

Confirmation FAQ

When is Confirmation offered this year?

In-person Confirmation sessions at Church are Sundays from 6:00-6:45pm at the North and South Campus, and 9:45-10:30am at the West Campus. Confirmation online via Zoom is 7:15-8:00pm on Wednesdays.

Do students attend Sunday AND Wednesday?

Participants register and attend ONE session per week.

Is the content and structure the same for Confirmation in-person and online?

Yes, there is an alternating schedule where the grade level small groups gather for a large group lesson one week, and then have a small group discussion on the lesson the following week.

Will Confirmation students remain with the same small group and small group leader?

As much as possible Confirmation students will remain with their existing small groups and leaders. This depends greatly on which session leaders and families decide on. If you do not have your leaders contact information from last year, email middleschool@fargohope.org and we can let you know which session your student's small group members have selected.

Can we switch between in-person and online?

Students are not "locked" into in-person or online once they are registered. We recognize that leaders and families may want to switch sessions in the weeks leading up to September, either due to intra-group communication or due to a health concern. Unless there is a personal health concern, we ask that participants stick with their selected session once programming is underway.

Will Confirmation be doing service projects in the community?

For the 2020-2021 programming year, service projects will be done at church with proper social distancing.

Can families choose to do Confirmation at home as a self-study instead of students being in a small group?

Yes, this is possible but requires a discussion between a pastor and the parent/guardian.

Is Worship Attendance a requirement for Confirmation?

Confirmation students are encouraged and expected to engage in Worship, whether at church or by watching worship livestream. However, we will not be doing Worship check-in to reduce surface touching/sharing.

Are facemasks required for in person Confirmation?

Yes, all participants are expected to bring and wear a facemask unless they have a health or behavioral issue that prevents them from wearing one. Hope will have facemasks available for those who forget one. A pastor or director will follow-up with families of students who do not abide by Hope's facemask policy.

What can families expect at drop-off and pick-up?

Families are expected to drop off their students at least 10 minutes early for temperature taking at the church entrance. We ask that parents/guardians do not accompany their students inside the building unless they are leaders or have scheduled a meeting with church staff. Students are to

enter and exit the North Campus at the south door (Broadway and 29th Ave N) and the main entrances at the South Campus. Once inside, students are to go directly to the room their small group is assigned to.

What does social distancing look like for Confirmation?

- Students are assigned to small groups of around 10 persons. There are a few existing groups that have more than 10, but no more than 15 persons.
- All participants will stay with their small groups and wear masks.
- Small groups will be at least 6 feet away from other small groups.

Are guests allowed?

We love when new students want to visit Hope Lutheran, however this year we need to be notified a few days in advance and the student needs to be registered.

What is Confirmation Orientation?

Confirmation Orientation is for students and families new to the Confirmation program. The Orientation covers why Hope offers Confirmation programming (our mission and vision), what students and families can expect from Confirmation, what is expected of students and families during Confirmation programming and the annual calendar. Orientation sessions are:

- **Sunday, August 16, 11:00-11:50am** at the **North & South Campus**, and **10:30-11:30am** at the **West Campus**
- **Wednesday, August 19, 7:15-8:15pm** at the **North & South Campus**

If you are unable to make one of these sessions, we will post a video of the session to fargohope.org/middleschool after August 20.

What should I expect for my 9th Grader?

9th Grade is a pivotal year in the Confirmation program as students learn more about faith and reflect their individual faith readiness. The capstone faith experience is the 9th Grade Retreat the weekend of January 22, where students will hear remarkable faith stories, experience moving worship and begin working on the Faith Story Assignments. After completing their Faith Story Assignments, students will talk one-on-one with a member of the pastoral or student ministry staff in early March to talk about their faith readiness for Affirmation of Baptism. This is known as the 9th Grade Interview. As a group, students will proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior together at the Affirmation of Baptism worship, scheduled for May 16. (Dates subject to change.) Please check your email for continued 9th Grade communications, including the time and location for the 9th Grade Student/Parent Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 18.

For additional questions please refer to the Youth Ministry Policies and Procedures at fargohope.org/middleschool.