



HOPE LUTHERAN
CONFIRMATION



CONFIRMATION: "WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?"4

THREE REQUIREMENTS

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“**WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?**” (Matthew 16:15). A few years after Jesus called twelve young misfits to follow Him around the countryside, He took them camping in Galilee’s north woods. There, Jesus asked the most important question anyone will ever answer. He asked them to confirm who they say He is.

CONFIRMATION IS THE RITE OF PASSAGE where students confirm who they say Jesus is and become adult members of God’s Church, following **four years** of focused Christian instruction spanning sixth to ninth grade. At Confirmation held each **May**, eligible students confirm their faith in Jesus Christ, fulfilling the baptismal promises that parents, grandparents, godparents, and guides had been keeping for them until now. Three “ABC” requirements make students eligible for this rite of passage:

- **ATTENDANCE:** Confirmands have attended middle/high school programming ten times per semester for eight semesters. (Additional missed dates made up online.)
- **BAPTISM:** Confirmands have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, prior to confirming. (Hope has no age requirement for baptism.)
- **CREED:** Confirmands have recited the Apostles’ Creed and why they believe in 1-on-1 conversation with staff. (Scheduled around February of confirmation year.)

ATTENDANCE: TEN TIMES PER SEMESTER

Why does ATTENDANCE matter?

“Faith comes from hearing” (Romans 10:17). An average programming week includes large group teaching and small group discussion. By attending ten times per semester over eight semesters of Hope Youth’s middle and high school ministries, Confirmands *receive* and *reflect* on at least eighty pastor-taught Scripture lessons from Genesis to Revelation.

What will students be learning?

Each year, Hope Youth covers the entire story of Scripture from cover to cover following the four-year *narrative lectionary*—a story-based reading plan with new stories each year to tell the overarching story. Lessons focus on what it means (*head*), why it matters (*heart*), and how to put it into practice (*hands*). Special series, topics, and activities get interwoven throughout the year.

What is a semester, and why ten times per semester?

Semesters are September through December, and January through May. Ten times per semester strikes balance between holding students accountable to learning and giving students grace to miss a few weeks without needing “make up.” Nothing carries over; each semester requires ten attendances.

How can students make up for missed attendance?

Life is busy. Students missing attendances can make up online. Students watch the youth lesson online, then complete the convenient online form. All missing attendances must be made up online by the last day of that semester’s programming. After this date, missed attendances may result in the semester not counting (delaying the student’s confirmation year). For help with attendance, email youth@fargohope.org.

	MATTHEW (Fall 2026)	MARK (Fall 2027)	LUKE (Fall 2024)	JOHN (Fall 2025)
Creation	Genesis 6:16-22; 9:8-15	Genesis 2:4b-25	Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8	Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Abraham and Isaac	Genesis 12:1-9	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7	Genesis 15:1-6	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14
Jacob and Joseph	Genesis 39:1-23	Genesis 32:22-30	Genesis 37:3-8, 26-34; 50:15-21	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17
Exodus	Exodus 14:10-14, 21-29	Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-10	Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8	Exodus 2:23-25; 3:10-15; 4:10-17
Law and Wilderness	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17	Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-6	Exodus 32:1-14	Exodus 16:1-18
Judges	Joshua 24:1-15	Ruth 1:1-17	1 Sam 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10	1 Sam 3:1-21
David	2 Sam 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9	2 Sam 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150	2 Sam 7:1-17	1 Sam 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14
Solomon and Divided Kings	1 Kings 3:4-28	1 Kings 12:1-7	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13
Elijah and Elisha	2 Kings 5:1-14	1 Kings 18:20-39	1 Kings 17:1-24	1 Kings 19:1-18
Minor prophets	Micah 5:2-4; 6:6-8	Hosea 11:1-9	Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 (4:1-11)	Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24
Isaiah and Hezekiah	Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; then 2:1-4	Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5	Isaiah 6:1-8	Isaiah 9:1-7
Jeremiah and Josiah	Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11	2 Kings 22:1-10; 23:1-3	Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; then 31:31-34	Jeremiah 29:1,
Advent	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:2-4; 3:17-19	Job 1:6-22; 2:1-10	Daniel 6:6-27	Daniel 3:1, 8-30
2nd Week of Advent	Ezekiel 34:1-6,	Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4,	Joel 2:12-13, 28-	Ezekiel 37:1-14
3rd Week of Advent	Isaiah 42:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-11	Isaiah 55:1-11
4th Week of Advent	Matt 1:18-25	Luke 1:5-13; 2:57-80	Luke 1:26-49	John 1:1-18
Christmas	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:1-20
2nd Week of Christmas	Matt 2:1-12	Mark 1:1-20	Luke 2:21-38	John 1:19-34
3rd Week of Christmas	Matt 2:13-23	Mark 1:21-45	Luke 2:41-52	John 1:35-51
Epiphany	Matt 3:1-17	Mark 2:1-22	Luke 3:1-22	John 2:1-11
2nd Week of Epiphany	Matt 4:1-17	Mark 4:1-34	Luke 4:14-30	John 2:13-25
3rd Week of Epiphany	Matt 5:1-20	Mark 5:1-20	Luke 5:1-11	John 3:1-21

