CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

2021/2022



A toolbox of knowledge and skills for young disciples of Christ



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CONFIRMATION: A FAMILY EXPERIENCE AT RLC

At baptism, parents, sponsors, and members of the congregation receive God's promises and make promises to be God's instruments in nurturing the faith of the one baptized. Confirmation is one part of that lifelong sharing of God's gifts. Young people at this stage prepare to make their profession of faith in their own expressions and be commissioned into full participation in congregational life.

"Confirmation is a custom of the Church and not a sacrament. It links the catechumens to their baptism, celebrates the reception of the Lord's Word among them and, in cases where the candidates have not yet communed, welcomes them to the Lord's Table." (Lutheran Service Book Agenda)

At confirmation, a young Christian declares that he or she has been baptized, confesses the faith, and shares in communion with Christ and His Church.

MISSION AND VISION OF CONFIRMATION AT RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Confirmation provides a toolbox of equipping, modeling, and encouraging that promotes a lifestyle of following Jesus.

At Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC), confirmation is not an education exercise that ends in a graduation. Rather, confirmation is a time for young people to immerse themselves in the Holy Scriptures, intentionally experience various aspects of congregational life, and seek the guiding of the Holy Spirit for confirming them in their faith as they say "yes" to the confession others made on their behalf at their baptism and are received as confirmed members of Resurrection Lutheran Church.

What does "confirmed membership" look like for a young person? As with adults, it will vary according to spiritual gifts and areas of interest and opportunity as they participate in the following areas of congregational life:

Worship

God gathers us into this faith community both to receive His gifts and to share them with others. Congregational life flows in all aspects from this central calling to gather regularly and receive life in Christ to the fullest. Confirmation students are encouraged to consider worship leadership/service as musicians, worship assistants, technicians, ushers, greeters, and counters, as their giftedness directs.

Biblical Equipping

Gathering around God's Word in regular activities affirms our identity as God's sons and daughters. His Word grounds our understanding of essential components of faith. We keep growing, learning, grappling, and knowing Christ more. Encouraging practical application and daily reflection of God's Word gives meaning and purpose to daily life at home, school, church, and in our communities and world.

Post-confirmation experiences include leadership roles in sharing their faith with our youngest members. Opportunities for such leadership await confirmed youth in Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Kidz Live, and other various settings such as RLC's high school youth group, Breakaway, and missional service opportunities to name a few.

Fellowship

Developing Christ-centered relationships with family members, peers, church staff, and adult mentors connects families to each other and moves them into the next phase of congregational life together. Confirmation students have opportunities to regularly build community through their Confirmation group, retreats, middle school youth group (Ignite), and mission trips. Post-confirmation experiences include high school youth group, Breakaway (congregational), yearly (regional), and tri-annual (national) events, as well as leadership opportunities for youth groups for our youngest participants.

Missional Service Ministry

Families are provided with opportunities to reach out in Christian service together in their homes, schools, church, community, and world. Jesus tells us in Acts 1:8, "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This applies to us! As Christians, we have an important duty to spread the Gospel message to our neighbors, friends, families, communities, etc.

Youth, along with family members, are encouraged to identify and explore the meaning and application of their Spiritual giftedness for future service.

HOME-CENTERED, CHURCH-SUPPORTED EXPERIENCE

Hmmm, sounds good, but what <u>exactly</u> does it mean?

Involving and Affirming:

Parents continue to have the greatest influence nurturing the faith of youth. RLC is here to equip parents, sponsors, members of the congregation and youth as they live out foundational promises made at baptism. **Equipping parents to be the primary faith nurturer in a child's life, especially as a child grows into young adult- hood, builds a Scriptural framework for Christian education that accords with God's own plan for us (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).**

Parental and family involvement is vital and strongly encouraged. The classroom portion of the student's learning is only one element. Family discussions, at-home projects, and life situations also help shape the discipleship of the student and are a vital part of the confirmation process.

Learning, Celebrating, and Promoting:

Parents will enjoy networking with others in the church and community who know firsthand the joys and challenges of adolescent family life.

