



Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Confirmation Handbook
2011 - 2012



HERE
WE
STAND

Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up
nourishment from Him, so you will grow in faith, strong and
vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives
overflow with thanksgiving for all He has done.

~ Colossians 2:7 [NLT]

Here We Stand is the curriculum we will use throughout the Confirmation process. All leaders, Confirmants and their families will be set up so you may access Here We Stand content.

There Here We Stand website is: [http:// bethelmanassas.herewestandconfirmation.org](http://bethelmanassas.herewestandconfirmation.org).

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OVERVIEW

Confirmation is a two-year process of learning about God through the Scriptures and through Luther's Small Catechism. The *goal* of this process is to give our youth a firm foundation in the faith and a model for the Christian life.

Confirmation usually takes place during the 7th and 8th grade years (youth beginning after 7th grade may participate in consultation with the pastor). It is important to understand that Confirmation is *optional*. Lutherans do not consider Confirmation to be a sacrament, but rather a time when young people take on the responsibility of being adult Christians. This is why Confirmation classes are not offered during the regular Sunday School hour as an assumed part of the curriculum.

Confirmation is also a *commitment*. It requires that parents, youth, mentors, and pastors dedicate time and energy toward this activity. As described in the "requirements" section, the intent of the requirements is to encourage good habits in the areas of worship, education, fellowship and service.

CURRICULUM

Bethel's Confirmation program is a two-year program using the Here We Stand curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. Confirmation Classes meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30p – 8:00p according to the schedule below. A light supper will be served at 6:00p.

6:00p – 6:30p	Meal (not a required part of the class)
6:30p – 7:15p	Large Group Teaching Presentation
7:15p – 7:45p	Small Group (about 8 youth with a mentor)
7:45p – 8:00p	Closing

The Wednesday Confirmation Classes focus on Luther's Small Catechism for both years. In year 1, we study the Ten Commandments and Apostles Creed. In year 2, we study the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

An important element of Confirmation is the 7th and 8th grade Sunday School program. These classes will also use the Here We Stand curriculum, but will focus on the Old Testament (7th grade) and New Testament (8th grade).

USING THE WEBSITE

All families are encouraged to register on the Here We Stand website:

<http://bethelmanassas/herewestandconfirmation.org>. This site will help us manage communicate and calendars.

REQUIREMENTS

Requirements are designed to match the goals of the program. Simply put – the *goal* is to give our youth a firm foundation in the faith and a model for Christian life.

The core of our Lutheran theology is that we are justified by God’s grace through faith as a gift. Jesus also calls us to be His disciples – to follow Him and commit our lives to following Christ. We follow not out of obligation, but living out of God’s grace. Christians grow as Jesus’ disciples as they (1) worship, (2) continue their life-long education, (3) serve their neighbors, and (4) have fun together (fellowship). These four areas represent the foundations of our Confirmation requirements: worship, education, service and fellowship.

We understand that there may be reasons certain requirements cannot be met. If you know this to be the case, speak with the pastor early so that accommodations can be made.

REQUIRED

- 75% attendance in Sunday School (25 classes) per year
- 80% attendance in Confirmation Class (13 classes) per year
- Attend at least one Confirmation Camp
- 20 service hours per year (preferably service at Bethel or through Bethel ministries. See page 4 for examples.)
- 10 sermon summaries per year
- Serve as acolyte/crucifer as scheduled
- For those being confirmed:
 - Face-to-face meeting with the pastor before Confirmation Sunday (usually the end of April or beginning of May)
 - Develop faith statement with Bible verse

ENCOURAGED

- Participate in fellowship events
- Participate in service activities
- Attend Shekinah Retreat in March
- Family rituals. Take time each day to share highs and lows for the day, pray together, and share a blessing.
- Choir and other musical offerings

