



# WCCCHS CONFIRMATION

Welcome to Wayzata Community Church and High School Ministry!

We are excited and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of your child's faith journey.

Students are at a turning point in their faith journey and ready to move beyond simple Bible lessons. They are full of questions and wanting to know "why" (like a toddler but bigger) and think deeply about what they are learning, things that are usually contrary to what they experience in our culture. Students will be encouraged and expected to take a more active role in their faith development, digging into some deeper questions through discussions with peers and leaders, personal work, and learning how to dig into their Bibles and discover the truths for themselves.

## **What we desire for all our students:**

- For confirmation instruction to be seen as the next step, not the final step.
- Students to grow in their relationship with Christ.
- Students to always be asking questions and seeking understanding, life-long learning.
- To experience the joy, love, and support of a Christian community.
- Talk about faith and life experiences with peers in a safe environment.
- To be able to name, claim and defend their faith.

**So first, what is confirmation:** Confirmation is when an individual, without any coercion or outside pressure, affirms promises made on his or her behalf, by his or her parents at Baptism. *Confirmation is the Affirmation of Baptism*, so Baptism will be required if your students have not been baptized yet.

### **What does confirmation look like at WCC?**

- (1) How confirmation has been traditionally done in many different denominations is not working anymore, typically a passive format of attending courses, listening to a lecture and possibly memorizing things and has not been for decades. For many students after they complete confirmation, we see them less and less at the church and we hope that they will return later in life when they are done with school, or have children of their own. However, we know statistically the large majority of them won't return to the church as adults. Research shows that for most adolescents in most churches, just showing up for class sends the wrong signal about Christian faith formation. Instead of lifelong growth in following Christ, we inevitably signal that confirmation is about jumping hoops and "graduating."
- (2) We want students to have a space in which they can ask questions, talk about their experiences, and their faith, making confirmation a life-giving part of their lives in which they can find rest and try to make sense of the world and find their place in it. But, the reality is that most of the lives of families in our community are so hectic and crazy that additional rigid schedules are not helpful, stressful, and can rob confirmation of the life-giving reality of faith and the hope we have because of Jesus. For this reason, we developed our program by asking how we could best serve the youth and their families in this crazy busy world (because that simply will not change). While digital confirmation was first developed out of necessity due to the pandemic, feedback has been fantastic with a lot of appreciation for the flexibility. So, digital confirmation will continue in a hybrid format that will mix digital self-paced lessons with monthly check-ins and in-person instruction with flexible requirements.

## **We Believe In:** *Educating without assumptions, encouraging questions, and seeking understanding together.*

We encourage questions in confirmation and trust that conversations will continue at home as they help students (and adults). We hope that students will see how God is active in their lives and our world despite how it can appear and

feel. Without these rich and vibrant conversations combined with examples/modeling, the broader culture's story and ways prevail.

## Parent support EXPECTATIONS

We believe that faith is a way of life, not information to master and left only to the "professionals." This belief means that as your child begins their Confirmation journey here at WCC we need your help to succeed. It is a fact that parents can aid in making Confirmation an exciting, life-changing experience for their children. For this reason, we have also developed some expectations we have of you.

1. **Engage in conversation at home about how their experience with confirmation is going.**
2. We expect that you will **support your child's experience** by your own words and actions of encouragement.
3. **We expect that you will make worship a priority for yourself.** Your example of worship attendance will be the example your child will follow for the rest of their life.
4. We expect that you will **pray for your child**, as there is incredible power in this act. We want you to use this wonderful gift to bring strength to your child's life
5. We expect that you will show your child how faith is in your life by **making it a priority to become involved** in the life of the church by volunteering your time and talents.
6. You will make sure that your **student comes prepared to each monthly class** prepared with a Bible and notebook.

**\*For students splitting time between households due to divorce or other circumstances, please talk to Molly about how we can adapt and adjust things to work best for your situation.**

## **ATTITUDE**

We sincerely believe that Confirmation is a privilege and an experience that will change your son or daughter's life. Therefore, we expect that each participating student will attend with an attitude of cooperation and enthusiasm. Smoking, vaping or any form of drugs will never be allowed anytime, anywhere. Language will be expected to be consistent with that of a follower of Jesus Christ.

## **Confirmation Requirements**

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to be at 6 out of the 7 monthly classes (November-May).

### **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

A student is a student of the way of Jesus Christ. We can learn about Christ's teachings through participation in the public act of worship. With this in mind, students will be expected to complete worship 12 reflections each year (October-August). Worship reflections may be completed Sunday Mornings.

### **Attendance at Wednesday Night High School Ministry Programming**

We believe that God designed us to be in a community, and that learning in community is essential. Therefore, attendance at Wednesday Night programming is required for those enrolled in confirmation. Students must attend and be checked in for attendance of at least 3 Wednesday evenings each month October-May.

### **Retreat**

Students will be expected to attend at least one of our High School retreats during the program year. One in the Fall and one in the Spring.

### **Church Life-Involvement**

Confirmation students will be expected to experience different church activities. These requirements are designed to give families and students freedom in exploring what the different activities of the church are like.

**Students may volunteer for anything that involves the student in the life of the church. Examples are assisting in worship (singing, music usher, greet, etc.),**

volunteer with the children's ministry, special event help, Rummage, fellowship, etc. This is designed flexibly so as not to force students into doing specific things, rather things they show interest in. Have questions or other ideas, just contact Molly.

Students will need 12 hours of church life involvement in total.

Students will be responsible for having an adult sign off on a form at the completion of involvement.

### **Faith Project**

At the culmination of instruction, students will have a Faith Project to complete. The Project outline is included in their digital worksite.

**All students are required to record and submit the events and activities in which s/he/they participate.**

**An electronic record of their activities will be provided to the student and parents. Watch for that email to come as they are set-up. All requirements must be completed by the deadline set in their confirmation year. Do not get behind. Work diligently to get your requirements completed in a timely fashion.**

### **PROBLEMS**

In the event that you are unable to fulfill the Confirmation requirements, you will want to contact Molly immediately to discuss your options.

**Please review this information with your student and return the signature page to Molly 😊**

**We have read and discussed the Confirmation packet together and we understand what we can expect and what our role in making this year a success is.**

**Parent: or  
Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_