

## **Classroom Procedures and Assessment**

- † If a student attends a WELS or ELS school where catechism instruction is already included in the curriculum, it is up to the parent's discretion if they would like their child to take the course as is or audit or something in between. Even in the event of a full audit, I expect preparedness, attention, and class participation.
- † Copies of all study guides, quizzes, worksheets, etc. are available on our Ascension website ([ascensionplymouth.com/catechism](http://ascensionplymouth.com/catechism)) or the Catechism section of our App.
- † Unless otherwise noted there will be an open-notes take-home quiz for the students to complete each week. We will review the answers as a group at the beginning of the following class period.
- † The top of each quiz will include the memory work for the week, which is to be said or written as a whole, including the Bible reference, to a parent or other adult, who will sign and record the number of helps for each passage. A maximum of two helps may be offered per passage, otherwise a redo is required.
- † For the first unit there are study questions at end of each quiz in preparation of coming week.
- † For the second unit on the Commandments, there will be weekly self-reflection questions.
- † There are FOUR scheduled take home assessments this year, which will include memory work from each unit.
- † Each quarter students will be assessed on in-class participation.
- † Confirmands will write a brief confession of faith (due in April).
- † Grading will follow the 90%, 80%, 70%, 60% scale. However, what God truly desires is FAITHFULNESS to one's God-given abilities. This may affect the student's overall grade.

## **What about attendance and discipline?**

Absence should be reserved for sickness, emergencies, or consequential unavoidable conflicts. If your child must be absent, call, e-mail, or text me before class begins. If absent, students are expected to either join class virtually through the weekly Zoom link or watch the class video recording, both of which are available on our website or through the Ascension App.

Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. If a student is disruptive, one warning will be given. If a second warning is necessary, the student will be asked to leave the room and the parents will be notified. Should such behavior continue, the parent will be required to sit in class with the student.

# **2023-2024 CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK**



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**What is “Confirmation”?**

Confirmation is a church rite that is not specifically commanded in Scripture. The word itself means “strengthening”—a spiritual strengthening that comes through thorough study and application of God’s Word. At this time when your child is transitioning from being a child to an adult, it is crucial that their worldview be shaped by God’s Word so they can see themselves, the world, and their place in the world from God’s perspective and learn to defend their faith from the attacks and lies of the devil, the world, and their sinful flesh. This is a critical time for them to establish good worship habits, become comfortable and familiar reading God’s Word, and develop a robust prayer life. As Luther says confirmation teaches “how to believe, to live, to pray, to suffer, and to die.”

**What will the students learn?**

Confirmation teaches the basics of Christian doctrine as included in Luther’s Small Catechism. The six chief parts of the Catechism are: The Ten Commandments, The Apostles’ Creed, The Lord’s Prayer, Baptism, The Lord’s Supper, and the Ministry of the Keys and Confession. In order to teach the catechism and give students a solid Biblical foundation, we provide three years of instruction.

<u>*YEAR ONE*</u>	<u>YEAR TWO</u>	<u>YEAR THREE</u>
Martin Luther	Bible Basics	Bible Basics
Bible Basics	The Apostles’ Creed	Narratives that teach:
Ten Commandments	The Lord’s Prayer	• Law and Gospel
Baptism	Communion	• The Apostles’ Creed
Communion	Keys & Confession	• Ten Commandments
Public Ministry	The end times	• The Sacraments
Fellowship		• The Lord’s Prayer
Other denominations		• Public Ministry
World Religions		• Keys & Confession

**What role will parents have in our confirmation program?**

Since God has command parents: *“bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4), the primary responsibility for confirmation instruction falls to the parents. Therefore, parents will:

- ✚ Regularly worship with their children (in-person or online).
- ✚ Attend Bible Class while their children attend Sunday school.
- ✚ Provide a Christ-centered home where they practice God’s forgiving love and demonstrate Christian values and priorities.
- ✚ Make sure student completes assignments and memory work.

**What role does the instructor have in confirmation?**

God commanded pastors and teachers to *“preach the word”* (2 Timothy 4:2) and to *“prepare God’s people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up”* (Ephesians 4:12). The confirmation instructor will therefore:

- ✚ Prepare lessons and assessments that teach the basic truths of Scripture in a way that is meaningful to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.
- ✚ Stay in regular and open communication with parents.

**What is expected of the students?**

Being faithful to God, the students will to the best of their God-given abilities:

- ✚ Learn the basic teachings (doctrines) of the Bible.
- ✚ Learn to distinguish between Law and Gospel and apply each to their lives.
- ✚ Memorize selected Scripture passages.
- ✚ Develop and demonstrate good worship habits.
- ✚ Learn to examine themselves in preparation for the Lord’s Supper.
- ✚ Complete all assignments in a timely manner.
- ✚ Only those students who show a Christian attitude and sincerely desire to be members of our congregation will be confirmed.

**What will each confirmation student need?**

- ✚ A personal Bible (NIV if possible)
- ✚ A WELS (blue) Catechism (provided by Ascension)
- ✚ A 3 ring binder for assignments