



## **Confirmation Instruction Program for Students in Public Schools**



# **2019-2020**



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

**[www.stpaulmuskego.org](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org) (Church)**  
**[www.stpmuskego.org](http://www.stpmuskego.org) (School)**  
**[www.TheBridgeMuskego.org](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Lutheran Church Youth Who Attend Public Schools?



St. Paul's member children who are enrolled in Muskego-area public schools attend Wednesday (early evening) Confirmation Instruction classes over a span of three years (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade). Each class period is 90 minutes (4:30-6:00 p.m.). The 6<sup>th</sup> grade course focuses on Bible History. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade courses cover Bible and Lutheran doctrine, using Luther's Catechism and the related Bible sections.

As part of their foundational training in Bible History, students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level also are required to attend the Sunday morning Kids Club (grade 6). These more informal sessions offer additional Bible and religious teaching not covered in the Wednesday sessions. There is no Sunday morning class requirement for grades 7 and 8.

## What Are the Class Times, Dates, Locations?

Classes for all three levels of St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program for public school students are conducted as follows:

- **Wednesdays**, beginning August 28, 2019, and ending May 27, 2020. Wednesdays off are November 27, 2019 (Thanksgiving Break), December 25, 2019 (Christmas Break), January 1, 2020 (New Year's Break), and March 25, 2020 (Spring Break). There are a total of 36 in-class sessions for the year (see calendar on page 8).
- **4:30-6:00 p.m.** with a break for all levels around 5:10-5:20 p.m.
- **In St. Paul's Lutheran School** (Grade 8-Room 8, Grade 7-Room-9, Grade 6-Room 10).



## 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, weekly worship services, and Kids Club—Grade 6 only), 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 7).
- Attend class whenever it is in session.
- Regularly participate in weekly worship services.
- Attend Sunday morning Kids Club (Grade 6 only).
- Follow any other instructor-specific procedures, requests, or assignments.

## 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: (see next page)




- 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 page 6).
- Read, sign, and abide by the “Parent Covenant” (see pages 9-10, 13-14).
- 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 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 9-10, 13-14).





St. Paul's Lutheran Church Confirmation Instruction Program

## Parent Covenant

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and its Confirmation Instruction Program follows 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, 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 (Jason M. Watson, *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 seek to make very clear that you, parent(s), must take full responsibility for your children's Christian education. We (St. Paul's Lutheran Church and its staff) will actively assist you. [Link](#)

Therefore, in order for a child to be enrolled in St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program, his/her parent(s) must agree to meet the following responsibilities and expectations. Failure to do so will be viewed as failure to accept the overarching philosophy of the program and could result in said child being required to repeat a level of instruction or being outright disjoined from the program.

## Parent Covenant

As the parent of (child's name) \_\_\_\_\_ in grade \_\_\_\_\_  
I promise with God's help to fulfill 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 of weekly classes
  - Regular attendance of weekly worship services
  - Regular attendance of Sunday morning youth ministry sessions
  - Attendance at any retreats or outings that are part of the program
  - 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 student progress reports or notifications.
- Attend annual Parent Partnership Session.
- Attend any special meetings or parent/instructor conferences that relate to my child's spiritual training and the Confirmation Instruction process.
- Contact my child's instructor with any questions or concerns as soon as I have them.

I understand that failure to do the above will be viewed as failure to accept the overarching philosophy of the program and could result in my child being asked to repeat a level of instruction in the program or being outright disjoined from it.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Parent) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Parent) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

3



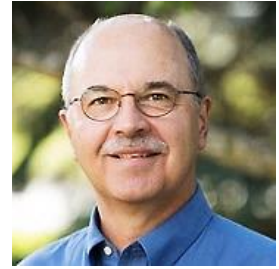
Parents are the  
most influential  
people in their  
children's lives.



## Who Are the Program Instructors?

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Dr. Joel Nelson

Dr. Nelson is St. Paul's Director of Discipleship and has been in this role since 2015. 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
- **Church Office Phone:** 414-422-0320, ext. 145 **Cell Phone:** 414-750-2586

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mr. Mike Westendorf

Mr. Westendorf is St. Paul's Resident Musical Artist and Director of Video Production. In these roles he helps to coordinate St. Paul's contemporary worship services and also create effective ways to communicate God's Word. Mr. Westendorf assists with St. Paul's teen ministry, is the director of *Awake & Alive* (a ministry to young adults), and tours the country as a Christian musician. Before coming to St. Paul's in 2019, Mr. Westendorf was a meteorologist with a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences and graduate credit in high-resolution modeling and radar analysis.



