



June 19, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians of Second Year Confirmation Students,

We are eagerly looking forward to having your child participate in the second year of Hope's Confirmation Program. Classes, retreat, and special events will prepare students to personally affirm their baptismal faith, to receive Holy Communion, and to live as adult members of the church. These are crucial years for spiritual formation for the youth of our church, and we ask you to continue to make Confirmation a priority in your family.

Please read the enclosed "Information & Registration" sheet carefully, and let us know if you have any questions. Note especially these important highlights!

- Complete the online Confirmation Registration immediately
- Confirmation Sunday will be May 19, 2019 (2:30 PM).
- Youth and parents/guardians should plan to attend the Orientation Session August 22.
- Reserve September 21-23 for your child to participate in the Confirmation Retreat.

We are eagerly looking forward to exploring the Scriptures and growing in faith with your child over the next year!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Wayne Puls

Pastor Lew Upchurch

Lead DCE Beth Agner

DCE Steve McCarthy

DCE Wesley Spottiswood

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HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Information Sheet (Second Year) 2018-19

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

- Attend all scheduled Confirmation classes, retreats, and special events. Contact Small Group Guide in case of absence for illness or emergency.
- Attend weekly worship services. Attendance will be tracked through the blue pew pads found in the worship pews. Please use them every week.
- Complete seven worship summary sheets per year (one for Advent, one for Lent, and five weekend services). Summaries should be turned into Small Group Guides on: September 19, October 17, December 12, January 9, February 13, March 20, and April 10. Discuss these summary sheets with your child and fill them out together.
- Complete all assigned Confirmation memory work. In the 2018-19 year, students are responsible for memorizing the three articles of the Apostle's Creed (and their meanings), The Lord's Prayer and a few relevant bible verses. Dates for these memory assignments will be on the Final Calendar, which will be distributed at the Confirmation Orientation Session, will be in your Student Booklet, and will be on Hope's website.
- Complete the final Confirmation Essay, answering two assigned questions. Time during the year will be devoted to helping the students prepare to write their Essays.
- Additional Expectations:
 - Attend weekly Sunday School and Youth Ministry activities. Attendance will be tracked through sign-up sheets in the classroom.
 - Create time at home to discuss lessons, worship summaries, and memory work with your child.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

The online registration is online at www.hopelutheranwf.org, selecting "Ministries → Youth → 5-6 (Confirmation)." Please register immediately.

ORIENTATION

An important Orientation Session for all Confirmation students (first-year and second-year) and parents/guardians will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 6:30-8:00 PM, in the Sanctuary. This meeting is mandatory for all first-year and second-year Confirmation students and parents/guardians. Please make sure your calendar is clear for the Orientation Session.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class sessions are normally held from 6:30-7:30 PM on Wednesdays. Attending all class sessions is required. A Preliminary Schedule for the 2018-19 year is enclosed with this mailing. The Final Schedule for classes will be distributed at the Orientation Session on August 22, will be in your Student Booklet, and will be on the Hope website.

CLASS MATERIALS

A Student Booklet with worksheets and supplementary materials will be provided for each student at the Orientation Session on August 22.

Each student should bring a Bible to every Confirmation class session. Any modern Bible translation will be appropriate, but we strongly encourage students to use the New International Version (NIV) or the English Standard Version (ESV). No King James Version (KJV), please. An ESV Teen Study Bible will be available for purchase (\$25) at the Orientation Session.

Confirmation students will be provided with a paper copy of Luther's Small Catechism for class and study use. A hard-cover version of the Small Catechism, with excellent supplementary materials, will be available for purchase (\$15) at the Orientation Session.

FALL RETREAT

All Confirmation students (first-year and second-year) are expected to participate in the Fall Confirmation Retreat at Camp Willow Run, in Littleton, NC, September 21-23. This will be a perfect opportunity for our youth to establish and grow Christian friendships, and to get the year off to a fun start.

Camp Willow Run has lots of great outdoor experiences for the kids to try, including a rock climbing wall and a "giant swing" (both run by a certified camp employee). Each cabin holds 11 people, is equipped with AC/heat and bathrooms, and will include at least one adult leader from Hope.

Lead DCE Beth Agner, DCE's Steve McCarthy & Wesley Spottiswood, and other adults from Hope will be providing careful leadership of the Retreat participants at all times.

To reduce any possible anxiety for the Confirmation youth, please know that if your child would feel most comfortable picking out one friend to make sure he/she is bunking with, we would gladly arrange for this to happen.

The Retreat cost is \$130. If this is a financial hardship, do not hesitate to reach out to DCE Beth Agner directly, and she will work out a way to ensure all kids get to attend this amazing weekend.

Please register ASAP at www.hopelutheranwf.org, selecting "Ministries → Youth → 5-6 (Confirmation)."

SPRING RETREAT

In the Spring, all second-year confirmation students are expected to attend the Spring Camping Retreat at Falls Lake. All youth 6-8 grade are invited to attend, but it is especially geared towards wrapping up the Confirmation program and helping second-year students transition into the next steps of their faith formation. Dates and cost have not been determined yet, but expect a weekend in April or early May and a cost of about \$35.

CONFIRMATION DINNER & REHEARSAL

Mark your calendars for the Confirmation dinner and rehearsal on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 6:00PM. Each Confirmand along with 2 parents or guardians are invited for dinner followed by a practice in the Sanctuary. Due to limited space, the dinner is for the confirmation student and their parents. The practice will review the order and general logistics during the Rite of Confirmation. It is expected that all students and parents attend.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation will be held at 2:30PM on May 19, 2019. All Confirmands must arrive at Hope and meet in the Sanctuary no later than 1:30PM. Please note if your student is late, he/she will not be in the group photo or individual photos. After the service, there will be a cake & punch reception in the Children's Center.

Dress Code

The guys are asked to wear: white button down shirt, coat, tie, and dress shoes. Girls are asked to wear: a white dress and dress shoes/sandals. Each student is provided a small red corsage/boutonniere by the church.

QUESTIONS

Please call Pastor Wayne Puls, Pastor Lew Upchurch, or Lead DCE Beth Agner in the church office (919-554-8109) if you have any questions about Hope's Confirmation Program. We are looking forward to helping your child grow in the Christian faith, and establish a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ!

