

SCHOOL CONFIRMATION FAQS

2021-2022



What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a fun, interactive, faith development process that happens over two years, typically the 7th and 8th grade. The goals of Confirmation classes are two-fold: head knowledge and heart application. It is expected that during these two years of commitment, a student will trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior. Hephatha will provide the opportunity for the Rite of Confirmation upon successful completion of the program on Palm Sunday if as a family you decide to have your student(s) confirmed. The Rite of Confirmation is not a graduation, but a new beginning to declare a life of following Jesus.

How long is the confirmation process?

Generally speaking, the Confirmation program is designed to be completed in two school years (September – April).

What are the expectations of Confirmation and why are they important?

Confirmation is a great way for students to develop their faith and grow in their relationship with God. There are multiple components that contribute to this development, such as gaining knowledge/understanding, building community with Christian peers, serving God and others, and owning their personal faith. The expectations for Confirmation have been created to teach and reinforce these essential components.

Students will be expected to:

- Be ready each day to learn and participate in class.
- Work through six key doctrines of the Christian faith (also known as “The Six Chief Parts” from Martin Luther’s *Small Catechism*).
- Complete weekly family time/homework.
- Complete two projects a year.
- Be living out their faith in their church and communities.
- To be involved in the church ministry (e.g. attend online or in-person worship, youth ministry, and assist with various opportunities to serve).

What are the benefits of parents being involved in this meaningful process of faith development?

The original intention for *The Small Catechism* was for Confirmation to be done in the home. We know that whole families will be strengthened in their faith when they have an opportunity to view the teachings, have discussions, and answer the questions together in the family/homework.

What if I don't feel equipped to help my student with family time/homework?

Growth happens through struggle. We expect that students, and even parents, may struggle with some parts of their Confirmation studies. That is normal and to be expected. To come alongside families, we will offer parent answer guides to help you feel confident as you discuss the material with your student. Mr. Potthoff and Pastor Andrews are available to answer Confirmation-related questions.

Is there a cost?

There is no additional cost as the cost of the materials for class is covered in your school tuition.

How is Confirmation for 2021-2022 structured?

The Confirmation process will utilize discussions/teaching with both Pastor Andrews/Mr. Timothy Potthoff in doctrine class.

In addition to the class time, we have weekly family time/homework, two projects to have the confirmands apply what they have been learning in class, and periodic exams to review materials taught.

What about First Communion?

Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper) is an incredible gift where God gives His people the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, which brings forgiveness, life and salvation. Upon successful completion of the program, students who wish to be confirmed will be given the opportunity to participate in the Lord's Supper. Typically speaking, this takes place for the first time at the Maundy Thursday service following their rite of Confirmation on Palm Sunday.

Now I have gone through Doctrine class and want to get confirmed what do I do?

We ask that during the second year of instruction if, as a family, you would like your student(s) to be confirmed, to communicate this desire with either Pastor Andrews, Timothy Potthoff, or the church office by no later than January 11, 2022. When you contact any one of the above, they will then walk you through the next process of when practice will occur, the elder interviews will take place, and other pertinent information.

What are the resources that will be used in class?

- The Bible
- Luther's small catechism
- A confirmation binder with the lessons

**For more information, contact the church office at
HephathaChurch@Hephatha.net or 714-637-0887.**