



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

10792 N. County Road 210 E.

Seymour, Indiana 47274

July 25, 2025

Dear Parents of Confirmation Students:

This letter is to inform everyone about the upcoming year of confirmation. There aren't any real changes for the upcoming year, but we are continuing to create a little more connection between baptism and confirmation particularly in regard to baptismal sponsors and asking them to be a little more involved with the faith formation of the youth. Below are details for this year:

Confirmation Instruction & Retreat:

Class will be on Sunday nights once a month. Included with this letter is the list of who is in which class. One will meet from 5:00 – 6:15 PM and the other from 6:30 – 7:45 PM. The dates for this year are as follows:

- Sept. 14
- Oct. 5
- Jan. 11
- Feb. 13 {Note: this is not a Sunday—this is in conjunction with the Valentine Dinner and a Lock-In after the 'class'}
- March 8
- April 19

The plan is to have the retreat the first weekend in November (7-9). We will leave around 6:30 PM. {NOTE: the 7th is the same day as the Harvest Dinner}. I will need multiple adults to help with the retreat (chaperone and assist with meal preparation). Enclosed with this packet is a packing list and the medical release form. The cost of the retreat is \$25 to help defray costs.

Because a large amount of material will be covered during the retreat, it is mandatory. If something comes up or if someone is sick, there will be make up work to be completed (it will be a lot of reading and writing to answer questions—the make-up work will take substantial time to complete as it will cover around 8 hours of instruction.)

This year our focus for confirmation will be upon the New Testament.

If you aren't able to be in attendance for a class, we can set up a Zoom meet if that would work.

Baptismal Sponsors:

One of the goals of confirmation is faith formation. This is not just education or learning about ideas; rather it is about how we live out our faith in the world. In order to focus upon this; I am asking 2nd & 3rd year students to connect with an adult and have conversations about faith and life. Thus, I am requiring student to meet with one of their baptismal sponsors for this kind of a discussion. Included with this letter is more information about the questions and details that you can provide to the sponsor so that they know what to expect and what is asked of them. The youth are to video the answers to the questions. Please see the included instructions to submit videos. If you do not know who your sponsors are or if you do not have baptismal sponsors, talk to me and I can either find out who they are or can suggest people who are willing to have these conversations with confirmation students. Also, if your youth has not been baptized, talk with me. Included with this letter is a letter for sponsors which talks about these interviews and the questions.

Rev. Stephen Wood
Pastor

Trish Tangman
Director of Care Teams

Jamie Baker
*Youth and Family
Ministries*

Maddie Whiteside
*Youth and Family
Ministries*

Jennifer Duncan,
*Director of Borchers
Preschool*

Michelle Wood
Secretary

812-522-7364 Church
812-522-7484 Church
812-522-7484 Preschool

e-mail:
stpaul Lutheran@stpaul-borchers.org

Sunday
8:00 & 10:15 A.M.

Sunday School
9:00 A.M.

Confirmation Papers:

Everyone who is to be confirmed this year needs to choose a confirmation verse. I have included with this letter a document that has suggested confirmation verses. Because of asking you to spend time with your baptismal sponsors, I am changing the paper. Rather than an entire paper, I am asking for those being confirmed to write at least 2 sentences for each of the following questions:

1. What does confirmation mean to you?
2. How does your confirmation verse speak to you?
3. How have you experienced God in your life?

This is different than the interviews with baptismal sponsors. These are due prior at the last confirmation class.

Confirmation Stole:

On the last day of class (April 19), we will also be making confirmation stoles to be used during the Confirmation Service. We used the stoles the last couple of years rather than the confirmation banners. A stole is a symbol of being tied to Christ in all that we do. While most of us are more familiar with stoles with pastors—that is just one use of recognizing someone who has been identified by the church as a leader who is tied to Christ in their calling to lead and guide the people of God. The hope for these confirmation stoles is that it helps serve in a more tangible way that in confirmation we are publically acknowledging that we are tied or connected to Christ. We are affirming what God has done in baptism when our parents brought us to the font and now we are stating that we will seek to continue this journey now and throughout the rest of our lives. We have begun giving stoles to people at baptism and first communion to help tie all these event together as a part of our overall faith formation process. If you have already done a stole at first communion, you will need to bring it with you on this last day of class.

