

UNITY Lutheran Church Confirmation Program

Fall 2024 Orientation Meeting

Tonight's agenda plus dates and times for all things confirmation!

6:15-7:00 OPENING INFO SESSION - Everyone in the Sanctuary

- Sign in and grab handouts in the narthex, then find a seat in the sanctuary
- Welcome and Introductions
- Vignette – Vignettes and confirmation - a time honored tradition!
- Overview of 2024/2025 Confirmation Program with new options
- In addition to weekly classes, Confirmation includes:
 - **Fellowship Dinners**
 - Sunday Fellowship dinners: **Sept 22, Oct 20, Nov 10, Dec 1**
 - Wed. Fellowship dinners: **Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Dec. 4**
 - Parent leaders needed to help shop, make/serve meals
 - **Friday Fusion/Alpha: Friday Fusions are BACK!** Taking a break on Alpha while we seek to fill the full time youth director position. But the first **Friday Fusion is October 12, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at COL.** (*Pumpkin carving and Halloween Costume and Fun Night!*)
 - **Servant-Focused Sunday morning Fusion Series**
 - **3-week series, focused on 1 community or interfaith partner**
 - **1st week: learn; 2nd week: experience; 3rd week: reflect**
 - **2 parent leaders needed per series**
 - **1 series offered each month, pick 1 of 3**
 - **Sept./Oct. - Aspen Center; Oct. - Hephatha Lutheran Church; Nov. - Interfaith Partner, and Dec. Red Cross Blood Drive**
 - **Servant Opportunities:** min. 2 this calendar year
 - **Christmas Vignette:** 1 performance at Advent Fest on Dec 6, 5:30 pm/
rehearsals after class Nov 29, Dec , Dec **Sign up TONIGHT if interested!**
 - **Music Program:** Hosanna Handbells Mondays, 7:15-8:15pm,
Fellowship Choir, Tuesdays, 7:15 - 8:15 pm and always by contacting Lynn Key, Director of Music, lynn@unitybrookfield.org
 - **Summer Programs:**
 - Vacation Bible School (both grades): **June 16-19**
 - Confirmation Camp (Year One): **TBD, but possibly June 22-27**

- East Coast Road Trip (Year Two): **July 8-11**

7:00-7:25 BREAKOUT GROUPS -

Year Two Students: Fellowship Hall with Nicole Krause.

Year One Students: Upstairs in the Art Room with Pastor Eric.

- Student Info sheets
- Ice Breaker Activity
- First trimester overview
- Time capsule and advice to your future self

Adults: Sanctuary with Sherrie Lorbeck.

- Importance of non-parent adults in your teen's life!
- Small group leader training
- Q and A Time
- Parent Info Sheet and paperwork

7:25-7:35 LARGE GROUP WRAP UP TIME- Everyone return to the sanctuary!

- Closing Reminders and Logistics
 - **Check Out the Website:** Be sure to check out information and sign up for everything and anything on the UNITY website. Click on the Confirmation Class Picture on the homepage – www.unitybrookfield.org **Includes all sign ups and online c-mail forms.**
 - **Talk to us:**
 - **Sherrie Lorbeck, Wednesday Lead Teacher for the 1st Trimester,** sherrie@unitybrookfield.org, 414-477-7762
 - **Nicole Krause, Sunday Lead Teacher for the 1st Trimester,** 262-227-2271, nicole@unitybrookfield.org,
 - **Michelle Aprahamian, Christian Education Director,** michelle@unitybrookfield.org, 414-732-8615
 - **Sign up directions:** Paper signups for all things confirmation are posted around the narthex. We'll transfer them all into signup genius next week. You can always add or edit your signups on the signup genius pages from our church website signup page. You'll get automatic reminders 2 days before events.
- Time to pray!

7:35-7:45 SIGNUPS AND PAPERWORK- Narthex

- **Year One Kids Grab a Study Bible** (\$20 - cash, check, or online church website)
- **Parents, turn in:** Medical Information-Permission to Treat Form, Drivers background check form, Parent info form, let us know Class preference if you haven't.
- **Paper Sign ups for:** Sunday Small Group Leaders, Wednesday Small Group Leaders, Sunday Fusion Series, both Students and Teachers, Servant Events and Musical opportunities, Worship opportunities.

Thank you for coming this evening!

We look forward to a year of growing closer to God and to each other.

