bible study / outdoor games / disc golf
12:00 Boys Lunch
12:30 Girls Lunch
1:30-4:30 Boys: Team challenge course
1:30-4:30 Girls: Bible study / outdoor games / disc golf
5:00 Free time
5:30 Supper
6:30 Evening game
7:15 Bible study
8:15 Campfire
9:30 Night options (night hike, indoor tabletop games, outdoor night game)
11:00 Head back to cabins
12:00 Lights out

SUNDAY

8:00 Breakfast
9:30 Worship service
10:30 Cabin clean-up
11:15 Departure



Why Is Good Communication So Important?

Our partnership as church, home, instructors, parents, and students will be strengthened if good and timely communication happens. If you have questions or concerns at any time about anything during the year, please communicate with your child's instructor right away. Dr. Nelson, Pastor Bonack, and Pastor Kuehl welcome your feedback and are ready and willing to respond. Feel free to call, text, or e-mail them anytime (see pages 4-5).



One of the ways the instructors communicate is via e-mail using the My St. Paul's group notification process. Class-specific reminders, emergency class adjustments, etc. get communicated to all the families in the class group. Watch for these St. Paul's e-mails as they sometimes get filtered into a person's spam folder.

Confirmation Instruction Program

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2017-18



2017

August 17 – Thurs. 6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. Paul's Lutheran School Parent/Student "Back to School" Night with Confirmation Talk	St. Paul's Lutheran School 7 th and 8 th Grade Classrooms
August 21 – Mon. 6:30-7:30 p.m.	Non-St. Paul's Lutheran School Student/Parent Registration and Orientation	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
August 24 – Thurs. 8:15 a.m.	First Class with St. Paul's Lutheran School 7 th -8 th Graders	St. Paul's Lutheran School Classrooms 8, 9
September 5 – Wed. 4:30-6:00 p.m.	First Class with Non-St. Paul's Lutheran School Students	St. Paul's Lutheran School Classrooms 8, 9, 10
September 22-24 – Fri. 4:30 p.m.-Sun. 1:45 p.m.	Non-St. Paul's Lutheran School Student Retreat for 7 th -8 th Grade	Camp Phillip – Wautoma, WI
October 25 – Wed.	END OF FIRST QUARTER	
November 18 – Sat. 8:30-11:00 a.m.	Parent Partnership Sessions for All Confirmation Instruction Program Parents	St. Paul's Lutheran School Classrooms 8, 9, 10
November 22 – Wed.	NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	
December 27 – Wed.	NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CLASS – Christmas Break	

2018

January 12 – Fri.	END OF SECOND QUARTER	
March 13 – Tues. 7:00 p.m.	All 8 th Grade Parents Information Meeting on Confirmation Details	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Grace Room
March 16 – Fri.	END OF THIRD QUARTER	
April 4 – Wed.	NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CLASS – Easter Break	
May 3 – Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	All 8 th Grade Parents and Students Exam Correction Night	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Grace Room
May 5 – Sat. 8:30 a.m.	Confirmation Service Rehearsal and Picture Taking	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
May 6 – Sun. 7:45, 9:15, or 10:45 a.m.	Confirmation Sunday Worship Services	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
May 12, 13, 16 – Sat., Sun., Wed. (times vary)	Opportunities for First Communion	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
May 23 – Wed.	Last Day of Class for Non-St. Paul's Lutheran School Students	
May 24 – Thurs.	Last Day of Class for St. Paul's Lutheran School Students	
	END OF FOURTH QUARTER	