



4 LaSalle Avenue, Barron, WI 54812  
*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America*

715-537-3575 · [www.firstlutheran-barron.org](http://www.firstlutheran-barron.org)  
[pastorron@firstlutheran-barron.org](mailto:pastorron@firstlutheran-barron.org)

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*LETTER TO STUDENTS*

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Confirmation is about claiming your own faith and owning what you believe. It is about affirming your baptism and the promises of Christ Jesus in your life. At the end of these years in confirmation, you will stand before the congregation and make these baptismal promises:

- 1) to live among God's faithful people,
- 2) to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
- 3) to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- 4) to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- 5) to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

We believe that these things are what Christians do as a joyful response to the Good News that Jesus died and rose again for our salvation.

Confirmation is about spending intentional time learning the basic, core, and fundamental beliefs of the Christian faith by asking a lot of questions and seeing how we live out our baptismal promises. Confirmation is not the end of religious instruction but the beginning of an adult life of faith in the Church. Experience has proven that little challenge results in little growth. Therefore, we approach Confirmation with a level of seriousness. Confirmation is a program of spiritual discipline (prayer, devotion, serving, worship, etc.). Below are the expectations of Confirmation which will help keep us on track and challenged to grow. They are designed to assist you in growing as a disciple so that by the end of the program you are able to confidently claim the faith you are being raised in as your own.

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## *LETTER TO PARENTS*

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Confirmation is about finding one's own voice of faith to express doubts and fears as well as affirmations and certainties. It is an opportunity to explore faith and learn why we do what we do as Christians and believe what we believe as Lutherans. This faith formation program is designed to teach the information of our faith, so that each student can learn how their faith shapes who they are. Culminating with Affirmation Worship, each Confirmand stands before God, their parents, and the congregation and claims boldly "this is my faith, and my faith alone" as they answer one pinnacle question: "What do you believe and why?"

In order for this to be possible we are reminded of one very important aspect of faith – it is caught, not taught. The lessons of Confirmation provide the information of what we believe and the language to express why. But faith is caught by children primarily through the actions of their parents. For example, children learn that prayer is important because you pray with them at meals and bedtime. They learn that worship is important because you bring them with you to worship services. They learn that being a part of church is important because they have seen you attend events, Bible Study, sat on committees, etc. When parents are involved with the life of the church and talk about faith at home, their children will come to understand their own faith better and what it means to truly trust in God. As Proverbs 22:6 says: "Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." This verse summarizes the promises you made to God when you brought your child to be baptized. Confirmation is the affirmation of that baptism, a rite of passage in our church where your child claims the faith which they were raised in as their own.

The goal and purpose of Confirmation will only be successful with your support and involvement. For this reason, we want to encourage parents to be engaged in the Confirmation program along with your children. Make Wednesday evening a faith talk night. During dinner (at church or home) ask them what topics were discussed, what they learned, how that applies to their faith, and perhaps most importantly take that opportunity to share your faith with them. Let them hear your faith story, the ways you have been challenged to grow, and why your faith makes a difference to you.

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*2025-26 SCHEDULE*

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We meet EVERY WEDNESDAY 3:30 until 5:00pm.

Confirmation (and all K-WoW) events are canceled if school is canceled or dismissed early.

**CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

- September 10<sup>th</sup> – first day
- November 26<sup>th</sup> – No program
- December 24<sup>th</sup> – No program
- December 31<sup>st</sup> – No program
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – No program
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Affirmation Sunday
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Last Day

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*PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS*

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Confirmation program is divided into 2 Semesters to encourage yearlong engagement.

- Semester 1 runs September thru December
- Semester 2 runs January thru May

**KWOW Worship:**

- KWOW Wednesday worship will be held 4:30 to 5:00 for all youth, but is also open to anyone who would like to participate. It is typically held on the second Wednesday of each month, but not always due to schedules.
- Service schedule for first semester:
  - o Sept 10<sup>th</sup>
  - o Oct 15<sup>th</sup>
  - o Nov 12<sup>th</sup>
  - o Dec 10<sup>th</sup>
- Students will participate in leading this service in a variety of ways: “On Fire For God” praise band, readings, prayers, PPT operator, etc.

**Sunday Worship:**

- Students will take a leadership role in Sunday worship ONCE A MONTH.
- Students are encouraged to participate in our monthly Youth Led Service. But if unable to do so, they can volunteer for any regular Sunday service as a reader, Usher/Greeter, or communion server.

**Sermon Notes:**

- Students will complete 2 sermon notes a month.

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*COMMUNICATION*

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Our primary means of communication will be via the email address you provided us on your child's liability forms. We will contact students directly via their school email addresses. When we do, you will receive a copy of any email we send to your child to the address you provide us. We may also send text messages to parents, not to children, with pertinent information – such as in the rare event we need to cancel a meeting, even though the school kept in session.

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*ABSENCES*

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Confirmation is a program that requires a high level of commitment that is also run with a high degree of grace. It is expected that all students attend AND participate in every event, but also understanding that life circumstances happen. **If a student needs to miss, please contact the church office in advance** to let us know. Because most students walk to FLC after school, if a child does not arrive by 3:45, a parent will be called to ensure that the child is home and safe. Office phone (leave message): 715-537-3575. Email: Office@FirstLutheran-Barron.org.

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*LUTHER PARK: Recharge Retreat Weekend*

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Confirmands will be attending the Recharge weekend at **Luther Park October 24-25**. The congregation supports this opportunity by paying half of the total cost. Total cost is \$80 per youth, so families are asked to contribute \$40 and FLC will pay the other \$40. Adult chaperones are needed for every six youth. FLC will cover their costs. Please talk to Pastor Ron if you would like to chaperone. Scholarships are available if needed.

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*CHRIST JAM: Area Synod Youth Gathering*

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Christ Jam is our Northwest Synod Middle School Youth Gathering. The date for this year's event is TBD. This is a daylong event filled with worship, music, workshops, and games. Details will be sent out when we get them.

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*LUTHER PARK: summer Bible camp*

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Confirmants are encouraged to attend Bible camp at least one time. But they can certainly attend all four years! FLC provides camperships of 50% up to \$250 for every child to attend camp. We will also have a couple fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Date of camp is TBD.

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*Gathering Expedition – Faith In Motion*

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Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to attend!

Gathering Expedition is a regional weekend retreat held at Lutherdale Camp in Elckhorn, WI for 8th-12th grade youth and the adults who walk alongside them. Designed with volunteer leaders in mind, these experiences create sacred space to step away from everyday life and dive into questions of faith, purpose, identity and calling.

It's camp-style community meets the heart of the ELCA Youth Gathering — reimagined in a way that's local, accessible and deeply meaningful. Gathering Expedition is thoughtfully designed by the ELCA Youth Ministry and Gathering teams.

Cost is \$175 and registration is due by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>.

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*8th GRADE CAPSTONE*

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8<sup>th</sup> Grade Capstone is where we put it all together and prepare our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to affirm their faith. During this time 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will complete two primary tasks: Faith Statements and Faith Testimonies. The details will be sent in January as we prepare for the Capstone Retreat.