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# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## PJ CONFIRMATION MANUAL

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2018-2020

### LEADER INFORMATION

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Leader	Role	Contact
Dave Ahlman Ruth Furr	Pastor & Primary Leader DCE & Program Designer	<a href="mailto:david.ahlman@peacelutheran.net">david.ahlman@peacelutheran.net</a> <a href="mailto:rfurr@peacelutheran.net">rfurr@peacelutheran.net</a>

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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#### WELCOME CONFIRMATION STUDENT & FAMILY!

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Confirmation goes back to your baptism - the day water was poured on your head in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. On that day, you became God's own child. Confirmation gives you the chance to say "The faith I was baptized into is my faith. This I believe." What is more, in Confirmation, you learn what it is to live as God's dear child in this world.

But, before you can say "This is my faith," you have to know what that faith is. In the next two years, we will explore that faith together through the Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, and other resources.

More importantly, we will learn how to live this stuff in our day-to-day lives. The word here is "discipleship" - that is, being a follower of Jesus. But, it is also about living our lives in connected in relationship: relationship with God, one another, our family, the church, and the world.

Confirmation is only part of that journey, however. This is not preparation for a graduation, but a time to grow and mature as you prepare to become an active member in a community of faith and learn what it means to follow Jesus.

In this time of Confirmation, it is our prayer you have the love and support of your family, congregation, mentors, and pastors. We are here to help you in any and every way. You are in our prayers. We thank God for the time we will get to spend with you, and pray it will also be a blessing to you!

## OVERVIEW

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This manual contains all the basic information to allow the confirmand and his/her family to begin the journey to Confirmation Sunday. **Don't forget about the PJ Confirmation Orientation Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM, where you'll get a chance to ask questions about the year and meet your confirmation mentors and leadership!**

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT PJ CONFIRMATION

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PJ Confirmation has two different foci over two years: Catechism and the Bible. Wednesday night participation is a required expectation of every student desiring to be confirmed. If there is any reason why your 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader will miss Wednesday night confirmation, please email Ruth Furr at [rfurr@peacelutheran.net](mailto:rfurr@peacelutheran.net) or leave a message at the church office at (303) 424-4454.

- **The Bible: 2018-2019** - This focus provides 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders with an understanding of the Biblical accounts which undergird the Lutheran teachings from the Catechism. Over this year, confirmands will get an overview of both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, particularly focusing on how Christ is the focus of both Testaments and becomes the focus of Christian life.
- **Catechism: 2019-2020** - This focus provides 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders with a better understanding of Luther's Small Catechism (a handbook for the Christian faith) with an in-depth study of the teachings of the Lutheran church, and will help students connect those teachings with the living out of their Christian faith in everyday life.

## OUR LEADERSHIP STRATEGY: SMALL GROUPS

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Did you know students and adults learn better in small discussion groups instead of large, lecture-style teaching? In order to facilitate a more effective learning environment and a sense of safety and community in Confirmation, students will be placed in small groups at the beginning of the year, led by an adult mentor from the congregation. While Pastor Dave will facilitate large group games and teaching points, the small group mentors will follow up sections of teaching with small group discussion to help students think more deeply about what they've learned and also apply it to their lives.

- **Weekly Format**
  - 5:20PM Connections begins with a \$1 donation meal in the kitchen and Parish Hall
  - 5:50PM Parish Hall short devotional video before PJ Confirmation heads downstairs
  - 6:00PM PJ Confirmation begins in Room B-1 & B-2 downstairs
  - 7:00PM PJ Confirmation Ends

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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The other three areas of personal and spiritual growth emphasized throughout PJ Confirmation are part of the larger mission of Peace Lutheran Church: Worship, Connect, Serve. It is our hope and prayer that - combined with Wednesday Night PJ Confirmation - these additional requirements will support the confirmand and his/her family members in living a courageous and spiritually-sensitive life that flows from their identity in Christ. This model also connects with the vision of Peace Lutheran Church of: *Reaching our COMMUNITY with Christ.*

