

JANUARY 2023

Lesson 2 - Confirmation



OPENING ACTIVITY

True or False

I know the exact location of my catechism book.

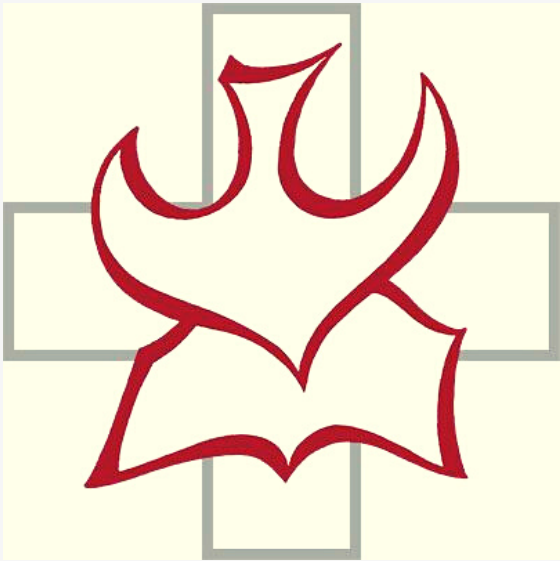
List as many of the 6 chief parts of the catechism as you can (if you don't know what the "chief parts" are...guess!)

The importance of confirmation does not lie in the rite itself. The focus must always be on the means of grace...The ceremony stresses the importance of Christian instruction and continuing in God's Word. It points to the glorious gift our Savior gives us in his Supper. It reminds us that he gives us his very body and blood to assure us of his forgiveness and to strengthen our faith. Confirmation is meaningless if viewed apart from the instruction in God's truth given in preparation for the rite. This instruction imparts the basic teachings of Christianity and provides the knowledge necessary for growth toward Christian maturity. Catechism class lays a foundation upon which the Christian will build for a lifetime (FIC)

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Biblical Mandate

>



What is the difference between
PRESCRIPTION and DESCRIPTION



Psalm 78:1-8

Proverbs 22:6

2 Timothy 3:14-16

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Matthew 10:32

Romans 10:10-17

1 Corinthians 11:25, 28

Acts 8:14-17

Ephesians 4:11-16

Acts 19:6-7

Aspects of Confirmation
DESCRIBED in these passages:

History of Confirmation

In the early Christian Church, confirmation was part of the rite of Baptism. After candidates were baptized Easter Eve, they were "confirmed" with chrism, prayers, the sign of the cross, and the laying on of hands-- then, Easter morning, they were allowed to make their 1st communion. A remnant of this early practice survived in Luther's [Taufbüchlein](#); it is found in the current post-baptismal prayer in which God is implored to strengthen, i. e., confirm, the child "with his grace to life everlasting."

With the increased number of infant baptisms, Baptism and confirmation became distinct and separate rites. Because of this separation the idea gradually emerged in medieval times that confirmation was a complement to Baptism. At first the rite was greatly to be desired because it gave a Christian the added gift of the Holy Spirit; later it was deemed necessary for salvation (in the RCC).

Already in the 12th century Hugh of St. Victor referred to confirmation as the 2nd sacrament. Confirmation was made part of the RCC sacramental system by the Council of Florence in 1439; it was said to bestow grace and a "certain spiritual and indelible sign" necessary for salvation, equal in power to all other sacraments. In March 1547 the Council of Trent cemented the RCC doctrine and anathematized (damned) the Lutheran view of confirmation.

What is the Lutheran View of Confirmation?

Before reading the definition below, try to come up with at least 3 bullet points you would emphasize if you were writing a definition:

-
-
-

AGREE or DISAGREE

It would be better to call confirmation an "affirmation of Baptism" to remove any questions about our ability to decide to be Christians.

Confirmation is a public rite of the Church preceded by a period of instruction designed to help baptized Christians identify with the life and mission of the Christian community. Note: Prior to admission to the Supper, it is necessary to be instructed in the Christian faith (1 Cor. 11:28). The rite of confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God's promise given in Holy Baptism, to make a personal public confession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ.

(An Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism)



The Small Catechism

WHEN?

FOR WHOM?

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SMALL
AND LARGE CATECHISMS?

Memory Work?!?

What is one bible passage
that you have memorized?

Why did you memorize it?

Why is it beneficial?

What is one of the parts of
the worship liturgy that you
have memorized?

Why did you memorize it?

Why is that beneficial for you?



Other than bible passages and parts of the worship liturgy, name two things
you have memorized, word for word. Why did you memorize it? How does
having that memorized benefit you?



Peter Lombard (Bishop of Paris 1159-1161)
The virtue ... of the sacrament [of Confirmation] is the gift of the Holy Spirit for strength, who is given in baptism for remission."

Whereas Baptism highlights one's **birth** into the body of Christ, Confirmation stresses **growth**.

True or False

Baptism is necessary for Salvation.

True or False

Confirmation is necessary for Salvation.

True or False

Confirmation is a graduation from Basic Bible Theology Class.



What are the parents' roles in their child's spiritual lives prior to confirmation?

What changes after confirmation?

Make a list of 4 things you can do right now for your children or grandchildren who are already confirmed:

What is the confirmand's role in their own spiritual life prior to confirmation?

What changes after confirmation?

What is the congregation's role in the child's spiritual life before and after confirmation?

What are some good confirmation gifts to give to a confirmand?

Name two things you could do with your catechism book after confirmation:



We should have confirmation on a case by case basis because some 4th graders are more spiritually mature than other 9th graders.

What problems could arise if we accepted this?

What is the point of a confirmation passage?

Agree or Disagree

The pastor should actually put his hand on the head of the confirmand—that's what they did in the bible!

Why do the confirmands put on white robes? What color should the paraments be on Confirmation Sunday?

Which is more important — the public examination or the confirmation service?

On the Sunday after confirmation students should:

- a. Commune together as a group
- b. Commune with their families

Who should you invite to the confirmation service?

Who benefits from the confirmation service?



My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul,

"I believed; therefore I have spoken."

You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

I now ask each of you:

Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshiping with you today?

[I am.](#)

Do you believe in God the Father?

[Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty...](#)

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

[Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord...](#)



Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit...

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

I do reject him.

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

I do.

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small

Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

I do.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God. Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your heart and strengthen you in every good deed and word. The Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, renew and increase in you the gift of the Holy Spirit for your strengthening in faith, your growth in grace, your patience in suffering, and for the blessed hope of eternal life.

The God of peace sanctify you through and through and keep you blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.