

*A Parent's Guide
to Confirmation*

2017-2018

Updated 8/2017

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Who is confirmation for?

At Mount Olive students in 6th and 7th grade attend Confirmation classes.

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation students study the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism learning the foundations of the Christian faith where as the student confirms their faith in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and promises to remain faithful for life (Rev. 2:10).

When is confirmation?

Students meet on Wednesday nights from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Worship Center. When students are not in class they do devotions, study their memory work and complete worship reflections with their parents.

Why Confirmation?

As babies parents bring their children to church to be baptized. At baptism parents and God parents vow before God and the church to bring that child up in the Christian Faith, to teach them the Holy Scriptures, creeds and the commandments. Part of that spiritual growth includes two years of spiritual training where the student prepares to be a committed disciple of Christ and receive Holy Communion. At the conclusion of those two years each student publicly confirms their faith in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and promises to remain faithful to Him even to the point of death and they will receive the crown of life (**Rev. 2:10**).

What are the requirements of Confirmation?

Confirmation is a two-year commitment. Each year students are required to attend class sessions, do devotions, Worship Reflections, memory work assignments, servant events, attend a weekend retreat and acolyte.

Required Materials

Pen /Pencil

Binder (provided by Church)

Life Application Study Bible (can be purchased from the church \$20)

Luther's Small (burgundy) Catechism (can be purchased from the church \$15)

Required Fees

\$25.00 program fee

\$80.00 6th grade weekend retreat

\$130.00 7th grade weekend retreat

\$50 gown, stole, and pictures (applies only to 7th Grade Confirmands and is paid in March)

If you need financial assistance for any of these fees please call Tammy Hoyord at 359-5546 or email tammy@mtoliveweston.org to request assistance.

Communication

If looking for information and/or forms please look in the following four areas:

- Your child's binder
- Facebook page (Mount Olive Ignite Group)
- Website (mtoliveweston.org)
- Remind App

If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding classwork or group activity please contact your Guide Huddle Leader. All other questions and/or concerns should be directed to Tammy Hoyord 359-5546 or tammy@mtoliveweston.org.

We will be using Remind as a communication tool. You can choose to receive updates by email or text message. Please see the last page for instructions on signing up. We encourage both you and your student to sign up!

Home Project

Each week the student will be assigned work to be done with family assistance. The goal is to have the student interact with their family to grow further in their faith. A parent or guardian will be expected to sign off on the project each week.

Memory Work

Students are assigned to memorize scripture, prayers, creeds or explanations from the catechism. Your child should study the memory work and be prepared to say it or write it at class each week.

Worship Reflections

Each student is to complete Worship Reflections each year of confirmation. Worship Reflections are to be done during the Worship Service. The purpose is for students to reflect upon the worship experience and the message and how that message can be applied to their life. Worship Reflection forms are in student's binders. Students should bring binder to worship. If you miss one of the special worship services you must attend another worship service and do a make-up worship reflection. Worship Reflections can be turned in at the back of the Worship Center in the wooden credenza. There is a slot on the left side – please fold your paper in half and insert into the slot.

Attendance

Attendance at church is expected of all students. Our expectation at Mount Olive is that families worship together regularly. Attendance at all classes is mandatory.

***Exodus 20:8-11** - Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

Acolyting – 7th Grade Students

Acolyting is the lighting of candles. Each year, a schedule is made out on a rotating basis for students to light and extinguish the altar candles. Acolyting gives students an opportunity to serve an active role in the worship service. Not everyone will be scheduled for his or her preferred worship time. We ask for flexibility with the schedule. Each worship service needs this service completed. Worshiping at different times gives families an opportunity to see a variety in worship service styles. If the student cannot make their assigned service to acolyte it is their responsibility to switch with another student. Students will be trained on Acolyting procedures and guidelines. ***Students who miss should see Tammy to be rescheduled to another service. (See Acolyting Guidelines at the back of this handout and at the back of the binder)***

Weekend Retreat

This mandatory get away allows students the opportunity to get away from all the barriers of their busy life and enjoy a weekend of in-depth spiritual growth and fellowship. On the retreat weekend students will have time to be reflective on their personal commitment to their spiritual growth. Sixth grade students go to Camp Luther, which is located in Three Lakes, WI. Seventh grade students go to Camp Forest Springs in Westboro, WI. ***For information on times and packing listings for the retreats, see the last two pages of this handbook.***

Servant Events

Each year students are required to participate in three servant events. Servant events give students the opportunity to live out their faith by being the hands and feet of Christ and to follow His command to serve and love others by following His example (*John 13:15-17*) as well practice our charge to be cheerful givers (*2 Cor. 9:7-8 & Eph. 2:10*). Servant events will include creating a Guide Huddle basket for our annual Youth In Action silent auction as well as Bell Ringing with their Guide Huddle Leaders. Forms for each are in the binders. In addition, 6th grade students will be asked to bring a pie and to volunteer for AutumnFest. The 7th grade students will participate in acolyting in the Worship Center.

