



Confirmation Handbook

2009-2010 Academic Year

Redeemer Lutheran Church

1712 Menasha Avenue
Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220-1839
920.684.3989

Pastor Richard Miller

pastormiller@redeermanty.com

Pastor Eric W. Kolonich

pastorkolonich@redeermanty.com

Pastor Faiv Neng Her

faivneng@yahoo.com

Why Confirmation?

Why does the church have Confirmation? It isn't commanded in Scripture, and Lutherans do not believe that Confirmation is a sacrament (a sacred act carrying a special blessing).

But as Lutherans, we teach that students should be confirmed for two reasons.

1. Confirmation is an affirmation of the baptismal vow. Many of us were baptized as infants or young children, and so Confirmation is a chance to learn about the faith into which we were baptized and affirm our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Confirmation provides students with instruction about the faith prior to taking the Lord's Supper. In the Lord's Supper, we receive the body and blood of Christ. Because of this, it needs to be properly understood in order to receive it beneficially.

²⁷Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks from the Lord's cup in an improper way will be held responsible for the Lord's body and blood. ²⁸With this in mind, individuals must determine whether what they are doing is proper when they eat the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹Anyone who eats and drinks is eating and drinking a judgment against himself when he doesn't recognize the Lord's body.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Therefore, Confirmation is not about a special blessing or a final step in church life. Confirmation is a new beginning, a further instruction, which leads a believer towards a lifelong learning process.

Purpose of Confirmation

Confirmation is not a rite of passage in which all of-age church members can take part. Confirmation is a process of discipleship. It is studying and applying the faith of the Christian church into which you were baptized. Confirmation Day is a very special day when you publicly announce that the faith into which you were baptized is the same faith to which you are committing your life. On your Confirmation day, you are promising to continue and grow in your faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The purpose of Confirmation is to prepare you to make a lifelong commitment to your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What is the commitment confirmation class is preparing me to make?

Taken directly from the Rite of Confirmation as found in Lutheran Service Book page 272 and following

- Do you acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- Do you renounce the devil, his works and his ways?
- Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures (THE BIBLE) to be the inspired Word of God?
- Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
- Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Faith is Taught in the Home

Confirmation class is a formal learning environment for students to learn about the Bible and the faith that they are preparing to profess. However, Confirmation is not limited to the confines of the church. Faith is most importantly taught in the home. During the course of the year, students will be asked to complete various assignments that will require conversation to happen in the home. Also, parents/guardians will be asked to assist their child(ren) with the Confirmation Memorization List. At the end of each year of Confirmation, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be asked to confirm that their child has memorized the assigned passages and texts.

Word of Advice: This memorization list will *generally* stay the same. Therefore, once you have it memorized for Year 1, Year 2 should be a breeze! Each year, the pastors will analyze the list and adjust it accordingly.

Confirmation Requirements

Confirmation 101—THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE; taught by Pastor Miller

This is the first year of Confirmation class. Students eligible for this class would be those entering the 7th grade/12 years old and above. In this class, students will be walking through the Biblical narrative which will take students on an unforgettable journey through the Bible's "big story". In order to successfully complete Confirmation 101, the student, working jointly with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s), are to memorize the Confirmation Memorization List found in this handbook. Parent (s)/guardian(s) will need to confirm that their child has completed this requirement with the pastors.

Textbooks: The Bible
The Divine Drama: The Biblical Narrative—textbook & workbook by Harry Wendt
Luther's Small Catechism

Class Time: Wednesday evenings: 6:30-7:30 pm

Confirmation 201—OUR NARRATIVE; taught by Pastor Kolonich

This is the second year of Confirmation class. Students eligible for this class would be all students who have **completed** Confirmation 101/or the DJ 1 program. *For the 2009-2010 school year Pastor Kolonich will be taking the students through an accelerated program.* Students will be walking through the Biblical narrative which will take students on an unforgettable journey through the Bible's "big story"; this class also will be equipping students to understand the Bible's key themes and teachings, such as the Trinity (Father, Son & Holy Spirit), Sin & Grace, the Church and Worship, Prayer & the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, Stewardship & Life Management and the Last Days or Eschatology. In order to successfully complete Confirmation 201, the student, working jointly with his/her parents or guardians, is to memorize the **Confirmation Memorization List** found in this handbook. Parents/guardians will need to confirm that their child has completed this requirement with the pastors.