Intergenerational education and face-to-face missional service help us all to recognize youth as the church of today, gifted from birth for service in God's kingdom.

RLC's confirmation experience is one of many tools God provides parents as they live out their God-given primary role in nurturing the faith of their family. **Staff and lay leaders serve as facilitators and partners for parents to participate with their child in the total confirmation experience.**

TO THE STUDENT

What is confirmation, anyway?

It is the time when you – not your parents or friends – **are confirmed in God's gift of faith** given to you at your baptism.

Why confirmation now?

You are growing in your faith through a special time of **discovery** of beliefs, **priorities**, and **values** for yourself. Peer pressures, educational priorities, sports, clubs, and seemingly endless other activities and events are going to compete for your time and attention. Therefore, now is a time for you and your family to consider carefully:

- God's promises and gifts you received at your baptism.
- How your gift of faith provides for **all areas** of your life.
- How God is blessing you to serve in His kingdom now and in the future.

What is expected of me?

As a maturing young person, you are expected to be responsible for your learning with lots of help from your parents and class leaders. Important components of your responsibilities include:

- Active, regular participation in worship and class sessions
- Complete sermon notes (10 per year). Discuss sermon and worship experience with your family on a regular basis.
- Participate in missional service projects (10 credit hours/year).
- Attend confirmation retreat (if available)
- Give your personal 100% and make it a lifestyle.
- Respect yourself, other people, and property.
- Encourage others. We laugh "with" not "at" others.

How to make the most of confirmation?

- Be <u>on time</u> for classes. Communicate to your leader days you might be late or miss.
- Be <u>ready</u> with your Bible, Catechism, notebook, highlighter, pen/pencil.
- Bring your best attitude, assignments, and questions.

TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Holy Scripture gives parents the responsibility of nurturing their children's faith. As partners with you in this "home centered, church supported" confirmation ministry, we thank you for putting this God-given responsibility into action. Many times, we think pastors, teachers, and volunteer leaders are "experts" in nurturing faith of youth. Continued research indicates that **parents are the true experts** when it comes to their family members and that parents continue to have the **most influence in the development of faith**. Ministry staff is here to equip *you* so *your* influence will be distinctly Christian.

Many parents are surprised to find that Martin Luther wrote his primary teaching tool for biblical doctrine, Luther's Small Catechism, for parents, not pastors or church professionals. As you grow in your role as faith nurturers of your family, we are pleased to invite you to join in confirmation ministry in an active, committed role. If you feel that you need a little background yourself in understanding the teachings of the church—no worries! We all have room to grow. Classes during the Confirmation sessions will be made available to interested adults so you can review and ask questions about the content your child is learning.

Confirmation is simply too important to do without you! When you take your children home, **ask about the lessons they learned** and talk about it on the way home.

Informal discussions of classroom topics that follow class remind them that you are on this faith journey together as you encourage your youth to bring questions and insights to the next class session.

In order for your family to get lasting impact for faith nurture, please:

- Participate in worship and Bible classes outside of Confirmation instruction regularly – <u>actions speak louder than words</u>.
- **Pray** for all youth, parents, and class leaders regularly.
- Ensure that your youth **arrives on time**. If we need to resort to Zoom classes, please be ready to log in at least 10 minutes before they are scheduled to begin.
- Make sure students have materials needed check with class leaders.
- **Trust** God to keep His baptismal promises given to your family members. Giveyour child the "space" he or she needs during Zoom sessions to ask questions freely and without parental supervision.
- Learn with your child as you review class notes and study God's Word together.
- Reach out to your child's instructor for PDFs and PowerPoint files for the class in question if your child must miss a class.
- Contact your child's teacher when your child will miss class. Teacher contact information is listed on page 18.

BECOME A MENTOR/ENCOURAGER!

Another way to be an active "faith walker" with your teen and other teens in the classes.

