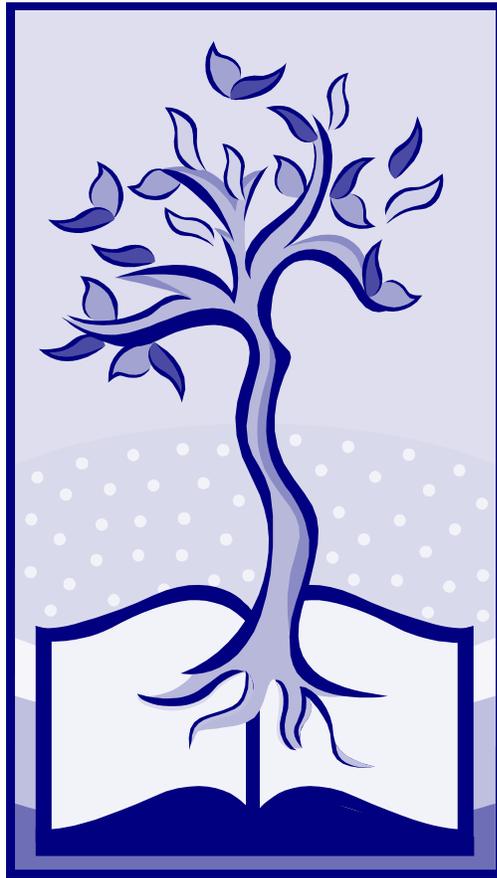


A Parent's Handbook
to
Sunday School



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
Red Brick Church on the Corner of East Ave. & Fifth St.
www.stjohnsredwing.org

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“Won't You Go?”

A little girl with shining eyes
Her little face aglow
Said, “Daddy it is almost time
For Sunday School; let's go!

They teach us there of Jesus' love,
Of how He died for all;
And how He answers from above
Those who on Him will call.”

“Oh, no,” said Daddy, “not today,
I've worked so hard all week
I must relax and rest awhile –
I'm going to the creek.

So run along, don't bother me;
We'll go to church some day;
But I must have one day of rest
And fishing's fine, they say.”

Before you know the years are past,
Those childish days are o'er –
“Let's go to Sunday School today,”
Her Daddy hears no more.

And now that Daddy's growing old,
When life is almost through,
He finds some time to go to church,
But what does a daughter do?

She says, “Oh, Daddy, not today,
I danced almost all night,
And I've just got to get some sleep.
Besides, I look affright.”

Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away the tears:
Again he hears the pleading voice
Distinctly through the years.

He sees a small girl's shining face,
Upturned, with eyes aglow;
“It's time for Sunday School,” she begs,
“Please, Daddy, won't you go?”

A Word About Sunday School

Take-it-or-leave-it Fun Time?

For decades people have thought of Sunday School as being little more than a take-it-or-leave-it fun time. For that reason attendance has been viewed as optional. We need to reevaluate that perspective on the Sunday morning experience.

For Many, The Only Avenue for Christian Training!

The Christian education given in Sunday School is important. It is the only avenue for the Christian training of those children of our congregation who do not attend our Lutheran Elementary School. If these children do not receive a thorough Christian education in Sunday School on Sunday mornings, where else are they going to get it??!! The reality is, they will not!

Implications

We need to take a new perspective on Sunday morning Sunday School.

- ☺ It is “important time” more than “fun time”
- ☺ Regular and faithful attendance is a **must**. Sunday School must be a *high priority item*.
- ☺ Full participation is *critical*
- ☺ Mastery of the material covered in class is *essential*

Sunday School

It involves STUDY, and therefore follows a structured program for the Christian education of God's precious lambs. If it is to be successful, *the congregation, the parents, the teachers, and the students must take it seriously.*

Enrollment

Our Sunday School is set up for students of our congregation ages 4 – grade 8. We invite all the children of our congregation who fit into this age group to attend. We give our strongest encouragement to attend to those children in this age group who are not enrolled in our congregation's Lutheran Elementary School.

We also heartily welcome children from the community to enroll in our Sunday School.

The Purpose of Our Sunday School

Shortly before the Savior ascended into heaven, He said: ***“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the very end of the age”*** (Matthew 28:19-20).

