

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.
- † Before each class students will be expected to read the assigned Bible narratives in their assigned order and complete the reading reflection page (see sample).
- † At the bottom of the reading reflection page is their assigned memory work for that week. Students may say or write their memory work (as a unit) to a parent or other responsible adult. Record the number of helps (with a maximum of 2 per passage). Recitations include references and should be done as all at once as a unit.
- † There will be FOUR reviews this year, which will include memory work from that unit and the written or audio retelling of two narratives that we've studied and why that Bible story is important for their faith and life. (see example and rubric)
- † One project (Due January 4th) will allow the students to showcase their God-given talents and interests (see project list)
- † Copies of weekly reflection pages and any other homework are available on our Ascension website (ascensionplymouth.com/catechism) or the Catechism section of our App.
- † 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.

2025-2026

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).
- ✚ Have regular family devotions.
- ✚ 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