

**Parents' Role** "As the primary faith nurturers, Confirmation parents are invited to walk alongside their child in this important season of spiritual growth. In partnership with the church, they model a living faith, support worship and learning, engage in conversations about God, and celebrate the steps their child takes toward affirming their baptism and living out their calling as a disciple of Jesus."

The role of **Confirmation parents** in an **ELCA** church is essential to the spiritual development of their child during the Confirmation journey. While pastors and leaders provide teaching and structure, **parents are the primary faith influencers**. Their role is not to "outsource" faith formation to the church but to partner with it.

Here's a breakdown of the **key roles Confirmation parents often take on**:

### **Primary Faith Nurturers**

- **Model Faith at Home:** Live out their faith in everyday life—praying, serving, forgiving, attending worship, reading Scripture.
- **Share Their Own Faith Story:** Talk about their own doubts, growth, and relationship with God.
- **Encourage Worship & Participation:** Ensure students attend worship regularly and understand the rhythms of the church year.

### **Faith Partners & Guides**

- **Participate in Discussions:** Engage in faith conversations at home based on what students are learning in class.
- **Attend Parent Nights/Workshops:** Join special events that help equip them to support their student spiritually.
- **Be Present on the Journey:** Walk with their child through service projects, retreats, and key milestones (e.g., Affirmation of Baptism).

## Support Church Community

- **Volunteer Support:** Help with meals, rides, service projects, retreats, or Confirmation celebrations.
- **Pray Regularly:** Lift up their child, other confirmands, and the leaders in prayer.
- **Create a Culture of Belonging:** Help make church a welcoming, inclusive, and consistent part of life.

## Encourager of Identity in Christ

- **Affirm Their Child's Questions:** Let their student wrestle with faith, and offer guidance without giving all the answers.
- **Help with Faith Statement Writing:** Reflect on what the child believes and who they are becoming in Christ.
- **Celebrate Milestones:** Mark Baptism anniversaries, Confirmation day, or spiritual “firsts” with meaning and joy.