



**Confirmation Instruction Program
for Students in
St. Paul's Lutheran School**



2019-2020



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 2019

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 faith and a lifelong pledge of faithfulness to Christ. Confirmation Instruction at St. Paul's teaches baptized Christians the "whole counsel" of God as contained in the Bible, preparing them for the reception of the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion and for communicant membership in this Lutheran congregation. Confirmation Instruction makes use of Martin Luther's Small Catechism to teach and explain 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.

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.

What Does Confirmation Instruction Look Like for St. Paul's Youth Who Attend St. Paul's Lutheran School?



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. Historically, Confirmation Instruction has been done on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the students' normal classrooms.

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, 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.
- Successfully complete all required weekly assignments, both written and oral.
- Successfully pass all required written and oral exams.
- Complete two individual service projects using the special forms and process (see page 6).
- Attend class whenever it is in session.
- Participate in weekly worship services.
- 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 for parents are as follows:



- 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.
- Guide 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 any and all required, printed notifications.
- Read, sign, and abide by the "Parent Covenant" (see pages 8 and 9).
- Contact your child's instructor with any questions or concerns as soon as you have them.

Why Is Parent Partnership So Important?

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. Christian author and researcher, George Barna, has discovered 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, many sinful dysfunctions, character flaws, and destructive tendencies 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).



In recognition of this reality and as a tangible way for parents to affirm their responsibilities as the chief overseers of their children's Christian development, parents are asked to sign and submit the "Parent Covenant" (see pages 8-9).

*Parents are the most influential
people in their children's lives.*

Who Are the Program Instructors?

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. He is currently taking classes to become a licensed counselor. Pastor Bonack 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 new members, coordinating pastoral work schedules, visiting homebound and hospitalized, and organizing the 8th grade 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.

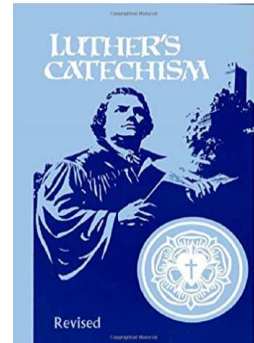


- **Favorite Bible Passage:** Romans 8:28 – *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*
- **E-mail:** dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org
- **Office Phone:** 414-422-0320, ext. 121. **Cell Phone:** 414-861-0635.

What Is the Curriculum at Each Level?

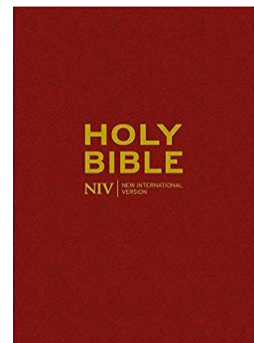
7th Grade – Pastor Bonack

- 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 (available for purchase)
 - Loose leaf paper, pens, and pencils



8th Grade - Pastor 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. The following table shows 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 7 – Pastor Bonack	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
Luther's Small Catechism	\$20.00
Catechism Notes Sheets	\$10.00
GRADE 8 – Pastor Kuehl	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
Luther's Small Catechism	\$20.00
Catechism Notes Sheets	\$10.00
CONFIRMATION-SPECIFIC COSTS	
Gown, Flowers, Certificate, Pictures	Varies




How Is Student Progress Reported?

In addition to students bringing home graded classwork and exams, at the end of each quarter (see page 7 for dates) the *Confirmation Instruction Student Progress Report* (see right) is included with the student's quarterly school progress report sent home.

The *Confirmation Instruction Student Progress Report* should be viewed as an update on student performance and not a report card "grading" faith.

Parents should feel free to contact their child's instructor at any time to ask questions or discuss concerns (see pages 3-4 for contact information).



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CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION STUDENT PROGRESS REPORT

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Instructor: _____ Year: 2019-2020

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 (Actual/Potential Weeks)				
Church Attendance (Actual/Potential Weeks)				
Service Projects (2 Required for the Year)				

Additional quarterly comments are below. Please call your child's instructor if you have any questions.

QUARTER 1	
QUARTER 2	
QUARTER 3	
QUARTER 4	

Promoted to Next Level ____ Must Retake Current Level ____

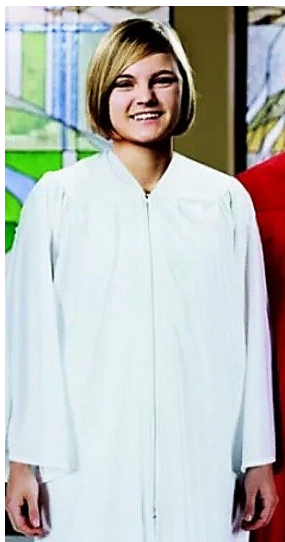
What Is A Student Service Project?

St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program has a service project component to emphasize putting faith into action and serving others. Two service projects are required during the year for students at all levels.


Students are to obtain the appropriate *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 pre-approve the project before it is done.

What Procedures Are Specific to 8th Grade Confirmation?

If the instructors and parents 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 2020 Confirmation Service is Sunday, May 3. 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 10, 7:00 p.m. in the Grace Room.
- Students measured for robes in March-April. Expense for these varies family to family.
- Student/parent examination activity – Thursday, April 30, 7:00 p.m. in church's Grace Room.
- Confirmation Service rehearsal and pictures taken – Saturday, May 2, 8:30 a.m. in church.
- First opportunity for confirmand to receive the Lord's Supper – weekend of May 9.
- Costs for Confirmation-related items listed in the table on page 5 are due the end of March and collected by your child's instructor.



