

Welcome to **Confirmation: Adult Edition!**



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First, I would like to thank you for being a part of First Lutheran Church. We are glad you are here! Confirmation learning, as we have come to understand it, is traditionally a time when young people continue growing as disciples by building on the Christian foundations they have been given and on what the Holy Spirit has already been doing in their lives since baptism. Like in previous years, First Lutheran's Confirmation learning, what we call "Dinner+Learning," will be a year of conversational learning, faith formation, and relationship building. For the last two years, adults (typically parents of confirmands) have participated in the learning program with their children, but this year we wanted to open the confirmation learning opportunity to more adults.

Adults who are interested include those who grew up in a Christian tradition other than Lutheran and so missed the "confirmation" experience. Others went through "catechism" as youth, but mostly remember the negative parts of the experience. So we decided to offer a pilot program for any adult in the congregation to join the confirmands' parents in their adult learning of the same topics that the youth learn, just on an adult level and using the same conversational methodology and resources.

For adults, this time of learning is important as we believe that disciples learn throughout their whole life, making us all lifelong learners together. Therefore, your faith formation through learning is a communal effort and means we grow in our faith together as a community of disciples.

This pilot program "Confirmation: Adult Edition" will be more about building relationships with other adult disciples, sharing and growing in faith together, rather than just learning Lutheran teachings. You will be learning new pieces or revisiting previously learned concepts, but from an adult perspective and your life experiences will serve as a lens through which you will experience this learning.

I am grateful that you have decided to join us for this adventure in learning. I look forward to journeying with you all this year and hearing from you as we go.

Pastor Justin Eller

Summary

Confirmation: Adult Edition is for anyone out of high school. We gather the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6-7:15 pm at First Lutheran Church with middle schoolers, their parents, and other adults for dinner and confirmation sessions with Pr. Justin and Sharon Hardel.

Goal & Objectives

By the end of this year of Confirmation: Dinner+Learning, participants will have:

- deepen their relationship through conversations around issues, topics of faith from a Lutheran perspective;
- shared meals together and with other confirmation families, building relationships between students, between parents and students, and between adults;
- explored various aspects of discipleship and begin to articulate their beliefs;
- made connections between faith, discipleship, church and everyday life.

Confirmation Overview

- *Methodology:* We use a method of asking questions and telling stories to dive into the material and explore its meaning to us today. Dinner+Learning assignments and information are housed on a website. You will receive the web address during the orientation session. Most of the assignments will be submitted electronically through Google Forms. We'll walk through the website together during the first orientation session on Aug 21, 6:00-7:30pm.
- *Discussion:* Adults will be encouraged to discuss the reflection questions at the time of their convenience with another adult, so long as the conversation takes place before the scheduled monthly confirmation family meals (see dates in the following sections).

Monthly Confirmation Family Dinner + Learning

- About twenty sessions of "Dinner + Learning" (two a month) from **August to May** from **6:00-7:30pm** will be required of confirmation students and at least one parent. Adult learners are invited to both sessions as well, but if there is one not to miss, it will be the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Due to the mid-week worship during Advent and Lent, the schedule will be modified slightly.
- Monthly Confirmation Family Dinner + Learning will include: eating and getting to know other Dinner+Learning families, questions, comments, observations, insights from the material covered at home, learning/processing for the evening with activities, and gathering all together for a closing prayer.

SCHEDULE for Confirmation Family Dinner + Learning 2019-2020

(Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm, except during Advent and Lent when schedule will change)

Aug 21. Welcome & Discipleship Orientation

Sep 04 & 18. What is the Bible?

Oct 02 & 16. Who is God?

Nov 06 & 20. Who is Jesus?

Dec 04 & 18. Who is the Holy Spirit?

Jan 08 & 22. What does my future look like?

Feb 05 & 19. How do I tell the story of God's love?

Mar 04 & 18. What if I have doubts?

Apr 01 & 15. What does being Lutheran mean?

Apr 29 & May 13. How am I called to serve?

Expectations of Adult Learners

- Regular worship attendance in community
- Intend to make as many sessions as possible
- Participate in the assignments as they will enhance the experience, even if they are not required for the adult edition of the class
- Pray regularly for classmates and confirmation families
- Participate in evaluations when requested

Missed Dinner+Learning Gatherings

Since the course materials will be housed on the website, any missed class information can be covered at your convenience.