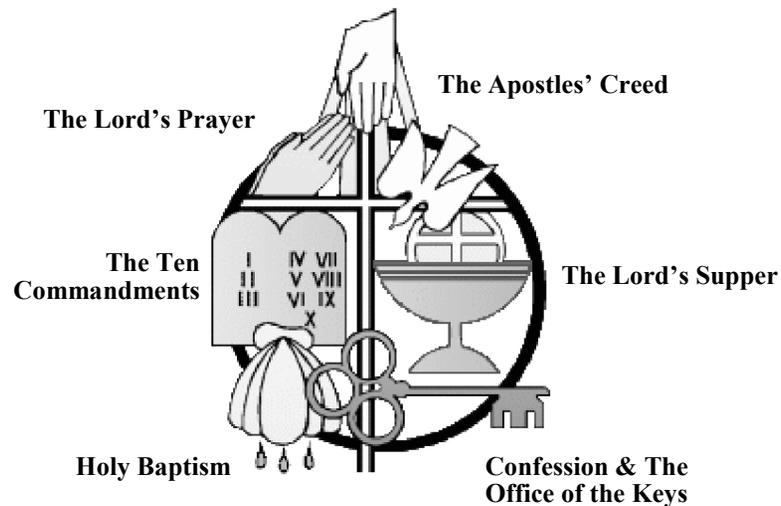
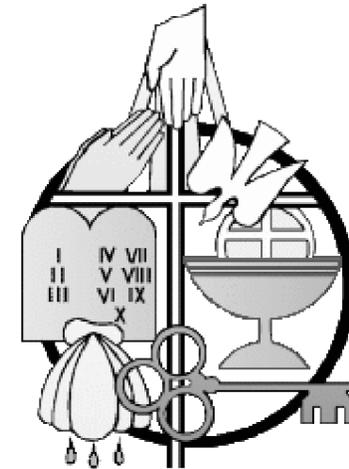


# The Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine

“As the head of the family should teach it  
in a simple way to his household.”  
— Dr. Martin Luther  
(From his introduction to his Small Catechism)



# Confirmation Manual



## Confirmation Requirements and Guidelines

[To aid parents in teaching their children]

The format for this program of confirmation instruction was developed  
in 1995 by Rev. F. A. Bischoff and the congregation's Board of Elders.  
“*Soli Deo Gloria!*”  
(To God alone be the glory!)

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Waterford, Wisconsin**



## Phone Numbers

### Pastor

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### NOTES:



At St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church we believe that confirmation instruction is one of the most important experiences a young person can have. What a privilege it is to learn the marvelous truths that God shares with us.

During the rite of Confirmation it is our joy and honor to declare that the young people who stand before them have been taught the Holy Scriptures, are fully aware of their sins, and are assured of the complete forgiveness purchased for them by the precious blood of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Being fully instructed in the teachings of the Bible and The Small Catechism, these young people are now able to examine themselves and are prepared to partake of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

It is my prayer that the young people who embark on this program of confirmation acquire more than cold facts and empty words. I pray that they learn to know that Jesus is their personal Savior from sin and their constant Companion in life.

To this end may the Holy Spirit lead our young people and their parents into an ever deeper understanding of what living as Jesus' disciple is all about. May He equip them with wisdom and a love for His Word. And may He instill in confirmands and parents alike a deep regard for the seriousness of this course of instruction.

God bless their learning and growing in faith.

Pastor

# THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

The rationale for our confirmation program is simple. It is Bible-based, not only in content, but also in format. It recognizes the Biblical truth that passing down to our children the teachings of Scripture is most properly the parents' (especially the father's) task. The church's task is to support the parents. The following Bible passages are most appropriate here:

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.... [C]arefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him— " **Deuteronomy 11:18-22**

Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments" **Psalms 78:1, 3-7**

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." **Ephesians 6:4**

From these passages it is clear that the religious education and training of each child rests with that child's parents, particularly the father. The church stands ready to assist parents in this great task, but would never presume to rob parents of either the responsibility or the joy of teaching their own children.

3. **Class Visitation Policy:** Parents are invited and encouraged to sit in on their child's class at any time.

## Conclusion

This confirmation program may be very different from what most parents remember about their own confirmation experiences, in that direct parental involvement is expected. It has been necessary to rethink confirmation instruction. The diversity of children (abilities, attitudes, and needs) has changed over the years. The attitude of many parents has also changed. We have gotten away from our Biblical roots, where the family home was the real *classroom* for a child's religious education. Some parents have given away the *responsibility* and the *joy* of teaching their children. In doing so, parents have lost the closeness that comes from spending time (especially spiritual time) with their children. Children don't know the joy of learning from their parents, and parents don't know the joy of learning for themselves as they prepare to teach their children.

We believe that involving parents more fully points to a much better way. We hope and pray that you feel the same way too.

6. **Sunday School Attendance:** Sometimes young people in our confirmation program feel they're *too old* for Sunday School. Nothing could be further from the truth. No one is too old. Catechesis—studying God's Word—is not something that we *graduate* from. Sunday School, Teen Bible Class, Adult Bible Class, and private home study and devotions should be a part of our lives for as long as we live. Parents are also encouraged to attend Bible Class during the Sunday School hour.

*[24 Sunday School classes must be attended to pass the class.]*

7. **Presentation Paper:** Near the end of Confirmation II, each student is asked to write a paper about a particular part of their instruction that was special to them. It could be a paper about Baptism, or Holy Communion, or the work of the Holy Spirit, etc. This paper must be presented orally to our pastors, parents, relatives, and Elders at a special program a few days prior to Confirmation Sunday. Pastor will be giving more details on this paper during the second year of Confirmation.

