

CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

**Wednesday Night Workshop
2019/2020**



**A tool box of knowledge and skills
for young disciples of Christ**



100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary, North Carolina

www.RLCary.org

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CONFIRMATION: A FAMILY EXPERIENCE AT RLC

At baptism, parents, sponsors, and members of the congregation receive God's promises and make promises to be God's instruments in nurturing the faith of the one baptized. Confirmation is one part of that lifelong sharing of God's gifts. Young people at this stage prepare to make their profession of faith in their own expressions and be commissioned into full participation in congregational life.

"Confirmation is a custom of the Church and not a sacrament. It links the catechumens to their baptism, celebrates the reception of the Lord's Word among them and, in cases where the candidates have not yet communed, welcomes them to the Lord's Table." (Lutheran Service Book Agenda)

At confirmation, a young Christian declares that he or she has been baptized, confesses the faith, and shares in communion with Christ and His Church.

MISSION AND VISION OF CONFIRMATION AT RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Confirmation provides a toolbox of equipping, modeling, and encouraging that promotes a lifestyle of following Jesus.

CONFIRMATION IS A COMMISSIONING

At Resurrection (RLC), confirmation is much more than an education exercise that ends in a graduation. Rather, confirmation is time to validate, verify, make firmer, and admit young people into full membership into our Christian faith family.

Sounds nice, but what does "full membership" look like for a young person about to enter high school? As with adults, it will vary according to Spiritual giftedness, areas of interest and opportunity as they participate in the following areas of congregational life.

Commissioned into:

Worship

Opportunities for participation and leadership in worship settings remind us that God gathers us into this faith community both to receive His gifts and to share them with others. Congregational life flows in all aspects from this central calling to gather regularly and receive life in Christ to the fullest. Confirmation students are encouraged to consider worship leadership/service as musicians, technicians, choir/band participation as their giftedness directs, ushers, greeters, and counters.

Biblical Equipping

Gathering around God's Word in Sunday and Wednesday activities affirm our identity as God's sons and daughters. His Word grounds our understanding of essential components of faith. We keep growing, learning, grappling, and knowing Christ more. Encouraging practical application and daily reflection give meaning and purpose to daily life at home, school, church, and in our communities and world.

Post confirmation experiences include leadership roles in sharing their faith with our youngest members. Opportunities for such RLC leadership await confirmed youth in Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Without Boundaries, Kidz Live, and other various settings such as RLC's high school youth group, Breakaway, and missional service opportunities.

Fellowship

Developing Christ-centered relationships with family members, peers, church staff, and adult mentors connects families to each other and moves them into the next phase of congregational life together. Confirmation students have opportunities to regularly build community through their small group, retreats, middle school youth group (Ignite), and mission trips. Post confirmation experiences include high school youth group, Breakaway (congregational), yearly (regional), and tri-annual (national) events, as well as leadership opportunities for youth groups for our youngest participants.

Missional Service Ministry

Families are provided with opportunities to reach out in Christian service together in their homes, schools, church, community, and world. Jesus tells us in Acts 1:8, "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This applies to us! As Christians, we have an important duty to spread the Gospel message to our neighbors, friends, families, communities, etc.

Youth, along with family members, are encouraged to identify and explore the meaning and application of their Spiritual giftedness for future service.

HOME CENTERED, CHURCH SUPPORTED EXPERIENCE

Hmmm, sounds good, but what exactly does it mean?

Involving and Affirming:

Parents continue to have the greatest influence on the nurture of faith of youth. RLC is here to equip parents, sponsors, members of the congregation and youth as they live out foundational promises made at baptism. **Placing the primary role of faith nurturer with the parents builds a Scriptural framework for family life throughout the life span.**

Parental involvement is vital and strongly encouraged. The classroom portion of the student's learning is only one element. The learning through family discussions, at-home projects, and life situations also helps shape the discipleship of the student and is a vital part of the confirmation process.

Parents are also encouraged to consider being a small group guide. The parent serves as a learner, facilitator, mentor, model, and much more! They work with youth in grappling and applying the lesson taught by the Pastor and the ministry staff. And, there's something to talk about on the way home!

Learning, Celebrating, and Promoting:

Opportunities which equip parents to enjoy networking with others in the church and community who know first hand the joys and challenges of adolescent family life.

Intergenerational education and face-to-face missional service help us all to recognize youth as the church of today, gifted from birth for service in God's kingdom.