4th Week of Epiphany	Matt 6:7-21	Mark 5:21-43	Luke 6:1-16	John 4:1-42
5th Week of Epiphany	Matt 7:1-14, 24-29	Mark 6:1-29	Luke 7:1-17	John 4:46-54
6th Week of Epiphany	Matt 13:24-45	Mark 7:1-23	Luke 7:18-35	John 6:35-59
7th Week of Epiphany	Matt 14:13-33	Mark 7:24-37	Luke 7:36-50	John 7:37-52
Transfiguration	Matt 16:24-17:8	Mark 8:27-9:8	Luke 9:28-45	John 9:1-41
Ash Wednesday	Matt 18:1-9	Mark 9:30-37	Luke 9:51-62	John 10:1-18
Lent	Matt 18:15-38	Mark 10:17-31	Luke 10:25-42	John 11:1-44
2nd Week of Lent	Matt 20:1-16	Mark 10:32-52	Luke 13:1-9, 31-	John 13:1-17
3rd Week of Lent	Matt 22:1-14	Mark 12:1-12	Luke 15:1-32	John 18:12-27
4th Week of Lent	Matt 25:1-13	Mark 12:28-44	Luke 16:19-31	John 18:28-40
5th Week of Lent	Matt 25:31-46	Mark 13:1-8, 24-37	Luke 18:31-19:10	John 19:1-16a
Palm Sunday	Matt 21:1-13	Mark 11:1-11; Mark 14:3-9	Luke 19:29-44	John 12:12-17; John 19:16b-22
Maundy Thursday	Matt 26:17-30	Mark 14:22-42	Luke 22:1-27	John 19:23-30
Good Friday	Matt 27:27-61	Mark 15:16-39	Luke 23:32-47	John 19:31-42
Easter	Matt 28:1-10	Mark 16:1-8	Luke 24:1-16	John 20:1-18
2nd Week of Easter	Matt 28:16-20	Acts 1:1-14	Luke 24:13-35	John 20:19-31
3rd Week of Easter	Acts 10:1-17, 34-35	Acts 3:1-10	Acts 6:1-14, 7:47-60	Acts 9:1-19
4th Week of Easter	Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18	Acts 17:1-9	Acts 8:26-39	Acts 16:16-34
5th Week of Easter	Romans 1:1-17	Acts 18:1-4; 1 Cor 1:10-18	Acts 15:1-17	Acts 17:16-31
6th Week of Easter	Romans 5:1-11	1 Cor 13:1-13	Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21	Philippians 1:1-18a
7th Week of Easter	Romans 6:1-14	1 Cor 15:1-26	Gal 3:1-9, 23-29	Phil 2:1-13
Pentecost	Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:18-38	Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor 12:1-13	Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7	Acts 2:1-21
New Creation	Revelation 1:5-18	Revelation 21:1-7	Revelation 21:10-23	Revelation 22:12-21

BAPTISM: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

Why does BAPTISM matter?

God works through stuff. Jesus often worked miracles through stuff—water into wine (John 2:1-11), a few loaves and fish to feed thousands (John 6:1-14), mud to heal blind eyes (John 9:1-12). That’s what *sacraments* are: “physical means of Spiritual grace.” At Hope, we believe baptism is a sacrament. In baptism, we are *born again* of water and Spirit. Jesus said, “No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and Spirit” (John 3:5). Peter preached at Pentecost, “Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for *you* and *your children*” (Acts 2:38-39). In baptism, God resurrects us to a *new life*: “We were buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4).

Is there an age limit for baptism?

God welcomes *all ages* into His family (Matthew 19:14). In the Old Testament, infant boys received God’s promise through circumcision (Leviticus 12:3). In the New Testament, Jesus is circumcised for us (Luke 2:21). Baptism, then, becomes the *new circumcision* by which all are welcomed into God’s family: “You were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God” (Colossians 2:11-12). When Peter preached that the promise of baptism is “for *you* and *your children*” (Acts 2:39), he used the Greek word *teknon*—the same word the Bible uses for infants (e.g. Luke 1:59). Baptism works for infants and adults alike because baptism is not our work—it is “the working of God.”