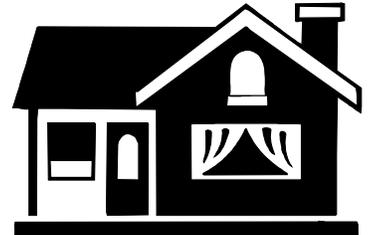
How blessed by God your children are that He graciously caused them to be born into a Christian family, for that meant that, for your child, there would be rescue from the curse of sin, the sting of death and the power of the devil at a very early age, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in the name of the Triune God.



I'm sure you noticed from our Bible passage, however, that God's will for you as a Christian parent did not end with your child's baptism. Our Bible passage went on to say, ***“and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*** It is clearly the Savior's will that those who have been baptized also be taught the meaning and the purpose of their baptism.

This too is the responsibility of Christian parents. The reading of Bible lessons, holding family devotions, discussing current events in the light of God's Word, attending worship services and Bible classes regularly... these are some of the reasons why God gives parents to children. Through Christian parents God wants to open up to children the wonderful treasures of His Word. Through Christian parents God wants children to learn unconditional love, care, and commitment. Christian parents are to live a life which shows their children what it means to be a Christian who has a loving and faithful God.

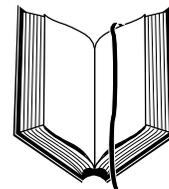
Teaching is one of the most important parts of parenting. It is an awesome and sometimes scary task that God gives to Christian parents. That is why so many Christian parents have found the



Savior's promise so comforting. They are reminded that they are not alone in their efforts when Jesus says, ***“Surely I am with you always.”***

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. – Joshua 24:15

In addition to that comforting promise, the Savior has also given to Christian parents another aid in the Christian education of their child(ren). That aid is the local Christian congregation. St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church operates a Sunday School so that it might also put into practice the Savior's will of ***“teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”***

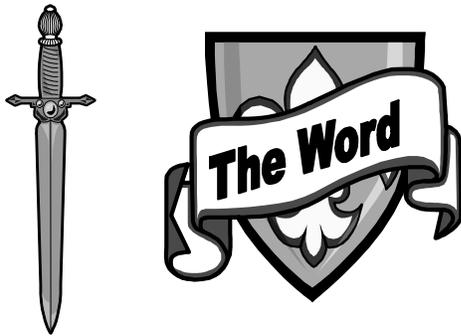


Each week the students of our Sunday School study a lesson of the Bible. Our teachers aim to impress upon the hearts and minds of the children not only the facts of the lesson, but also how the Bible lesson applies to his/her life. Through this Christian instruction, our Sunday School aims to fertilize the seed of faith which God planted in the hearts of children at their baptism, for it is through this faith in Christ that your child will remain in the family of God, possessing God as his/her Father and heaven as his/her eternal home.

Expectations of Our Sunday School

1. So that children may learn as much Bible History as possible during their Sunday School years, we expect that all children of our congregation who are eligible for Sunday School will be in attendance each Sunday morning that they are able. Formal confirmation instruction begins not with the Catechism in the upper grades, but with Bible History in the lower grades. The importance of a fundamental understanding of the basic Bible History lessons must be clearly understood.

2. So that children may have a shield and a sword with which to defend themselves against the attacks of the devil, we expect the children of our Sunday School to make full use of the mental talents and abilities which God has entrusted to their care in learning the Bible lessons.



3. So that children may have a shield and a sword with which to defend themselves against the attacks of the devil, we expect the children of our Sunday School to memorize the assigned parts of the catechism as well as Bible passages, hymn verses, and prayers. In this way the students will immediately have at their disposal beautiful summaries of the Christian faith, and an arsenal of weapons with which to defend that faith.

4. So that children may have the joyful opportunity to praise and worship their Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier together with their fellow Christians, we expect that our Sunday School students will be in attendance at public worship services as often as possible.

5. To be eligible for confirmation in the Lutheran-Christian faith in St. John's church family, our Sunday School expects:

- A. that a student will have a good, demonstrable knowledge of both Old and New Testament Bible History, being able to identify the major figures of Biblical History as well as outline God's plan of salvation from Genesis through Revelation
- B. that a student will have a good knowledge of Basic Christian doctrine through a study of Luther's Small Catechism, and is able to substantiate that doctrine from Bible quotations, and agrees that this doctrine is a true exposition of pure Bible teaching
- C. that a student has demonstrated through regular and faithful attendance at Sunday School, Catechism Instruction, and Public Worship Services, a sincere desire to become an active communicant member of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church and of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

May the words of the mouth and the action of the life be saying the same thing.

Being Involved in Sunday School

A Partnership

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:4,5).