Experiencing God's Presence:

In worship that receives the giftedness of all generations in God's family as they grow in appreciation of one another.

RLC's confirmation experience is one of many tools God provides parents as they live out their God-given primary role in nurturing the faith of their family members. **Staff and lay leaders serve as facilitators and partners for parents to participate with their child, not only in attending classes, but in the total confirmation experience.**

TO THE STUDENT

What is confirmation, anyway?

It's the time when you – not your parents or friends – **confirm God's gift of faith** given to you at your baptism.

Why confirmation now?

You are growing in your faith through a very special time of **discovery** of beliefs, **priorities**, and **values** for yourself. Now is a time for you and your family to consider carefully:

- God's promises and gifts given at baptism.
- How your gift of faith provides for **all areas** of your life.
- How God is blessing you to serve in his kingdom now and the future.

What is expected of me?

As a maturing young person, you are expected to be responsible for your learning with lots of help from your parents and class leaders. Important components of your responsibilities include:

- Active, regular participation in worship and class sessions on Sunday and Wednesday.
- Discuss sermon and worship experience with your family on a regular basis.
- Participate in missional service projects.
- Give your personal 100% and make it a lifestyle.
- Respect yourself, other people, and property.
- Encourage others; no put downs.

How to make the most of confirmation?

- Be on time for classes.
- Be ready with your Bible, Catechism, notebook, highlighter, and pen.
- Bring your best attitude, assignments, and questions.

TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Holy Scripture gives parents the responsibility of nurturing the faith of their children. As partners with you in this “home centered, church supported” confirmation ministry, we thank you for putting this God-given responsibility into action. Many times, we think that pastors, teachers, and volunteer leaders are “experts” in nurturing faith of youth. Continued research indicates that **parents are the true experts** when it comes to their family members and that parents continue to have the **most influence in the development of faith of their youth**. Ministry staff is here to equip *you* so your influence will be distinctly Christian.

Many parents are surprised to find that Martin Luther wrote his primary teaching tool for biblical doctrine, Luther’s Small Catechism, for parents, not pastors or church professionals. As you grow in your role as faith nurturers of your family, we are pleased to invite you to join in confirmation ministry in an active, committed role both inside the classroom and in your home.

Confirmation is simply too important to do without you! When you take your children home from Wednesday Night Workshop, ask about the lessons they learned. Talk about it in the car on the way home.

Informal discussions of classroom topics that follow class remind them that you are on this faith journey together as you encourage your youth to bring questions and insights to the next class session. “Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:7)

In order for your family to get the best opportunity for faith nurture with lasting impact, please:

- **Participate** in worship and Bible classes regularly – actions speak louder than words.
- **Pray** for all youth, parents, and class leaders regularly.
- **Arrive on time** for classes.
- Make sure **students have materials needed** – check with class leader about what is required.

- **Trust** God to keep his baptismal promises given to your family members.
- **Learn** with your child as you study God's word together.
- Guide your child to get missed material from the teacher, if your child misses a class.
- Contact your child's teacher when your child will miss class. Teacher contact information is listed on page 16.

BECOME A SMALL GROUP GUIDE!

Another way to be an active "faith walker" with your teen.

A Small Group Guide is:

- A Facilitator – guiding and encouraging positive outcomes.
- A Mentor
- A Listener
- A Theologian (a person who studies God)
- A Friend and Advocate
- An Example and Role Model

A Small Group Guide is not:

- A Teacher
- A Parent in the classroom
- The Boss
- An Expert – the guide does not show expertise but encourages group members to share knowledge and information
- A Buddy

Small group guides are set for this confirmation year. Please let ministry staff know if you are interested in becoming a small group guide in the future.

MISSIONAL SERVICE COMPONENT

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!" Philippians 2:4-8

Considering the gifts poured out to us at baptism, we are reminded that God blesses us to be a blessing to others. Families are encouraged to seek opportunities to serve together in neighborhood, school, community, national, and international service projects. Missional service is one way to show God's love to others. Face-to-face service (meaning working with another person) is strongly encouraged. It is nice to mow someone's lawn, but also remember to take the time to sit down with that person, talk and personally bring God's love to them just by talking.

Instead of logging hours and getting signatures, please write a 1-2 page summary of the acts of service you have completed including what you have learned and experienced.

