



# Mt. Olive

## Confirmation Handbook

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### What is confirmation?

To confirm is to make sure. Confirmation is the life-long process of making sure of God's love for us in his Son. It's the life-long pursuit of believers to become more sure of God's truth, and continuing to respond to God's love by the way we live. Confirmation instruction at Mt. Olive has these objectives:

- To build up the faith of parents and children by helping them more fully understand the Scriptures and the Sacraments.
- To help children and parents develop a life-long habit of worship and Bible study – God's tools for keeping us in faith and our response for the gifts we receive through faith.
- To equip parents and children for the mission of serving in God's church by becoming more comfortable in talking about Jesus.
- To help parents in their role of bringing their children up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

At Mt. Olive, we believe the church's responsibility is to prepare and equip the home to achieve these objectives. Parents committed to the spiritual nurture of their children and a church committed to helping parents nurture their children is our vision for confirmation.

### What does Confirmation Day have to do with being a member at Mt. Olive?

The confirmation ceremony is a public celebration of the confirmand's appreciation for the gift of their faith and for the teachings of this church. The confirmation ceremony also marks the congregation's invitation to the Lord's Supper.

Confirmation only occurs through life-long worship and Bible study. The confirmation ceremony recognizes that the confirmand has completed the catechism instruction part of the life-long process of confirmation and now wants to continue in regular worship and Bible study as a committed and involved member of this congregation.

### Why are the catechism lessons sent home to be worked through with parental involvement?

- God wants parents to nurture the children he has entrusted to them (Eph. 6:4, Deut. 6:7, Ps. 78:5).
- God wants his church to nurture children and all members of the church family (John 21:15, Eph. 4:11ff).

## Other reasons and benefits...

- Parents grow in their faith as the Holy Spirit works through the Word. The best way to learn is to teach.
- Families keep the lines of communication open with each other and with Pastor. Conversation goes beyond the weather! Parents and children will have opportunities to discuss life: its problems, joys, answers, aims, and purpose.
- God's Word lays the guidelines for the teen years. God's law becomes is the guide for the whole family and his gospel the inspiration for how we live.
- Martin Luther wrote the Catechism intending it to be taught to children by their parents.
- Flexibility allows for children with different backgrounds, different learning styles, and different schedules to all be on the same page.

## What do we do?

Together we are studying the most important subject matter – the eternal Word of God and the message of free salvation! As we study, Pastor will produce catechism lessons to be worked through in home. These lessons will be designed to require two hours each week spent by the students studying God's Word and working on memory work with the assistance of Luther's Small Catechism and with some parental involvement. The lessons are designed to teach themselves. The answers to each questions of the lesson are found in the Bible or in the Catechism. Parents are not expected to be the teachers. The lesson guides the student to allow the Word of God to be the teacher. Parents are simply expected to be involved, available for questions, and to offer input and encouragement. Each month the lessons will run on a three-weeks-on, one-week-off cycle. During the off week there will be one day set aside for Pastor to spend time with the students for the sake of review, encouragement and getting to know each other.

Catechism instruction is offered to anyone in seventh grade or older. During the final year of instruction, each student will be required to take Mt. Olive's Bible Information Course prior to being confirmed as a member of the congregation. There will be a few essays and other reports assigned during the years of catechism instruction. Worship worksheets will be available each week in the back of the church for catechism students to work through during each service. The worship worksheets are intended to train the students how to pay attention during church by learning what things to notice, listen for, and remember.

Memory work is part of the catechism instruction. Memory work is for our own good. Knowing memory work passages can provide answers to questions that we receive from people in practical situations throughout our lives. Memory work passages may also prove helpful and comforting in times of trouble or distress. Each lesson will include recommended memory work to help remember the points of the lesson. Pastor will work through memory work with the group during the once/month meetings.

God's urging in his Word is that we hold on to everything he has commanded/instructed us (Deut. 32:45-47, Ps. 119:105, Mat. 28:18-20, Mark 8:36, 2 Pet. 3:17). How can we hold on tightly to that which we don't know? Obviously, we need to learn it first. Through catechism instruction, we seek to do that. Catechism instruction sets the foundation for young people to hold on to all the awesome truths which Jesus has given us.

If you have questions at any point during the process of catechism instruction, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Snyder.

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