

**FIRST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
BARRON, WI**



**Confirmation Handbook
2008 - 2009**

First Lutheran's Confirmation ministry will provide a Christian learning environment which affirms our Lutheran heritage and doctrine; provides experiences of worship, fellowship, and service; and fosters the development of relationships between youth, pastors, and other members of the congregation.

www.firstlutheran-barron.org/confirmation

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome! If this is your first year in the program, welcome to confirmation ministry. If you are returning for your second or third year, welcome back.

We are excited about the upcoming year.

S.W.Y.G. is back for its seventh year. That stands for Second Wednesday Youth Group. On the second Wednesday of each month, there will be no regularly scheduled classes so that we can have youth group activities. SWYG will include dinner, a worship experience, and a fun activity.

We have had a great time with SWYG and hope to continue the excitement this year. SWYGs are good events for you to invite your friends who go to another church or may not go to any church at all.

Be sure to read through this handbook and the sheets that will be distributed at the orientation session. They explain the requirements of our confirmation ministry program and how the various pieces fit together.

While it may be possible to finish the course work in two years, our program remains a three-year ministry. Worship attendance and leadership, SWYG, service projects, and retreats all have much to offer to our young people, and we require three years of involvement.

Each year we fine tune our confirmation ministry. If you have suggestions or want to be involved more actively, please talk to us.

The Confirmation Ministry Committee

Robin Hanson
Pastor Bruce Beyer
Tamy Severude
Becky Knutson

Bonnie Hilbert
Patrice Akenson
Pastor Lisa Shank
Tammie Mosentine

Learning Experiences

Before being confirmed, each student is required to complete 12 learning experiences. Seven of those experiences will be **core requirements** and will cover the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. The other five classes will be **electives**. Electives cover a wide variety of topics. Students get to pick their own elective experiences from those offered.



CORE REQUIREMENTS

These courses are 4 to 6 weeks long and may include homework, memorization, projects and/or writing

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Apostles Creed
- The Sacraments
- The Ten Commandments
- Lord's Prayer
- Worship

ELECTIVES

These courses vary in length, are experiential in nature, and have limited or no work outside class. Following are the electives that are being offered this year:

- Death and Dying
- Banners by Betty & Kolleen
- Teen Issues
- Good Samaritanism: First Aid and Faith
- Harry Potter & the Holy Spirit
- Christian Conservation
- Stained Glass
- Your Neighbors' Shoes

Note: other electives may be offered during the year. Listen for details.

In order for students to successfully complete confirmation in three years, they must average four learning experiences per year. Five electives is the minimum requirement. If a student wishes to take additional electives, that is encouraged. Each school year is divided into five sessions. *Students must attend a minimum of 2/3 of the classes as well as complete all course work in order to complete each class.*

Congregational Involvement

The primary method of expressing one's faith is through active participation in a congregation. Since confirming the faith of someone requires evidence of that faith, involvement in the life of our congregation is required of each confirmand. At First Lutheran, we have set the minimum requirements listed below.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

The central activity of the congregation is to gather for worship. To be an active member of any congregation, one must gather regularly with the community for worship. We fully expect our confirmands to attend worship regularly. We also hope and pray that the entire family is attending with the confirmand.

To track this, **each confirmand is required to complete 18 worship reports during the year.** This does not mean to imply that attendance at 18 worship services is all that are necessary for a Christian. It is simply the minimum number we have set in order for confirmands to show us that they are actively participating in the worship life of the congregation.



Worship reports are available in the back of the sanctuary and should be picked up before each service.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

One of the primary ways in which confirmation students can be active in the life of First Lutheran is by being involved in the youth ministry of the congregation. Confirmands are required to participate in these activities. Again, requirements are simply a minimum. Additional participation is encouraged. Youth activities and the requirements surrounding them are shown below.

S.W.Y.G. (Second Wednesday Youth Group)

On the *second Wednesday of each month*, the a youth group gathering will take place instead of confirmation classes. It will include a short exciting worship experience, a meal and a fun and exciting activity.



Take a SWYG of God!

Normal starting time for SWYG is 5:30. **All confirmation students are required to be at SWYG** even if they are not currently enrolled in a class. All parents are expected to sign up at least once during the year to help serve the meal and/or assist with the activity. A SWYG schedule can be found at the end of this handbook.

SWYG sessions will run from 5:30 - 7:00pm. On March 11th and April 8th SWYG will be from 4:00pm - 6:15pm. Because of the 6:15pm Lenten Service.

Retreats & Lock Ins

Retreats offer unique experiences in which young people grow in faith through fellowship, discussion, food and fun. Each student is required to attend a retreat each year. The four opportunities for the 2008-2009 school year are:

November 7-8	Luther Park Recharge
December 5-6	Luther Park Recharge
January 9-10	Luther Park Recharge
April 24-25	Telemark Youth Gathering

There will be no lock-in at church this year. Because of the money saved, First Lutheran will be paying the entire registration fee for the Luther Park Recharges and at least one half of the Telemark expenses.

