

CONFIRMATION FAQ's

What Is Confirmation?

Confirmation marks the completion of HCL's Confirmation ministry and is the rite by which a person affirms his/her baptism, publicly confesses his/her faith, and is received into congregational membership. The rite of Confirmation is a time of celebration for families and the congregation as it affirms and encourages a person in the continuation of their faith journey.

What does Confirmation look like at HCL?

Confirmation instruction at HCL is a *three-year ministry that teams with parents to equip students to make a confession of faith by developing a deep understanding of Jesus as Savior and their life-long relationship with Him, while engaging students in a deeper understanding of core theological concepts (The Apostles' Creed, The Ten Commandments, Baptism, Confession & Absolution, The Lord's Supper and Prayer). Students are prepared to make a confession of faith through participation in regular worship, Confirmation Church, yearly retreats and special events, acts of service, fellowship and regular faith conversation.

*Three-Year Ministry: Most students begin confirmation their sixth-grade year and complete the program their eighth-grade year. However, the three-year program design is appropriate and flexible for sixth-grade to twelfth grade students.

What do you mean when you say that HCL "teams with parents"?

We believe parents and all home leaders are a key to the success of our Confirmation process. We believe that parents are the most influential people in the lives of kids... and God designed it that way! "Teaming with parents" means that HCL want to honor a parents' God-given responsibility to guide, encourage, and be part of their child's journey with Jesus. Our Confirmation staff "teams with parents" by providing foundational teaching while walking alongside you with resources, tools, and encouragement. We understand that each family situation looks different and sometimes parents are not the spiritual leader for a child. In these situations, we embrace and team with other home leaders as they encourage and guide a child's faith development.

Why Parents?

HCL celebrates God's design for parenting. Parents have the privilege and responsibility of discipling and nurturing the spiritual formation of their children (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Ephesians 6:1-4). HCL's Confirmation Ministry encourages and equips parents and all home leaders to live out this calling.

What are the components and expectations for Confirmation at HCL?

Confirmation is a valuable way for students to develop a deeper understanding of Jesus as Savior and their life-long relationship with Him, while engaging them in a deeper understanding of core theological concepts. There are multiple components that contribute to this development, such as gaining knowledge/understanding, building community with Christian peers, serving God and others, and ownership of faith.

The following expectations have been designed to help shape, teach and reinforce these essential components.

- Attend monthly [Confirmation Church \(link\)](#) worship services. Confirmation Church is a 90-minute once a month interactive worship service for both the confirmand and parents. This experiential worship model uses Scripture and Luther's Small Catechism as the foundation for engaging students and their parents in a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ, their relationship with Him as Savior, and their life-long journey of faith. Confirmation Church instructs and

facilitates faith conversation which sets the stage for home discussion and life-application.
Confirmation Church meets September – May, Sunday evenings 6:00-7:30.

□ Worship Reflection sheets.

Confirmands are expected to attend worship regularly with their family or another loving adult. As part of your worship routine, we are asking confirmands to complete at least 12 Worship Reflection sheets per year. These sheets will build upon the pattern of individual and family reflection and conversation modeled in Confirmation Church.

Worship Reflection sheets are available online and at the NextGen counter by the Sanctuary. Worship Reflection sheets can be filled out during or after the worship service. There is a box in atrium area where you can place your Worship Reflection sheets, or you can turn them in at Confirmation Church. You are asked to turn in at least 12 Worship Reflection sheets by the end of May.

[Digital Worship Reflection \(Link to latest PDF\)](#)

□ Events and Retreats

Events and retreats are grade-level programs with emphasis on a particular topic connected to Confirmation.

Confirmands are expected to attend:

First Year Event- First Communion Instruction and Seder Supper (February & March)

Second Year Retreat- Fighting Sin, Temptation, and Peer Pressure (November)

Third Year Retreat- Writing my Faith Story (March or April).

□ Acts of Service

Scripture declares that believers are the body of Christ, a reflection of His continuing presence in the world. Through His people, Christ continues to extend love, comfort, care and forgiveness to those in need. Biblical “true love” is action based! Because Christ lives in us we are able to make a difference. We are His eyes, His ears, His hands, and His feet here on earth!

Service hours have become an important part of HCL’s confirmation program. Each year students are asked to complete at least 7 hours of service work. Service hours can be completed at any church, school, or the community and may be completed in a single, 7-hour event or a combination of hours from different service projects. When 7 hours of service are completed fill out and submit a Service Hour report. These forms are available online and at the NextGen counter by the Sanctuary. Service hours are to be completed by the end of May.

After the above expectations are completed, students are eligible to participate in the Rite of Confirmation where they will make public profession of their faith in a special worship service offered the first Sunday of May.

What about First Communion?

Holy Communion (The Lord’s Supper) is an incredible gift where God gives His people the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, which brings forgiveness, life and salvation. During their first year confirmands and their parents are required to attend a two-part event experience that teaches confirmands about, and prepares them for, participation in the Lord's Supper. The two events are: 1.) A February “First Communion Family Module”, which teaches what Holy Communion is, the gifts its provides, and how to receive it in a worthy manner. 2.) A March Seder Supper and First Communion event, where families

experience a Jewish Seder meal and learn how Jesus' institution of Holy Communion is related to and inseparable from an understanding of the Passover.

What is the cost for Confirmation?

Registration cost for the 2024-25 Confirmation year is \$100. This fee includes Confirmation Church program fees, retreat costs, a copy of Luther's Small Catechism, Student Bible, and curriculum. Financial assistance is available.

How can I get involved in Confirmation?

Parents can get involved in one of two ways:

1.) Prayer support and encouragement. We need loving parents who genuinely desire to support HCL's Confirmation Ministry by praying for the staff, volunteers and youth on a regular basis. We also need parents who will encourage the volunteers to keep going and remind them that they are valuable.

2.) Maybe you're not interested in giving your time and talent every event as a volunteer but you'd be willing to help organize or be a leader at special events. That's great! We need parents who are willing to help out every once-in-a-while also. Let us know how often you'd be willing to help out.

College and Military Collection Service Project

Confirmation Ministry coordinates care packages that are sent to college students and military personnel. These care packages are filled with treats and reminders of God's love and the ongoing prayers and support of Hales Corners Lutheran Church. Confirmation families provide donations and scripture cards to fill care packages that are mailed in November and March. If you have a college student or military member to add to our care package list, please contact Julie, Kelly or Pastor Leon.

How do they get teflon to stick to a skillet if nothing sticks to teflon?

We'll just have to ask God...