Textbooks: The Bible
The Divine Drama: The Biblical Narrative—textbook & workbook by Harry Wendt
The Divine Drama: Our Narrative—textbook & workbook by Harry Wendt
Luther's Small Catechism

Class Time: Wednesday evenings: 6:30-7:30 pm

Confirmation 102/202—WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? Taught by Pastor Kolonich

This joint class will be discussing real life issues and how we can apply our faith to various situations. This will be a small group class and a time for discussion and prayer. We will be discussing how our faith in Jesus Christ should play out in our everyday lives. Topics of discussion will be student driven, and will likely include: sexuality, service, spiritual growth, world religions, depression, etc.

Textbooks: the Bible
Class Time: Sundays from 9:00-10:15 am

Confirmation 301—How Do I Fit In?

Confirmation is preparation to become an active member of Redeemer Lutheran Church. The church is not simply a gathering place, but it is also a family. In the home, each family member has specific duties (like doing dishes, taking out the trash, mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, etc.); so it is with the church. Without the hard work and dedication of the members of Redeemer, the church could not function as it does today. Therefore, the purpose of “*Confirmation 301—How Do I Fit In?*”, is to help students learn about the various functions of the church. This is done on an independent basis and based on the interests of the students. Over the course of the two years of confirmation, the student is required to complete 6 units of service. **Student must participate in a minimum of 3 different areas of service.** However if a student has a vested interest in a particular area (i.e. Nan, Thailand Project), consult with Pastor Kolonich and special arrangements can be made.

For the 2009-2010 Academic Year, Confirmation 201 students are only required to complete 3 units of service.

A partial list of service areas is not limited to but can include:

Worship

- Usher
- Acolyte
- Assist Altar Guild
- Operate sound/recording system
- Greet before service
- Read Scripture lesson at services
- Provide instrumental/vocal anthem or provide pre-service/post-service music
- Participate in planning and giving of children’s messages
- Design/construct a banner for worship
- Assist in the set-up of Thanksgiving/Christmas/Easter worship displays
- Assist in special services (Advent/Lent etc)

Fellowship

- Plan and share at fellowship after service
- Assist in planning and sharing of Lenten meals
- Assist First Responders for funeral meals or other meals

Human Care Projects

- Assist at Peter’s Pantry
- The Great Rake (assisting Elderly with leaf raking)
- Help coordinate/pack college student “care packages”

Spiritual Care Projects

- Hospital or Shut-in Visits with pastor or adult supervisor
- Write a card to someone recently hospitalized or in special need

Community

- As a class, or group assist in the planning of an approved community project:
- Examples include: Plan a benefit walk/dinner for a particular cause: like cancer or humane society; help at zoo in a project; Operation Christmas child/Gift Paks for Children; Christmas gifts to nursing home residents; help to raise awareness and support for Redeemer’s Thailand project etc.

If there is another area of service you wish to participate in during the course of your confirmation years, please consult with Pastor Kolonich.

Regular Worship Attendance

Regular worship is a **vital** part of Confirmation instruction as well as in our daily faith. It is important to instill the habits of regular church. **Worship is not about “what I get out of it”.** **Worship is about giving praise to God for all the wonderful things that He has done.** When you receive a birthday gift, do you simply take it and walk away without saying a word? **Absolutely NOT!** You say thank you to the giver.

You write the person a note, or you call them up on the phone. It is the same with God. He has done some pretty spectacular things like creating you, saving you from sin and death by dying on the cross and rising from the dead, and strengthening you on a daily basis. Worship is our time to thank God for his marvelous acts in our lives.

Students will be required to complete a worship sheet about worship and the sermon. **Each month, the student is required to complete 3 worship sheets.** If you are away for a weekend and you attend a different church, please feel free to complete the worship sheet for the worship service that you attend. During Advent (the weeks leading up to Christmas) and Lent (the weeks leading up to Easter) the midweek services can count toward the 3 per month requirement. Progress will be evaluated quarterly (December/March/May). The pastors, on an as-needed basis, will counsel students and/or families.

*I love the house
where you live, O
Lord, the place where
your glory dwells.*

~Psalm 26:8

This is a fundamental portion of the confirmation program. There will be very little flexibility given to students who do not complete this portion of the curriculum. Failure to complete this portion of the Confirmation program will result in retaking that year of Confirmation.

What About the Advent & Lenten Breaks?

