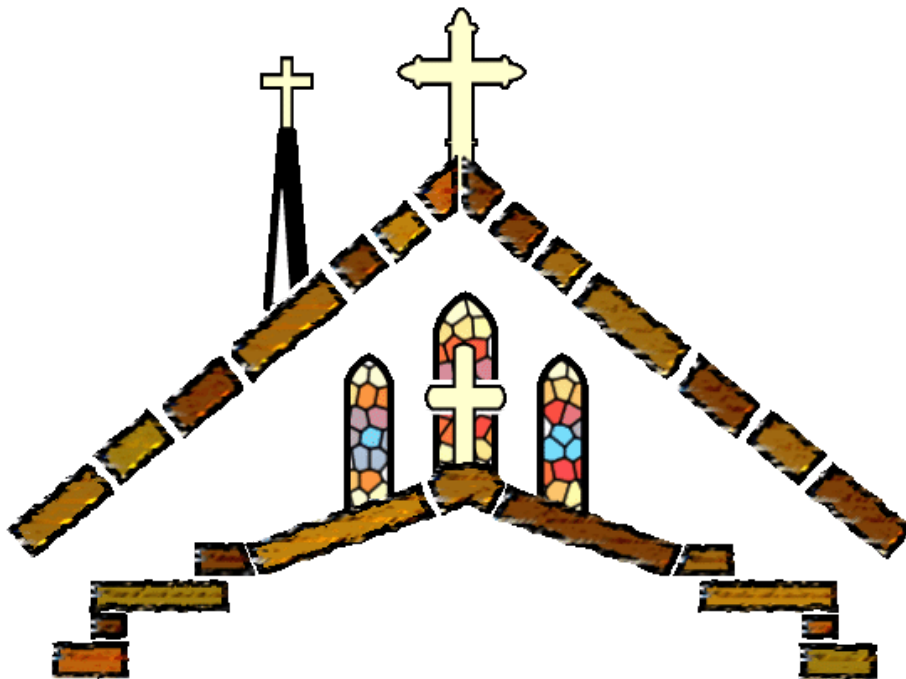




Bethlehem
Lutheran  Church

**CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK
2026-2027**



First Lutheran Church

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Welcome to Confirmation!

This handbook will walk you through the shared confirmation program at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Church. Traditionally, we start our program in 6th grade--but have students who start in 7th grade, 8th grade, or even high school. The curriculum is on a three year rotation-- Catechism, Bible, and World Religion. After the completion of three years, you will have the opportunity to participate in the Affirmation of Baptism.

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation, in most churches, refers to the Affirmation of Baptism, which many individuals choose to make upon completion of a confirmation program. For some individuals being "confirmed" is the goal of confirmation. Our goal is to walk through the promises made in baptism so that you are prepared to either affirm your baptism or not.

These are the questions asked and promises made by your parents, sponsors, and congregation when you are baptized:

*As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities
to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Holy Baptism)*

These are the questions asked of you in the Affirmation of Baptism (aka: confirmation):

*Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Affirmation of Baptism)*

We believe that God loves you--regardless of what you choose at the end of the program.

To help you grow in faith and make the right decision for you. Our program includes lessons, service work, relationship building, and fellowship events. When you register for the confirmation program, the responsibilities and expectations are not optional. Arrangements can be made based on individual circumstances, but we require and expect the cooperation and support of students and families

Families make confirmation successful by participating at home and in every aspect of the ministry. Family members can attend class, adults may be involved in leading small group events. Parents are involved and committed to their child's faith development and in return receive the gift of their child... something unusual in our society today.

For the 2026-2027 school year, we will partner with our siblings in Christ across town at First Evangelical Lutheran Church (aka: First Lutheran). We will alternate classes between Bethlehem and First. We will share our teachers (Deacon Korra at First, Pastor Katie at Bethlehem) and we will share food and faith, too. ***It will be important to check the schedule to make sure you're going to the right church for class!***

THREE YEAR CURRICULUM CYCLE

YEAR A: Catechism

(2028/2029)

The Ten Commandments, Creed, Baptism, Communion, Lord's Prayer, Sacraments

YEAR B: Bible

(2026/2027)

Old and New Testament Scriptures

YEAR C: World Religion

(2027/2028)

Christianity, Lutheranism, and World Religions

MATERIALS

(Provided by BLC)

The Lutheran Study Bible (NRSV)

Pencil/Pen and Highlighter

Notebook

Home Devotions

CLASS FORMAT

1. Table Conversation: Lunch will be had with small groups at tables. One person at each table will lead their table in sharing Highs and Lows.
2. Information Dump: We will learn about the scheduled topic. Various sources will be utilized, ranging from the Bible to Sparkhouse to the Brick Testament to the Bible Project to real, live people.
3. Processing: We will unpack what we learn through conversation and activities.
4. Prayer: We will return to our original table groups to discuss prayers for the week.
5. Blessing: We will send each other out with words of blessing, love and affirmation.