Sherrie - Nicole - Michelle

2024-2025 Unity Confirmation Program Covenant

New This Year! We are offering a Sunday night Class option from 6:00 - 7:30 PM at the COL campus based on hearing from so many of our teens that they didn't want to miss Confirmation because of a team they are apart of! We will make both Sundays and Wednesdays an option, so long as we have enough numbers signed up for each night. Otherwise, we may have to ask anyone who could make the other night work to switch to that night. We also are asking that you commit to a trimester at a time since we will create small groups for each night and want to make sure we have supplies and that small group leaders know who will be in their group. We may allow a one time switch if on some week, you'd have to miss a week, but you could attend the other night. Just let your Lead Teacher know so they are aware.

We chose the Sunday time as that is the same time frame *as when our Sr. High youth group meets most weeks. We hope this also helps make it easier for families who have student in each age group. Please help us by encouraging them to make it a regular part of their week!* (Consistent participation is what leads to deeper connections and a strong program creating a lot of memories!)

Classes on Wednesdays will continue mostly from 6:15-7:45 PM at the COL Campus. We didn't change the times immediately to match Sunday nights, but Nov. 20 is a special class/worship time just on Wednesday for everyone that week. When Lent comes, we'll talk more about the schedule at the Winter Orientation in January.

Class is divided into three trimesters. Year One kids receive a ring binder notebook on the first night of class. (Year 2 students: you already have one!) **Bring your Bible Binder and Pencil each week.** Year 1 students will want to have a New Revised Standard Version Study Bible (\$20, take one tonight, pay tonight or at the first class...or use one from an older sibling).

The class uses a Large Group-Small Group format. Most nights involve two large group sessions with a lead teacher (Pastor Sherrie and Nicole Krause for the first trimester) and two small group sessions led by an adult/parent small group leader. Large group time will be mostly instructional. Small groups will include discussions, group building, and games. Students are assigned to a small group, which stays the same throughout the trimester and then changes.

Families are asked to help lead a small group 2 times between now and Christmas. Significant, non-parent adults are so important to our confirmation students. Every parent, please be involved! 8 adults are needed every week!. Your participation is what makes this program work! Small group leader materials will be e-mailed to you prior to the class you facilitate. **Remember, you do not need to be a teacher or have deep theological knowledge to do this. You do need an interest in and a commitment to young people the age of your own child.** We don't put parents in a small group with their child. We really value our adults being a significant person in the lives of all our kids and we really value that our kids get to experience adults beyond their parents.

Commitment to the group is very important. Parents or students please let your Lead Teacher know when you will be gone, an email/text is fine.

Students are expected to attend worship on a regular basis and let us know if you'd like to be removed as an acolyte and trained to do visuals or sound instead!

What is C-mail? C-mail is the main communication tool between students and the program leaders. Students share something about their week and their impressions of worship. **A total of 4 C-mails are due each trimester.** To earn credit, C-mail must be filled out to the satisfaction of the lead teacher. There are 4 different c-mail forms – there are paper copies available in the narthex. You can also submit on-line. **And NEW this year**, if it's easier for students to type their answers using their phones in worship, that's okay with us, so long as they actually take time to say more than a sentence or two!

Each student will be sent their own Google doc that has their name on it. The forms will be already included for them to fill out the answers. If they decide to fill a paper version out instead, their lead teacher will scan it into their google doc to help them keep track of how many they have done.

Servant opportunities. Each student is expected to serve others as a part of their confirmation experience. You should do two servant events this fall, one of which should be one of the three week Sunday Fusion events. Programs and events that serve others and are not planned by Unity work can work for your second event, just be sure to tell us about them (volunteering at Humane Society, etc.) **Students are asked to report their service work on their c-mail forms as they do them. We will also take attendance for the events we organize.**

Evaluating the Trimester. Faith is more subjective than objective. It is best learned by personal experience, serving others, and being part of a community. Still, knowledge of the Bible, church history, and the basis for our beliefs is important to a strong faith. Each lead teacher has his/her own style of evaluation (aka tests) We want to grow and we want to learn.

Summers. Getting away is a perfect time to grow in our faith and as a group. Confirmation Camp is encouraged after Year One. The East Coast Road Trip will follow Year Two. Dates are on the Program Summary sheet. More info in January.

