

CONFIRMATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS!

What time and where are confirmation classes?

The confirmation calendar is your best resource for keeping up with the dates and locations for confirmation classes. Classes will begin Sunday mornings at 11:30am after worship, and we will conclude at 1pm. We will meet for class in various locations. Sometimes we will be in the Faith Ministries Building, but other times we will be in a trailer or the sanctuary. Look for specific locations for class sessions in your confirmation calendar. There is a legend for locations at the bottom of each page.

Where should I pick my student up from confirmation events?

You may pick your student up in the church parking lot.

Where and when should confirmands and mentors meet?

A new aspect of confirmation this year is that confirmands (students) and mentors will meet ***weekly***. There will be a YouTube video (see instructions below) that confirmands and mentors will need to watch and discuss together ***before*** class sessions on Sunday mornings. Outside of this expectation, we leave the details up to you, the parents, the confirmand, and the mentor. Confirmands and mentors may meet at the confirmand's home, a coffee shop, restaurant, or the church, provided there is someone to let them in. They may meet on any day of the week. The only requirements are that confirmands and mentors meet weekly before Sunday's class to watch and discuss the confirmation video for that week.

****A word about NRPC's Child Protection Policy:** Confirmation is one of those unique times in the church when students and adults meet in a more intimate setting. Part of the hope for the confirmand/mentor relationship is that they discuss faith and life together in the building of relationship. Thus, the NRPC staff trains and covenants with mentors, confirmands, and parents to provide a safe and trusting atmosphere for students and mentors to engage with each other. Mentors and confirmands should ***never*** meet alone behind closed doors. We encourage them to meet in public places that allow for discussion or at the confirmand's home with parents present.

What are the videos for?

Our hope for this confirmation process is to turn the classroom upside down. We hope to give the "classroom" over to students. The videos are meant to set up and lay a foundation for a more in-depth discussion of a week's topic during the classroom sessions at church. The videos are meant to give confirmands and mentors the opportunity to engage with and learn from each other, not just from Lisa and Brandon.

How do I access the confirmation videos?

1. Open your web browser.
2. Go to www.youtube.com
3. In the search bar type NRPC Confirmation 1
4. Click the first video and press play!

Is there lunch for classes? Who provides lunch?

There will be lunch each class session from 11:30am to 12:00pm. Please, communicate with Brandon on any dietary restrictions for your student (i.e. gluten intolerance, vegetarian, vegan, etc.). There is a Sign-Up Genius for signing up to provide lunch during a class session. We are hoping for parents to provide lunch during a class session for 15 people. Look out for an email containing the link to the Sign-Up Genius.

Who is leading the class sessions?

Lisa and Brandon are switching off weeks leading classroom sessions.

What are the expectations and requirements for confirmation?

We expect for confirmands and mentors to get together before each week's classroom session to watch the video for that week and discuss the questions proposed in the videos. We expect these gatherings will last between 30-60 minutes. The examination and discussion with Session on November 16 is required. We encourage full participation in all confirmation activities, and we highly encourage students and parents to engage in Church School on Sundays at 9:15-10:15am and worship at 10:30-11:30am. There are a host of other church activities in which to get involved. We have Youth Group every Sunday from 4:30-6pm, and there is MAX on Wednesday nights from 9/11-10/30. We encourage you to get involved in as much as possible during this process!

What will be discussed at class?

Each Sunday we will email out a home devotion guide that reveals the theme for the upcoming week, scripture verses to read together, mealtime and bedtime prayers, and some discussion guides to use throughout the week to talk with your student about what's coming up in confirmation.

How can I, as a parent, engage in confirmation?

Parent involvement in confirmation is *critical*. Kenda Creasy Dean, a woman who researches confirmation practices, says, "Parents who invest deeply in their own religious faith while their children are in high school tend to have children whose own faith remains important into young adulthood." One of the best things you can do as a parent during this process is show interest in your own faith development and in your student's. This interest looks like asking questions, discussing that week's video and class session, watching the videos yourself, and going through your own faith formation process *alongside* your student. Another major way you can engage is through prayer. Again, from Kenda Creasy Dean: "If we want our children to grow in faith and develop a sense of belonging to Christian community, one of the most important things we can do is pray with them every night before bed." Simple acts like prayer at mealtime, reading the bible together, and prayer before bed all correlate to stronger faith in young people. They even make more of an impact than worship attendance. We highly encourage, even implore, your engagement in this confirmation process.

What's happening September 22?

We will not have a traditional class session on September 22. Our "class" for that week will be an actual worship service. Our topic for that week is Worship and Sacraments. Sunday, September 22 at 4:00pm is Brandon's ordination and installation service. That service is our class. Students will watch the church worship and receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

What's the Middle School retreat?

Our presbytery, the Presbytery of New Hope, has a Youth Council that puts together a Middle School retreat for students in our presbytery every October. The camp occurs at Camp Kanata in Wake Forest. The dates are October 4-6. Look out for more information once the registration information is released.

What's the Friday outing?

This outing on Friday, November 15 is a fun celebration of the students' and mentors' hard work leading up to Confirmation Sunday. We will involve the whole youth group for this evening of fun from 6p-12a. Confirmation students will stay at host homes Friday evening after the outing and return to the church for their examination and discussion with Session at 8am Saturday, November 16. Look out for more specific details once the day gets closer.

What's the examination with Session?

Although this event causes students the most stress, it is one of the most rewarding gatherings we have. The "examination" is *nothing* like a school examination. The students will not have to answer factual questions or defend their beliefs. This time is for discussing and sharing our thoughts about what we have all learned during the confirmation process and share with the church's Session how students have grown and transformed throughout the process. More details to come soon!

Don't they make stoles?

Yes! Students will receive a stole that they will decorate however they want, and these stoles will have a role in their Confirmation Sunday service. We will discuss the stole project in a class session.

What if my student is in church orchestra?

Terri and I are working out a plan so students can do both. Don't worry! We will communicate the plan to you.

What if my student isn't baptized?

We will work with your family on setting a date for your student's baptism. We will look for dates between the start of confirmation and Confirmation Sunday, which are Sunday, September 8 through Sunday, November 24. Contact Lisa and Brandon to discuss baptism further.

What if my student doesn't want to get confirmed?

Don't panic! This response is one many students have. Confirmation is not the end of faith formation but one of its beginnings. Not getting confirmed does not mean your child can't or won't be a member of this church or our community. It does not mean that your student is loved by the staff, church, or God any less. What it means is your student needs more time to decide and discern whether or not they want to confirm the promises you made on their behalf at baptism. The good news is the confirmation process will continue in the Spring with more interactive and participatory activities. Your student is still invited to participate. We are here to continue walking with and loving your student whether or not they decide to get confirmed.

What do I need to know about Confirmation Sunday?

Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, November 24, which is also Christ the King Sunday. There will be a breakfast for confirmands, their families, and mentors during the Church school hour, which is 9:15-10:15am. The actual confirmation will occur during the worship service from 10:30-11:30am. There will be a reception after worship to celebrate the confirmands. The Fellowship Committee will put on this reception.

How will communication about all things Confirmation happen?

All communication about confirmation will happen through email. Please look for emails from Lisa or Brandon. Lisa's email is lisahebacker@nrleighpc.org, and Brandon's email is brandonmelton@nrleighpc.org. If you have questions or concerns, please email us. If there is a schedule change or update, we will communicate those details through email. You may also look out for confirmation information in the Friday ENews and from Caroline Parker, the Office Administrator. Her email is office@nrleighpc.org.