

For your convenience, the following is a list of the required out of class work that will need to be completed each year of confirmation. Please note, the mentor conversations are an exception and are meant to occur over a two-year period. The rest of the document expands on why this work is important, what might be done to complete it, and where to find what you might need.

### Summary of Out of Class Requirements:

Acolyte on a Rotating Schedule

9 Sermon Notes Pages

6 Worship or Congregational Leadership Experiences and Reflection Pages

2 Service Events and Reflection Pages

9 Family Faith5 conversations and Reflection Pages

Meet with a Mentor 10 times over the 2 years of Confirmation and Complete Journal

The above resources other than the Mentor Materials are available online at:

<http://www.firstevlutheran-np.com/confirmation.html>



Confirmation at First Evangelical Lutheran Church is for Students who are in 7-9<sup>th</sup> Grade. Generally, we will work to follow the North Platte School District schedule beginning and ending around the same time as the school does. Ninth Graders are asked to attend classes until they are confirmed on Reformation Sunday, the last Sunday in October.

Jesus wants us to, “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30) This means we strive to love God with our Heads, Hearts, and Bodies, and therefore, students who participate in First’s Confirmation program will concentrate on three different areas:

Gaining Knowledge (Head), Gaining Experience (Body), and Deepening Relationships (Heart) all of these together make a complete soul.

**Knowledge:** To help understand their faith at an intellectual level, students will study Scripture, The Small Catechism, Prayer, and Worship.

Class attendance:

- Regular attendance at classes is expected and is the best way to learn
- One excused absence per term is allowed, after that, make-up work will need to be completed.

Scripture:

- Focus on OT and NT Narrative
- Learn to relate stories to their own lives

#### Catechism:

- Learn basic parts of the catechism by frequent repetition (not memorization)
- Explore Luther's Explanations and how they relate to scripture
- Reflect on where the catechism meets their own lives

#### Prayer:

- Prayer as communication with God
- Exploration of various kinds of prayer

#### Worship:

- Learn about various parts of the liturgy
- Learn some deeper significance of aspects of worship
- Learn some of the symbolism of worship
- Take worship/sermon notes – 9 times. This is equivalent to once per month Sept-May but you are welcome to work on these more quickly if you desire.

**Experience:** To help students explore their gifts for ministry, put their knowledge into practice, and become fully participating members of their Christian Community, we will take time to engage in Experiential learning. We hope through these experiences that our young people discover some ministries that they would like to continue working with following confirmation.

#### Acolyting:

Students are asked to serve on a regular rotation of acolytes. Acolyting is more than just lighting candles and being on public display at the front of the Church. A good acolyte enhances the worship of the congregation by making it more active and interactive. They also free the pastor to lead more effectively by being a reliable source of support should it be needed. Acolyting is also a way of learning about the flow of worship, how to lead in front of groups of people, and serves as a way of helping people get to know you and see you publicly growing into an adult in the church. In looking at acolyting from this perspective, worship leaders will look at developing worship services in ways that incorporate acolytes for more than just candle lighting. Such incorporation also needs to be done in consultation with acolytes and training will need to be engaged in as part of classroom learning.

Worship/Congregational Leadership: Choose any six from Sept to May You may do any one thing up to three times and work in groups if you wish: **A reflection page needs to be completed and turned in for each leadership experience.** Reflection pages can be found in your three-ring binder or on the church's website. <http://www.firstevlutheran-np.com/confirmation.html>

- Scripture Reading
- Ushering
- Altar Guild
- Children's Sermon
- Prayers of Intercession
- Communion Assistant
- Song Leader for Sunday School

- Class Leader for Sunday School
- Join a committee and be an active participant
- Participate in a Choir
- Cantor
- Banner Making or other Artistic Endeavor
- Musical Leadership or Offering
- Seasonal Bulletin Cover
- Help with Making Bulletins
- Develop a liturgical section
- Folding News Letter or Bulletins
- Helping run A/V Equipment for Worship
- Being a Digital Worship Host
- Help with Bulletin Boards
- Project of your choice in consultation with Pastor and Mentor.

Service:

- Participate in helping with at least two service opportunities within the church or community each year. **A reflection page needs to be completed and turned in for each service experience.** The difference between Service Work and Congregational Leadership, comes down to who benefits the most, if it is primarily members of the church, then it is congregational leadership, if it mostly benefits people outside of our walls, it would fall under the category of service. On going ministries in the church that would count as service could be helping with LWR quilt and kit ministries, God's work our hands, Santa Cop and others. Keep your ears open and I will also work to announce opportunities in class.

Prayer:

- Engage weekly in reflecting on their life of faith and praying for themselves and others.

**Relationship:** To help grow in relationship with each other and faithful adults, form closer bonds with their family of origin, and see conversations about faith as a normal part of their life, students will work at forming and deepening relationships with the following people:

Classmates:

- Students will pray for each other, promote an environment that is safe and conducive to learning, and learn to support each other's needs.

Mentor/ Prayer partner:

- Adult outside of one's family of origin (Grands, Aunts/Uncles, Cousins etc. are OKAY)
- Students will have faith conversations with their mentor, pray together and work on various projects together.
- A letter to help a potential mentor understand their role better is included with these materials.
- Please let Pr. Patrick know when you have a mentor so he can get you materials.

Parents and Family:

- Students will engage in monthly faith discussions with their parents/faith parents and other family members. A reflection page needs to be completed for each conversation.
- We ask you to try out the “Faith5” format for these conversations, the process is described in more detail below.
- You are invited and encouraged to make this a regular practice and the reflection pages can be done over a long or short period of time as you choose.

Jesus:

- Through all of the above, students are meant to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus. If an activity does not promote this primary relationship it has no place in the confirmation process.

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