

Confirmation



2025-2026

Handbook and Calendar

Calvary Lutheran Church

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Hello & Welcome!

Welcome to the Confirmation program at Calvary Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here.

What is this? This booklet is designed just for you as you begin your journey in our Pre-Confirmation program at **Calvary Lutheran Church(CLC)**. It's your guide throughout the year—helping you understand what we'll be learning, what's expected of you, and how you can grow in your faith. Inside, you'll find important details about requirements, expectations, and weekly lessons, along with space to reflect, doodle, and make this experience your own.

Who is it for? This booklet is for students who are beginning the Pre-Confirmation program at Calvary Lutheran Church. It's created especially for you as you take your first steps on the Confirmation journey—learning about God, the Bible, and what it means to be part of a faith community.

Goals & Philosophy

At CLC, we strive to make all Youth Programs a safe and welcoming space where students can learn, wonder, share, play, and ask questions. Our goal is to create a unified environment where each student knows they are accepted, supported, and valued by their peers, their leaders, their church, their community, and most importantly, by their loving God. We seek to nurture a culture where youth grow in faith, build meaningful relationships, and discover their identity as beloved children of God.

CLC Confirmation (7th and 8th Grade Students)

Confirmation is a two-year faith formation journey for our 7th and 8th-grade students. This program prepares them for the **Affirmation of Baptism**—also known as the **Confirmation Service**—which takes place each spring during their 8th-grade year. Throughout the journey, students participate in meaningful lessons, small group discussions, service projects, and worship experiences as they explore what it means to live out their faith as baptized members of the Body of Christ. Confirmation small groups meet with their leaders following the worship service and gather until 8:15 p.m.

Confirmation: Why are we here?

Confirmation prepares students to profess and claim for themselves the faith and promises made at their baptism. This “confirming” or “affirming” of baptism takes place during the Confirmation Service, also known as the Affirmation of Baptism, typically held in the spring of the student’s 8th-grade year.

Confirmation is not a graduation, nor is it a replacement for the faith formation that happens at home. Instead, it is a time for students to explore their beliefs, ask meaningful questions, and grow in their relationship with God and the church community.

This program is the church’s way of living out its baptismal promises—to support, teach, and nurture young people in their life of faith within the Body of Christ.

Starting in 2025-2026, Confirmation follows the overarching theme of **Faith Forward**.

Program Goal:

To guide students on a meaningful journey of faith—from discovering God’s story, to understanding what they believe, to living out that faith confidently as disciples of Jesus.

Wednesday Education Programming

Wednesday Night Meal	4:45–6:15
Pre-5th grade	5:40–6:25
6th gr PreConfirmation	5:40–6:25
7th gr Confirmation	6:30–8:15
8th gr Confirmation	6:30–8:15
High School Youth	7:15–8:15

Faith Forward: A Journey Through Faith Formation

Pre-Confirmation & 2-Year Confirmation Program Overview

Guiding our students from discovering faith to living it out.

7th Grade – Year 1 Confirmation

Theme: What We Believe

Focus for the Year: Exploring Our Faith

Students learn the core beliefs of the Lutheran faith—grace, the Apostles' Creed, sacraments, and more. They ask questions, grow in understanding, and explore what faith means personally and as part of the church.

8th Grade – Year 2 Confirmation

Theme: Putting Faith in Motion

Focus for the Year: Living My Faith

Students take what they believe and apply it to real life. Through service, reflection, spiritual practices, and writing personal faith statements, they prepare to affirm and live out their faith in everyday ways.

2025-2026 7th grade	2025-2026 8th grade
What We Believe	Putting faith in motion
Faith Forward: Exploring Our Faith	Faith Forward: Living My Faith

TEEN TALK New this year, 2025-2026 during 7th/8th Small Groups

Teen Talk is a dedicated time **once** a month during our small group time where students can openly share their thoughts, questions, and feelings about faith, life, and everything in between. It's a safe, respectful space for honest conversation—no judgment, no pressure.

How Teen Talk Will Be Used

- Encourage Questions: Teens can ask anything about God, the Bible, doubts, or real-life struggles.
- Build Community: Sharing experiences helps students realize they're not alone in their journey.
- Practice Listening: It's just as much about hearing others as speaking—growing empathy and understanding.
- Explore Faith Together: Leaders guide discussions using Bible stories, real-life examples, and relatable topics.
- Journaling & Reflection: Teens often write or draw their thoughts afterward to process and personalize what they've talked about.
- Closing with Prayer: Each Teen Talk ends with a group prayer, asking for guidance, courage, and hope.

Calvary Lutheran Church Confirmation Requirements for 7th & 8th Graders

Confirmation Covenant 2025-2026

A covenant is a binding agreement. God made a covenant with His people, including Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 2:24-25). Jesus fulfills the covenant between God and his children.