Advent and Lent are special times during the church year that we prepare for the great festivals of Christmas and Easter, respectively. **During Advent and Lent, Confirmation 101 & 201 will not meet for formal class on Wednesday evenings.** (see academic calendar) During Advent and Lent we have special worship services on Wednesday evenings and during Lent we also have Lenten dinners. These services and fellowship times are extremely important as we contemplate the true meaning of Christmas and the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross and His resurrection from the grave on Easter morning. During the Advent and Lenten breaks students will be asked to complete a 2 page double spaced essay about a particular topic or answering a question. Essay topics and or questions will be assigned on the Wednesday prior to break and are due the Wednesday 101 & 201 that classes resume. These essays will likely require attendance at Advent and Lenten worship services to complete successfully. (See Academic Calendar)

Confirmation 301 & 401 will continue to meet each Sunday per usual schedule with Pastor Kolonich. **Attendance is still required at Confirmation 102/202.**

Confirmation Orientation Meeting

On **Wednesday September 9, 2009 from 6:30-7:30 pm** parent(s) and/or guardian(s) along with students will meet with Pastor Miller & Pastor Kolonich for **Confirmation Orientation**. At orientation, textbooks will be distributed and we will go through the Confirmation handbook and sign learning covenants. This is also a time to ask any questions and voice any concerns you may have about the Confirmation program. **Attendance at this meeting is mandatory.**

*Confirmation
Orientation Meeting*

*Wednesday,
September 9, 2009*

6:30-7:30 pm

Wednesday Night Schedule

Confirmation class and education does not only happen in a classroom setting. Confirmation is also about community and fellowship. Wednesdays are not only about formal learning but it is also a great time to hang out and have fun with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, the Confirmation 101 & 201 classes will be held on **Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 pm**. **The breakdown of the schedule is as follows:**

6:00-6:30—Fellowship Time; play games; snacks; hang out; Nintendo Wii (**101 & 201**)

6:30-7:30—Class time

7:30-8:00—Fellowship Time; play games, hang Out, Nintendo Wii (**101 & 201**)

Attendance

If you are a member of any sports team, attendance at regular practices and sporting events is mandatory. You cannot be a member of the team without regular practice. The same goes for Confirmation classes. Attendance is mandatory for all aspects of the confirmation curriculum. This includes Wednesday evening classes and Sunday morning worship and classes. However, we know that illness and emergencies happen. If you are unable to attend class because of illness or an emergency, please contact Pastor Kolonich. If attendance for ANY of the components for the Confirmation program becomes an issue it will be addressed by the pastors. It could result in repeating that particular year of Confirmation. When absences occur, the student should expect to complete make-up work for the class period missed.



LCMS National Youth Gathering

All Year 2 Confirmands who complete all confirmation requirements will be eligible to attend the **LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana from July 17-21, 2010**. Students who desire to attend the National Youth Gathering are required to attend all informational meetings and participate in ALL fundraising events. Additional information on the National Youth Gathering can be found at: <http://www.lcmsgathering.com/>

Confirmation Retreats

During the 2009-2010 academic year, Year One & Year Two confirmation students will have the opportunity to participate in two retreats. **The retreat to CAMP Y-KODA in Sheboygan Falls is required.** We will have time for fellowship, study and a special team building activity on the High Ropes Course. If for some reason these dates propose a conflict for your family, please contact Pastor Kolonich. The **Youth Encounter retreat at Wisconsin Dells is very strongly recommended but not required.** This retreat will be an excellent time to grow in your faith, and hang out with other Christians.

If cost is the only limiting factor, please consult directly with Pastor Kolonich and special arrangements can be made.

CAMP Y-KODA, Sheboygan Falls, WI (required)

DATES: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 to Friday, October 30, 2009 (no school these days!)

Leaving Redeemer at 4:00 pm on 10/28

Arriving back at Redeemer by 12:00 pm on 10/30

WHO: Confirmation Year 1 & Year 2 Students

RSVP: Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Cost: \$60/per person

Cost includes lodging, food, and a *Full High Ropes & Team Building Course* on Thursday 10/29
Transportation Costs To Be Determined

Youth Encounter—Wisconsin Dells (strongly recommended)



Attend a Quake and let your faith grow when you experience awesome speakers, participate in fun activities and rock out to Christian music. Quakes are regional weekend events for middle school youth (grades 6-9) designed to build a caring community among youth and adults, grow a faith in Jesus Christ and develop healthy relationships among peers.

DATES: January 8-10, 2010

WHERE: Wisconsin Dells—Wilderness Territory Resort

COST: \$134/per person this includes hotel room and program fees.
Food/souvenirs not included. Transportation costs to be determined.

WHO: Confirmation Year 1 & Year 2 Students—friends are also welcome!!!

RSVP: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009 (This is to insure “early-bird” pricing.)



2009-2010 Calendar

Wednesday, September 9, 2009—Confirmation Orientation meeting: 6:30-7:30 pm.