In the event a student misses their scheduled servant event, it becomes the responsibility of the parent to come up with a substitute servant activity. The student must then submit a one-page write up explaining the servant event and have their parent's sign it. Forms are available from the Guide Huddle Leader.

7th Grade Confirmation Interview

This interview is part of the confirmation evaluation process for students ready to be confirmed. This interview is conducted at their weekend retreat to Camp Forest Springs. The intent of the interview is to discuss and review the student's faith and commitment in their personal relationship with Christ.

Activity Permission Slip

Parent permission is required for all students under the age of 18 to attend any Mt. Olive sponsored activity requiring transportation off-site. These forms can be obtained from the church office or on our web site www.mtoliveweston.org

What happens if my child is absent from a scheduled class session?

If your child is sick and needs to miss class you or your child should call the guide huddle leader to inform them of the absence. All assignments are still due as scheduled regardless of the missed class session. If your child misses more than 3 classes they will need to attend a make-up class(es). Parent attendance at make-up classes is required.

What is the role of parents in confirmation?

God has given parents the most important role of all. Parents are the primary role model and spiritual leader in their child's life. The spiritual choices and priorities parents make set the mark for their children. Mt. Olive confirmation classes are designed with that parent role in mind, keeping the parents actively involved in the spiritual growth and development process. When a child is not in class they are to complete missed work, memory work assignments and worship reflections with their parents. What a child gets out of these lessons is determined by the priority the parents place on them. In addition to class work, students are required to complete worship reflections after attending a worship service. That means *parents must provide the opportunity for their family to attend worship*. Parents must weekly assist with family projects and sign off upon completion.

My child has special learning needs. Is there any help or resources for me to help my child?

If your child has special learning needs please talk with Pastor Lance and we will develop a plan that meets your child's specific learning needs.

I am having trouble completing assignments and memory work with my child. What should I do?

If you have any trouble understanding or completing assignments talk with your Guide Huddle Leader or Pastor Lance right away. **DO NOT get behind on assignments.**

What are some important spiritual foundations I should teach my child?

In our hectic lives, we often times forget to keep God as the head of our household. We forget that He controls our lives and has a plan for each of us. It is important as parents that you make sure your child has a solid

spiritual foundation based on Jesus Christ. Children must know and understand that we are all sinful and in need of daily forgiveness. This forgiveness comes only from daily conversation with God and the complete understanding that Jesus Christ paid the price for our sinfulness on the cross at Calvary. This is the basic understanding of the Christian faith. With that understanding God has given us some guidelines and basic principles to live our life by. These are all found in God's Word in the Bible. Some of these important principles are: daily spiritual feeding with God's word, weekly worship, supporting God's work through our time, talents, and treasures.

Where can I find materials and information to help me with my child's spiritual growth and development?

The Bible is always the best source of reference and resource. If you would like additional resources you can check the local Christian book stores in town or talk with one of the pastors to find a source that specifically meets your needs.

Guide Huddle Leaders

Guide Huddle Leaders are adults who are committed to spiritual growth and development in the youth of our congregation. The role of Guide Huddle Leaders is to facilitate small group discussion after a large group lesson lead by the pastor. Guide Huddle Leaders are also available to help your child manage their materials and be organized. Guide Huddle Leaders will assist with questions and assignments. All Mt. Olive volunteers working with youth are required to undergo a routine background check done by the Ministry Administrator of our congregation.

Requirements for being a guide huddle leader are:

- Have a desire to help kids grow in knowledge and understanding of their faith
- Attend the scheduled class sessions
- Participate in class discussions
- Facilitate a huddle of students (five or six students)
- Monitor the assignments to make sure student doesn't fall behind
- Keep the pastor informed on progress and problems
- Pray for Students in their Huddle
- Attend servant events with your huddle of students
- Communicate with parents

If you are interested in this opportunity please see Tammy.