Being involved in the Sunday School of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church means being involved in a *partnership*. In a partnership, each of the parties involved has a responsibility. In a partnership, each of the parties involved must be able to rely on the other to carry out its part. So it is with our Sunday School, and really with all of the Christian Education of our church family.

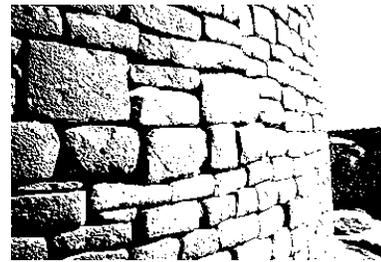
In our Sunday School partnership, both the parents and the Christian congregation have the God-given responsibility of proclaiming to the next generation the good news of the Bible which is able to make each student **"wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."** According to the Scriptures, the ultimate and final responsibility rests with you—the parents. To the Christian congregation God has assigned the role of helper and assistant. We are to reinforce the exact same Christian facts and lessons which you, the Christian parents, are teaching at home.



We ask that you keep our Sunday School Teachers in your prayers as we will keep you, the parents, in ours. We further ask that you

look upon our Sunday School Teachers with gratitude. They are members of the congregation who take up this work gladly but with great humility. They make every effort they can to give your child the best Christian instruction that they are able.

We will be relying on you to carry out your divine responsibility for Jesus' sake. And, you can go about your work with confidence that we will do our part as God gives us the strength.



"God alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken." - Ps. 62:2

Church Library

Another service our congregation offers you as people involved in our Sunday School is a Church Library.

The Church Library is located in the school hallway. We currently have a number of very good books on raising Christian children in an unchristian world. There are also books on raising infants in the Mother's Room. You will also find books that will be very helpful to you as you study the Bible in the privacy of your own home.

Don't miss the valuable and helpful information waiting for you in the St. John's Church Library.

Adult Bible Study

While the kids are in Sunday School, why not make use of the opportunity to join them – not in their class, but in a class of your own.

St. John's congregation offers a program of Adult Bible Study during the same time as it offers the Sunday School program for the children. Adult Bible Study classes are conducted almost every Sunday morning year round from 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. in the church basement. (During the summer months the class starts at 9:15 a.m. and runs about 20 minutes.) We study different things during the course of a year. On Sunday mornings, adults will be covering the same portion of the Bible that the children will cover in their classes, but at a level directed to adults. This wonderful feature of our Bible Study curriculum allows you to discuss the Bible lesson together, as a family, in your home throughout the week. In other Bible classes during the week, we may study a book of the Bible, or various Bible topics that are pertinent to life in the twenty-first century.

Adult Growth

If Sunday morning is not to your liking, we offer a morning Bible class on Wednesday's at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement. Women's Bible Study is also offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the church basement. Each of these classes studies a different topic/Bible book.

Your opportunities to grow in your Bible knowledge as an adult do not stop there. During the course of the year we offer Bible classes on Christian parenting and Christian marriage. Please be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for these and other opportunities to grow.

Offering Envelopes

Your child will receive offering envelopes to be used for offerings during worship services.

We ask that you begin already at this early age to teach your children the joy of giving to others as God has given to them.

Participating in the Church Service

One of the highlights of the Sunday School calendar is being able to sing during the worship service. It is a treat to which the children look forward with excitement.

Singing in church also means hard work. It means taking precious time from the Bible Lesson period for learning words and melody. It means practices that need to be coordinated with other classes and teachers. It means finding an accompanist who can be there both for the practices and for the Sunday itself.

When your child is scheduled to sing in church, we do hope that you will make every effort to have your child there. If circumstances are such that it is simply impossible, **please notify your child's teacher well in advance** so that he/she can plan accordingly.

Perhaps the highlight of the year is the Christmas service. Our Sunday School and Elementary School have the service together. This is another wonderful opportunity to build the bonds of Christian love and mutual respect between students who attend Red Wing public schools, and those who attend our own Lutheran Elementary school. The children, however, will be expected to learn their parts on their own during the week. They will need to recite them when they come to Sunday School. The Sunday School lessons will be sent home with the children. Parents are expected to teach their children the lessons for these weeks.

On Palm Sunday all the children of our congregation once again have the opportunity to sing God's praises. We ask again that you be sure to have your child attend this celebration of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. They need to be in church and ready for a rehearsal no later than 9:45 a.m.

