Confirmation means the "affirmation of baptism." It is an opportunity for us to recall the promises that are made when we are baptized. Martin Luther said that it is a time when students of the faith learn about what baptism means. As author Dan Erlander puts it, Confirmation is when we explore more deeply what it means to be “walking wet”?

At Shepherd of the Sea, our Confirmation Program revolves around the family (the church family and the student’s family) working together engaging God’s Word in the Bible, and studying what it means for us to be baptized followers of Jesus, using Luther’s small catechism as a guide.

Who is eligible for Confirmation?

Our Confirmation program is designed ideally for all students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. However, we certainly welcome others (high school students, college students, or adults), who desire to be confirmed. Upon expressing interest, they meet with the pastor to discuss a customized curriculum.

*When is Confirmation Sunday?*

We celebrate Confirmation on the last Sunday in October each Year. This is celebrated in the church as Reformation Sunday, a time when we remember how God used Martin Luther to reform the church and calls us to be reformers in our day and allow ourselves to be re-formed by God’s Word.

What do I have to do to get confirmed?

* Memory work – Students will memorize before they are confirmed:

1) The five promises of their baptismal covenant:

-To live among God’s faithful people

-To hear the word of God and share in Christ’s supper

-To proclaim the good news of God in Jesus Christ through

 word and deed

-To serve all people, following the example of Jesus

-And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth

2) A bible verse of their choosing, which will be their Confirmation Verse

3) Two “traditional” memory items (eg. Apostle’s Creed, Ten Commandments, Luther’s explanation of Baptism, etc.)

4) One contemporary expression of faith (hymn lyrics of their choice, poem, prayer, sermon, etc…pastor provides some options).

* All Confirmation students are encouraged to attend a week of camp at Lutheridge/Lutherock ministries during their time in confirmation as a middle school student. SOS Youth fund will pledge to cover 1/3 the cost of the week-long camp based on the early bird rate. The camp week must be reserved early to take advantage of the price discount. Camp opportunities can be found at novusway.org
* All confirmation students are expected to serve as worship leaders at Shepherd of the Sea in the role of acolytes and members of a Gospel Procession on festival Sundays. Students are also encouraged to use this time in their faith journey to experience various ministries of the church including the A/V team, praise band, choirs, instrumentalists, property and maintenance, or others.
* The student and parents will choose a Confirmation Mentor. A long standing and active member of Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church, online or in person. The chosen member will be someone who is not a family member of the student. Preferably (but not required) if you are a female Confirmation Student you have a female Confirmation Mentor, and, if you are a male Confirmation Student you have a male Confirmation Mentor. Guidelines and expectations of the mentors and students are outlined in a separate document.
* Each year students will submit 5 sermon notes in consultation with their parents. Outlines for sermon notes are located on the church’s website and extra copies are located on the bookshelf in the conference room.
* Before their confirmation Sunday, each Student will write a one page, typed, single-spaced paper answering the question – “What does Confirmation mean to me?” At the October Congregational Council Meeting, students who are prepared to be confirmed will meet with the congregational council for a half hour before their Confirmation Day to talk about “what confirmation means to them” and any questions they might have. Alternatives to a paper can be determined in consultation with the pastor.
* The Sunday evening the week before Confirmation Sunday serves as our Confirmation Celebration. At this event, all those being confirmed are encouraged to invite their friends and families to a banquet to honor the last year confirmation students and encourage them on their faith journey.
* During our 2022 cycle the parents will attend classes with their child. The classes occur during the school year on the second Sunday of each month in either the conference room or the Fellowship Hall.
* Curriculum: Our base curriculum for our classes will be Augsburg Fortress’ “Re:Form” curriculum. The books for this class will be kept at SOS.

What does Confirmation cost?

There are no fees or dues for Confirmation itself. But the program is not completely free, as there will be registration costs for camps, retreats, and money needed for meals and outings over the course of the years. Partial Scholarships will be made available for those who express a financial need.

Youth and parents are expected to participate in youth fundraisers for the SOS Youth Fund to help offset the cost of camps and retreats during the year.