I, _____, have chosen to complete **MY ELECTIVE** and the **REQUIRED ITEMS** listed below to be confirmed at Calvary Lutheran Church.

REQUIRED each Confirmation year:

- Participate in Wednesday night confirmation activities** [Worship, Lg group & Small group activities]
- Attend the Fall Confirmation RETREAT October 18-19 at Outlaw Ranch**
- [Students unable to attend will be required to do an alternative retreat assignment due by the end of January.]
- Complete 10 Worship Notes** [Blank forms available at the back of the sanctuary]
- SERVE COMMUNION** 2 Wednesdays with my Small Group at Worship OR **COLLECT OFFERING/USHER** 2 Wednesdays with my Small Group at Worship
- HELP with 1 Wednesday DINNER** with my Small Group at Calvary [serving or clean-up]
- Each Small Group will come up with its own Mission/Community Service Project
- 7th GRADE only: Small Group Faith Project**
- 8th GRADE only: Individual Faith Statement**

ATTENDANCE COMMITMENT:

I will actively participate in Wednesday night Confirmation by being **REAL** in my commitment to:

- **Relationships** – Building community through large and small group fellowship.
- **Engagement** – Taking part in large group teaching and small group discussions.
- **Action** – Serving others through outreach and service projects.
- **Lifelong Worship** – Attending worship regularly as part of growing in faith for life.

If I'm unable to attend a class or event, I will let my adult leader know in advance and make up any missed lessons or materials.

RESPECT: I will follow the expectations in our Confirmation Handbook and show respect to everyone—leaders, classmates, and myself. If disagreements arise, we will handle them in a Christ-like way, speaking the truth in love and avoiding gossip, slander, or hurtful talk.

PARENTS: I will be a support to my child(ren) and live out the promises I made at their Baptism by walking alongside and learning with them in their faith journey, attending worship services with them, and praying with and for them as they prepare for Confirmation. I will assist my child in completing online or in-person homework that may be assigned.

Confirmation Expectations: Showing Up, Tuning In, Growing Together

What's Expected:

- Show up on Wednesdays: Regular attendance helps you grow in faith and community.
- Be part of the whole experience: Join in on Confirmation events beyond Wednesday nights.
- Fill out Worship Notes: Make sure your name and grade are clear so we know it's yours!
- 7th & 8th Graders: Sit with your small group during worship.
- **Phones stay parked:** Your guides will collect your phone and place it in the Phone Parking Lot until the end of worship and class.

Why No Phones?

Church is a chance to unplug from the noise and plug into something more meaningful. CLC follows the RCAS School District's Cell Phone Policy, which states phones are to be in the locker and not in classrooms.

Even the quietest notification can pull us away from:

- Worship
- Prayer
- Real conversations
- God's voice

Leaving your phone behind (or silenced and out of sight) helps you:

- Be fully present
- Listen with an open heart
- Honor the sacred space and the people around you

Worship is one of the few spaces in life where you don't have to perform, reply, or scroll. You can just *be*.

Let's take a break from our screens and lean into what matters most.

When Expectations Aren't Met

If someone has trouble meeting expectations, we'll talk about it and find a positive way to move forward, because this space is for everyone to feel safe, respected, and included.

1. **Request**- the student will be asked to quiet down, pay attention, stop distracting others, etc.
2. **Reset**- Student will be moved to a different area or an adult will move into the student's' space.
3. **Remove**- The Student will be taken out of the room. If necessary, if a student is removed, he/she will spend some time with Audra Nesland and talk about what may be going on that is causing this behavior.
4. If **behavior** continues, parents will be asked to come to class with their student.

Upcoming dates for this year

Dates to Remember:

Sept 3- Fall Festival 5-7 pm

Sept 10 - 1st Night of Wednesday Night Programming

Oct 8 - Intro to TEEN TALK

Oct 18-19- Confirmation Retreat @ Outlaw Ranch

Oct 29 - No Regular Programming/ Trunk or Treat

Nov 12 - TEEN TALK

Nov 26 - No Regular Programming / Thanksgiving Break

Dec 3 - Start Sending Sunshine to Seniors Cards

Dec 10 - TEEN TALK/ Cards due to Audra

Dec 24 - No Regular Programming/ Winter Break

Dec 31 - No Regular Programming/ Winter Break

Jan 7 - 1st Night of 2nd half of Wednesday Night Programming

Jan 14 - TEEN TALK

Feb 4 - Start Sending Sunshine to Seniors Cards

Feb 11 - TEEN TALK/ Cards due to Audra

Mar 11 - TEEN TALK

March 25 - Last night of Wednesday Night Programming

These are just ideas to toss out to your groups to get them thinking and talking. Please do not feel like you need to do something off this list.