Wednesday, September 16, 2009—Confirmation 101/201 begins

Sunday, September 20, 2009—Confirmation 300/400 begins

Wednesday, September 23, 2009—REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Camp Y-Coda Retreat

Wednesday, October 14, 2009— REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Youth Encounter Retreat at Wisconsin Dells (January 8-10, 2010)

Wednesday, October 28—Friday, October 30, 2009—CAMP Y-CODA Retreat in Sheboygan Falls!!!

Wednesday, November 25, 2009—Wednesday, December 30, 2009—Thanksgiving & Christmas recess
NO Confirmation 101/201 classes.

Confirmation 102/202 classes continues normal schedule.

Wednesday, January 6, 2010—Confirmation 101/201 resumes
ADVENT BREAK ESSAY DUE!!!

Friday, January 8—Sunday, January 10, 2010—Youth Encounter Retreat at Wisconsin Dells!!!

Wednesday, February 17, 2010—Wednesday, March 31, 2010—Lenten Recess.
No Confirmation 101/201 classes.

Confirmation 102/202 classes continues normal schedule.

Wednesday, April 7, 2010—Confirmation 101/201 resumes
LENTEN BREAK ESSAY DUE!!!

Saturday, May 1, 2010: 9:00-10:30 AM—Confirmation Rehearsal.
All 2010 Confirmands are required to attend.

Sunday, May 2, 2010—Confirmation Day
Year 1 students required to attend

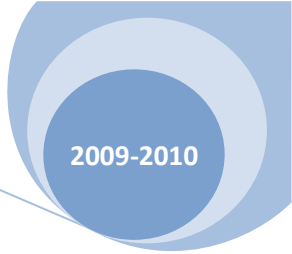
Wednesday, May 5, 2010—Last Day of Confirmation Class—**End of Year Party/Gathering.**

CONFIRMATION DAY

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Confirmation Memorization List

- **Books of the Bible—Old & New Testament**
- **The Apostle's Creed**
- **The Lord's Prayer**
- **The Ten Commandments**
- **John 3:16** ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- **John 14:6** ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- **Romans 6:23** ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **1 Corinthians 13:1** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
- **Ephesians 6:10-11** ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** ⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- **1 John 1:8-9** ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- **Hebrews 4:14-16** ¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- **John 13:34-35** ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- **John 11:25-26** ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
- **Romans 8:28** 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.
- **Ephesians 2:8-10** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- **1 Peter 5:7-9** ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.
- **Psalms 27:1** The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life-- of whom shall I be afraid?



Family Worship Sheet—Confirmation 101 & 201 (sample)

Student Name		Family member(s) attending church with you today	
Date of Service		Date in the Church Year	<i>listed in bulletin (for example: 1st Sun. of Advent)</i>
Liturgist	<i>Pastor who leads worship</i>	Preacher	<i>Pastor who gives sermon</i>

Student Directions:

1. Notes – take them during the service to help you answer the questions.
2. Bulletin – take it home with you to help you finish the sheet.
3. Family – talk to them about the service and this sheet on the way home or sometime soon after the service.
4. Fill out the *entire* sheet using complete sentences.
5. Turn in the sheet to Pastor Kolonich or Pastor Miller

Before Worship Starts

In 2 or 3 sentences, explain one of the Scripture readings from the service.

Scripture reading: Book _____ Chapter _____ Verses _____

Explanation:

Write 1 sentence that explains what one of the hymns/songs teaches us about God.

Hymn Title _____

Does this hymn have the same theme as: (circle all that apply)

a Scripture reading

the Church Date

the Sermon

Which of the Sacraments was part of today's service?

____ Baptism ____ Lord's Supper

Family Worship Sheet—Confirmation 101 & 201 (sample) continued

Sermon

Scripture Passage the Pastor bases his sermon on	<i>listed in bulletin or the pastor will refer to it in the sermon</i> Book _____ Chapter _____ Verses _____
Sermon Title	<i>if it is listed in the bulletin</i>

How did the preacher introduce the sermon?

After possibly reading the Scripture passage, the preacher will usually begin his sermon with a story, example, question, opening comments, etc.

What were the main points of the sermon?

The preacher usually will have 2-3 main things that he emphasizes through his sermon.

What is one thing that you will remember about this sermon?

Be specific about which part of the sermon really caught your attention and got you thinking about God today. Explain the reasons after talking about it as a family.

On the Way Home: Discussion with Your Family

What is **ONE** thing from worship today (service and/or message) that you can apply to your life today?

Be specific about which part of the service really caught your attention and got you thinking about God today. Explain the reasons after talking about it as a family.

What question came up for your family when discussing the service?

What don't you understand about the service? Do you wonder why we do something? Do you have a question about what the pastor meant in his sermon? Any other questions?