Parents are encouraged to help youth seek a variety of service project options. See the list of suggested missional service activities below for ideas.

SUGGESTED MISSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Ignite, RLC's middle school youth group, will provide some service opportunities throughout the year. In addition, look for ways you can serve others at home, school, in your neighborhood, with clubs or teams, or any activities you are involved.

Community/Neighborhood

- Scout Projects
- Neighborhood Clean-Up
- Food and Clothing Drives

- Operation InAsMuch
- Brown Bag Ministry
- Visiting Nursing Homes
- Volunteering for Western Wake Crisis Ministry

Family/Home

- Helping Grandparents
- Leading Family Devotion
- Visit Family Member or Friend in Hospital or Nursing Home

RLC/Church

- Acolyte – Sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b48afa62c7-summer
- Greeter – Deb Oesterling
- Nursery Assistant – MaryAnn Unger
- Childcare for Church Activities – MaryAnn Unger
- Vocalist or Musician – Bob Unger
- Children’s Ministry Events Help – Lea Webb
- Without Boundaries – Lea Webb
- First Communion/Confirmation Events Help – MaryAnn Unger

WORSHIP/SERMON NOTES

...Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:13-14)

As we grow in our hearing of God's preached Word, sermon notes help develop a discerning attitude and a deeper sense of active participation (active listening) in our worship.

Confirmation notes challenge learners to listen to sermons with a proper distinction between God's law and God's gospel as they receive God's preached Word and apply it to daily life.

If you desire to use worship/sermon notes, blank forms are found in the mailboxes next to the door leading into the Narthex and on the children's table in the Family Life Center.

Be sure to include all information written clearly. Return completed forms to the appropriate mailbox next to where the blank forms are found. They will be returned to the family mailbox with notes to the student by Anne Altieri. This is a good opportunity for parents to review with their student.

This year, completing worship/sermon notes is not required. If you would like to use these resources, they will remain available.

It is desired for families to make intentional efforts to discuss their worship experience together. Discuss the sermon, the readings, and the hymns or songs. Each family member should share their questions and input.

SERMON NOTES (OPTIONAL)

Name: _____

Grade (6th-8th): _____

Date of Sermon: _____

Sunday of the Church Year: _____

Text from the Bible Used for the Sermon: _____

A. Give a brief summary of how the **Law** was proclaimed in the sermon (two or three sentences):

B. Briefly summarize how the **Gospel** was proclaimed in the sermon (two or three sentences):

C. How is the message of this sermon applied to your life today? (two or three sentences):

For a review of the term "**Law and Gospel**", see page 51 and page 101 of your Catechism.

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN LAW AND GOSPEL

The **Law** teaches what we are to do and not to do;
The **Gospel** teaches what God has done for our Salvation.
~ Psalm 32:1-5

The **Law** shows us our sin and the wrath of God;
The **Gospel** shows us our Savior and the grace of God.
~ Romans 3:21-24

The **Law** exposes the works of our sinful flesh;
The **Gospel** reveals the works of Jesus,
and the gift of His holy flesh and blood.
~ Ephesians 2:1-9, 5:25-27

The **Law** must be proclaimed to all people, but especially to impenitent sinners;
The **Gospel** must be proclaimed to sinners who are troubled in their minds because of their sins.
~ Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:13

The **Law** delivers condemnation and death;
The **Gospel** bestows the gift of forgiveness and life.
~ Colossians 1:13-14

The **Law** declares us to be guilty according to our sinful nature;
The **Gospel** declares us to be innocent and holy according to the innocence of Jesus.
~ 1 Peter 1:18-19

The **Law** produces accusations, excuses, and works-righteousness;
The **Gospel** produces faith, thankfulness, and freedom.
~ Romans 10:14-17; Matthew 11:28

8TH GRADE FAITH AFFIRMATION

Now that you're in your last year of confirmation, it's time to affirm what you believe. Your parents made promises at your baptism, but now is your opportunity to stand up, stand firm, and declare how God has shaped your life. Using the knowledge that you've gained over the past four years, the experiences you've shared, and the maturity as you get older, reflect on these questions. How is God the center of your life? How do you share your faith? How is God leading you?

