

**Confirmation Program
Trinity Lutheran Church
Zion Lutheran Church**

**Taken (and Modified) from
Trinity Lutheran Church Proposal (Rev. Mike Martine)
May 5, 2004—Approved by Christian Education Committee
Further modified August 2011**

Rationale

For the past seven years, Trinity has utilized a confirmation program developed by Pastors Mike Martine (Trinity), Stan Combs (Zion Lutheran, York) and Janyce Jorgensen (Zion, York). The program involves Sunday morning instruction, projects, retreats and participation in congregational life.

What follows is a description of the program and expectations of Confirmands. Originally, this program included assignments called "Home Studies;" however, several years ago we moved this portion of the program into the Sunday School curriculum. This was in response to the difficulty many families experienced in completing the home studies.

In 2011-2012, the onus of instruction for confirmation will be in the following four areas (**please note there is one major change from last year**):

1. Sunday School (formerly Home Study)

The basics of confirmation are covered by students in Sunday School through 15 units (per year) that have been written by the pastoral team. These units will cover Luther's Small Catechism as well as related Holy Scripture. (The catechism gives instruction on the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Communion, Baptism, and Confession.)

This work will focus on the historical "roots" of confirmation, acquainting the students with Lutheran theology and tradition. (Which, as was Martin Luther's aim, is simple instruction in the Christian faith.)

A record is kept at Trinity Place (where Sunday School for 7th and 8th graders is held) on attendance and completion of these units. If a young person is unable to attend a day of Sunday School and misses one of these units, they will be asked (with parents) to review the material via the church website (www.trinitymtjoy.org).

When not using the materials composed by the pastors of Trinity and Zion, our confirmands will be studying from the new Lutheran "re:Form" curriculum. This is also confirmation based study, and includes videos and a workbook the confirmands will keep. (This program is very popular with our youth.)

2. Quarterly Gatherings

Confirmands will participate in four gatherings that will be shared events of Trinity and Zion. While these are not be full-fledged "retreats," the idea is that 4 to 6 hours of instruction/activity would occur.

Quarterly Gatherings over the two year period will focus on: Bible Literacy, The Church Year, Sacraments, Church History, Spirituality/Devotional Life, Living the Faith (Stewardship, Evangelism, Service), the ELCA (synodical and congregational structure), and other topics deemed important by the pastors.

As not all Confirmands will be able to attend each gathering, a "make up" assignment, covering the same material, will be available.

3. Supper with Pastor (approximately 4x per year)

The purpose of this time is to invite confirmands to engage in conversation with the pastor(s) concerning materials being studied. This will be an excellent opportunity for interaction on questions that arise through Sunday School, as well as a time for fellowship

and building a relationship with the pastor. In addition to answering questions, the pastor will also bring topics for discussion.

Supper will be held Wednesday nights before Youth Group, and will be a "Bring Your Own" event.

4. Sermon Notes

It came to our attention last year that some of our confirmands are not attending worship. The importance of worship cannot be understated as the church is called primarily to worship and service.

To encourage attendance, we are requiring confirmands complete "sermon notes" using a form provided for this purpose. (A box for the completed notes will be in the back of the church.)

Each confirmand will be asked to complete notes on 8 sermons. (This means less than attendance at one service per month!) Any sermon given at church (holy week, Christmas, weddings) is acceptable.

In addition to these venues for learning, the following items continue to be utilized in the process:

10 Hour Service Project (to church or community)

Youth Group Participation

Worship Leadership (acolyte, powerpoint, usher, reader, etc.)

Youth Group and Sunday School Participation both are considered part of the confirmation process. Sunday School is now even more important as much of confirmation will be completed there. Attendance will be taken at Sunday School and confirmands are expected to attend.

Instructional Hour Breakdown

The current proposal will provide for approximately 120 hours of specific confirmation instruction over a two-year period.

Activity	Hours (2 year period)
Sunday School	60 (approx)
Quarterly Gatherings	48
Supper w/Pastor	12
Worship Participation	08
Committee Visitation	03
Service Project	<u>10</u>
Total	141 Hours

Conclusion

I hope that this program will address the needs of our youth and benefit families as well. Please make every attempt to attend the orientation session. I look forward to your questions and input! mm