As we consider all these wonderful things, it truly becomes clear that there is so much more to Sunday School than just the Children's Christmas Service!

Attendance

We care about your children. We care about them physically, and we care about them spiritually. It is for that reason that as a part of our Sunday School hour, we take note of those absent from class. If you know that your child will not be able to be at class, please let the teacher know so that he/she need not worry that something has happened. If we do not hear from you or see your child for a while, don't be surprised if we try to nag or be pushy. As ones involved in a partnership, we're just concerned about you and about your child. We don't want anything to disrupt their learning of Jesus, and their growing relationship with Him.

Maybe a special word about church attendance. Is in order. Sunday School is not church. The purpose for each is different. The content of each is different. Sunday School is not a substitute for church. Nor is church a substitute for Sunday School. The students of our Sunday School, together with their parents, are urged to be regular and faithful in both the regular and the special public worship services of St. John's congregation. This is the will of our gracious God who wants to bless us as we worship. He teaches us is Hebrews 10:23-25, "*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the day approaching.*"



Mid-Week Instruction Classes

The amount of material we need to cover before a child is ready to be confirmed is staggering. To say the least it is far more than almost any child is able to grasp thoroughly with only one hour of Bible instruction per week.

For that reason St. John's congregation, as a part of its Sunday School program, conducts additional Bible instruction courses for its

students, grades 6—8, during the week. *Please note well, these classes are not in place of attendance at the classes on Sunday mornings. No, the mid-week classes are in addition to the classes conducted on Sunday mornings.* This class meets on Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Memory Treasures

Committing to memory selected Scripture passages, portions of Luther's Small Catechism, songs, and hymns are useful and meaningful learning experiences. Our Sunday School now keeps a permanent record of such memory treasures.

Parents play a vital role in the Memory Treasure program. We hope and pray that you will encourage and help your children in this vital learning experience.



The following are the goals of our Memory Treasure program:

1. To equip children with a working knowledge of the Lutheran faith and doctrine in order that they might be able to explain and/or defend the Christian faith whenever the opportunity arises;
2. To help children gain a store of memory material to assist them with all of their Christian needs regardless of their position in life;
3. To help children learn to use the memorized material in a practical way;
4. To stimulate a love and a desire for memory treasures through a growing awareness of its present and future usefulness;
5. To prepare children for their confirmation instruction.

By the end of the Confirmation Instruction given through our congregation's Sunday School program, we would like each of our students to

have committed to their long-term memory the following:

- A. The Ten Commandments with explanation; the Apostle's Creed with explanation; The Lord's Prayer with explanation; The Sacrament of Holy Baptism; The Use of the Keys and Confession; The Sacrament of Holy Communion.
- B. Twenty-five key Scripture passages that proclaim the central teachings of the Bible.
- C. A number of hymns and prayers.



From time to time, and seemingly more often lately, I hear people questioning why we stress the need to *memorize* portions of Luther's Small Catechism or parts of the Bible. If you are one who questions this, please consider the following points:

- 1. A two-year-old can memorize better than you ever will again. This is why he can hear an irritating jingle on a commercial just once, then sing it back to you for eight hours in the car; and why he can recite to you, word for word, the video he's heard on how a steam locomotive works. He can't tell a piston from a pineapple, but the recitation will be absolutely accurate.
- 2. One of the toughest times to memorize is in adolescence: At that time, youth are struggling with puberty, growing independence, peer pressure and adolescent anxieties. While it's a good time for connecting the dots in confirmation instruction (putting the building blocks together,) it's not a good time for memorization (inputting the building blocks.) Your children will thank you if they already have the memory work done before confirmation begins. They just may not tell you for twenty years or so.
- 3. Looking to the future and speaking of

confirmation one more time, remember: Early memorization puts the building blocks in place so that the child has the data when he's ready to start building. Early memorization means that confirmation class can be devoted to teaching the faith, not struggling to input the basic building blocks.

4. The greatest goal of small children is to be like their parents; this is why your young daughter always wants to hold the spatula that's in your hand, and why a socket wrench is far more fascinating than an electronic game with lights and sounds. Repeating "grown-up" words with Mom and Dad isn't work; it's getting to act like an adult. Act now! By age five, this is already starting to wear off.

5. These are easy family devotions! Each night at dinner, go around the table and learn three more words (At that rate, the entire Small Catechism takes less than three years. In reality, it will take longer, but it's still achievable!) Along with a Bible story and prayer, this makes for easy family devotions. (Plus, at only three words a night, you can keep up with your kids!) Make this a part of devotions through the years: review, review, review. Repetition is, after all, the mother of learning.