The 8th Grade Faith Affirmation is a project you will complete, to personally reflect on those questions, and share your reflections with the congregation. You will start by researching several Bible verses, and eventually choose a verse which will be your confirmation verse. There are three assignments that will help formulate thoughts for writing final draft. Each part of the assignment is IMPORTANT, as we break every step down for you. Finally, you will have the option to speak in front of the congregation at the service of your choosing, affirming your faith, and making a public effort to share what you believe. Or you can share a talent/gift that God has given you and tell how you can use this gift to serve God and others. Don't worry, we'll be right there along with your parents to guide and support you along the way!

IMPORTANT DATES

The following dates will help plan for the Faith Affirmation:

February 12 – Faith Affirmation **Rough Draft** Due at End of Class

March 28/29, April 4/5, April 18/19 – Faith Affirmations Given in Worship

Date TBD - Sharing of Faith and Gifts Event

2019/2020 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Weekly during WNW	6:00-6:25 pm Warehouse Open for Ignite (6 th -8 th)
September 11, 18, 25	6:30-7:30 pm – Confirmation Class
October 2	6:30-7:30 pm - Confirmation Class
October 9	No Confirmation Class
October 16, 23	6:30-7:30 pm - Confirmation Class
October 30	6:30-7:30 pm - Reformation Festival in Family Life Center
November 6, 13, 20	6:30-7:30 pm - Confirmation Class
December 4, 11, 18	No Confirmation Class Advent Services at 6:10 pm in Sanctuary
December 25	Christmas - No Confirmation Class
January 1	New Year's Day - No Confirmation Class
January 8, 15, 22, 29	6:30-7:30 pm - Confirmation Class
February 5, 12, 19	6:30-7:30 pm - Confirmation Class
February 26	Ash Wednesday – No Confirmation Class 8:45 am, 7:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary
March 4, 11, 18, 25	No Confirmation Class Lenten Vespers at 6:10 pm in Sanctuary
March 30/31	8 th Grade Faith Affirmations in Worship
April 1	No Confirmation Class Lenten Vespers at 6:10 pm in Sanctuary
April 4/5	8 th Grade Faith Affirmations in Worship
April 8	5 th Grade Seder Meal, 6:00 pm in Family Life Center

Confirmation Schedule Continued

April 9	Holy Week – No Class
5 th grade students that finished preparation for Holy Communion may commune on Maundy Thursday.	
April 15	6:30-7:30 pm - Last Confirmation Class
April 18/19	8 th Grade Faith Affirmations in Worship
April 22	8 th Grade Confirmation Banquet 6:00 pm in Family Life Center
April 26	Confirmation at 10:30 Service in Sanctuary

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young,
but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct,
in love, in faith and in purity (1 Timothy 4:12)*

6TH GRADE CLASS SCHEDULE

6th Grade Class Meets in Room 247 with Sonja Striplin

September 11	Introduction to Luther's Catechism
September 18	Introduction to the Church Year
September 25	Luther: One Solitary Monk
October 2	Luther: A Protesting Professor
October 9	No Class
October 16	Luther: Troubles and Trial
October 23	Luther: His Legacy
October 30	Reformation Festival, 6:30-7:30 pm, FLC
November 6, 13, 20	Small Group Projects
January 8	The Acts of Prayer
January 15	The Lord's Prayer Intro and First Petition
January 22	The Lord's Prayer Second and Third Petition
January 29	The Lord's Prayer Fourth Petition
February 5	The Lord's Prayer Fifth Petition
February 12	The Lord's Prayer Sixth and Seventh Petition
February 19	The Lord's Prayer Conclusion
April 15	Review and Wrap-Up

7TH GRADE CLASS SCHEDULE

7th Grade Class Meets in Room 240 with David and Leah Robison

September 11	Confession and Absolution
September 18	Old Testament
September 25	Books of Moses (Genesis-Deuteronomy)
October 2	Books of History (Joshua-Esther)
October 9	No Class
October 16	Books of Wisdom and Poetry (Job-Song of Solomon) Books of the Prophets (Isaiah-Malachi)
October 23	Time Between Testaments
October 30	Reformation Festival, 6:30-7:30 pm, FLC
November 6	New Testament
November 13	Gospels and Acts (Matthew-Acts)
November 20	Paul's Epistles (Romans-Philemon)
January 8	General Epistles, Revelation (Hebrews-Revelation)
January 15	Apostle's Creed – 1 st Article
January 22	Apostle's Creed – 1 st Article
January 29	Apostle's Creed – 2 nd Article
February 5	Apostle's Creed – 2 nd Article
February 12	Apostle's Creed – 3 rd Article
February 19	Apostle's Creed – 3 rd Article
April 15	Review