Phones can travel with you but please don't use them unless we ask you to. (Bonus Questions)

Contact us if you have any questions or to pass on any important information about your child!
(See back)

Nicole Krause - Sunday Lead Teacher for 1st trimester, (262) 227-2271, nicole@unitybrookfield.org,
Sherrie Lorbeck - Wed. Lead Teacher for 1st trimester, (414) 477-7762, sherrie@unitybrookfield.org,
Michelle Aprahamian - Director of Christian Education, (414) 732-8615, michelle@unitybrookfield.org

Program Summary: Here's Everything We'll Do This Year 2024-2025

All Students Are On The Faith in Action Material This Year (2024-2025)

Faith in Action Year Material Looks Like This:

- First Trimester*** Worship, Choices, & Values
Memory Task: The Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Second Trimester*** All Things Church History!
Memory Task: Apostles' Creed
- Third Trimester*** Avoiding a Decade of Mistakes-OR-Spirituality for Good
Memory Task: Five Bible Verses

Bible-Year Material Looks Like This (2025-2026)

- First Trimester*** The Best Stories from the Best Book
Memory Task: The 10 Commandments and Three Verses
- Second Trimester*** Jesus' World/Gospels
Memory Task: Ecumenical Version of the Lord's Prayer
- Third Trimester*** Acts Plus! *The Book of Acts, PLUS: New Testament Letters, Apocalyptic Writings, Job, Psalms*
Memory Task: The Benediction

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:

Winter Orientation - January 8, 2025, where we will go over everything you need to know about next year's calendar including the Lent schedule and worship leadership and summer trips!

Summer trip dates – More information will be discussed at the January Orientation Meeting on January 8, 2025. **SAVE THE DATES!**

- **Year Two Confirmation Students: ECRT: July 8-11, 2024.** *(Tuesday morning to Friday afternoon. Will need a number of Parents to travel with us and experience four days camping, playing, eating and so much more together!)*
- **Year One Confirmation Imago Dei Confirmation Camp: June 22-27, 2025.** *(Tentative and likely dates - camp has not set the calendar yet. We will keep you posted.) (Sun afternoon to Friday afternoon at a Bible Camp in north central WI.)*
- **VBS! June 16-19 12:30-4:00pm** (Monday-Thursday) *(Always looking for Confirmation students to be rockstars as crew leaders for kids to lead them through their day and from site to site being an example of fun and faith to them!)*
- **Confirmation Weekend for Year Two Students – September 13-14, 2025** at **all of the worship services that weekend!** Get it on your calendars now and invite baptismal sponsors!

Confirmation Calendar 2024-2025

Trimester 1:

Class: Sundays at 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:15pm - 7:45 pm, COL

September 22/25	Class 1	<i>Dinner Night (30 min. before class)</i>
Sept. 29/Oct. 2	Class 2	
October 6/9	Class 3	
October 13/16	Class 4	
October 20/23	Class 5	<i>Dinner Night (30 min. before class)</i>
October 27/30	Class 6	
November 3/6	Class 7	
November 10/13	Class 8	<i>Dinner Night (30 min. before class)</i>

November 20 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. (Special time, both nights combined for class and we're hosting our interfaith worship which they can be a part of!)

November 24/27 *No Class ~ Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ CTK at 1:00 p.m .
& at COL at 7:00 p.m.*

Trimester 2:

Class: Sundays at 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:15pm - 7:45 pm, COL

December 1/4 Class 1 *Dinner Night (30 min. before class)*

December 6 *ADVENT FEST! (5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner, mini-worship and the Confirmation vignette, crafts for all ages, Christmas tree decorating, and cookies!)*

December 8/11 Class 2

December 15/18 Class 3

December 22/25 No Class ~ Christmas Break! Celebrate Jesus' Birth!

Dec. 29/Jan. 1 No Class - Celebrate the New year!

January 8 **Winter Orientation Meeting for ALL students and parents
(6:15-7:45pm at COL)**

January 12/15	Class 4	<i>Dinner Night (30 min. before class)</i>
January 19/22	Class 5	
January 26/29	Class 6	
February 2/5	Class 7	<i>Dinner Night (30 min. before class)</i>
February 9/12	Class 8	
February 16/19	Class 9	

Trimester 3:

Class: Sundays at 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and

Wednesdays, COL, see new Lent Wednesday schedule below

February 23/26 Class **Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm**

March 2 Class **Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm**

March 5 *No Wed. Class~Ash Wednesday 7:00pm worship (Double c-mail credit!)*

March 9/12 Class ***Soup Supper 5:30, Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm***

March 16/19 Class ***Soup Supper 5:30, Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm***

March 23/26 No Class ~ Spring Break

March 30/April 2 Class ***Soup Supper 5:30, Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm***

April 6/9 Class ***Soup Supper 5:30, Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm***

April 13/16 *No Class ~ Holy Week*

April 20 *No Sun. Class ~ Easter! Celebrate Christ is Risen!*

April 23 Class **Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm**

April 27/30 Class **Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm**

May 4/7 Class **Class 6:00 - 7:30, *Ice Cream Trough 7:30-7:45 pm***

May 14 Summer Trip Information Meeting, 6:15-7:30 pm

June 16-19 Vacation Bible School

June 23-28 Tentative Confirmation Camp week (Year One Students)

July 8-11 East Coast Road Trip (Year Two Students)

September 13-14 Confirmation Weekend for the Year 2 Students!