Note: Home Devos will sometimes be sent home with each youth. Those devotions are a small-scale version of what we do in class and are meant to help youth and families connect class content at home.

Responsibilities

STUDENTS

- Follow the Greatest Commandment and the “one like it.” If you don’t know what that means--Google it! It’s your first assignment!
- Attend classes, Small Group Events, Family Sundays, and other confirmation activities.
- Practice “Home Devos” with your family.
- Share lows and highs, theme discussions and prayer with your small group.
- Come to Confirmation events with a positive attitude.
- Respect your family, other students, leaders, mentors and yourself.
- Bring Bible, Lutheran Handbook, highlighter, pencil, notebook to every class.
- Participate in two service projects each year. After each service project, complete a service project form and place it in the ‘Completed Confirmation Notes’ box.
- If absent from a class, be sure to let your leader know. They will give you the home devotion and any other important updates from class.
- Complete 12 worship notes each year. Have notes signed by a parent/guardian and place in the ‘Completed Confirmation Notes’ folder.
- Attend worship at least once per month, if you are worshipping online or at another church please have your parent/guardian/sponsor inform the pastor.
- Attend Advent and Lent Midweek Services. If you cannot attend in person, please attend online and have your parent/guardian/sponsor inform the pastor.
- Volunteer in worship as one of the following at last six times per year: acolyte, usher, greeter, assisting minister, AV (requires training), nursery attendant (requires training).
- Participate in scheduled Youth Sundays.
- Select an adult mentor by October 31. Meet with your mentor quarterly and 5 times during Lent. (If you had a mentor last year, continue with the same one).
- Retreats and campus: prayerfully consider attending retreat October 2-4 and camp in June. We recommend that students attend at least one fall retreat in their 3 year confirmation experience.
- In the fall after your 3rd year, you will: select a personal Bible verse, write a short statement of your faith, identify your future ministry in the church, and meet with the pastor or deacon before the Affirmation of Baptism. Affirmation of Baptism is usually scheduled on Reformation Sunday at a Bethlehem and ----- at First.

PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/SPONSORS

- Volunteer as a classroom helper. Each time we host we need a volunteer to be an extra adult in the room. Sign up with Pastor Katie or Deacon Korra.
- Consider partnering with another family to supply and serve lunch. Each time we host, we are responsible for serving the meal.
- Lead--or support your youth in leading--the "Home Devos" for 15 minutes of family devotions, lows & highs, reconciliation, prayer and blessing.
- Worship with your family and participate regularly in congregational learning, service, fellowship and/or music opportunities.
- Encourage and support your child's attendance at, and participate with them, at classes, Worship, Family Sundays, Retreats, Lock-ins and other church activities.
- Participate in at least one family service project and help your child complete and turn in the service project forms.
- Review and discuss with your child their responsibilities for and participation in small group events, worship notes, service projects, retreats, as acolyte and other activities related to the Confirmation ministry.
- Bring your child to the church 15 minutes prior to the start of worship when he/she is scheduled to assist in worship.
- If your child is absent from a class, remind them to let their leader know. They will be given the home devotion and any other important updates from class.
- Support and affirm all the volunteers at learning, fellowship and service projects.
- Seek support in the nurturing of your child's faith development when necessary.
- Pray for this ministry and your involvement in it. Be an example of Christ in the world.

LEADERS

- Prepare with prayer and devotion, accepting the responsibility placed before you.
- Attend activities (such as: classes, worship, Family Sundays, retreats, lock-ins) as needed.
- Value each student and respect the diversity of each individual in their emotional/physical development, their faith journey and their backgrounds. Do not assume or assess, but remain open-hearted.
- Present the best ministry possible to actively involve adolescents and their parents, encouraging families in communicating and sharing faith in their daily lives, challenging them, uplifting them, and motivating them. Keep in mind that teaching and learning is constantly evolving.
- Seek support when needed.
- Model faithful behavior by worshiping and serving with families. Greet and acknowledge confirmands and their families.

- Meet and get to know the parents/guardians of the confirmands.

MINISTRY FORMAT AND SCHEDULE

Confirmation classes happen on the 2nd and 4th Sundays during the program year (September through May) unless otherwise noted.

During the summer, occasional events take place, check your email and the calendar for opportunities.

11:45-1:45 pm is class time! Classes are generally scheduled the second and fourth Sundays of the month. You are expected to attend worship regularly (Sundays at 8 am or 10:15 am at BLC; Sunday at 9:30 am or 5:30 p.m. Saturday at First).