Confirmation Service:

The Rite of Confirmation will be on May 3, 2025. If this is a problem, please let me know as soon as you can. I will have more information as we get closer to the date. There will be one service on this day.

Good Friday Service:

For Good Friday this year (April 3), I am asking the Jr. High to assist with the service. We will be using a liturgy with a dramatic reading in parts that utilizes the seven last words of Jesus on the Cross. As it gets closer, we will figure out parts and have a couple of walk through practices.

Lock-In:

We have had lock-ins the last several years, the plan is to have one on Friday, February 13. This is the date for the Valentine's Diner. That night we will have the Valentine Diner, which will be followed by a time of confirmation instruction and then the Lock-In. More information and the exact times of activities will be available at a later date. We will do some kind of activity to begin before coming back to church for the night. I will need some adults to assist with this event.

Retreat Donations and Volunteers:

For the retreat we need parents to help chaperone. We will potentially need some transportation help. We also need donations of drinks, snacks and desserts. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

I look forward to the upcoming year of confirmation. If you have any questions about confirmation, please contact me.

In God's Radical Grace,



Stephen M. Wood

Please put medical release form along with \$25 fee in Pastor Steve's mailbox by Sunday, October 19 .

CONFIRMATION RETREAT MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

I/We, _____ as parent(s)
or guardians of _____ delegate my/our legal
authority to consent to healthcare on behalf of such child to St. Paul Lutheran Church
(Borchers). This delegation is to make decisions in good faith and in the best interest of my/
our child. This delegation is effective November 7-9, 2025.

Signature of Parent(s): _____ Date: _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Child's Name _____

Allergies _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Present Medications: _____

Any medical condition(s) physician should know about: _____

PACKING LIST FOR CONFIRMATION RETREAT

- Bible
- Medicine (if needed)
- Sleeping bag/twin sheets (bunk beds are in each cabin)
- Pillow
- Toiletry items
- Clothes appropriate for weather
- Shoes for hiking
- Extra pair of shoes
- Towel
- Washcloth
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen lotion
- Flashlight
- Water bottle

Items NOT to bring: knives, weapons, drugs, cigarettes

Other notes:

- cell service is not always very good
- snacks are discouraged as food in the cabins can be an invitation for animals to find ways into the cabins

Confirmation Class Lists

5:00 PM:

Abe

Caleb

Hadley

Henry E

Sam

Drake

Ben

Layne

Claire

Wyatt

6:30 PM

Liza

Becca

Presley

Leah

Zack

Brennen

Kayla

Henry F

Emmi F

Lila

Whitley

Some Suggested Confirmation Verses

Exodus 34:6

Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth

Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Psalms 37:5

Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

Psalms 108:3

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples,
And I will sing praises to You among the nations.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

Psalms 139:1-4

O Lord, You have searched me and known me.
[2] You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.
[3] You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
[4] Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

Psalms 139:7-10

Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
[8] If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
[9] If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
[10] Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Psalms 143:10

Teach me to do Your will,
For You are my God;
Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Isaiah 41:10

'Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
[20] teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:27-28

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; [28] and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Acts 1:8

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 16:3

Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 8:12

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 10:9

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 2:19-20

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, [20] having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

Colossians 1:10

so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Colossians 3:17

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, [15] and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

1 Peter 2:5

you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. [8] The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Revelation 2:10

'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Dear Baptismal sponsor,

As a part of our confirmation process, we are attempting to be intentional in connecting the youth to adults in a way that helps deepen spiritual formation. We are utilizing the youth's baptismal sponsors since there is already some type of connection and it ties in with the promises the sponsors made during the baptism where you were asked: 'do you promise to nurture this person in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?' We are asking you to help nurture the faith development of the youth and explore with them a little of what it means to be a confirmed member of the church. {NOTE: some youth do not have baptismal sponsors or are unable to be a part of this process, thus other adults have been asked to assist in this role—however for the sake of simplicity the material uses baptismal sponsors to include others that may not be a 'sponsor' but have been asked to partake in this faith formation role}

Below is information related to what we are asking and why:

Why use a process like this? Numerous studies have shown that the more trusted, caring adults a young adult has in his or her life above and beyond the parents, the better. This initiative is an attempt to help expand and deepen the youth's circle of trusted adults. The hope is that this will provide youth an opportunity to explore and make sense of their faith.