Confirmation Compact

2017-2018

As a confirmation student I promise to:

- Attend scheduled class sessions, retreats and servant events
- Be responsible for completing all necessary assignments and requirements
- Communicate with my parents information about course assignments
- Study and understand the basics of faith and Christian living
- Participate in Christian fellowship and Bible Study

As the parent(s) of my confirmation student I promise to:

- Pray for my child on a daily basis
- Raise my child to know the basics of faith and Jesus Christ as their Savior
- Bring my child to their scheduled confirmation class, retreats and servant events
- Help my child with course requirements
- Make weekly worship a priority in our family
- Encourage my child to be active in Christian fellowship and Bible Study

As Pastor of Confirmation I promise to:

- Pray for my students
- Instruct in the basics of the Bible, Christian Faith and living
- Provide opportunities for Christian fellowship and spiritual growth
- Be available to answer questions and guidance beyond scheduled class sessions

As a Guide Huddle Leader of confirmation students I promise to:

- Pray for the students in my Huddle
- Facilitate students during class time through small group instruction
- Attend scheduled class sessions and servant events
- Help students be accountable for turning in and completing all course requirements
- Communicate with parents as needed regarding students meeting course expectations and requirements
- Be available to answer questions

Acolyting Guidelines

- ❑ Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the service meet the Worship Leader.
- ❑ Sign-in with Worship Leaders' initials.
- ❑ Dress your role! You are a part of the worship team for that service. Choose your clothes accordingly.
- ❑ Place your binder in seat prior to service start.
- ❑ Meet the Worship Leader or Pastor serving the worship service you are participating in
- ❑ Five minutes prior to the start of the service the Worship Leader will light your wick
- ❑ One person lights the Christ Candle and the altar candles. The other person lights the other three floor candles.
- ❑ Extinguish your wick and return your taper to the hooks on the back wall behind the altar
- ❑ Participate in the worship service
- ❑ Sit down in your assigned seat When the closing song begins, retrieve your taper
- ❑ Extinguish the candles in the opposite order you lit them.
- ❑ Return the taper to its place on the wall behind the altar
- ❑ 8:00 service - Robe up, retrieve the taper and check the wick (found in the sacristy-room behind the altar)
- ❑ 8:00 service - Neatly hang your robe back in the closet in the sacristy

Remember that you are part of this worship team for that service. Your behavior choices make a difference to the dynamics of worship.

If a student is unable to attend their scheduled acolyting time it is their responsibility to use the acolyting sub list to find a replacement or switch with another student PRIOR TO the worship service they are scheduled to participate in. Participating in a worship service is a requirement for confirmation and is the student's responsibility to complete. You must sign-in with the head usher in order to receive credit for acolyting. If you miss you will be assigned an 8:00am service to acolyte for. (See **Acolyting Schedule for worship date requirements and sub list**).

6th Grade Youth Retreat Camp Luther January 5-6, 2018

The Confirmation Retreat for 6th Graders is fast approaching.

Costs & Registration

1. Registration Cost per person is **\$80.00** and includes:
 - a. Housing and meals
 - b. Tubing, Snowshoeing, Cross-Country skiing and Broom Hockey
 - c. Transportation
2. Additional costs (not mandatory):
 - a. Spending money for snacks in the Canteen (soda, chips, and candy)

Please bring the following items with you:

Sleeping Bag

Pillow

Outdoor Winter Snow Gear (snowsuit or snow pants, boots, gloves, hat, scarf, etc..)

Toiletries (toothpaste/brush, deodorant, soap, shampoo, **towel**, wash-cloth)

Clothes (extra socks, if they get wet)

Binder, Bible and Pen/Pencil

Please DO NOT bring:

- Energy Drinks
- Electronic Devices – including cell phones!

Permission Slips and Release Forms

Please fill out the Mount Olive Activity Permission Form.

Medications- All medications **must be turned in before departure** and must have a Medication Release Form to be given during the trip. You can pick this up from the office, or e-mail Tammy or tammy@mtoliveweston.org.

Coming and Going

The group will be leaving on **Friday, January 5th from Mount Olive at 5:30 p.m. Please eat dinner before you come or bring a sack lunch for the bus-ride. We will return at approximately around 11:00 p.m. on Saturday the 8th to Mt. Olive.**

Contact Phone Number & Misc

If for some reason you need to get in touch with your child, you may call Pastor Lance at: 715-302-1351 or Kevin Podeweltz 715-218-1824.