Mission Work Ideas

- Christmas Cards for the Military
 - All Pre-Confirmation students will be doing Sending Sunshine to Senior Cards @ Christmas & Valentine's Day
- RC Angel Tree
- Necessity Bags for WAVI or One Heart Campus
- Humane Society Supply Drive
 - Supplies
 - Food
 - Blankets
- Diaper Drive for Mommy's Closet
- Shoe Boxes for overseas
- Stuffed Animal Drive for Emergency Responders
- Sequel, they help Senior Citizens in our community.
 - There is a letter from my point of contact on the next page.

Community Service Work

- Feeding SD
- Putting up Lights at Story Book Island
- Decorating the Church?

This information is from Sequel here in town. They work with seniors in town who may need help.

We usually start collecting items for the **Elder Angel Tree November 1st** through the first weekend of December. I start thinking about the tree and making plans in late September with my Meals on Wheels contacts. Here are the items we collect for the tree:

Soft throw blankets

Large print puzzle books

Socks

Mittens, Gloves, and Scarves

Individual travel-size toiletry items (Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Deodorant)

Snacks – Individually wrapped, both salty or sweet

Items that we collect year-round are:

Crossword & puzzle books

Coloring books

Throw blankets

Depends (incontinence supplies)

We would love to have Christmas cards to put in the Elder Angel gifts. Last year we had 600 gifts that we delivered. It was Amazing! 😊

Confirmation Leadership Team

Coordinator: Audra Nesland 605-342-9043

Audra@calvaryrapidcity.org

Interim Pastor: Steve Brandsrud 605-342-9043

Sbrandsrud@calvaryrapidcity.org

	Guide:	Phone Numbers
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**2025-26 Calvary
Education Calendar**

7/12/2025
25 Wednesdays (class/meal/worship)

	WED	CONFIRMATION 6:30-8:15 7th Grade	CONFIRMATION 6:30-8:15 8th Grade
	*Communion ▼ ▼ ▼	Audra Nesland 391-6633	Audra Nesland 391-6633
SPECIAL EVENTS ▼ ▼ ▼	SEPT 3	Teacher Training 6:30-7:00 (Sanctuary)	Teacher Training 6:30-7:00 (Sanctuary)
	SEPT 10	NORMS/ Getting started/ Communion/usher introduction/ Welcome, What is Confirmation?	NORMS/ Getting started/ Communion/usher introduction/Welcome...
	SEPT 17*	God the Creator	What does it mean to “Live Out Faith”
	SEPT 24	Sin, Grace and the Promise	God’s Image of Me
	OCT 1	Baptism & Belonging	Owning Brokenness, Receiving Grace
		7th GRADE – Beginning Confirmation Milestone	
	OCT 8	Covenant /Intro Teen Talk (TT)	Faith That Acts / Intro to Teen Talk
Outlaw Confirmation Retreat 18-19	OCT 15*	Identity/ Apostles Creed	Who Are My Faith Heros?
	OCT 22	Reformation	Reformed & Reforming
	OCT 29	NO CLASS - FALL BREAK TRUNK OR TREAT	
	NOV 5	The 10 Commandments	Living Gratefully
	NOV 12	Saints & The Cloud of Witnesses/ TT	My Faith Story/ Letter to Myself..think about
	NOV 19*	Prayer & Lord’s Prayer	Waiting in Hope/ Write Letter to Self
	NOV 26	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK	
	Dec 3	God’s Promise through the Prophet	Speaking Hope in Darkness
	DEC 10	Mary’s Yes to God/ TT	Courageous Faith
	DEC 17*	Review night/Celebration Night	Review night/Celebration Night
	DEC 24	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK	
	DEC 31	NO CLASS - CHRISTMAS BREAK	
	JAN 7	Jesus: God With Us	Practicing Patience and Hope
	JAN 14	The World Comes to Worship/ TT	Remember Who You Are
	JAN 21*	Jesus is Baptized	Everyday Discipleship
	JAN 28	Jesus Calls Disciples	Jesus Parables
	FEB 4	Parables: Stories with a Purpose	Living Out the Creed
	FEB 11	Miracles: Signs of the Kingdom/ TT	Jesus’ Compassion in Action
	FEB 18* ASH WED	Forgiveness and New Life	Marked by Grace
	FEB 25	Who Do You Say I Am? / Revisit Communion	<i>Strength in Weakness</i>
	MAR 4	Jesus Predicts his Death/ Apostles Creed	<i>Walking with Jesus</i>
- March 29 PALM SUN - April 2 Maundy Thursday	MAR 11	The Last Supper/ TT / Creed Review	Forgiveness & The Cross
	MAR 18*	The Cross: Jesus Gives Everything	Risen to New Life
	MAR 25 Last Wed Night	End of the Year Party	End of the Year Party/Finish
			8 th Grade Confirmation Material 8 th Grade F.S. Milestone
APR 11-12		April 11 – Confirmation Rehearsal/Picture/Banquet April 12 – Conf. Sunday 9:30 am	