CHURCH CAMP First Lutheran Church has been a member of the Luther Park Camp Association for many years. Support and use of this camp is very important to the congregation. Many adults in the congregation point to camp as a key time in their faith development. ***Confirmands are required to attend a week of camp at least once during their time in confirmation.***



The congregation is committed to making this a reality and thus has pledged to pay \$150 towards the fees for any of its youth attending camp for a week long program. For other programs, First will pay 1/2 the fees. Additional financial assistance is available should it be needed.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION

All members of the Church are responsible for leading worship. Confirmation students are also expected to be part of this leadership and are ***required to sign up to be part of at least one of these groups:***

Ushers Lectors Greeters

All the students will be required to take turns serving as acolytes. Students will acolyte 5 times during the year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Confirmation students are expected to continue as active participants in Sunday School. Again this year Bill Koser will be teaching the Middle School Sunday School class. Over the years our students have enjoyed being students of this interesting and caring man.

Service Opportunities

Part of being a Christian is to serve others. We do that in many ways as a congregation and as individuals. A very important component of our confirmation program is to provide opportunities for our young people to be actively involved in service.



Service Projects

Service Projects will be incorporated within SWYG activities. In addition, there are opportunities to serve the congregation that confirmation students and their families have been involved in for many years. We continue this tradition.

Lenten Meals – For many years, confirmands and their families have put on the Wednesday evening meals during Lent. This valuable service project will continue.

Turkey Dinner – Youth help serve the annual congregational turkey dinner. A sizeable amount of the money raised at this dinner is then put into the youth account for youth activities.

Highway/Yard Cleanup – In past years, First Lutheran has cleaned the roadside on Hwy TT or we have done yard clean up for Senior Members of our congregation.

Summary of Requirements

Learning Experiences

12 required during 3 years

CORE REQUIREMENTS

ALL REQUIRED

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Apostles Creed
- The Sacraments
- Ten Commandments
- Lord's Prayer
- Worship

ELECTIVES

5 REQUIRED

- Death and Dying
- Banners by Betty & Kolleen
- Teen Issues
- Good Samaritanism: First Aid and Faith
- Harry Potter & the Holy Spirit
- Christian Conservation
- Stained Glass
- Your Neighbors' Shoes

Congregation Involvement

Worship Attendance – 18 worship reports during the year

Acolyte - participate 5 or more times during the year.

Worship Leadership – participate in at least one of the following: ushers, greeters, lectors, Vacation Bible School helpers, Sunday School helpers.

Sunday School – active participation expected

Youth Activities - attend SWYG's

- participate in at least 1 retreat yearly

Confirmation Camp – attend at least once during 3 years

Service Opportunities

Turkey Dinner – sign up to serve, set up, or clean up

Lenten Meals – help put on one Wednesday Lenten meal

Service Projects – participate in them during SWYG

Confirmation Schedule 2008-2009

August 27, 2008	Orientation/Registration
September 3, 2008	First Day of Classes - Session 1
September 10, 2008	SWYG, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
October 8, 2008	SWYG, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
October 15, 2008	End of Session 1
October 22, 2008	No Classes - Work at Turkey Dinner
October 29, 2008	First Day of Classes – Session 2
November 7-9, 2008	Luther Park Recharge
November 12, 2008	SWYG, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
December 5-6, 2008	Luther Park Recharge
December 10, 2008	SWYG, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
December 17, 2008	End of Session 2
December 24, 2008	Christmas Eve - No Classes
December 31, 2008	New Year's Eve - No Classes
January 7, 2009	First Day of Classes, Session 3
January 9-10, 2009	Luther Park Recharge
January 14, 2009	SWYG, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
February 4, 2009	End of Session 3
February 11, 2009	SWYG, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
February 25, 2009	First Day of Classes – Session 4
March 11, 2009	SWYG - Begins at 4:00pm
March 25, 2009	End Session 4
April 8, 2009	SWYG - Begins at 4:00pm
April 22, 2009	First Day of Classes – Session 5
April 24-25	Middle School Gathering
.....	@ Telemark
May 13, 2009	SWYG, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
May 27, 2009	End of Session 5

SWYG Schedule

September 10, 2008	5:30-7:00 p.m.
October 8, 2008	5:30-7:00 p.m.
November 12, 2008	5:30-7:00 p.m.
December 10, 2008	5:30-7:00 p.m.
January 14, 2009	5:30-7:00 p.m.
February 11, 2009	5:30-7:00 p.m.
March 11, 2009*	4:00pm -
April 8, 2009*	4:00pm -
May 13, 2009	5:30-7:00 p.m.

*During Lent, activities will take place right after school and we will conclude by going to the Lenten meal and worship together.