6. Children like accomplishments and praise. They respond well to praise for their memorization, and are quite astounded to find that they can recite pages of a book by heart. This is a far worthier accomplishment than getting to level 10 of "Gonzo Goobers from Outer Space," or whatever the latest video game is.

7. Most importantly, memorizing the Small Catechism means memorizing the Word. (While the Apostles' Creed is not found in Scripture, it still proclaims Scriptural truth.) God's Word is a means of grace, and your child's young age does not prevent the Holy Spirit from working through the Word.

Visiting Sunday School

Please know that we would love to have you

visit your child's class at any time. Stay for the whole class or just part of it if you would like. There are also special days during the year when we invite and encourage our parents to attend.

If your child would like to bring a friend to Sunday School, we welcome that also. Maybe relatives are in town. Maybe a friend stayed overnight. Rather than not going to Sunday School, bring the friend or relative along for the day. We always have extra material on hand for just such an occasion.

Parent Helpers

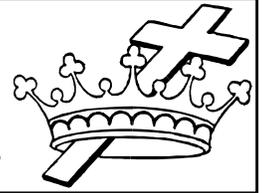
From time to time some of the teachers in our Sunday School could use an extra hand or two. Maybe it's helping with a more involved craft project. Or maybe it's listening to memory treasures. Or maybe it's something else completely. Whatever it is, it's nice for our teachers to have a list of those they know will help. When you register your child for Sunday School, give some thought to signing up to be a parent helper. Such service has even led some into enjoyable and rewarding full-time work in our Sunday School.



Confirmation

“Be faithful unto death, and I will
give you the crown of life.”

- Revelation 2:10



- † The word “confirmation” itself means “to make something firm or firmer – strengthen; to make sure of the truth of something – to verify; to approve or ratify” (Webster’s New Ideal Dictionary).

In the religious context of our congregation, “confirmation” is that process by which one whom God has made His child through the sacrament of Holy Baptism is “strengthened” in his/her knowledge of all that God has graciously revealed to us about Himself in the Bible. It is a process in which students are directed to the Holy Scriptures in order to learn from them that the congregation of which they are now a member and of which they desire to become a communicant member (that is, one who is able to partake of Holy Communion) is indeed teaching God’s truth, all of His truth, and nothing but His truth as He Himself has given it to us in His Word.

In the *broadest sense*, then, confirmation is really a life-long process of growing in our knowledge of Holy Scripture as it centers in Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins He has purchased for us through His work of redemption. Flowing naturally from that growth in the Scriptures comes also then a corresponding strengthening in the Christian life.

Since confirmation, in the broader sense of the word, is a life-long process, **“confirmation” does not begin with catechism class in the upper grades. Nor does “confirmation” really end with a ceremony in church at the end of 8th grade.** Confirmation really begins *from infancy* as parents instruct their infants and toddlers “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” Parents also begin the confirmation process through regular prayers, family devotions, and church attendance, doing everything they can so that both in words and in actions they teach their children the truth: “In our house Jesus is Number One.”

- † We cannot stress enough that parents are an integral part of the life-long confirmation process. In Ephesians 6:4 God says, “... **bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord.**” And in Deuteronomy 6 God states: **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”**

“In studying Bible History and the catechism together as a family, often it will become clear to all involved why mom and dad have the rules they do.”

Statistics clearly demonstrate the need for parental involvement. A study has shown that: (1) if both mom and dad attend church regularly, 72% of their “confirmed” children remain faithful in church attendance; (2) if only dad attends regularly, 55% of the “confirmed” children remain faithful in church attendance; (3) if only mom attends regularly, 15% of the “confirmed” children remain faithful; (4) if neither mom nor dad attend church regularly, only 6% of “confirmed” children remain faithful.