UNITY Confirmation Program 2024/2025- Parent Info Form

Parent's Names: _____

Cell #s: _____

Please list all emails you want receiving weekly confirmation emails (*homework assignments, announcements, reminders, etc*). List at least one adult, can include additional adults and student emails if you/they want)

What do you want us to know about your child? What do they love/not like so much right now? This information helps us to better connect with them.

Anything else you think would be important for us to know? Could be practical stuff like allergies... or personality, learning style, anything you're worried about...

What is your prayer for your child's participation in this program, and for your own? What are you hoping your family, both you and your child, get out of this experience?

Parent Group Time

Tips and Ideas on Leading Small Groups

General Advice

- The lead teacher will email you information on the small group activities you will be leading a few days before class. Read them once or twice in advance ... internalize the concept of what needs to be done. *LET US KNOW THE BEST EMAIL ADDRESS TO USE.*
- Become familiar with the names of the students in your group in advance. When they introduce themselves, faces and names go together more quickly. Take attendance on your sheet and turn in at the end of the night.
- The above might take you 15-30 minutes and will immeasurably improve the experience had by you and your group.
- Be confident and take the lead (*someone has to and it makes sense for it to be you!*) and project a sense of confidence of the small group plan.
- Regroup quickly when you arrive at your small group space. Introduce yourself right away, tell them what needs to be done, and remind them of the time you have to do it in... and then get at it. *All that communicates purpose and direction.*
- Keep moving! This age group loves to distract through diversion. Someone might pose a “deep” question or something off –topic. Chances are high that this is a diversionary tactic! Use your best judgment for staying on task.
- What if no one says anything? Just call on someone. Invite someone to share. AND, share the sharing – be aware of the “answer hogs” and the kids who wait for the answer hogs to speak up.
- Keep an eye on the clock so we can stay on schedule, since large group waits until everyone is back.

When You Are in Large Group

- Sit with your group. As needed, help with crowd control.
- If someone is talking in your area during large group, don't hesitate to request that they pay attention.
- If they're having a hard time staying focused, feel free to rearrange how they sit for the second large group.
- If the lead teacher is not aware of the behavior, mention it at a transition point.
- You can participate, too. Listen to the lead teacher's presentation. Feel free to ask questions of clarification or to offer brief comments. We understand if you have to take a text or a phone call, but leave the group and make it quick. Students are paying attention to whether you are paying attention or not. If you're on your phone during large group, it will send the message that they don't need to listen AND that you're not so interested in being there for Small Group time either!
- TRANSITIONS CAN BE TRICKY. This is a chance to lose the group. Walk with them and keep everyone focused on getting to the small group and getting at the activity.

~over~

When You Are in Small Group

- Enjoy your group. Most groups on most nights are pleasant and make an effort to participate. These are great kids! Love and patience will serve you well!
- If a group is flat, don't take it personally. It could be them, it could be the material or it could be that they're exhausted from a long day... there's just no way to predict.
- Feel a sense of freedom to lead the group based on the situation and topic. In other words, despite what has been stated above about diversions, if the group activity is to have a discussion, you have complete latitude to shape it and guide it.
- Share your own opinions while encouraging individuals to arrive at their own. Ask questions to help them have a chance to share their opinions with you.....even if there may be a few things they aren't taking into account.

