

# Confirmation Handbook for Immanuel Lutheran Church (WELS)

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[www.immanuelshirley.com/confirmation](http://www.immanuelshirley.com/confirmation)



## What is “Confirmation”?

Confirmation is a key building block in a life-long habit of worshipping God, studying his Word, and living his way. Confirmation strengthens faith, and prepares confirmands to receive the Lord’s Supper. It is not graduation for Christians, it prepares the Christian for Judgment Day, which is our true graduation day.

## **When will Confirmation class be?**

Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm. You can drop them off as early as 5:45pm.

## **What will each confirmation student need?**

A 3 ring binder Bible (EHV) Luther's Small Catechism (New Blue one)

*The new books are free, thanks to Immanuel. If you wanted to donate towards them in the offering plate, the books cost \$40 per child*

## **The Parents’ (Guardian’s) Role in Confirmation Instruction:**

- Remember, the church is only your helper in the spiritual training of your children. We can *assist* you; we cannot replace you!
- Key elements of YOUR confirmation instruction
  - a. Interaction with your church
    - a. Regular in Worship
      - i. It is an expression of our faith in action.
      - ii. It's an opportunity to come and be nourished with God's Word,
      - iii. Absence from worship (less than once a month) will be discussed with the parents.
    - b. Sunday School Attendance (for 6<sup>th</sup> graders)
    - c. Participating in church activities such as: Christmas program, Ushering / Altar guild during Lent, VBS helper, fellowship activities, etc. (*waived during pandemic*)
  - b. Interaction at home
    - a. Family Devotions
    - b. Working with memory work.
    - c. Review of lesson

**Content:** use a three-year cycle that goes through EACH YEAR the six chief parts of the catechism (The 10 Commandments; The Apostle’s Creed; the Sacrament of Baptism; The Sacrament of Lord’s Supper; the Ministry of the Keys and Confession; and the Lord’s Prayer), focusing on certain sections each year while briefly summarizing others.

THIS YEAR	NEXT YEAR	TWO YEARS FROM NOW
Highlight: Creed	Highlight: Commandments, (also World Religions, Vocation, History of Lutheranism/WELS)	Highlight: Lord’s Prayer and the Key

## Discipline -

I expect students to be **attentive** and **participate** in class.

1. I will give one verbal warning before contacting parents/guardian.
2. Food and Drink – It is a privilege to bring drinks and snacks. They are welcome until they become a distraction.
3. Cellphones – The child may bring a cellphone to class, but may not use it during class.

## Work outside of class

- a. Memory work every week
- b. Google forms (test or quizzes)
- c. “Confirmation Worship Notes” These need to be filled out by the student during worship. Extra copies are always on the table in the back of church).

**Attendance:** It is your responsibility to clear their schedules so that they can be in Confirmation Class. If your child must be absent, please call before class begins. (920/632.8632) All lessons must be completed for the child to be confirmed.

**WEBSITE:** Check [www.immanuelshirley.com/confirmation](http://www.immanuelshirley.com/confirmation)

- Confirmation worship notes
- Link to Google Classroom, where you find
  - Memory work progress
  - Assignments
  - Your child is not graded, but google classroom tracks if they have completed their work



**Cancellations / Snow Days:** Pastor will contact you when class is canceled. **Should we cancel classes**, classes may continue on Google Classroom with pastor posting a video of the lesson and the child watching the lesson and then texting/emailing a photo of their completed notes to pastor.

**Typical Class Day** *Parents are welcome to attend confirmation class at any time.*

1. Memory Recitation (Catechism portions and/or Bible passages).
2. 15 min Catechism Dictionary
3. New Lesson
4. 3-5 min break
5. New Lesson continued.
6. Review
7. Assignment

**Examination/Confirmation :** At the end of confirmation there will be a written examination covering what we went through this year. In addition, each third year confirmand will also write a 500-800 word essay. This *essay* will be read on the student’s confirmation day, and followed by *a public confession of faith* at the church in front of the members of Immanuel. Topic Picked by **January 10<sup>th</sup>** Rough draft due by **March 24<sup>th</sup> 2024** If all goes according to plan, confirmation would then be on **May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Possible topics for the *essay*:

- Why I want to be a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- I Am Glad To Be A Christian
- A topic of the students choosing with the Pastor’s permission.

This is the *public confession of faith*:

**M:** Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

**R:** **I do.**

**M:** Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**R:** **I do.**

**M:** Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

**R:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**M:** Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

**R:** **I do.**

**M:** Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

**R:** **I do.**

**M:** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

**R:** **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

**M:** Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

**R:** **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

**Be diligent** in your studies because what you promise on your Confirmation is serious stuff! As you look forward to your Confirmation Day don't think of it as graduation from the study of God's Word. What you learn in confirmation class will serve as the foundation for what you learn about God's Word the rest of your life.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMORIZATION

## Why is it like “pulling teeth” to get students to memorize?

- Our Old Adam resists so much. Each Christian has a sinful nature that hates learning God’s Word and works hard to turn Christians against it.
- Memory assignments involve hard work, since memorizing doesn’t come easily for most.
- Lack of motivation. Unless memory work is made important, it will take a back seat. Good Christian motivation will equip the New Man of faith to take the driver’s seat. Let’s look at some godly motives for doing memory work.