What is the promise of baptism?

In baptism, you receive a three-fold promise. First, God promises to forgive your sins and give you His Holy Spirit. Second, the Church promises to teach you the Scriptures. Third, parents/sponsors promise to support you in your journey with Jesus that starts now and lasts forever.

What does baptism look like at Hope?

Your pastor says, “In baptism, our heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. By water and the Spirit we are born again as children of God and made members of the Church.” You or your parent profess(es) faith in Christ Jesus, reject(s) sin, and confess(es) their faith through the Apostle’s Creed. You are “baptized in the name of the Father” **splash** “and of the Son” **splash** “and of the Holy Spirit” **splash** (Matthew 28:19). The pastor draws a cross on your forehead, saying the baptismal seal, “Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

What if a student hasn’t yet been baptized?

There is a saying: “The best time to plant a tree is years ago. The second-best time to plant a tree is now.” What is stopping them from being baptized now? Ask a pastor, or visit fargohope.org/baptism, where you can register for baptism orientation and schedule a baptism at Hope.

What is the deadline for baptism to be confirmed at Hope?

Any student baptized with water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by the last programming day of their confirmation year meets this requirement for eligibility.

**CHILD OF GOD,
YOU HAVE BEEN
SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
MARKED WITH THE CROSS OF CHRIST**

F O R E V E R !

**LET YOUR LIGHT
SO SHINE BEFORE
OTHERS THAT THEY
MAY SEE YOUR
GOOD WORKS,
AND GLORIFY
YOUR FATHER
IN HEAVEN!**

CREED: RECITED IN 1-ON-1 CONVERSATION

Why does the CREED matter?

How would you answer if someone asked, “What do you believe?” The early church answered with the Apostle’s Creed. The Apostle’s Creed isn’t a section of Scripture; it’s a summary of Scripture. Like a world map, it helps us see the whole picture at once. The word Creed comes from the Latin word *credo*, meaning “I believe.” The word *credo* appears three times in the Apostle’s creed: “*I believe* in God the Father...,” “*I believe* in Jesus Christ...,” “*I believe* in the Holy Spirit...” The Creed points us to God the Trinity—one God in three persons.

Why do students recite the Creed in a 1-on-1 conversation?

Programs don’t make disciples; people make disciples. Around February of students’ confirmation year, students schedule a fifteen-minute conversation with staff to recite the creed, share why they believe the creed, and ask questions.

What does the 1-on-1 conversation look like?

You meet staff at church, sit down at a table, and discuss three questions together: “What?” “So what?” and “Now what?” First, *what* do you believe? That’s where you’ll recite the Apostle’s Creed from memory. Second, *so what* does your faith mean to you personally? That’s where we move from the head to the heart, with questions like “Who is God to you?” and “What’s one story of something God did in your life?” Third, *now what* next steps will you take in your faith? That’s where we move from the heart to the hands, discussing next steps for Scripture, prayer, worship, community, and service. Along the way, ask any questions you have about faith and life. Finally, staff pray the baptismal seal over you.

How does the Creed summarize what Christians believe?

The Creed takes the entire story of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation and condenses it into around a hundred words that billions of Christians have been saying for almost two millennia:

“I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” God is Father. He made the first humans, Adam and Eve, to be His children. Adam and Eve fell into sin and their children forgot about God, so God set His rescue mission in motion. God reintroduced Himself to Abraham, who fathered Isaac, who fathered Jacob, whom God renamed “Israel,” saying: “The Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son” (Deuteronomy 1:31). But God doesn’t just love Israel’s descendants; He loves all people (John 3:16). God promised He would do whatever it takes to restore relationship with all humanity. “As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion” (Psalm 103:13). God isn’t the reflection of your earthly father; He is the *perfection* of your earthly father—everything a good father ought to be.

God is Creator. So who created God? No one. The Bible begins, “In the beginning, *God...*” (Genesis 1:1). Everything created has a cause. Causes can’t go back infinitely. There must be a *first cause* that starts it all—an uncreated Creator. “Every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything” (Hebrews 3:4). People in the Old Testament knew God as Father and Creator, but soon we would know Him even more.

“I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord.” All of human history is measured by the day God came to earth. It’s the year two-thousand-something because of Jesus’ birth around two-thousand years ago. Christ isn’t Jesus’ last name. Christ means “Messiah” or “anointed One”—the Savior promised in the Old Testament. Fully God and fully human, He fulfilled every prophecy ever written about Him.

“He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary,” fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, “The virgin will conceive, give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

“He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried,” fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 53:5, “He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” God the Son died. John 19:34, “One of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.”