TRACKING REQUIREMENTS

- Turn in reports monthly to the Service Coordinator

SCHEDULE

CLASS SESSIONS

Class #	Date	Description
	Sept 18 @ 6:30pm	Confirmation Orientation (parents & confirmands)
1	Sept 21	Confirmation Introduction Lutheran Worship Practices Sermon Notes Acolyte & Crucifer Training
2	Sept 28	Lord's Prayer: The Greatest Prayer
3	Oct 5	Lord's Prayer: Father in Heaven
	Oct 9	Ministry Fair during Sunday School
4	Oct 12	Lord's Prayer: A Holy Name
5	Oct 19 [status reports]	Lord's Prayer: The Kingdom
6	Oct 26	Lord's Prayer: The Divine Will
7	Nov 2	Lord's Prayer: Give Us This Day
8	Nov 9	Lord's Prayer: Forgiveness
9	Nov 16	Lord's Prayer: Temptation and Trial
	Sat, Dec 24 5p, 7p, 9p, & 11p	Christmas Eve Services
10	Jan 4	Lord's Prayer: Deliverance
11	Jan 11	The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
12	Jan 18	Word with Water
13	Jan 25 [status reports]	The Sacrament of Holy Communion
14	Feb 1	Take & Eat
15	Feb 8	Law & Gospel – Saint & Sinner
16	Feb 15	Christian Denominations
	Feb 22 (Ash Wednesday)	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
	Mar 16-18, 2012	Shekinah Retreat
	Apr 5 7:15p	Maundy Thursday
	Apr 6 7:15p	Good Friday
	Apr 9 6a, 8a, 9:30a & 11a	Easter Sunday
	Sun – Fri, Jun 24-29, 2012	Confirmation Camp
	Sat, Oct 27, 2012	Confirmation Rehearsal & Banquet
	Oct 28, 2012	Confirmation Sunday

EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

Confirmation Banquet. We celebrate those making their Confirmation. Those completing their second year of Confirmation and their families are the honored guests. Those completing their first year of Confirmation and their families plan, serve, and clean-up.

Confirmation Camp. A week-long camp sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod. This year, the camp will be held Sunday – Friday, June 26 – July 1. The curriculum alternates between an Old Testament year (focusing on the Exodus) and a New Testament year (focusing on the Life of Christ). Participation in at least one of the two years is required. More information will be available at <http://metrodc.youthgroupstuff.com/confirmation>.

Shekinah. A weekend retreat for junior high youth of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, the camp will be held this year the weekend of March 16 – 18, 2012. This retreat is not required, but is highly recommended. More information will be available at <http://metrodc.youthgroupstuff.com/jrhigh>.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

These will be planned and announced.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Specific opportunities will be announced. We have several new ministry teams that will have information about service projects. These teams are divided into HERE (how we serve within this congregation), NEAR (how we serve in our community), and FAR (how we serve beyond our community). Below are a few ideas:

Nursery	SERVE
Advent decorating	Help the Homeless Walkathon
Lighting luminaries	Un-Trim-A-Tree
Church clean-up days	Yard work
VBS	Shoveling snow

COSTS

	Amount	Bethel Subsidy*	Cost to you
Confirmation Materials Fee (one time)	\$40.00		\$40.00
Shekinah	\$100.00		\$100.00
Confirmation Camp	\$320.00	75.00	\$245.00

At any time, if cost will determine whether your Confirmand will participate, please speak with the pastor.

EXPLANATION OF COSTS

Confirmation Materials Fee. Each student’s family is asked to contribute a \$40.00 materials fee. This fee helps defray the cost of our curriculum, books used for the class (each student receives a study Bible and the Lutheran Handbook), and incidentals for meals such as paper products, drinks and the occasional meal for which no family volunteered to prepare. Checks may be made payable to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church with “confirmation materials fee” in the memo line.

* **Bethel Subsidies.** Subsidies will be discussed as a part of this year’s budget process.

ROLES

Confirmation relies heavily on volunteers who help coordinate the program and people who support the coordinators. This year, we need 7 coordinators and at least 6 small group leaders as described below:

Acolyte & Crucifer Coordinator. (1 person)

- Creates and maintains the acolyte and crucifer schedule for both 8:00a and 11:00a worship services
- Mails schedule to families and Church Office every three or four months
- Notifies Confirmation Coordinator of changes in contact information

Confirmation Banquet Coordinator. (1 person) Parent of first year Confirmand.

- Families with their Confirmands are honored on the eve of their Confirmation day, served banquet-style by the first year students and their families
- Coordinates slide show
- Coordinates publicity including sending invitations to Mission Council and Confirmation families

Confirmation Coordinators. (2 people) A parent representative from each of the 7th and 8th grade classes responsible for...