Some Typical Challenges You Come Up Against *(and some responses you can make.)*

- Kids who chatter in large and/or small group. *(Direct their attention to what's going on in large group, separate talkers for the second large group, remind them of your task in small group, avoid shaming people but don't be afraid to call someone on their behavior...for example, "Name, let's focus so we can get this time-line filled in."*
- Kids who will test you. *Remember, this is the age where they can do so much more, but don't have complete independence or freedom. They are told what to do and Confirmation may be one of those things they don't have a "choice" in. Get to know them. Listen for things they are interested in to ask them about. If you show them that you are interested in them and find ways to praise them when they do offer an answer or are engaged, this will go a long way!*
- Don't let one kid ruin your group... *Be bold and send the student off to the lead teacher or step out briefly and call the lead teacher in if you're having a real struggle. "Name, tonight is not your night to participate, I think it's time to go find Pastor Sherrie."* Short, sweet and to the point.
- Put downs or other inappropriate behavior. Call it for what it is and ask them to stop right away. Phrases like, *"That comment is hurtful"* or just *"I think you know that's out of line"* are direct and keep the attention on the behavior. What you want to avoid is *"defending"* the *"victim"* of a remark. Things like, *"I think that hurts Name's feelings,"* puts that person in an awkward situation and probably invites further abuse.
- Some kids won't speak up during discussions. Some kids are quiet, but active listeners. Not everyone needs to be a talker! Still, some kids would talk but don't know how to enter into the conversation. Give them the chance with lines like, *"You look like you're tracking that, Name, do you agree?"* Or, *"I'd be interested in what your reaction to that is, Name."* Or, *"Can you think of a something to add to that, Name?"*
- Some kids are determined to dominate discussions. Thank them for their opinions and questions and tell them you need to hear from others. *"Name got us off to a great start, who's next?"* Or, *"Thanks, Name, let's hear from someone else right now."*
- The big thing...DON'T BE PASSIVE. Enjoy the time with your group by being engaged.

2024-2025 Medical Information & Permission to Treat Form for UNITY Lutheran Church Youth Events

Please fill out this Medical Information & Permission to Treat Form for your youth for the 2019-2020 school year. We will keep it on file for all Confirmation Class and Youth Events. We will use this form along with a signed permission form for specific "out-of-building" events. Please keep this form updated if your coverage or contact numbers change during the year.

Please copy both sides of your insurance card on the reverse side of this sheet or attach a copy. We will be happy to do that for you at church.

Parents are responsible for medical insurance coverage while your child is attending any organized church activity. We take the responsibility to care for your child seriously and will guard them as best we can. By signing this form, you as a parent are indicating your partnership with us in that process. Please note that your child will not be permitted to participate in events outside the church without this signed form and a copy of your insurance card. Thank you for your cooperation.

YOUTH'S NAME _____

GENDER M _____ F _____ GRADE _____ BIRTHDAY _____

ADDRESS _____

PARENT E-MAIL(S) _____

NAME	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	CELL NUMBER
Parent/Guardian:			
Parent:/Guardian			
Other Emergency Contact:			

Insurance Company* _____ Group Number _____

Physician (Name & Office Phone) _____

Dentist (Name & Office Phone) _____

Please list any medical, diet, or personal information for which our adult leaders would benefit knowing when they are responsible for your child. (e.g. allergies to medications or foods, medications and medical conditions, wears glasses/contacts, orthodontics, family situations, etc.)

I give permission for medical treatment deemed necessary by qualified medical personnel while my child is under the care of UNITY Lutheran Church and its representatives. The purpose of this information form is to allow my child to receive immediate medical attention in my absence. I will be contacted as soon as possible should medical treatment be required.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

***A copy of current insurance card must accompany this form.**

Confirmation Student Info Sheet 2024-25

Name:

School:

Grade:

Worship time and campus you usually attend:

___ Cross of Life, Saturday 5 pm

___ Cross of Life, Sunday 8:30 am

___ Christ the King, Sunday 9:30 am

___ Cross of Life, Sunday 10:45 am

___ Virtual Worship

Three things you most enjoyed doing or seeing over the summer:

1.

2.

3.

If this is your second year, one thing you liked about Confirmation last year:

One idea of something you would like us to do or talk about in Confirmation THIS year:

1.) If you have a Cell phone, what is your number?:

Is it an iphone? _____ **Or Android?:** _____

2.) Do you have an email address that you check regularly? _____ yes _____ no
If so, what's your email address (or best one to use for you)?

3.) Any sports that you play?

If so, what? When do you practice/play? What position do you play?

4.) Have a music talent?

If so, do you sing or what instrument do you play? How long have you played?

5.) Have any other talents or interests or other activities that you LOVE to do?

6.). What do you want us to make sure we know about you?

**UNITY Lutheran Church
Drivers Release Form**

I am aware that UNITY Lutheran Church, through the service Trusted Employees, will run a check on my driving record in conjunction with my involvement as a driver for a church-related event. In case of an unfavorable report (at fault injuries, license suspensions, drunk driving violation or 2 or more speeding tickets within the last 3 years) a pastor will contact me to discuss the situation. You will receive a link in your email that will take you to the Trusted Employees site to complete your driver check.

Email address: _____

I agree that as an adult driver I will consume no alcohol while driving for Unity.
_____ Yes.

I carry liability coverage on the vehicle I will use for driving.
_____ Yes _____ No

Signature _____

Date _____