8. **Acolyting and Altar Guild:** Each young person in the program will be assigned several Sundays throughout the year to light candles for worship services. A schedule, including procedures and instructions, will be given before the first assigned date. Acolytes are also required to assist the Altar Guild with the clean up of Holy Communion following the service and to assist with ushering duties, if needed.

*Note: In several places in this section the phrase “to pass the class” appears. This means that if the stated requirements are not met the entire year must be repeated.*

### **Other Items**

1. **Notification of Progress:** Pastor will keep in close contact with parents concerning their child's progress. Parents are encouraged to also share any questions or concerns they have with Pastor. Minimum requirements to pass each class, as they are spelled out throughout this booklet, were drawn up the Board of Elders. Any requests for special consideration or any appeals regarding these requirements can be brought to a Board of Elders meeting by a parent. Please contact an Elder about the procedure for making such a request.

2. **Weather Related Cancellations:** If Fox River Middle School cancels class or has an early dismissal due to inclement weather, confirmation classes will also be canceled that evening.

With this Biblical background in mind, outlined now is the confirmation program for St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

### **A Two Year Program With Options**

Confirmation is a two year program. The first year is called ***Confirmation I*** and the second year is called ***Confirmation II***. Parents have three options about when to start their child in the program.

- **Option #1:** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (invitation only)
- **Option #2:** 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (invitation only)
- **Option #3:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

The two years must be completed consecutively once the child has started. In other words, they cannot attend ***Confirmation I*** in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and then wait two years and take ***Confirmation II*** in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **What Is Expected Of Confirmands**

Number of classes held: about 28 (per year). Yearly requirements for Confirmation:

1. Regular attendance at *worship services*.
2. Attending all *classes*.
3. Successfully completing about 25 *sermon studies*.
4. Successfully learning by heart all *memory work*.
5. Successfully completing all *quizzes*.
6. Regular *Sunday School* attendance.
7. Final *presentation paper*.
8. *Acolyting* and *Altar Guild* responsibilities.

### **What Is Expected Of Parents**

1. At least one parent is required to attend about a 15 minute session with Pastor each Monday (6:00 - 6:15ish PM). In this *parent session* Pastor will share with you the material he will cover with your child that night. Parents must be in attendance even if their child is not there that night (due to illness, etc.). In this way parents will be prepared either to reinforce what was taught or to actually do the primary teaching of the lesson (if their child was absent). Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child does not fall behind.

2. Parents are expected to work with their child during the week, using the helps provided at each Monday's *parent session*. They are to see to it that all work is done to the best of their child's ability and that their child meets all of the requirements.
3. Parents are expected to have their child make-up each quiz and memory work assignment that is not passed.

### Class Structure and Schedule

Class will meet each Monday at 6:00 PM. Both classes meet together. One parent will also be required to be in attendance for the first part of each class as explained previously. Confirmands will not be in the room for this *parent session*. They can use this time to review and prepare for the night's quiz and memory work. They may also use this time to orally recite memory work. Each Monday's class schedule will look like this:

#### **6:00 - 6:15 PM: Parents' Session**

Parents will receive their child's returned sermon studies.

Pastor will explain what he will be teaching to their child that night so that parents will know, in detail, what is being covered.

Parents will receive lesson summaries and the coming week's assignment so that they can reinforce the lesson their child has been taught. Homework assignments are given directly to parents, not confirmands, so that parents can see to it that the work is completed.

**6:15 - 7:15 PM:** Session with Confirmands

**6:15 - 6:30 PM:** Quiz and Memory Work taken and graded.

**6:30 - 7:15 PM:** Teaching session led by the pastor. This will cover the material shared with the parents earlier that evening.

### Notes About Requirements

1. **Worship Attendance:** It goes without saying that confirmands are expected to be in worship every Sunday, and on holidays. Faithful worship attendance is expected of us by our heavenly Father. Public worship is a part of our lives as His people. Confirmation prepares a young person for a life of worship, both now and in the life to come. On Confirmation Day each Confirmand promises to remain faithful in Word and Sacrament. That faithfulness must begin now.

2. **Classes:** All classes must be attended. On weeks where a confirmand is absent from class due to sickness, etc., the parent who was in attendance at the *parent session* must teach the lesson to their child and arrange for their child to make up missed quizzes, etc. *[No more than three absences are allowed in order to pass the class. Two absences by parents on Monday evening (regardless of whether or not their child was in attendance) will require a review by the Board of Elders.]*

3. **25 Sermon Studies:** A sermon study is a one-page (standard lined paper) report on our pastor's sermon from the previous Sunday. Do not attempt to simply write down everything that was preached. Rather, write down the things that you thought were important -- the main points, how God's Word in the sermon applies to our lives, etc. Sermon studies do two things: (1) They teach the confirmand how to listen carefully and think through what they hear, and (2) they help our pastor by letting him know when a sermon message came through strong and clear and when it didn't. During the time between Confirmation I and II the confirmand is also required to write 8 additional sermon studies. *[Approximately 45 different sermons will be preached from September through April, including Lent, Holidays, etc. 25 sermon studies must be handed in to pass the class.]*

4. **Recitation:** Confirmands will be required to learn Bible passages or sections of the Small Catechism by heart for each Lesson. They may recite it orally or may write out their memory work as a part of the quiz they take during each class. If they do not successfully complete the memory assignment, they must retry until they have learned it by heart.

5. **Quizzes:** At each session confirmands will take a brief quiz. These questions, which will be true/false, multiple choice, or short answer, will test their understanding of the Lesson they learned the previous Monday. *[All quizzes must be taken. A passing grade of 80% is necessary for each quiz. If a quiz is not passed with at least 80%, it must be retaken until an 80% grade is achieved to pass the class.]*