“He descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead,” fulfilling the prophecy in Psalm 16:10, “You will not abandon Me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your Faithful One see decay.”

“He ascended to heaven,” fulfilling the prophecy in Psalm 68:18, “You ascended on high, that you might dwell there.”

“He is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,” fulfilling the prophecy in Psalm 110:1, “The Lord says to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

“From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.” These words 1 Peter 4:15, that we “will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.” God’s people knew God as Father and Son, but Jesus promised even more.

“I believe in the Holy Spirit.” Jesus promised in Acts 1:8, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” And true to His Word, that’s exactly what God did. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled each one of them. Peter preached the gospel and around three thousand became followers of Jesus. Thus was born...

“The holy Christian church, the communion of saints.”

The church is holy because Jesus made us holy, not by our works but by Jesus’ finished work on the cross. When we say the church is Christian (or *catholic*, from the Greek *catholōs* of Acts 9:31, “throughout all places”), we mean every Christian, everywhere, from every century. The church is the communion of saints because we share communion together.

“The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.”

The Creed and the Scriptures end with resurrection and eternal life. Revelation 21:1-4, “I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” The last word of each is “Amen,” meaning, “Yes! Let it be so!” This is the faith we confirm.

What happens if a student doesn’t pass their conversation?

While most students “pass” their first conversation, some need another conversation before they are ready to confirm. We do not think of this as “failing”—just not yet *complete*. There are two ways this happens. First, if a student cannot recite the Creed even after rereading it and having staff help them with words along the way, they may not be ready to confirm. Second, if a student believes the Creed is *not* true, they may not be ready to confirm (doubts and questions are normal; decided disbelief is different). In these two cases, staff may contact parents to schedule another conversation. All conversations completed by the last programming day of their confirmation year meet this requirement for eligibility.

What happens if a student misses their conversation?

Conversations can be rescheduled until the last programming day of their confirmation year. Simply email youth@fargohope.org.

**I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,
CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

**I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY
SON, OUR LORD. HE WAS CONCEIVED BY
THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY. HE SUFFERED
UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED,
DIED, AND WAS BURIED. HE DESCENDED
INTO HELL. ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE
AGAIN. HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF
THE FATHER. HE WILL COME AGAIN TO
JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.**

**I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY
CHRISTIAN CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF
SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE
RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND THE
LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.**

What should students expect on Confirmation Sunday?

Confirmands often invite their families and friends to attend their appointed Sunday afternoon service, which begins like a normal worship service. After the message, confirmands stand together. A pastor asks, “Do you *renounce* all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?” Confirmands answer, “Yes, with the help of God.” Confirmands *confirm* their faith together, using the words of the Apostle’s Creed. A pastor asks, “Do you intend to *continue* to live among God’s faithful people, to hear His Word and share in His supper, to proclaim the good news of Christ through word and deed, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?” Confirmands answer, “Yes, with the help of God.” Each confirmand comes forward to be *anointed with oil* and hear the words, “Child of God. You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.” Small groups pray together, all pray the Lord’s Prayer together, and confirmands emerge as adult members of God’s church to encourage all people to know the love of Christ.

Is Confirmation a graduation from church?

No! Confirmation is strategically placed after the first year of high school ministry to encourage confirmands to *continue* their journey with Jesus. Less like a graduation and more like a job promotion, confirmation confers full adult membership in the church. That’s why we ask, “Do you intend to *continue*?” Wednesday or Sunday worship continues. High school ministry continues. Journeying with Jesus through Scripture, prayer, worship, community, and service continues.

What should students wear on Confirmation Sunday?

While there are no dress requirements, many students dress in semiformal attire. Ties, jackets, and dresses are common.

What photography options are available?

Hope Lutheran Church provides photo booths for individual, family, and small group photos before and after services. Photos are not required, and group photos are not compiled.

What's next after Confirmation?

As adult members of God's church, confirmands participate in all aspects of church life, including voting at church meetings. They continue their rhythms of Scripture, prayer, worship, community, and service. They continue Wednesday or Sunday worship. They continue high school ministry. More importantly, they bring the good news of Jesus to the next generation.

What if a student cannot attend Confirmation Sunday?

Students who have met all three requirements may request a private confirmation service with a Hope pastor.

Can someone older than ninth grade confirm their faith?

Yes! Any high schoolers who have met all three requirements may participate alongside the ninth-grade confirmands or request a private confirmation service. Adults may also confirm their faith by meeting the baptism and creed requirements, then either requesting a private confirmation service or volunteering as a small group leader and participating with their small group on Confirmation Sunday.

What if I have more questions?

Come find a staff member! We're here to help.

