

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church Confirmation program

What is Confirmation?

Being confirmed does not make a person a member of the church. We become church members in baptism. Confirmation is not a graduation ceremony from Sunday School or from growing in faith. It is not a prerequisite for receiving Holy Communion. **The choice is up to each individual** as to whether or not they become a confirmed member. Confirmation is an opportunity for a Christian to affirm personally his or her commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and to do so with meaning and integrity.

To aid in this process Christ Hamilton has an intentional program of instruction in the Christian faith. This program seeks to develop the habits of active Christians in regards to regular: worship, study, and service to others. The requirements below are not difficult, but do require intentionality. We understand that students lead busy and active lives, but we are asking you to make this program a priority!

The program is designed to take three years. Students not fulfilling the requirements may require an additional year of confirmation. An informational meeting will be held in the beginning of each year for all parents and students to discuss the schedule and the requirements.

These requirements have been approved by the Church Council. **Please note, students will not be confirmed if they have not met the requirements below.** We ask that if any student has a learning disability that the parents inform the Pastor.

All written work should be placed in the pastor's mailbox in the church office. It will be reviewed, copies made for individual files and then returned to the youth room in a basket/bin for the students to take home.

Requirements of the program

Worship attendance: Since the catechetical years are designed to prepare young people to declare their commitment to Jesus Christ and His church, we expect that students will worship weekly. Students may attend worship in another congregation and this will count toward their attendance. They should bring back a bulletin from that service and place it along with their name and place it in the pastor's mailbox in the church office. Worship attendance should average 3 out of 4 Sundays per month from the beginning of September through the end of May. Summer attendance can be used to make up for missed attendance during the school year. ***Please remember to mark your attendance at the back of the church on the sign in sheet.***

Sunday School attendance: We expect that students will attend Sunday School on a weekly basis. Sunday School attendance should average 3 out of 4 Sundays per month while Sunday School is in session. Cell phones will not be allowed to be used during class unless discussed prior with the teacher or used with the lesson.

Sermon Summaries: In order to promote a better understanding of the worship service, students are required to complete 12 sermon summaries each year. These may be done entirely in the first year or spread out throughout the three year program. Students are invited to work on these sermon summaries with their families if they wish. Students may also watch the sermon again if needed on YouTube. These videos may be accessed from our website at www.chrighthamilton.org or from our Facebook page.

Retreat attendance: Fall and Spring lock-ins will be held for years 1 & 2. Attendance is mandatory. Those who are unable to attend will need to do make-up work as the pastor will lead a portion of catechetical instruction during these retreats.

Year 1 & 2 Retreats

2020-21 retreats:

Martin Luther and the Lutheran Church –
The Sacraments, The ELCA, and Christ Hamilton United Lutheran –

2021-2022 retreats:

Worship and the Church Year –
Reading the Bible – Old and New Testament –
The Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer –

Confirmands in the third year can make up retreats by attending first and second year educational retreats.

Service Event: Students are required to participate in **one service event** in three years which will be held during the summer. One year the service event will be the National Youth Gathering, one year the service event will be a regional trip, and one year will be a week of local service projects – (must attend four out of five days that week).

Service Hours: The confirmands are expected to be of service to the greater community. Each confirmand is expected to complete at least 20 hours of community service each year. Ten of these should be done within the life of the church community and ten in the greater community. There are many ways to serve our community each year through Christ Hamilton such as serving during congregational meals and events, volunteering for blood drives, spring & fall clean-up etc. Ten hours should be in the greater community.

Service to the church - Being an active part of the church means serving as Jesus served. Each student will be required to be involved assisting with worship services in some capacity they feel comfortable with: assisting minister, acolyte, choir member, usher, instrumentalist, altar guild or coffee hour co-host. Please contact Amanda at the church office and let her know how you would like to serve. Each student should serve a minimum of 12 times each year in this capacity.

Summer connections – Over the course of the program students are to remain active during the summer. One summer should be spent reading one of the Gospels of their choosing and writing journal reflections on what they have read and another summer should be utilized to fulfill the service event requirement.

Mentor program. During the third year of the program, the confirmands will participate in a mentoring program in which they will develop a relationship with an adult member of Christ Hamilton and meet monthly. The confirmands are invited to select their own mentor. Their mentor must be an active member of the church and who is outside of the confirmand's immediate family. This person **must be approved by the pastor** before the mentoring process begins. The confirmand should have selected this person **by the first mentor retreat**.

The Mentors and Confirmands will typically meet as a group three times throughout the year. Each month the mentor and confirmand are to meet and fill out the mentor/confirmand worksheet and place it in the pastor's mailbox in the church office.

Confirmation:

Essay. Students will be required just prior to confirmation to write a short essay indicating their understanding of the meaning of confirmation and how they intend to keep the promise made at confirmation "to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism" as found on the rite of Affirmation of Baptism on p. 198 of the green hymnal (Lutheran Book of Worship/LBW).

Confirmands are encouraged to keep a portfolio at home which includes all work for confirmation. Any paperwork submitted for confirmation will be copied and returned to them. A basket will be in their classroom returning their work. The office will have current updates available for each of the confirmation requirements. Please contact us regularly if you have any questions about your confirmands status in the program.

Decision for Confirmation

The service of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) takes place on Reformation Sunday after completion of the of student's third year. Prior to that time, the pastor, will review each student's record and make a recommendation to the Congregational Council regarding his or her confirmation.

Approved: 6/20