

Participation Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Sept. 14 & 18	
Blessing of the Backpacks	
Sept. 25	6 th Grade
Event Topic: Apostles' Creed	
Oct. 19	Pre K
Event Topic: Worship	
Oct. 30	3 rd Grade
Event Topic: Books of the Bible	
Nov. 13	4 th Grade
Event Topic: Ten Commandments	
Jan. 8	1-2 year olds
2 nd Service and lunch	
Event Topic: Baby Steps Baptismal Reunion	
Jan. 29	Kindergarten
Event Topic: Family Prayer	
Feb. 12	1 st Grade
Event Topic: Lord's Prayer	
March 4	7 th Grade
Event Topic: Read Book of Mark	
March 25	3 Yr. olds
Event Topic: Prayer	
April 5	5 th Grade
Maundy Thursday Service	
Event Topic: Seder Meal	
April 15	2 nd Grade
Event Topic: Baptism	

Each event includes a worship component, a get-to-know-you activity, a hands-on activity related to the topic, a discussion led by a staff person, and a follow up.

Summary

Confirmation is a developmental process. Faith Stepping Stones promotes a special event/project for each year starting from baptism continuing through 7th grade. Parental & Faith Family involvement is emphasized.



FAITH STEPPING STONES

“Your words are a flashlight to light the path ahead of me, and keep me from stumbling.”
Psalm 119:105

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Beginnings

Confirmation is an educational and pastoral ministry of our church, designed to help all baptized members grow in their faith.

Confirmation begins at baptism and lasts a lifetime.

Acknowledging the concept that confirmation is a developmental process “Faith Stepping Stones” (FSS) promotes a special event/project for each year starting from baptism and continuing through 7th grade (formal confirmation classes begin in 8th grade).

One of the goals of Faith Stepping Stones is to establish an ongoing relationship with confirmation participants, their parents and faith family. Another important goal is to encourage relationships between families within our congregation. Grandparents and others significant to the faith family are invited to attend Faith Stepping Stones events.



Parent's Role

Parents are the single most important role models and communicators in a child's life. Faith is passed on in the home.

The church's role is to be a partner with families and provide faith tools.

Children learn best when they learn from their parents. We seek to make the confirmation program an extension of the baptism service and the pledge we made as parents.

Faith Development

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God. In Ephesians 2:8 RSV, St. Paul wrote that faith comes from hearing the Word, the message of God's love in Jesus Christ. We tell the story of God's love so that faith can grow and take root in our lives.

Faith in Action

Here are some ways the confirmation process nurtures development of faith at Hope Lutheran: Worship attendance and participation, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Music Groups, Periodic Special Events for Various Age Groups, Presentation of Bibles to Youth, First Communion Instruction, Bible Camp, Formal Confirmation Classes for 8th, 9th and 10th graders, Youth Retreats and more! Faith Stepping Stones events/projects are an addition to this list.

Questions & Answers

- 1. When does confirmation begin?**
Confirmation is a ministry, which begins with baptism and includes a youth's entire relationship with the church.
- 2. How long does confirmation ministry last?**
Confirmation is a life long process. However, . . . there are some “bench marks” along the way that mark certain events.
- 3. What is the basic course of study?**
In confirmation special attention is given to the Bible, Martin Luther's Small Catechism, the Lutheran Church, worship, faith and how these relate to God's world.
- 4. What is required of each student?**
What Hope Lutheran provides is an educational opportunity for faith-in-life development. Should anyone decide not to participate in this opportunity that is his or her choice.
- 5. What if a student enters the program late?**
Students are asked to enroll with their own grade. Should they enter mid-stream, a pastor is willing to schedule meeting times to bring the student up to speed.