- **Favorite Bible Passage:** Psalm 89:1-2 – *“I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.”*
- **E-mail:** mwestendorf@stpaulmuskego.org
- **Church Office Phone:** 414-422-0320, ext. 119 **Cell Phone:** 414-507-8250

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Pastor Nathan Strobel

Since 2018, Pastor Strobel has been St. Paul's Resident Missionary. His focus is on connecting with the community and also guests visiting St. Paul's who do not have a church home. He is the primary teacher of St. Paul's new member class, *Following the Promise*. Pastor Strobel serves on the Board of Directors for the Muskego Area Chamber of Commerce. Before coming to St. Paul's, Pastor Strobel served at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, and congregations in Tallahassee-FL and Bay City-MI. Pastor Strobel has a B.A. in Liberal Arts and M.Div. in Pastoral Studies.

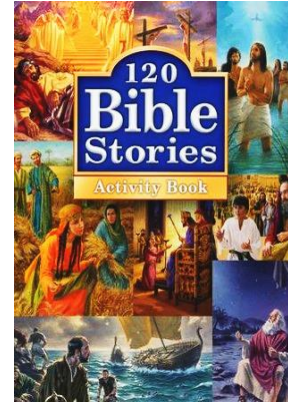


- **Favorite Bible Passage:** Isaiah 43:1 – *“But now, this is what the LORD says, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.’”*
- **E-mail:** nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org
- **Office Phone:** 414-422-0320, ext. 293 **Cell Phone:** 414-426-8236

# What Is the Curriculum at Each Level?

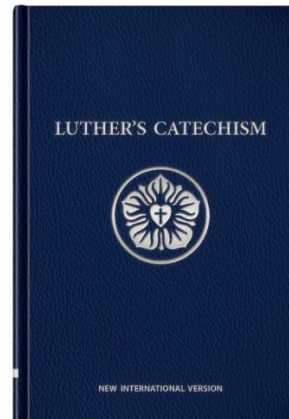
## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Dr. Nelson

- This level 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 Sheets (available for purchase)
  - *The Story for Teens* videos
  - 1" or greater, 3-ringed binder, loose-leaf paper
  - Pens/pencils/colored pencils



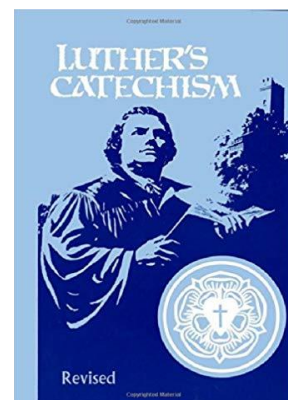
## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mr. Westendorf

- This level covers 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, 6) Use of the Keys and Confession.
- This level uses the following materials:
  - Luther's Small Catechism – 2017 Edition (available for purchase)
  - NIV Bible (available for purchase)
  - 3-ring binder with Catechism Activity Sheets (available for purchase)
  - Loose leaf paper, pens, and pencils



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Pastor Strobel

- This level reviews the chief parts of Martin Luther's Small Catechism with a deeper exposition of how Bible teaching applies to real life.
- This level uses the following materials:
  - Luther's Small Catechism – 1998 Edition (available for purchase)
  - NIV Bible (available for purchase)
  - 3-ring binder with Catechism Activity Sheets (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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>GRADE 6 – Dr. Nelson</b>	
120 Bible Stories Book	\$18.00
120 Bible Stories Activities Sheets	\$10.00
<b>GRADE 7 – Mr. Westendorf</b>	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
Luther's Small Catechism (2017 Edition)	\$20.00
Catechism Activities Sheets	\$10.00
<b>GRADE 8 – Pastor Strobel</b>	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
Luther's Small Catechism (1998 Edition)	\$20.00
Catechism Activities Sheets	\$10.00
<b>CONFIRMATION-SPECIFIC COSTS</b>	
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 8 for dates) 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 next class period.

The 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 page 4 for contact information).



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

---

**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. Please sign the envelope in which this progress report came, and return the envelope with your child the next time class is in session. Thanks for your prompt cooperation.

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 for evaluation. Parents and instructor pre-approve the project before it is done.

## What Procedures Are Specific to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation?

If the instructor 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 will be 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 – Prior to confirmation.
- 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-specific items listed in the table on page 6 are due the end of March and collected by your child's instructor.