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2019-2020

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION PROGRAM STUDENT SERVICE PROJECT REPORT

Student Name: _____

Grade: (Circle One) 6 7 8 Quarter: (Circle One) 1 2 3 4

Date You Are Submitting This Form for Approval: _____

Instructor: (Circle One)
 Dr. Nelson (6*) Mr. Westendorf (7*) Pastor Bonack (7*) Pastor Kuchi (8*) Pastor Strobel (8*)

VERY IMPORTANT: In order for this service project to be accepted and recorded, you must complete all sections below and submit this form to your instructor before you do the project. Once approved with your instructor's signature below, complete the project, complete the report, and hand it in for review and recording.

STUDENT:

1) Briefly describe the service project you want to do. The project can be for some church-related ministry, some community organization or effort, your own school, or for an individual or family in need. Sample ideas are on the back page.

2) Out of all the things you could do for a service project, why have you chosen this particular service project idea?

PARENT:

1) Briefly explain why you feel this is a good service project for your child to undertake.

2) In what way do you see yourself providing encouragement/support for your child as he/she undertakes the project?

*** INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ CHISEL

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. 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 contact details on pages 3-4).



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.** Instructors may also communicate via a group text through the same My St. Paul's notification system. This is why we ask for parent cell phone numbers and phone carriers.

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION PROGRAM CALENDAR St. Paul's Lutheran School Grades 7-8



2019

August 15 – Thurs. 6:30-8:00 p.m.	Students/Families "Back to School Night"	St. Paul's Lutheran School Classrooms
August 22 – Thurs.	First Day of Confirmation Classes	St. Paul's Lutheran School 7 th & 8 th Grade Classrooms
October 23 – Wed.	END of 1st QUARTER – 9 wks. (Progress Reports given next week)	

2020

January 17 – Fri.	END of 2nd QUARTER – 9 wks. (Progress Reports given next week)	
March 10 – Tues. 7:00 p.m.	All 8 th Grade Parents Information Meeting on Confirmation Details	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Grace Room
March 20 – Fri.	END of 3rd QUARTER – 9 wks. (Progress Reports given next week)	
April 30 – Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	All 8 th Grade Parents and Students Exam Correction Night	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Grace Room
May 2 – Sat. 8:30 a.m.	Confirmation Service Rehearsal and Picture Taking	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Sanctuary
May 3 – Sun. 7:45, 9:15, or 10:45 a.m.	Confirmation Sunday Worship Services	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
May 9, 10, 13 – Sat., Sun., Wed. (times vary)	Opportunities for First Communion for new confirmands	St. Paul's Lutheran Church The Bridge
May 28 – Thurs.	END of 4th QUARTER – 9 wks. Last Day of Classes (Progress Reports mailed next week)	



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Confirmation Instruction Program

Parent Covenant

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and its Confirmation Instruction Program follow the Biblical model for Christian education. In that model, parents are considered to be the primary teachers of God's Word and exemplars of faith-filled living for their children.

Deuteronomy 4:9 (NIV) "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NIV) "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV) "Fathers [parents], do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

These and many other passages in the Bible, numerous research studies done about families, and our own life experiences affirm that parents are the most influential people in their children's lives. Some have said parents are second only to the Holy Spirit when it comes to a child's spiritual development. We also recognize that parental influence can be positive or negative.

Every positive inclination toward personality, intellect, even faith itself is formed in childhood. [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, [many] sinful dysfunctions, character flaws, and destructive tendencies 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 (*Jason M. Nelson, Children in the Church, 2003*).

In St. Paul's Lutheran Church's Confirmation Instruction Program, our philosophy is summarized with these two statements:

1. Parents will be the active, primary leaders of their children's Christian development.
2. The church will be a supportive and informed resource.

By the above, we (St. Paul's Lutheran Church and its staff) seek to encourage you to take full responsibility for your children's Christian education. We will actively and lovingly assist you. → → →

Therefore, when a child is enrolled in St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program, his/her parent(s) are asked to meet the following responsibilities and expectations. Parents doing so is an indication of their own faith in action, love for their child, and willingness to partner with the church to the eternal benefit of their family.

Parent Covenant

As the parent of (*child's name*) _____ in grade _____,
I promise with God's help to fulfil the following responsibilities and expectations of the St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program.

- Personally model the faith I seek for my child and be an example and leader in attending worship regularly and partaking of the Means of Grace in Word and Sacrament.
- Pray for my child, his/her instructors, and myself that all will be faithful partners in learning about Jesus.
- Guide my child to fulfill all obligations relative to Confirmation Instruction classes:
 - Regular attendance at weekly classes
 - Regular participation in weekly worship services
 - Completion of required classwork and service projects
 - Maintain a positive and productive attitude toward the whole program
- Inform the instructor ahead of time (as much as practically possible) if my child will be absent and arrange for how to make up the material missed.
- Sign and return any and all required, printed notifications.
- Meet with my child's instructor if requested to do so.
- Contact my child's instructor with any questions or concerns as soon as I have them.

I understand that failure to meet the above expectations will compromise the Christ-centered intent of the program and could result in my child being asked to repeat a level of instruction in the program or being dismissed from the program.

Signed:

(Parent) _____

(Parent) _____

(Date) _____

PARENT COPY
Parents submit a separate copy of this document
for keeping on file at St. Paul's.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!