- Promoting communication with Confirmation families, coordinators, small group leaders and pastor
- Assisting the pastor with planning and anticipating the needs of the class
- Serving as a resource to families
- Notifying Church Office of changes in contact information
- This role requires a two-year commitment as it is vital to maintaining consistency

Fellowship Coordinator. (1 person)

- Looks for opportunities for the group to build relationships
- Responsible for either serving as advisors for Shekinah Retreat (Metro DC Synod retreat for 7th and 8th graders) or recruiting another suitable sponsor
 - One same-gender adult advisor is required for every 7 youth of each gender
 - Adult advisors must submit to the Synod's required background check
 - Adults participate in all aspects of the retreat, perhaps serving as a small group facilitator

Meal Coordinator. (1 person)

- Creates and maintains the schedule for each Confirmation family to provide and assist with the Wednesday meals
- Is available at each class to help parents find their way around the kitchen, get out paper products, placemats, drinks, etc.
- Order pizza (out of Confirmation fees budget) for weeks when no one is signed up

Service Coordinator. (1 person)

- Keeps track of individual Confirmation students' service points received monthly
- Promotes and encourages youth and parents
- Coordinates opportunities for service projects and publicize. Includes contacting SERVE, Habitat for Humanity, or other organizations
- Contacts Peggy Schilpp of the Shepherding Team for a list of elderly members who may appreciate help with any:
 - Vacuuming, straightening up, and other odd jobs around the house
 - Raking leaves or doing yard work
 - Shoveling snow
- Coordinates opportunities for service projects and publicizes

Small Group Leader. (Approximately 6 people)

- Leads a group of less than 10 youth in learning from the provided Bible study worksheet (20 – 30 minutes) during the Wednesday night Confirmation class with materials received in advance (pastor can be a resource for questions and ideas)
- Facilitates small group check-in and prayer
- Commits to weekly Wednesday evenings
- Considers creative ways to get the meaning across (i.e. field trips, games, food, etc)

Photographer. (One or more people)

- Takes pictures throughout the year
- Assembles pictures taken by others throughout the year

OTHER INFORMATION

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, we will follow Prince William County Schools closures. More information can be found at <http://www.pwcs.edu/admin/closingpolicies.html>.

Any changes to the confirmation schedule due to weather will be sent via e-mail to the class using the e-mail addresses provided. *If you prefer another form of communication, please speak with Pastor Jeff.*

ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER SCHEDULING

Scheduling is managed by the Acolyte/Crucifer Coordinator (see Coordinators). Sign-up sheets will be made available for regular Sunday services as well as special services like Christmas and Holy Week. Please let the Coordinator know what Sundays you prefer as well as those Sundays you will not be able to attend. The Coordinator will try to honor as many requests as possible, but assignments may need to be made.

Once the schedule is published, it is the Acolyte or Crucifer's responsibility to find a replacement and notify the Church Office. **Once a new schedule is published, check it against your family calendar for family, school and sports events.**

CONTACTS

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office (Debbie Mullinax)	703-368-3943	BethelLutheran@comcast.net
Bethel Facebook Page	www.Facebook.com/BethelManassas	
Bethel Facebook Confirmation Group		

TEACHERS & SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Pr. Jeff Wilson <i>Confirmation Teacher</i>	703-582-2846 (c)	pastorwilson@comcast.net
Elizabeth Burnside <i>Director of Youth & Family Ministries</i>	703-338-9717	elizabeth@bethelmanassas.org
Denise Cantwell <i>7th & 8th Grade Sunday School</i>		
Janet Wilkens <i>7th & 8th Grade Sunday School</i>		
Jennifer Lowe <i>Small Group Leader</i>		
Stephen Martin <i>Small Group Leader</i>		
Debbie Donahue <i>Small Group Leader</i>		
- <i>Small Group Leader</i>		
- <i>Small Group Leader</i>		
- <i>Small Group Leader</i>		

COORDINATORS

Acolyte/Crucifer Coordinator	Caroline Wilson
Confirmation Banquet Coordinator	-
Confirmation Coordinator – 1 st Year	Cindy Martin
Confirmation Coordinator – 2 nd Year	Debbie Donahue
Fellowship	Christine Noll
Meal Coordinator	Kathryn Orta
Service Coordinator	Lisa Dickson
Photographer(s)	-