During Advent, we shift our focus to preparing for Christmas. You are expected to participate in extra worship services and activities (ex/annual meeting, anniversary celebration, Longest Night Service, Living Nativity, Ryssby Candlelight Service). If this is an issue for your family, please speak with Pastor Katie or Deacon Korra.

During Lent, we emphasize **Faith Mentoring** ministry. You will select an adult mentor during the fall season. Mentor pairs attend the Wednesday evening services and meet during soup supper or after service. Attendance on Wednesday evenings as well as Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday is expected.

Camp is a summer opportunity we highly encourage all confirmation students to enjoy! 6th, 7th & 8th grade students are encouraged to attend one or both of our camps (Sky Ranch and Rainbow Trail). Mid-year, we will gather families together to coordinate dates, costs, scholarships, and transportation. Getting away for a week to spend time with God and each other in a beautiful setting creates memories that last a lifetime. We recommend that students attend summer camp at least once in their three year confirmation experience.

FAITH MENTORING

The Faith Mentoring ministry pairs individual confirmands with individual adults in the congregation in order to discuss faith and life issues and experience the Lenten journey together.

What is the purpose?

Faith mentoring is intended to:

- Expand each confirmand's circle of trusted adults in the congregation who will care about them and listen to them.
- Enable each confirmand to learn and see how another adult (besides one's parents) lives out the Christian faith.
- Offer each confirmand a personalized learning opportunity during the period of Lent.
- Involve broader adult participation in the Confirmation journey and the lives of youth.

How does it work?

Confirmands should ask an adult to be their faith mentor by October 31 and provide the name, address and phone number of their mentor to the pastor (pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net) or Deacon (korra.looschen@firstluth.org).

Mentors will need to have a current background check on file or be willing to have a background check. The mentors and youth will meet with the pastor before Ash Wednesday to receive materials for Lent discussions and ask any questions. Then, 5 times during the Lenten season, each confirmand/mentor pair will meet for a discussion on faith and life issues. Mentor pairings meet before/after the Wednesday Lent worship service or at another mutually agreeable time. Meetings must be compliant with the Safe Haven Policy.

Mentors may commit to a youth for all 3 years (and beyond) or for the current school year. **This year, we are asking mentors to begin in the Fall and attend a special confirmation class (as they are able) with students quarterly. Dates will be shared when mentors begin.**

Who can be a Mentor?

Each confirmand is free to choose any adult to be their faith mentor who is:

1. an active member of BLC, First Lutheran, or other Christian congregation;
2. at least 18 years of age;
3. not their parent or relative;
4. someone they see as a good example of a Christian life style;
5. someone with whom they will feel comfortable having "guided discussions" with; and
6. someone who consents to be their faith mentor.

Ideas for mentors: the parent of someone in your small group, a former Sunday School teacher, your baptismal sponsor, a friend of your family, a neighbor, a congregation member etc. If you need help finding a mentor please talk to Pastor Katie or Deacon Korra before October 1.

WORSHIP NOTES

Each student is expected to complete 12 worship notes during each Confirmation year. Worship Note forms will be placed in the folder on the Youth Board in the hallway. After completing the form and having a parent sign it, students place the form in the 'Completed Confirmation folder.

Attendance, worship notes, worship volunteering, and service projects are tracked. It is the student and family's responsibility to get the required forms turned in and insure that they stay on track for completion.

WORSHIP NOTES

use back side of paper if needed

Name _____ Date _____ Grade _____

Parent Signature _____

Church Day (ex/ 4th Sunday after Easter)

What color are the paraments today? _____

Readings (book, chapter & verses) _____

Share something special about worship today (a baptism, a guest, your favorite song, etc.) _____

What are the readings and sermon about today?

How does this apply to your life or the world today?

Did you volunteer in worship today? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, what did you do?

Worship Volunteer Opportunities for Confirmands at Bethlehem

Usher: Set up for service, bulletins, offering, and communion.

Contact: Sabrina Lee

8:00 am _____ 10:15 am _____

Advent/Lent Evening Prayer _____

Altar Guild: Prepare and clean up Communion. 1 Credit per 3 times assisting.

Contact: Greg Schumann

8:00 am _____ 10:15 am _____

Acolyte: Light the candles before worship and extinguish candles after worship.

Contact: _____

8:00 am _____ 10:15 am _____

Assisting Minister: Read scripture during service. Contact: Sabrina Lee

8:00 am _____ 10:15 am _____

Nursery Assistant: Contact: Sue Smith

Music Ministry: Choir, Vocal Solo/Small Group.

Contact: Pastor Katie or Betty Rasmussen or Ray Leake

AV/Tech: Assist in running the sound board, livestream, and setup/clean up.

Before/During/After worship. Contact: Matt James

Word for Kids and/or Preaching: You may choose to work with Pastor Katie on writing and give a sermon or a children's sermon. If you do this, it may be two service (8 and 10:15 am) commitment. Because of the extra work, it would count as two of your worship volunteer times.