- † Untold blessing can and will no doubt result when parents and their children work together with their congregation in the life-long confirmation process. First off, parents will have an opportunity to review what they learned in catechism class. This renewed learning the Holy Spirit will bless with a more firmly grounded faith in Jesus for forgiveness and eternal life. God the Holy Spirit will also at the same time be better equipping parents to apply God’s Word and Will in their everyday lives. Families will also be able to lay some groundwork with

their children for the years to come. In studying Bible history and the catechism together as a family, often it will become clear to all involved why mom and dad have the rules they do. God's law will become the guide for the entire family. God's gospel will provide the God-pleasing motivation for Godly behavior and will be the source of forgiveness for sins. Then, too, the parents and children who have made it their habit to discuss God's Word openly and often will have established a good line of communication so vital for healthy families. In addition, parents and children will be able to move beyond the weather and homework in their conversations with their children. Parents and children will much more easily be able to discuss life: its problems, joys, aims, and purposes. Such discussion about God's Word will also serve as some of the best "quality time" around.

- ✚ Confirmation instruction continues later as parents enroll their children in Sunday School. In this way the congregation is able to carry out its divine privilege to train children in the way of the Lord. A thorough knowledge of Bible History is an absolute must for one who wants to begin a study of Christian doctrine in the "Catechism Class" with the pastor.
- ✚ Confirmation is a public church rite and not a command of Scripture. Therefore the time or age at which a person is confirmed as well as what precedes that confirmation is at the complete discretion of the parents, the confirmand, and their Christian congregation.
- ✚ Confirmation is a time at which a young man or young lady stands publicly before the members of the church family in which he/she desires communicant membership and gives public confession of the faith which God the Holy Spirit has graciously and powerfully worked in his/her heart through baptism and the study of God's Word. He/she states publicly that he/she has studied the doctrines of Holy Scripture as found in Luther's Small Catechism and is in complete agreement with them in every aspect. And that being the case, he/she wants to take up communicant membership in the congregation with all of the privileges and responsibilities that affords. In confirmation a young man or young woman agrees to take on a greater responsibility for the nourishing of his/her soul with God's Word and Sacraments.

Let us also add this thought: we want confirmands to join our church family not because that's where their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, etc. go and have always gone. That is not a God-pleasing reason to join a congregation. We want confirmands to join our congregation because they have thoroughly examined what our congregation teaches against the standard of Holy Scripture and have found the two to be in complete agreement in every detail. And so, for that reason, they desire communicant membership.

- ✚ Confirmation is a time when a young man or young woman stands before God and pleads with Him to work mightily in his/her heart and life through His Word to keep him/her in his/her baptism faith until the day he/she dies. Furthermore, it is a time at which he/she promises, with and by the help of God, to make regular and faithful use of the means of grace – that is hearing God's Word preached and taught in church as well as attending the Lord's Supper.
- ✚ At this point let us say again that confirmation is a process, a process of growing ever stronger or more confirmed in the knowledge of Holy Scripture. The confirmation process, then, does NOT END WITH THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION, usually at the end of eighth grade. No, the process of confirmation is to continue until the day which God takes His baptized child home to Himself in heaven. The only difference is that, after the public ceremony, the confirmation shifts gears.

No longer does an individual attend a weekly catechism class with the pastor or a Bible History class. Yet the need to become *stronger* in both of these areas remains, for the Word of God is the only means by which God the Holy Spirit works in people's hearts and lives to keep the fire of faith burning and to equip them to stand strong in the battle against sin and temptation.

The confirmation process continues then as an individual attends at every possible opportunity the public worship service of the congregation. Attendance at the Lord's Supper will also be a top priority. In addition, the communicant member will desire to continue the more in-depth study of Scriptures, which the various Bible Classes provide. And last of all there is no substitute for regular study of God's Word at home.

With this taking place, then the confirmand can pray with all honesty and sincerity of faith, "*Gracious Savior, keep me faithful unto death, that I might inherit the crown of life*" (Revelation 2:10). May God mercifully grant this.

SOLEMN VOW OF FAITHFULNESS

1. Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this Christian congregation, confirm the solemn covenant which the Triune God made with you at your baptism?

Answer: I do.

2. Do you, then, renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

Answer: I do.

3. Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

Answer: Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come 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.

4. Do you desire to be a communicant member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation?

Answer: I do.

5. Do you hold all the canonical books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Bible, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, to be the true and correct one?

Answer: I do.

6. Do you also, as a member of the evangelical Lutheran Church, intend to continue steadfast in the confession of this Church, and suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Answer: I do so intend with the help of God, Who works in me by His Word and Sacraments to enable me to remain faithful to my confirmation vow.

7. Finally, do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the rule of the divine Word, to be diligent in the use of the means of grace, to walk in accord with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to the Triune God?

Answer: I do so intend with the help of God, Who works in me by His Word and Sacraments to enable me to remain faithful to my confirmation vow.