What do I need in order to accomplish this? We are not looking for a perfect person or a 'know-it-all' about faith. The reality is that youth need people who they can be honest with and are honest with them. Faith is not a one size fits all. Part of faith formation is hearing from others, their struggles and how they strive to live out their faith. The gifts that are needed can be captured in three words: available, authentic and affirming. Being available—making time (one of not the most precious resource we have). Authentic—be who you are and honest with the youth. Affirming—everybody needs and longs for others to affirm their life.

What are we asking you to do? During the youth's 2nd & 3rd year of confirmation, we are asking you to meet with the youth at least once a year for a time of discussion related to faith formation. There are different questions for the youth to ask you based upon if they are a 2nd or 3rd year confirmation student (since this is the first year, those who will be confirmed can if they choose to ask questions for both years—but not required). The student will video the conversation and send it directly to me. Also, by videoing it provides accountability that these conversations occurred.

My hope is that these conversations take in person, but may take place in a variety of ways (phone, skype, etc). Please feel free to expand in whatever way you may be comfortable (e.g. take the youth out for a meal and have the discussion, go for coffee (beverage) and talk, go someplace and hike and have the discussion. Be creative. Connect with the youth.

While, the focus is upon the youth asking you some questions, please engage in further discussions by asking them the same or similar questions. Allow the Spirit to guide the discussion. Sometimes tangents can be wonderful.

Questions for 2nd Year Confirmation Students:

1. *What is your favorite Bible verse or story? Why?*
2. *What is your favorite hymn, church song, or piece of music that reminds you of God? Why?*
3. *How do you experience Jesus in your daily life?*
4. *How do you feed your soul?*
5. *What does it mean to be a Christian?*

Questions for 3rd Year Confirmation Students:

1. *Describe a time when you felt personal close to Jesus?*
2. *What gifts do you think God has bestowed upon you? How do you use them?*
3. *For me, to be a follower of Christ means...*
4. *How do you serve God?*
5. *Talk about two people that have had a profound impact on your faith.*

Closing thoughts: Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this young person's life and help nurture their faith. The mission statement of the congregation is 'Walking in faith. Sowing Christ's love.' Throughout the confirmation process, I hope that the young adults will begin to understand how they are walking in faith and will seek to sow God's love in the world. This initiative will help them to see how others are doing this same thing and see in real, concrete ways others who are striving to follow Jesus and be the baptized, confirmed body of Christ in our community and in the world.

In some way, I also pray that this may be a beginning step to deeper relationships. Please be encouraged to understand what I am asking as the baseline, and feel free to continue to support and nurture this young adult in all kinds of ways and in particular their faith journey.

Any questions or if you would like additional resources related to conversations with youth or how to mentor youth, please reach out to me and I can provide those resources.

Again, thank you for your involvement with this young adult's faith formation process.

In God's Radical Grace,

Stephen M. Wood

Confirmation Video Submission Instructions

These instructions can also be found online at stpaul-borchers.org/youth under 'Confirmation Class'.

Record Your Video

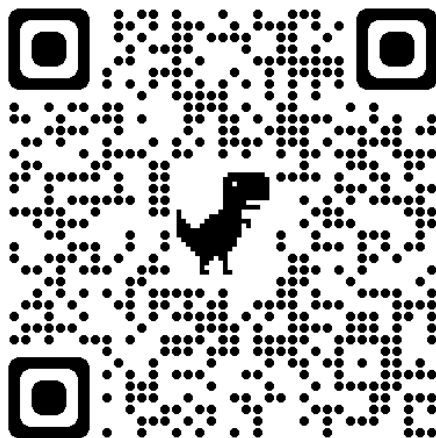
Videos can be horizontal or vertical, facing the student, adult or both. If participants do not wish to appear on video, simply point the camera to the ceiling or face down - the conversation is the important part, not your video production skills.

If you are conducting your interview long-distance, it is possible to record video using meeting programs, such as Zoom. Contact Jamie for assistance.

Fill Out the Google Form

It is suggested to fill out the form on the same device you used to record the video(s) for easy submission.

Please visit <https://forms.gle/CCZnr794CpzuUMAr9> OR scan the QR Code below to access the form.



You will fill out your name, confirmation class year, name of the adult interviewed and then choose the video you would like to submit. Click 'Submit' to finish.