Worship Volunteer Opportunities for Confirmands at First Lutheran

Usher: Set up for service and hand out bulletins.

Contact: Holly Keenan

Saturday 5:00 pm _____

Sunday 9:30 a.m. _____

Advent/Lent Evening Service _____

Reader: Read the lessons in Sunday worship.

Contact: Maria Sutton

Communion Set-Up: Prepare and clean up for Communion.

Contact: Milenda Powers

Acolyte: Light the candles before worship and extinguish candles after worship.

Contact: Deacon Korra

Assisting Minister: Read scripture during service.

Contact: Deacon Korra or Pastor Stephanie

Nursery Assistant: Help care for and play with children in the nursery.

Contact: Leigh Harkin

Music Ministry: Choir, Vocal Solo/Small Group.

Contact: Sally Campbell

AV/Tech: Assist in running the sound board, livestream, and setup/clean up.
Before/During/After worship.

Contact: Milenda Powers

Children's Message and/or Preaching: You may choose to work with Pastor Garrett or Deacon Korra on writing and give a sermon or a children's sermon. If you write a sermon, because of the extra work, it would count as two of your worship volunteer times.

SERVICE PROJECT NOTES

Each student will participate in **two service projects** during each Confirmation year. Samples of service projects you might participate in are on the following pages.

Service projects do NOT have to be church sponsored – community service projects, events, or any other way that your family serves together are very appropriate. You don't have to add another activity to complete this requirement, use something you already do! Complete a "Service Project Notes" form following the activity to process, review and think about how God was present. If you need ideas please contact Pastor Katie or Deacon Korra. It is the student's responsibility to get forms turned in and ensure that they stay on track for completing the required number of events.

<u>Service Project Notes</u>	
Name _____	Date _____ Grade _____
Parent Signature _____	
Service Project _____	Location _____
What did you do? _____	
How was this event fulfilling? _____	
What did you learn during this event ? _____	
Who is impacted by your service? _____	
Would you do this event again? _____ Why? _____	
Where did you see God or feel God's presence before, during or after this event?	

Service Project Ideas at Bethlehem

(These as well as other projects inside or outside of church may be approved by pastor/deacon.)

Property Team: Do miscellaneous repair and cleaning jobs around church.
Contact: Glenn Summers

God's Work. Our Hands.: Contact: Cathy Goodman

Little Free Pantry: Contact: Sue Smith

VBS Crew leader: Contact: Jaime Updegraff

Sunday School Helper: Contact: Jaime Updegraff

Assisting with other events: serving meals and cleaning up (not for youth fundraisers!), helping at events like National Night Out, serving at funeral receptions and services, helping a neighbor with yard work, shoveling sidewalks (for free), filling bags for Annie and Millie's Place, etc. Watch your bulletin for announcements and contact leaders, or ask Pastor Katie for more information.

Service Project Ideas at First Lutheran:

God's Work. Our Hands. Contact, Maria Sutton

Mowing the church lawn-Contact, Maria Sutton

Sunday morning Nursery Helper Contact Nursery Attendant, Leigh Harkin

VBS Crew Leader-Contact Deacon Korra

Sunday School Shepherd Contact Dorothea Ekx

Helping with Soup Suppers during Lent: Contact, Maria Sutton

Hydration Station at Longmont Pride Festival: Contact Stephanie Nieuwlandt

Hydration Station at Juneteenth Celebration: Contact Stephanie Nieuwlandt

Hydration Station at Boulder County Fair: Contact Stephanie Nieuwlandt

Little Free Panty: Contact Holly Keenan

Ryssby Candlelight Service: Contact Deacon Korra

Easter Egg Hunt Contact Deacon Korra or Stephanie Nieuwlandt

Easter Breakfast and other Church Meals Marilyn Treharne

Leaf Raking: Contact Stephanie Nieuwlandt

Spring/Fall Clean Up Contact Stephanie Nieuwlandt

Ryssby MidSummer Service Contact Deacon Korra

(Other projects inside or outside of church may be approved by pastor/deacon.)

Confirmation/Ministry Calendar 2026-2027

Unless noted, class time is 11:45 am - 1:45 pm

August 23 - Confirmation Kick-Off - First Lutheran

Sept 13 - GWOH - participate at home churches

Sept 27 - BLC - Genesis

Oct 2-4 - Confirmation Camp Option - Coyote Howl at Sky Ranch

\$135 youth, \$90 adult

Oct 11 - First

Oct 25 - BLC

Nov 8 - First

Nov 22 - BLC

No Confirmation in December

Jan 10 - First

Jan 24 - BLC

Feb 14 - NO CLASS

Feb 28 - First

Mar 14 - BLC

Mar 29 - NO CLASS EASTER

April 11 - First

April 25 - BLC