## Motivation for each memory assignment:

- **Each student can form a clear conception of the truths learned in the lesson.** For example: after learning how Christians come to faith, students would memorize: “I believe that I cannot by my own thinking and choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel.” These words fix the truth in the students’ minds.
- **Each student can be equipped to be a better witness to others.** Your Bible is only as big as the one you carry in your mind and heart.
- **Each student can be comforted and strengthened in faith during times of sorrow and affliction.** In times of tragedy, what could be better to remember than God’s promises?
- **Each student will be equipped with the defensive and offensive weapons for fighting against the temptations of the devil, the world and the sinful nature.** In times of temptation, what could be better to remember than God’s guidance and power to do the right thing?

As parents, we will want to remind the students of these motives often.

## Memorizing Tips:

1. **Registration:** Instead of reading the assignment silently, read through it out loud. Copy it three or four times. The more senses involved, the more learning takes place. Make sure the process is repeated 3-4 times a week. Last minute learning does not last.
2. **Recall:** Make sure the students understand what they are memorizing.
3. **Review:** This involves long-term memory retention. Go over the Bible passages often during the week. (In the car, before bed, at mealtimes, etc.). As time permits, make a game of reciting the memory work.

## One More Thing...

Children learn by example. If their parents take the time to make church and God’s Word the most important part of their lives, children will learn how important it is. If not, they will learn that too.

## Immanuel Catechism Class Schedule (call/text) – 920.632.8632

Date	Time:	Topic	Memory Work	
9/6/23	6-7:30pm	Parents meeting		John 20:31; 2 Timothy 3:16
9/13/23	6-7:30pm	Intro/ The Bible / Law and Gospel		Romans 3:20; John 3:16; Romans 6:23
9/20/23	6-7:30pm	1-3 commandments	1-3 <sup>rd</sup> Commandments	Hebrews 10:25
9/27/23	6-7:30pm	4-5 Commandments	4-5 <sup>th</sup> Commandments	John 14:6
10/4/23	6-7:30pm	6-7th Commandments	6-7th Commandments	2 corinthians 5:15
10/11/23	6-7:30pm	8-10th commandment	8-10th commandments	
10/18/23	6-7:30pm	Conclusion / Review		Romans 5:12
10/25/23	No Class			
11/1/23	6-7:30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Article		Hebrews 3:4; Romans 8:28
11/8/23	6-7:30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Article	1st Article and WDTM	
11/15/23	6-7:30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Article		Psalms 50:15
11/22/23	No Class / Thanksgiving			
11/29/23	6-7:30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Article		1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:2
12/6/23	6-7:30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Article	2nd Article and WDTM	
12/13/23	6-7:30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Article		Colossians 2:9;
12/20/23	No Class / Christmas Break			
12/27/23	No Class / Christmas Break			
1/3/24	6-7:30pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Article		Romans 8:6-8; Hebrews 11:1
1/10/24	6-7:30pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Article	3 <sup>rd</sup> Article and WDTM	
1/17/24	6-7:30pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Article		Ephesians 2:8-9
1/24/24	6-7:30pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Article		Romans 16:17
1/31/24	6-7:30pm	The Keys and Confession	The Keys	Colossians 3:16
2/7/24	6-7:30pm	Prayer	The Address	
2/14/24	Lent Begins	Lord's Prayer	First Petition / Second Petition	
2/21/24	6-7pm	Lord's Prayer	3-4th petition	
2/28/24	Worship	Lord's Prayer	5th petition	
3/6/24	at 7:30pm	Lord's Prayer	6th-7th petition	
3/13/24		Lord's Prayer	Doxology	
3/20/24		Review Lord's Prayer		
3/27/24	No Class / Holy Week			
4/3/24	6-7:30pm	Baptism		Matthew 28:19-20; Titus 3:5
4/10/24	6-7:30pm	Baptism / Lord's Supper	Meaning of Baptism for my daily life	
4/17/24	6-7:30pm	Lord's Supper	Institution of Holy Communion	Ephesians 1:7
4/24/24	6-7:30pm	Lord's Supper	Blessings and Power of Holy Communion	Romans 12:1
5/1/24	6-7:30pm	Review Lord's Prayer / Sacraments	Reception of Holy Communion	Acts :38
5/8/24	6-7:30pm	Final Review		
5/15/24	6-7:30pm	Final Test on year		
5/22/24	6-7:30pm	Extra slot		
5/29/24	6-7:30pm	End of the year party		
		Confirmation date:May 19		



# CATECHISM CLASS WORSHIP SERVICE SUMMARY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of service summary: \_\_\_\_\_

What Sunday of the Church year is it today? \_\_\_\_\_

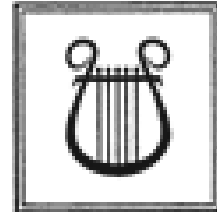
What is the color of the church today?

Blue     White     Purple     Red     Green

The theme of the Service was: \_\_\_\_\_

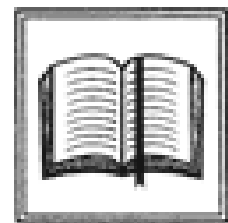
The hymns we sung today were: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite hymn/song today was: \_\_\_\_\_



Explain how the Hymn of the Day fits the Theme of the Service: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



The Scripture Lessons in the service were:

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

The sermon text was: \_\_\_\_\_

This is in the:  Old Testament     New Testament

Sermon theme: \_\_\_\_\_

What is one way the sermon showed me my sin (Law)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is one way the sermon showed me my Savior (Gospel)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did we have a Sacrament Today?



Baptism?

Yes  
 No



Communion?

Yes  
 No

This week I can pray for:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*You are to hand in your Worship Notes by placing them on the pastor's box or by turning them in at Confirmation class.*