8TH GRADE CLASS SCHEDULE

8th Grade Class Meets in Room 251 with MaryAnn Unger

September 11	Baptism 1
September 18	Baptism 2
September 25	Baptism 3
October 2	Parent/Child Confirmation Verse Workshop
October 9	No Class
October 16	Faith Statement Worksheet 1
October 23	Faith Statement Worksheet 2
October 30	Reformation Festival, 6:30-7:30 pm, FLC
November 6	Faith Statement Worksheet 3
November 13	Spiritual Gifts Inventory
November 20	Sharing of Service Experiences
January 8	TBD by Pastor
January 15	TBD by Pastor
January 22	TBD by Pastor
January 29	TBD by Pastor
February 5	TBD by Pastor
February 12	TBD by Pastor
February 19	TBD by Pastor
April 15	TBD by Pastor

TEACHERS AND CLASSROOMS

6th grade in Room 247 with Sonja Striplin

7th grade in Room 240 with David and Leah Robison

8th grade in Room 251 with MaryAnn Unger

HOW WILL WE STAY INFORMED?

The most current confirmation information is available on the Resurrection Lutheran Church website, www.rlcary.org, under Ministries.

(<http://www.rlcary.org/ministries/confirmation/>)

Occasionally, information is included in the Weekly Announcements, which are emailed every Friday with hard copies available at Information Centers, and the Monthly Newsletter, emailed at the beginning of the month with hard copies available at Information Centers.

Class specific emails are sent through Resurrection Church Builder (RCB).

If you are not receiving emails or need assistance with RCB, please contact the church office at office@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

We will have class unless otherwise noted!

If classes are canceled, emails from teachers will be sent through RCB.

Church-wide closing notices are available via recording at 919-851-7248, ext. 42, on the homepage of the website at www.rlcary.org, through a RCB email, and on social media (Facebook and Instagram).

CONFIRMATION CONTACTS

Overall Confirmation Program, 8th Grade Class, and
5th Grade Welcome to the Lord’s Table (First Communion):

MaryAnn Unger	maryann.unger@rlcary.org text 919-239-9084
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7th Grade Class:

David and Leah Robison	leah.m.robison@gmail.com
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6th Grade Class:

Sonja Striplin	sonja_striplin@yahoo.com
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Worship/Sermon Notes:

Anne Altieri	anne.n.altieri@gmail.com
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RLC CONTACTS

Church Office	office@rlcary.org 919-851-7248
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MaryAnn Unger (Acolyte, Nursery)	maryann.unger@rlcary.org
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Lea Webb (Children’s Ministry)	lea.webb@rlcary.org
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LeAnn Trautman (Ignite/Middle School)	leann.trautman@rlcary.org
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Jenny Piontek (Breakaway/High School)	jenny.piontek@rlcary.org
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Bob Unger (Music)	robert.unger@rlcary.org
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Deb Oesterling (Greeters)	deb.oesterling@rlcary.org
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ABOUT US

Resurrection Lutheran Church has been joyfully serving and ministering to the western Wake County area since 1978. We are part of the larger Christian witness of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, Southeastern District, with over 500 in worship each weekend in four services.

Since 1984, our **Resurrection Lutheran Preschool** has provided Christian education to nurture hundreds of our young children.

Since 1998, our **Resurrection Music School** has provided quality instruction for a variety of instruments in a Christian setting.

Since 2002, our **Resurrection Lutheran School**, an academically focused, dually accredited K-8 school, has provided a Christian education as a Christ-centered alternative to public school.

Resurrection has a growing program of children's, teen's, and adult education. We offer trained lay caregivers known as Stephen Ministers to support us in our Christian journey. Among the local care ministries we support are Families Together, Western Wake Crisis Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Safe Families for Children, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and our own monthly Coffeehouse ministry for those with special needs, and Outreach to the Blind for those with visual impairments.

There are many opportunities to connect, serve, learn, and grow at RLC. We encourage you to find areas of interest that best suit your natural gifts, and join us as *we reach out with the love of Christ, **by grace, through faith, for service***

WORSHIP

Reverend Jon Richter, Vacancy Pastor

Saturday | 6:00 pm

Sunday | 8:00 and 10:30 am

Contemporary Worship

Sunday | 10:45 am