This year we are asking members of the church to be Mentors and/or Encouragers for the youth. A Mentor is someone that you trust to assist in spiritually developing your child. Mentors are not necessarily relatives. It is often a powerful reinforcement to a parent's teaching and guiding to have a non-relative adult speak the same truth to your child.

An Encourager is someone who writes notes in your family church mailbox throughout the year. They may sign their names or remain anonymous, but the intention is the same: to encourage your son/daughter as they develop in their faith over the course of the year.

Parents: feel free to write notes of encouragement to your children and their classmates and leave it in their church mailboxes, too.

Please let ministry staff know if you have any questions or whether you would like to find out more about becoming a Mentor and/or Encourager.

MISSIONAL SERVICE COMPONENT

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!" Philippians 2:4-8

Considering the gifts poured out to us at baptism, we are reminded that God blesses us to be a blessing to others. Families are encouraged to seek opportunities to serve together in neighborhood, school, community, national, and international service projects. Missional service is one way to show God's love to others. Face-to-face service(meaning working together with another person) is strongly encouraged. It is nice to mow someone's lawn, but also remember that if you honor the person you serve in the way you talk to them, are sure to give your best, and are proud of what you are able do, you are personally bringing God's love to them in a special way.

Please write a 1-2 page summary of the acts of service you completed including what you learned and experienced.

Parents are encouraged to help youth seek a variety of service project options. Please see the list of suggested missional service activities below for ideas. You may also ask your instructor or Pastor Jonathan if you are wondering about the suitability of any service idea.

SUGGESTED MISSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Ignite, RLC's middle school youth group, will provide some service opportunities throughout the year. In addition, look for ways you can serve others at home, school, in your neighborhood, with clubs or teams, or any areas of involvement.

Here are some suggestions:

Community/Neighborhood

- Scout Projects (1/2 time to be used for confirmation service credit)
- Neighborhood Clean-Up
- Volunteering at School (1/2 time of NHS activity, etc. for confirmation service credit)
- Food and Clothing Drives (drop-off for donations gathered is in the church hallway near the member mailboxes)
- Doing a favor/small task for a neighbor, without pay
- Ignite Service Projects: Brown Bag Ministry and Ronald McDonald House, when it is safe to resume – LeAnn Trautman (LeAnn.Trautman@rlcary.org)

Family/Home/School

- Helping Relatives (grandparents, etc.)
- Leading/Reading Family Devotions
- Assisting with a task at home normally assigned to someone else

RLC/Church

- Acolyte Pastor Jonathan
- Greeter (done with a family member or other adult) Mike Hahne (<u>mhahne@nc.rr.com</u>)
- Delivery of devotional materials or other items to shut-ins Jamee Thieme (jameethi39@gmail.com)
- Lector Mike Hahne (<u>mhahne@nc.rr.com</u>)
- Yardwork/Gardening Garett Nigg (garett.nigg@rlcary.org)
- Vocalist or Musician Bob Unger (<u>robert.unger@rlcary.org</u>)
- Sunday School/VBS/Children's Ministry Events Help MaryAnn Unger (<u>maryann.unger@rlcary.org</u>)
- First Communion/Confirmation Events Help MaryAnn Unger (<u>maryann.unger@rlcary.org</u>)

WORSHIP/SERMON NOTES

...Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:13-14)

As we grow in our hearing of God's preached Word, sermon notes help develop a discerning attitude and a deeper sense of active participation (active listening) in our worship.

Confirmation notes challenge learners to listen to sermons with a proper distinction between God's law and God's gospel as they receive God's preached Word and apply it to daily life.

For your convenience in completing worship/sermon notes, blank forms will be available in the mailboxes next to the door leading into the Narthex and on the children's table in the Family Life Center.

Be sure to include all information written clearly. Return completed forms to the appropriate mailbox next to where the blank forms are found. They will be returned to the family mailbox with notes to the student by Anne Altieri. If you are unable to return completed sermon notes in person, you may also email them to Anne at anne.n.altieri@gmail.com.

It is desired for families to make intentional efforts to discuss their worship experience together. Discuss the sermon, the readings, and the hymns or songs. Each family member should share their questions and input.

SERMON NOTES

Name:	Email:
Confirmation Year (1 st / 2 nd):	
Date of Sermon:	
Sunday of the Church Year:	
Text from the Bible Used for the Serm	on:

A. Give a brief summary of how the **Law** was proclaimed in the sermon in two or three sentences (How did the message you heard challenge you or give voice to your need for God's love and forgiveness in Christ?):

B. Briefly summarize how the **Gospel** was proclaimed in the sermon in two or three sentences. (How did the message you heard comfort you?):

C. How is the message of this sermon applied to your life today (two or three sentences):

For a review of the term **"Law and Gospel"**, see page 49 (2017 ed.) or page 101 (1986 ed.) of your Catechism.

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN LAW AND GOSPEL

The **Law** teaches what we are to do and not to do; The **Gospel** teaches what God has done for our Salvation. ~ Psalm 32:1-5

The **Law** shows us our sin and the wrath of God; The **Gospel** shows us our Savior and the grace of God. ~ Romans 3:21-24

The **Law** exposes the works of our sinful flesh; The **Gospel** reveals the works of Jesus, and the gift of His holy flesh and blood. ~ Ephesians 2:1-9, 5:25-27

The **Law** must be proclaimed to all people, but especially to impenitent sinners;

The **Gospel** must be proclaimed to sinners who are troubled in their minds because of their sins.

~ Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:13

The **Law** delivers condemnation and death; The **Gospel** bestows the gift of forgiveness and life.

 \sim Colossians 1:13-14

The Law declares us to be guilty according to our sinful nature;

The **Gospel** declares us to be innocent and holy according to the innocence of Jesus.

~ 1 Peter 1:18-19

The **Law** produces accusations, excuses, and works-righteousness; The **Gospel** produces faith, thankfulness, and freedom.

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~ Romans 10:14-17; Matthew 11:28
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YEAR 2 FAITH AFFIRMATION

Now that you are in your last year of confirmation, it's time to affirm what you believe. Your parents made promises at your baptism, but now is your opportunity to stand up, stand firm, and declare how God has shaped your life. Using the knowledge that you have gained, the experiences you've shared, and the maturity as you get older, reflect on these questions:

How is God the center of your life?

How do you share your faith?

How is God leading you?

The 2nd Year Confirmation Faith Affirmation is a project you will complete to personally reflect on those questions and share your reflections with the congregation. You will start by researching several Bible verses, and eventually choose a verse which will be your confirmation verse. There are three assignments that will help formulate thoughts for writing final draft. Each part of the assignment is IMPORTANT, as we break every stepdown for you. Finally, you will have the option to speak in front of the congregation at the service of your choosing, affirming your faith, and making a public effort to share what you believe. Or you can share a talent/gift that God has given you and tell or demonstrate how you can use this gift to serve God and others. Don't worry, we'll be right there along with your parents to guide and support you along the way!

IMPORTANT DATES

The following dates will help plan for the Faith Affirmation:

February 2nd – Faith Affirmation **Rough Draft** Due at End of Class

March 19/20th, 26/27th, April 9/10th, 23/24th – Faith Affirmations presented in Worship

May 1st – Rite of Confirmation

CONFIRMATION (YEAR 1) CLASS SCHEDULE PART 1 (2021–2022, FALL)

<u>Date</u>	Lesson Content	<u>Main Topic</u>
September 8	Introduction	Getting Started with the Bible (Review)
September 15	Creation and Patriarchs, 1	Creation
September 22	Creation and Patriarchs, 2	The Fall and the Promise
September 29	Creation and Patriarchs, 3	The Flood
October 6	Creation and Patriarchs, 4	Sarah, Hagar, and Abraham
October 13	Creation and Patriarchs, 5	Joseph
October 20	Moses, 1	Moses and Pharaoh
October 27	Moses, 2	Travel to the Promise Land
November 3	Israel Becomes a Nation, 1	King David
November 10	We give thanks to God for our ve	terans (No Class)
November 17	Israel Becomes a Nation, 2	A Split Kingdom
November 24	Israel Becomes a Nation, 3	Exile and Return
November 24	We give thanks to God for all God	d's gifts! (No Class)
December 8	Message of the Prophets, 1	Prophets of Israel
December 15	Message of the Prophets, 2	Prophets of Judah
December 23-30	God's gift of a Savior is ours! / A	A New Year of God's Grace (No Class)
January 5, 2022	(Confirmation (Year 1) Part 2 Begins)	

CONFIRMATION (YEAR 1) CLASS SCHEDULE PART 2 (2021–2022, SPRING)

<u>Date</u>	Lesson Content	<u>Main Topic</u>
January 5	Jesus' Birth and Early Life, 1	Birth of Jesus
January 13	Jesus' Birth and Early Life, 2	Baptism of Jesus
January 19	Jesus' Birth and Early Life, 3	The Wilderness Temptations
January 26	Jesus' Ministry, 1	Jesus Calls the First Disciples
February 2	Jesus' Ministry, 2	Teachings of Jesus
February 9	Jesus' Ministry, 3	Miracles of Jesus
February 16	Jesus Teaches in Parables, 1	The Good Samaritan
February 23	Jesus Teaches in Parables, 2	Parable of Lost and Found
March 2	Jesus Teaches in Parables, 3	Sheep and Goats
March 9	Holy Week and Easter, 1	The Last Supper
March 16	Holy Week and Easter, 2	The Crucifixion
March 23	Holy Week and Easter, 3	The Resurrection
March 30	Holy Week and Easter, 4	The Road to Emmaus
April 6	Pentecost/Early Church, 1	Pentecost
April 13	Blessed Holy Week! Happy Easter!	
April 20	Pentecost/Early Church, 2	The Call & Ministry of Saul/Paul
April 27	Pentecost/Early Church, 3	Revelation
May 4	Assessment/Debrief	

CONFIRMATION (YEAR 2) CLASS SCHEDULE PART 1 (2021–2022, FALL)

<u>Date</u>	Lesson Content	<u>Main Topic</u>
September 8	Introduction	Year 1 Review
September 15	Martin Luther	Martin Luther and the Reformation
September 22	10 Commandments, 1	1 st Table of the Law (Commandments 1-3)
September 30	10 Commandments, 2	2 nd Table of the Law (Commandments 4-5)
October 6	10 Commandments, 3	2 nd Table of the Law (Commandments 6-7)
October 13	10 Commandments, 4	2 nd Table of the Law (Commandments 8-10)
October 20	Apostles' Creed, 1	Creeds, Overview
October 27	Apostles' Creed, 2	First Article, God the Father
November 3	Apostles' Creed, 3	Second Article, Jesus Christ, God's Son
November 10	We give thanks to God for our nation's veterans! (No Class)	
November 17	Apostles' Creed, 4	Third Article, the Holy Spirit
November 24	We give thanks to God for all God's gifts! (No Class)	
December 1	Faith in Life	Stewardship of Creation
December 8	Faith in Life	Stewardship of Money
December 16	Review/Intro Affirmation Statements	
December 23-30	God's gift of a Savior is ours!/A New Year of God's Grace (No Class)	
January 5, 2022	(Confirmation Year 2, Part 2 Begins)	

CONFIRMATION (YEAR 2) CLASS SCHEDULE PART 2 (2021–2022, SPRING)

Date	Lesson Content	<u>Main Topic</u>
January 5	Lord's Prayer 1	God's Kingdom and Will
January 13	Lord's Prayer 2	God Gives and Forgives
January 19	Lord's Prayer 3	Temptation, Trial, Deliverance
January 26	Faith Affirmation Workshop	
February 2	Faith in Life (Faith Affirmation draft DUE!)	Theology of the Cross / Theology of Glory
February 9	Faith in Life	Forgiveness
February 16	Faith Affirmation Workshop	
February 23	Sacraments, 1	The Sacrament of Baptism
March 2	Sacraments, 2	The Sacrament of Holy Communion
March 9	Faith Affirmation Workshop	Dress rehearsal presentations
March 16	Faith in Life	Serving Others through Vocation