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
 566 W14325 Janesville Road - Muskego, WI 53150  
 414-422-0320 [www.stpaulmuskego.org](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org)

**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<sup>th</sup>)    Mr. Westendorf (7<sup>th</sup>)    Pastor Bonack (7<sup>th</sup>)    Pastor Kuehl (8<sup>th</sup>)    Pastor Strobel (8<sup>th</sup>)

**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?

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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, Mr. Westendorf, and Pastor Strobel welcome your feedback and are ready and willing to respond. Feel free to call, text, or e-mail them anytime (see contact details on page 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.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2019-2020 Grades 6-8



### 2019

<b>August 19 – Mon.</b> 6:30-7:30 p.m.	Students/Families <b>Registration and Orientation</b>	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Sanctuary
<b>August 28 – Wed.</b> 4:30-6:00 p.m.	<b>First Day of Classes</b> (ENTER AT DOOR #4)	St. Paul's Lutheran School Classrooms 8, 9, 10
<b>October 23 – Wed.</b>	<b>END of 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER – 9 wks. (Progress Reports given next week)</b>	
<b>November 27 – Wed.</b>	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	
<b>December 25 – Wed.</b>	NO CLASS – Christmas Break	
<b>January 1 – Wed.</b>	NO CLASS – New Year's Break	

### 2020

<b>January 15 – Wed.</b>	<b>END of 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER – 9 wks. (Progress Reports given next week)</b>	
<b>March 10 – Tues.</b> 7:00 p.m.	All 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents <b>Information Meeting</b> on Confirmation Details	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Grace Room
<b>March 18 – Wed.</b>	<b>END of 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER – 9 wks. (Progress Reports given next week)</b>	
<b>March 25 – Wed.</b>	NO CLASS – Spring Break	
<b>May 2 – Sat.</b> 8:30 a.m.	Confirmation Service <b>Rehearsal and Picture Taking</b>	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Sanctuary
<b>May 3 – Sun.</b> 7:45, 9:15, or 10:45 a.m.	<b>Confirmation Sunday</b> Worship Services	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
<b>May 9, 10, 13 – Sat., Sun., Wed.</b> (times vary)	Opportunities for <b>First Communion</b> for new confirmands	St. Paul's Lutheran Church The Bridge
<b>May 27 – Wed.</b>	<b>END of 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER – 9 wks. Last Day of Classes</b> (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 the separate copy of this document**  
**for keeping on file at St. Paul's (see last pages).**

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

# CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION REGISTRATION FORM 2019-20



## IMPORTANT

This form needs to be completed for every student enrolling in St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program for 2019-20. Families with siblings may use just one form.

***Please print and provide the information requested for each child***

Child's Full Name (First and Last)	Age	Grade	Birthdate (month/day/year)	School Attending this Fall	Check if Baptized

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names

**FATHER** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTHER** \_\_\_\_\_

Father's address (street/city/state/zip)

Mother's address (street/city/state/zip)

Father's phone # **and service provider/carrier**

Mother's phone # **and service provider/carrier**

Father's e-mail address

Mother's e-mail address

Is father a St. Paul's member? YES NO (circle one)

Is mother a St. Paul's member? YES NO (circle one)

## EMERGENCY CONTACT IF A PARENT CANNOT BE REACHED

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

► Is there any special information we need to know about your child(ren), i.e. allergies, medication taken, etc.? If so, note:

► Is there any special information you'd like us to know about your family? If so, please note:

**NOTE:** By signing below, I register my child in St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction Program and acknowledge that I have read and understand the program expectations. I also give St. Paul's Lutheran Church and its youth ministries permission to use images of my child for communication purposes in print and on digital/web-based formats.

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_







## 2019-20 CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION PROGRAM PAYMENT FORM

This form is used for purchasing the required instructional materials for the appropriate levels in which your child(ren) will be enrolled. Confirmation-specific costs for Grade 8 (gown, flower, certificate, pictures) are paid for in Spring as these costs usually vary from family to family.

Mark the books and quantities needed by their corresponding place on the table below. A family with siblings need only use one form. Bring this form and your payment on August 19. Make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

**STUDENT NAME:**

**GRADE**


Materials Required for  
Each Level of Instruction

GRADE 6 – Dr. Nelson	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
120 Bible Stories Book	\$18.00
120 Bible Stories Activities Sheets	\$10.00
GRADE 7 – Mr. Westendorf	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
Luther's Small Catechism (2017 Edition)	\$20.00
Catechism Activities Sheets	\$10.00
GRADE 8 – Pastor Strobel	
Holy Bible – NIV Translation	\$9.00
Luther's Small Catechism (1998 Edition)	\$20.00
Catechism Activities Sheets	\$10.00

RESOURCE NEEDED FOR 2018-19		QTY.	\$ AMT.
120 Bible Stories Book (Grade 6)	\$18.00		
120 Bible Stories Activities Sheets (Grade 6)	\$10.00		
Holy Bible – NIV Translation (Grades 7-8)	\$9.00		
Luther's Small Catechism (Grades 7-8)	\$20.00		
Catechism Activities Sheets (Grades 7-8)	\$10.00		
<b>GRAND TOTAL \$</b>			



## 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, 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 (*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:

3. Parents will be the active, primary leaders of their children's Christian development.
4. 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) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

(Parent) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**