- **Worship (ongoing):** An important aspect of one's relationship with God is meeting Him in worship. As Christ comes down to us in the form of His body and blood, we meet with Him as we study scripture, engage in the sermon, and sing praises through worship hymns and songs. Regular worship is an expectation of all students desiring to confirm his/her faith. To help keep students accountable and to help families engage in worship together, we have the following expectations:
  - **Complete the yellow Worship Journal provided to every confirmand. All 18 journal entries must be completed by April 24, 2018.**
  - **Families participate together in the "Worship Experience" during Advent and Lent, which are scheduled during the normal PJ Confirmation hour.**
  - **Families regularly participate together with their confirmand in Sunday worship.** Worship times at Peace are Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:30AM.
- **Connect:** This is where we build relationships with fellow Christians through fellowship and Bible study, in order that we are supported and equipped to live out our Christian lives outside the church building. **The following Connect components are required:**
  - **Regular participation in the Sunday morning education hour.** Education hour is from 9:15-10:15AM, year-round. Middle school students meet in room 1B and 2B downstairs.
  - **Retreats.** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are expected to participate in a yearly weekend retreat in the Fall. This is a powerful kickoff to the PJ Confirmation year and helps bring the group closer together for more meaningful discussion and study of God's Word.
- **Serve:** Confirmands will learn to live out their Christian faith through various acts of service, both inside and outside the church. **10 hours are required from Sept-Dec, and 10 hours are required from Jan-Apr, for a total of 20 service hours.**
  - **Serve the Church:** Opportunities to serve include acolyting, working the sound booth, altar guild, assisting in music during worship, assisting in maintenance of the church grounds, and volunteering at various Peace events.
  - **Serve the Community:** Confirmands are encouraged to find a place to serve in their community as well. To help facilitate this, there will be required service nights during each Confirmation year. Further service beyond those two nights in other community areas is also encouraged.

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## THE ROAD TO CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR

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Confirmation Weekend takes place in October of the confirmands 9th grade year, on Reformation Sunday. (October 27, 2019 for this year's 8th graders). Leading up to that weekend are:

1. **Confirmation Interview** scheduled on an individual basis with family members, Pastor Dave, and DCE Ruth Furr. (Starting May 2, 2019).
2. **Statement of Faith Project**, a way for the confirmands to highlight this faith milestone, and all that has shaped his/her faith, using their own unique gifts and talents God gave him/her. (Project Proposals for current 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be due at their Confirmation Interview.)

Confirmation is celebrated on the Saturday before Confirmation Sunday (October 26, 2019) with the completion of their Statement of Faith Projects and a Confirmation Banquet. Confirmands are then confirmed in the 10:30AM service, followed by a reception (with display of their Statement of Faith Projects.) Examples of projects could include a dance presentation, a musical composition, visual media and art, a biographical study of a saints, a book review, a skit presentation, and more.

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## CONTACT US

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We know this is a lot of information to digest and probably changes to get used to. Don't worry! Pastor Dave and DCE Ruth are available to work with you through this process. We want to help your confirmand grow in his/her Christian faith, in order that your confirmand, your family, and our community will be reached with Christ. Bring your questions and concerns about PJ Confirmation to PJ Confirmation Orientation on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM, and please continue to stay in contact with us in the months ahead!

In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns regarding PJ Confirmation or your student's participation, please feel free to email Ruth Furr at: [rfurr@peacelutheran.net](mailto:rfurr@peacelutheran.net) or call the church office at: 303-424-4454. Peace in Christ to you this fall!

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## KEY DATES

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### **Wed, Sept 5 at 5:20PM**

Connections Meal for \$1 donation, followed by PJ Confirmation Orientation at 6:00PM

### **Sept 7-9**

PJ Fall Retreat at Lutheran Valley Retreat

### **Wednesdays, Sept 12 - Apr 10, 5:20PM - 7:00PM**

Connections and PJ Confirmation Resumes

### **Wednesdays, Oct 17 & Feb 6**

Required Service Nights

## KEY DATES (CONT...)

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**Nov 28, Jan 9, Mar 17, & Apr 26**

Special Activity Days (required fellowship activities, etc...)

**Wednesdays, Dec 5 - Dec 19 & Mar 6 - Apr 10, 5:20PM - 6:45PM**

Connections Meal & Family Worship Experience for Advent & Lent

**Wednesdays, Oct 31, Nov 21, Dec 26, Jan 2, & Apr 17**

No PJ Confirmation for various holidays

**Wednesday, Apr 24 at 6:00PM**

Parent Meeting for Fall Rite of Confirmation for outgoing 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Wednesdays, May 1 - 29 Afternoons**

Confirmation Interviews for outgoing 8<sup>th</sup> Graders (signup opens in April 2019)