If financial assistance is needed, please call Tammy Hoyord at the church office 715-359-5546.

7th Grade Youth Retreat Forest Springs Camp February 23-25, 2018

Costs & Registration

1. Registration Cost per person is \$130 and includes:
 - a) Housing and meals
 - b) Tubing and Broom Hockey
 - c) Transportation
2. Additional costs (not mandatory):
 - a) Snowboarding (see Rental Fee Sheet)
 - b) Cross Country Skiing (see Rental Fee Sheet)
 - c) Downhill skiing (see Rental Fee Sheet)
 - d) Ice Skating (see Rental Fee Sheet)
 - e) Money to Purchase Snacks in the Main Street Café and General Store
3. Additional money covering other activities should be brought along by youth attending.

Please bring the following items with you:

Sleeping Bag & Pillow

Outdoor Winter Snow Gear (snowsuit or snow pants, boots, gloves, hat, scarf, etc..)

Toiletries (toothpaste/brush, deodorant, soap, shampoo, **towel**, wash-cloth)

Clothes (extra socks, if they get wet)

Binder, Bible and Pen/Pencil

INTERVIEW REVIEW SHEET

VERSE SELECTION FORM

Please DO NOT bring:

- Energy Drinks
- Electronic Devices – including cell phones!

Permission Slips and Release Forms

Please fill out the Camp Forest Springs Retreat Release Form along with the Mount Olive Activity Permission Form.

Medications- All medications **must be turned in before departure** and must have a Medication Release Form to be given during the trip. You can pick this up from the office, or e-mail Tammy or tammy@mtoliveweston.org.

Departure and Return Information

1. *Please be at the church by 5:30 PM on Friday the 23rd. Each youth should either eat before coming or bring a sack lunch to eat on the way*
2. *The group will return at approximately noon on Sunday the 25th.*

Contact Phone Number & Misc

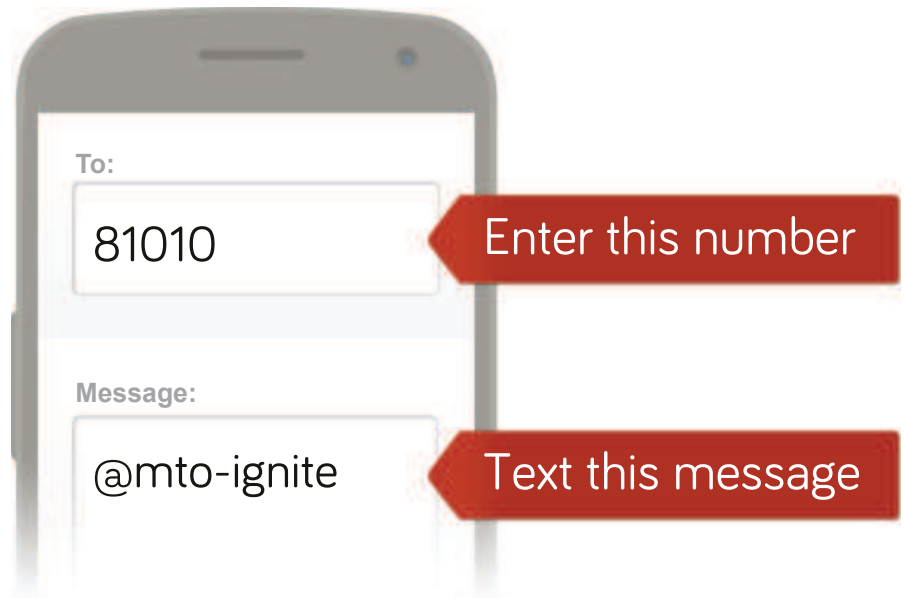
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If financial assistance is needed, please call Tammy Hoyord at the church office 715-359-5546.

Mt. Olive Ignite would like you to join Mt. Olive Confirmation!

To receive messages via text, text **@mto-ignite** to **81010**. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @mto-ignite'.

Trouble using 81010? Try texting **@mto-ignite** to **(715) 502-4483** instead.



*Standard text message rates apply.

Or to receive messages via email, send an email to **mto-ignite@mail.remind.com**. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.



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