



July 1, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of First Year Confirmands,

It's time for an exciting period of growth and learning in the lives of Hope's 5th & 6th graders! Our Confirmation Program will be offered over the next two years. Classes, retreats, and special events will prepare students to personally affirm their baptismal faith, to receive Holy Communion, and to live as adult members of the church. These are crucial years for spiritual formation for the youth of our church, and we ask you to make Confirmation a priority in your family.

Over the next two years, we'll be sharing the basic doctrines and teachings of the Christian faith from our Lutheran perspective. Students will use the Bible as a foundational resource in Confirmation classes, along with Luther's Small Catechism.

Please read the enclosed "Information Sheet" carefully, and let us know if you have any questions. Note especially these important highlights!

- Confirmation is switching from Wednesday nights to Sunday mornings this year
- Complete the online 2021/2022 Youth Waiver, Confirmation Registration, & Confirmation Retreat Registration at www.hopelutheranwf.org/confirmation
- Youth and parents/guardians should plan to attend the Orientation Session August 29 from 1:00-2:30 PM in the Sanctuary.
- Reserve September 10-12, 2021 for your child to participate in the Fall Confirmation Retreat.

We are eagerly looking forward to exploring the Scriptures and growing in faith with your child over the next two years!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Wayne Puls

Pastor Lew Upchurch

Lead DCE Beth Agner

DCE Steve McCarthy

DCE Wesley Spottiswood

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HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

**Information Sheet (First-Year)
2021-2022**

CONFIRMATION IS NOW ON SUNDAYS!

Every weekend at Hope we gather together to worship God, pray to Him, hear His Word, and receive His sacraments. Confirmation provides a valuable opportunity for students to learn the basics of the faith and understand the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, Baptism, Communion and more. In Confirmation the kids learn about the gifts of God offered through Christ; in Church we actually receive those gifts. Confirmation is best understood in connection with and as preparation for lifelong worship of Christ our Lord and Savior. In an effort to strengthen this connection and simplify this process for families, we are moving Confirmation to Sunday mornings during the education hour 9:45-10:45am. We hope this will create some ease in everyone's busy schedules and allow you to slow down and worship God as a family every Sunday at either the 8:30am or 11:00am service (Saturday at 5:30pm is okay too). There are activities available for all age groups (kids and adults) during the 9:45-10:45am education hour, so we hope your family will take advantage of these as well. As important as the individual education of Confirmation is, the example and experience of family worship is even more impactful for your child's faith formation. We hope this will be an exciting time for spiritual growth for your whole family.

Note, we are also adding a Wednesday Night Youth Group opportunity for 5-6th graders each week at 6:30pm starting on August 4th (it is currently offered on Tuesday nights during July). It's a great opportunity for your child to make some friends before Confirmation starts in September and to strengthen those friendships throughout the year. Details can be found on the church website www.hopelutheranwf.org/youth

CONFIRMATION IS NOW IN-PERSON

This year we are returning to Confirmation fully in-person. In order to provide the highest quality experience for everyone, Small group, Large group, and Worship attendance will all be in-person. In line with the current NC policies, masks are highly encouraged for those not vaccinated, but not required. We will continue to closely monitor the pandemic and make changes if necessary.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class sessions are held on **Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45am**. Attending all class sessions is required. A Preliminary Schedule for the 2021-22 year is enclosed with this mailing. The Final Schedule for classes will be distributed at the Orientation Session on August 29, will be in your Student Booklet, and will be on Hope's website.

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

- Attend all scheduled Confirmation classes, the Fall Retreat, and special events. Contact Small Group Guide in case of absence for illness or emergency.
- Attend weekly worship services. Attendance will be tracked through Google Classroom
- Complete seven worship summary sheets per year (one for Advent, one for Lent, and five weekend services). Summaries should be turned into Small Group Guides. Discuss these summary sheets with your child and fill them out together.
- Complete all assigned Confirmation memory work. In the 2021-22 year, students are responsible for memorizing the Ten Commandments (and their meanings), Luther's explanation of Baptism, and a couple pre-selected Bible verses. All assignments will be tracked through Google Classroom.
- Additional Expectations:
 - Attend weekly and monthly Youth Ministry activities.
 - Create time at home to discuss lessons, worship summaries, and memory work with your child.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Confirmation at Hope is normally a two-year program, beginning in Grade 5 and concluding in Grade 6. The online registration is at www.hopelutheranwf.org/confirmation. Please register immediately. Also complete the 2021/2022 youth waiver by following the link on the website. Parents/guardians of older students should speak with DCE Steve McCarthy for program and registration details.

ORIENTATION

An important Orientation Session for all Confirmation students (first-year and second-year) and parents/guardians will be held on Sunday, August 29, 1:00-2:30 PM, in the Sanctuary. This meeting is mandatory for all Confirmation students and parents/guardians. Please make sure your calendar is clear for the Orientation Session.

CLASS MATERIALS

A Student Booklet with worksheets and supplementary materials will be provided for each student at the Orientation Session on August 29.

Each student should bring a Bible to every Confirmation class session. Any modern Bible translation will be appropriate, but we strongly encourage students to use the New International Version (NIV) or the English Standard Version (ESV). No King James Version (KJV), please. An ESV Teen Study Bible will be available for purchase (\$25) at the Orientation Session.

Confirmation students will be provided with a paper copy of Luther's Small Catechism for class and study use. A hard-cover version of the Small Catechism, with excellent supplementary materials, will be available for purchase (\$15) at the Orientation Session.

RETREAT

All Confirmation students (first-year and second-year) are expected to participate in the Confirmation Retreat at Camp Willow Springs, in Littleton, NC, September 10-12, 2021. This will be a perfect opportunity for our youth to establish and grow Christian friendships, and to get the year off to a fun start.

Camp Willow Springs has lots of great outdoor experiences for the kids to try, including swimming, a low ropes course, and a jumping pillow. Each cabin holds 22 people, is equipped with AC/heat and bathrooms, and will include at least two adult leaders from Hope.

Lead DCE Beth Agner, DCE's Steve McCarthy & Wesley Spottiswood, and other adults from Hope will be providing careful leadership of the Retreat participants at all times.

To reduce any possible anxiety for the Confirmation youth, please know that if your child would feel most comfortable picking out one friend to make sure he/she is bunking with, we would gladly arrange for this to happen. If your child doesn't know anyone yet, we highly encourage you to participate in summer youth group activities in order to make friends prior to the start of Confirmation.

The Retreat cost is \$130. If this is a financial hardship, do not hesitate to reach out to DCE Steve McCarthy directly, and he will work out a way to ensure all kids get to attend this amazing weekend.

Please register ASAP at www.hopelutheranwf.org/confirmation

CONFIRMATION DINNER & RECEPTION

Mark your calendars for the Confirmation dinner on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:00 PM. Each first-year Confirmand will volunteer to serve food at this event to the second-year students and parents.

QUESTIONS

Please call DCE Steve McCarthy in the church office (919-554-8109) if you have any questions about Hope's Confirmation Program. We are looking forward to helping your child grow in the Christian faith, and establish a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ!