

We thank you for working with us in the faith formation of your youth! If at any time you have questions or concerns regarding the confirmation program, please contact Pastor Kathy or Pastor Aly.

Confirmation Handbook 2023-2024



Church Directory

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
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www.cross-of-christ.org

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Confirmation Email
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Small Group Guides

Sixth Grade Guides
Matt Pallas

Seventh Grade Guides
Sarah Voigt

Eighth Grade Guides
Tanya Holmes
Juli Szabo
Katy Gryboski

Table of Contents

January 10	Remain Faithful (Parent and Youth Lesson)
January 17	NO CLASS
January 24	NO CLASS
January 31	Do Not Covet and Conclusion
February 7	Ten Commandments Review/Mentor Meeting
February 14	Ash Wednesday

Lenten Mentoring/Worship (February 14 - March 27, 2024)

March 19	Seder Meal - 8th Graders and Parents
April 10	Apostles Creed-Creator
April 17	Apostles Creed-Jesus Christ
April 24	Apostles Creed-Holy Spirit
May 1	End of Year Review/Celebration

Summer

June 23 - June 29	RTLCL Confirmation Camp
July 21 - July 27	RTLCL Senior High Week (8th graders)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
Purpose	4
Curriculum / Confirmation Night Format	5
Expectations	6-8
8th Grade Expectations	9
Mentoring / Lenten Worship	10
Stay Connected	10
Retreats and Scholarships	11 - 12
Confirmation Schedule	13-14

Purpose/Mission

The Confirmation journey is an intentional time set aside during a young person's life for them to question, grow, and seek transformation in their Christian faith. In our confirmation ministry, our youth learn what it means to be a Lutheran Christian in the world today.

At Cross of Christ, Confirmation is our main middle school ministry. In our congregation, we involve young people in this ministry during their 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years, with their Affirmation of Baptism taking place in the fall of their 9th grade year.

When infants and children are brought to be baptized, parents and sponsors make faith promises for them.

"You are entrusted with responsibilities, to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace."

-Service of Holy Baptism

In the service of Affirmation of Baptism, confirmands “confirm” / “affirm” these baptismal promises for themselves, saying, *"In faith, I turn to Christ."*

Confirmation is a time together, not a time apart. Throughout the confirmation ministry we seek to build relationships among students, adults, our Christian community, and God. This is NOT a journey toward a graduation, but another step on the life-long journey of faith that extends from birth to death.

We strive to partner with parents and family members in this ministry, during these years as you guide your child in developing a stronger relationship with Christ. We invite even those who are uncertain of taking part in their 9th grade Affirmation of Baptism to join us as we learn, explore, grow, and wonder together in faith.

Confirmation Schedule (2023 - 2024)

October 4	Introduction to Ten Commandments
October 11	Honor The Lord's Name
October 18	Service Night
October 20-22	RTLCL Confirmation Retreat
October 25	Honor The Sabbath Day
November 1	Honor Your Parents
November 8	Protect Property
November 15	Protect Property
November 22	Thanksgiving Break
November 29	Safeguard Life
December 6	Defend Truth
December 13	Mystery of the Missing Dessert

-Winter Break-

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Confirmation & High School Week

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp is an ELCA Summer Christian camp located in the Sangre De Cristo mountains of southern Colorado. During this week long program, youth will get a chance at low ropes, high ropes, white water rafting, and hiking. They will experience Bible studies, arts and crafts, and archery as well! All this while hanging out with youth from Cross of Christ and other congregations, not to mention the great counselors and staff at RTLC.

Camp is one of the most valuable faith formational experiences that we do as a church. Youth are encouraged to attend RTLC camp at least once in their three years in confirmation.

Registration opens November 1 and fills up fast. Registration for confirmation week closes on February 15. But remains open for High School week until it fills up, this is usually by March.

Register online at www.rainbowtrail.org.

Confirmation Week (Current 6th & 7th graders)	June 23 - June 29
High School Week (Current 8th graders)	July 21 - July 27

Youth Scholarships

Scholarships are available for anyone going to any Cross of Christ ministry activity. This includes both Rainbow Trail and Sky Ranch Lutheran Camps, as well as ALL youth activities and retreats. We plan scholarships into our annual budgeting and fundraising forecasts, so please don't hesitate to ask for help with paying for activities through the church.

Confirmation Curriculum

Our confirmation curriculum is a three year rotation. It is based on the Small Catechism (Apostles' Creed, Ten Commandments, and Lord's Prayer), the Lutheran Sacraments (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion), Lutheran Church History, and the Bible (Old and New Testament).

2023-2024	Ten Commandments and Apostles' Creed
2024-2025	Bible: Old and New Testament
2025-2026	Lord's Prayer, Sacraments, and Lutheran Church History

Confirmation Night Format

Wednesday Nights from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

The weekly confirmation program is made up of a mixture of large group lessons, small group discussions and activities, and hands on learning through games, service, and creative projects.

Each confirmation session will be divided into a large group and a small group session. We begin our evening together with games and fellowship. The last Wednesday of each month, we provide a pizza meal starting at 6:30. We welcome a freewill offering to support our pizza nights. Following our games and fellowship time, at 7:00, we move to large group learning in the sanctuary where one of the pastors teaches the main lesson to the entire class. This is done through discussion, multimedia presentations, skits, and games.

Following our large group learning, we move into small group time. Small group time is designed to give youth a chance to discuss how the topic applies to their life and how it shapes their faith. Youth are divided into small groups by grade and are led by one or two of our adult small group guides.

Our evening together ends at 8:00. Parents/caregivers are always welcome to attend any parts of our confirmation nights.

Expectations

The following expectations help guide the youth and families through their confirmation journey. If there are any concerns about completing the expectations please contact Pastor Kathy or Pastor Aly.

Attendance:

- ✝ Youth need to be present for confirmation lessons and worship.
- ✝ Youth are responsible for making up missed lessons for confirmation. Make-up-work will be available on the church website, www.cross-of-christ.org. Look under the "ministries" section and then youth/confirmation/schedule.
- ✝ Attend Affirmation of Baptism service for this year's 9th Grade Class on **October 29, 2023 at the 11:15 A.M. service.**
- ✝ Be prepared for class with Bible, Small Catechism, a writing utensil, and a great attitude!

Cell Phone Usage:

- ✝ **Youth:** We expect that electronics and mobile devices are off during confirmation and youth activities.
- ✝ **Parents:** Please refrain from calling your youth unless there is an emergency.

Respect yourself and others by:

- ✝ Listening during the large and small group times
- ✝ Respecting church materials and supplies
- ✝ Participating in discussions and activities
- ✝ Allowing others to learn

Mentoring:

- ✝ Youth will participate in Lenten mentoring (Page 10)

Rainbow Trail Confirmation Retreat

Join us for a Confirmation Retreat at Rainbow Trail this fall and let us be partners with you in creating a fun atmosphere for learning in your confirmation program! We will sing songs, play games, learn together and play together in God's beautiful creation.

Learning in a fun-filled camp atmosphere may be just what your kids need to bond together as a group and build relationships with other confirmands. Spend time in fellowship and learning with our extraordinary Rainbow Trail staff in the place your confirmands have grown to love. Our staff will lead your kids in crafts, team-building activities, outdoor activities such as hiking or archery, fun games and camp-style songs!

Register at: <https://www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats/confirmation-retreat/>

October 20-22, 2023
\$100

High School Service Trip (8th Grade Only)

Current 8th graders are encouraged to not only attend Rainbow Trail High School Week, but also the yearly summer service trip. Our summer service trips have been some of the most spiritually meaningful experiences for our youth and is a highlight for them as they continue to grow their faith.

Summer Senior High Youth Trip

June/July 2024

Mentoring/Lenten Worship

Mentoring helps build meaningful relationships between adults and youth, where both can grow and learn spiritually from each other. Mentoring sessions are designed to give students another adult in their life who will pray for them and share in their faith development.

Each student will be responsible for finding their own mentor by **December 13, 2023**. They should be a confirmed Christian that is active in their congregation.

