

“Confirmation” (meaning the formal program offered by the church) is a dedicated time of learning and exploration. At Trinity, this is 3-year program offered for 7th, 8th, and 9th graders.

What does one learn about in Confirmation? Well, it is hoped that students learn:

- what it means to be God’s child,
- what it means to have the faith of the Christian church,
- the church creeds and the Bible stories

This Confirmation instructional time is:

- a time to learn how to pray and to worship, to read and explore,
- a time to ask questions (What? Why? How? **What does this mean to me and my life?**),
- a time to learn how to care for God’s people in the world and to use your gifts (talents/skills) for the good of God’s world, and
- a time to reflect upon your relationship with God personally and through the Christian community (at Trinity Lutheran, and within the larger Christian church – wherever you go)

“Confirmation” is time for growth, namely growth in your faith, as the baptized individual moves from child to a young adult. When the baptized person is informed, prepared by family and/or the church, and ready to publically declare one’s own faith in Christ Jesus and affirm the baptismal promises that someone else made on her/his behalf at baptism, then the baptized person stands up for themselves and “affirms” (or “confirms”) their personal belief—committing to a Christian life and witness for all of adulthood. This is most often done as part of a special worship service.

What is the Confirmation service?

Confirmation is a “rite” (short for “ritual”, meaning *ceremony*) when a baptized person “affirms” (meaning *acknowledges* or *announces*) the Christian faith and the life offered in baptism. This Rite of Confirmation is therefore also aptly called, *Affirmation of Baptism*, within a special worship service.

Why be “confirmed”?

Many persons are baptized as an infant or young child. At that time, one’s parents (or grandparents or guardians) made promises on the child’s behalf. They made promises to God and to the baptized child.

Parents and “Godparents” (also called “Sponsors”) made public promises. They promised:

1. to live with you among God’s faithful people (within a Christian community),
2. to bring you to the word of God and Lord’s Supper (worship and communion),
3. to teach you the Lord’s Prayer, the Creeds and Ten Commandments, and
4. to nurture you in faith and prayer so that you would learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through your words and actions, care for others and work for God’s justice and peace in the world.

God, through the Church, made promises to you through your baptism also! God promised to:

1. love you as God’s own child, and
2. to be with you always (truly *always!*, in good times and bad times), and
3. to welcome you gladly into the body of Christ (community of faith)

God offered you new life with Christ Jesus. Through the water and the words spoken by the pastor, God offered you forgiveness and salvation. God adopted you as God’s beloved son/daughter—a sister or brother of Christ, and a worker in the kingdom of God on earth. When someone is confirmed, that person publically accepts these free gifts of God and acknowledges the promises for her/him/himself.

God’s promises in baptism continue forever – for each person is a child of God and loved by God.