March 19th (Saturday) to April 24th (Sunday) Faith Statements Presented in Church

May 1	Rite of Confirmation	
April 27	Review / End of Year	
April 20	Faith in Life	Saved by Grace through Faith
April 13	Holy Week! No Class!!	Happy Easter
April 6	Faith in Life	Lutheran Worship Practice
March 24	Faith Affirmation Workshop	Dress rehearsal presentations

HOW WILL WE STAY INFORMED?

The most current confirmation information is available on the Resurrection Lutheran Church website, www.rlcary.org, under Ministries. (rlcary.org/ministries/confirmation). Instructors may also use Dropbox or One Drive to share class notes, videos, info etc. Contact your Instructor if you have any questions. We know people have busy schedules and so we will strive to "over" communicate the message for clarity.

Occasionally, information is included in the Weekly Announcements, which are emailed every Friday, and the Monthly Newsletter, emailed at the beginning of each month. Hard copies for both are available at the Information Centers in the Narthex and Family Life Center lobby.

Class specific emails are sent through Resurrection Church Builder (RCB). You may also configure your RCB account in order to receive text messages. If you are not receiving emails or need assistance with RCB, please contact the church office at office@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

We will have class unless otherwise noted!

If classes are canceled, emails from teachers will be sent through RCB. Resurrection follows Wake County schools closure information. Class will not meet at RLC on the evenings that Wake County schools close. **HOWEVER**, your class Instructor may request that classes meet at the regular time on Zoom. Look for the emails from your Instructors on class meeting times regardless of Wake County school decisions to ensure complete information.

Church-wide closing notices are available via recording at 919-851-7248, ext. 42, on the homepage of the website at www.rlcary.org, through RCB email, and on social media (Facebook and Instagram).

CONFIRMATION CONTACTS

Overall Confirmation Program:

Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Ph.D.

jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org 301-997-6687

Year 1 Confirmation Class

Pastor Zach Sarrault

zach.sarrault@rlcary.org 517-215-0479

Year 2 Confirmation Class: Pastor Alan Shaw

alan.shaw@rlcary.org 414-574-1035

Worship/Sermon Notes:

Anne Altieri

anne.n.altieri@gmail.com

Middle School Youth Group:

LeAnn Trautman

leann.trautman@rlcary.org

RLC CONTACTS

Margaret Hyatt, Church Office

MaryAnn Unger (Nursery)

Jenny Piontek, High School Youth Group

Bob Unger (Music)

office@rlcary.org 919-851-7248

maryann.unger@rlcary.org

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ABOUT US

Resurrection Lutheran Church has been joyfully serving and ministering to the western Wake County area since 1978. We are part of the larger Christian witness of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, Southeastern District, with over 500 in worship each weekend in four services.

Since 1984, our **Resurrection Lutheran Preschool** has provided Christian education to nurture hundreds of our young children.

Since 1998, our **Resurrection Music School** has provided quality instruction for a variety of instruments in a Christian setting.

Since 2002, our **Resurrection Lutheran School**, an academically focused, dually accredited Jr. K-8 school, has provided a Christian education as a Christ-centered alternative to public school.

Resurrection has a growing program of children's, teen's, and adult education. We offer trained lay caregivers known as Stephen Ministers to support us in our Christian journey. Among the local care ministries we support are Families Together, Western Wake Crisis Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Safe Families for Children, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and our own monthly Coffeehouse ministry for those with special needs, and Outreach to the Blind for those with visual impairments.

There are many opportunities to connect, serve, learn, and grow at RLC. We encourage you to find areas of interest that best suit your natural gifts and join us as *we reach out with the love of Christ,* **by grace, through faith, for service.**

WORSHIP

Saturday | 6:00 pm Sunday | 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am