There will be a Parent/Mentor meeting on **Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** The mentoring sessions will take place during the season of Lent: **February 14, 2024 - March 27, 2024**. There will be no class during the season of Lent. However, students and families are expected to attend midweek Lenten worship services.

Stay Connected

There is a lot that happens in our confirmation and youth ministry. Here are a few ways that you can stay connected.

Website: www.cross-of-christ.org (Ministries / Youth / Confirmation)

Facebook Site: Cross Of Christ Lutheran Church

Electronic Weekly Newsletter: Subscribe on website's home page

Email: You will receive regular emails from Pastor Kathy or Pastor Aly about upcoming events. If you have not received one, please email Pastor Aly or Pastor Kathy so we can double check to make sure we have the correct email.

Breeze: Please set up your family account on Breeze. Call the church office if you need help.

Remind App: Please contact Pastor Aly about signing up for notifications for youth ministry from Remind.

Expectations

Worship Notes:

✝ 15 Worship Notes per year / 45 Total

✝ Worship Notes will be carried over year to year. This is a running tally over 3 years of confirmation.

✝ A student can have **5 extra Worship** Notes per year that will be counted towards your next year's total.

✝ **Two for One** Sunday will be **October 29, 2023**. Student will get credit if an adult **ALSO** turns in a Worship Note with their student. **BOTH** student and adult needs to take a Worship Note to get double credit.

✝ Parents must review and sign each Worship Note form.

✝ Turn completed Worship Notes into the mounted box to the left of the kitchen door or email confirmation@cross-of-christ.org. Blank Worship Note pages can also be found in the box to the left of the kitchen door.

✝ You may do Worship Notes at other churches when visiting. Please attach bulletin with notes. (*Not to exceed 3 unless otherwise approved*)

Church Visits:

✝ Attend 2 churches visits per year.

✝ This will be your choice what church you would like to visit, but at least one has to be a non-Lutheran service.

✝ You may attend in person or online

✝ Youth must fill out and turn in a worship form to receive credit

✝ After each service we encourage you as a family to take time to reflect together on the similarities and differences of that worship service compared with Cross of Christ.

Expectations

Worship Leadership:

We invite you, as a family, to volunteer in worship. This is a great way for your student to be engaged in worship and to take the opportunity to lead.

Areas to volunteer

- ✝ Assisting Minister / Reader
- ✝ Acolyte (Light candles for worship)
- ✝ Communion Assistant (Distribute wine or bread during communion)
- ✝ Usher (Hand out bulletins, pass offering plates, and direct congregation forward for communion)
- ✝ Music Ministry: Soli Dei Choir, Proclaim, or special music
- ✝ Altar Guild (Set up/clean up for communion - once a month)

Worshipping online is also available when you are unable to attend in person.

Hopes

The following are opportunities we hope your family will participate in during this confirmation journey and beyond.

Sunday Youth Café - 10:15 a.m.

Sunday mornings we gather in the youth room for casual conversations and a time to center around our relationships with one another and God.

Faith Conversations at Home

We encourage families to talk about the lesson after each class. We also hope all families pray or talk about faith on a daily basis. If you would like help in starting these conversations, please contact Pastor Kathy or Pastor Aly.

8th Grade Expectations

Seder Meal: Passover is the ancient Jewish festival of Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. For many, many generations, it has been observed with a feast called the Seder, which was once a family meal and a worship service with much praying and much eating. The 8th grade confirmation students and their parents are invited for a special evening celebrating this festival on **Tuesday, March 19th**.

Faith Statement/Personal Bible Verse: Youth write a personal statement of faith. In this faith statement youth will answer the question, "What does it mean to me to be a Christian?" They also will choose a Bible verse that has personal meaning.

9th Grade Retreat: Youth have a retreat during the late summer before their 9th grade year to discuss the five promises that they will make during the service of Affirmation of Baptism and what to expect in high school.

Council Meeting: The youth are invited to come to the **Church Council** (October 8, 2024) and share their faith statements. The council votes to affirm the youth as adult members of Cross of Christ.

Affirmation of Baptism Service will be on Reformation Sunday, Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 11:15 a.m.