UNITY Lutheran Church Confirmation Program

Fall 2025 Orientation Meeting

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

6:00-6:45 OPENING INFO SESSION - Everyone in the Sanctuary

- Sign in and grab handouts in the narthex, then find a seat in the sanctuary
- Welcome, Introductions and Prayer
- Vignette Vignettes and confirmation a time honored tradition!
- Overview of 2025/2026 Confirmation Program with updates
- In addition to weekly classes, Confirmation includes:
 - Fellowship Dinners
 - Sunday Fellowship dinners: Sept. 28, Nov. 2, Jan. 11, & Feb. 1
 - Parent leaders needed to help shop, make/serve meals
 - Friday Fusion: The first Friday Fusion is October 10, 5:30 8:30 p.m. at CTK. (Pumpkin carving, crafts, 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. Hephetha Lutheran Church; Oct. Aspen Center/Serenity
 Inns; Nov./Dec Interfaith Partner, and Hebron Housing Services
 - Servant Opportunities: min. 2 this calendar year
 - Christmas Vignette: 1 performance at Advent Fest on Dec 5, 5:30 pm/ rehearsals after class Nov. 16. Sign up TONIGHT if interested!
 - Music Program: Hosanna Handbells Mondays, 7:15-8:15pm,
 Fellowship Choir, Tuesdays, 7:15 8:15 pm and sharing a solo ensemble or recital or other piece of music you've learned on piano or band instrument or as a vocal solo in worship, always by contacting Lynn Key, Director of Music, lynn@unitybrookfield.org
 - Summer Programs:
 - Vacation Bible School (both grades): June 22-25
 - Confirmation Camp (Year One): TBD, but possibly June 22-27
 - East Coast Road Trip (Year Two): July 7-10

7:00-7:25 BREAKOUT GROUPS -

Year Two Students: Fellowship Hall with Nicole Krause.

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

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

Adults: Sanctuary with Pastor Sherrie and Michelle

- 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:
 - Justin Kierzek, Lead Teacher for the 1st Trimester, justin@unitybrookfield.org, 414-275-1947
 - Sherrie Lorbeck, Lead Teacher for the 2nd Trimester, sherrie@unitybrookfield.org, 414-477-7762
 - Michelle Aprahamian, Lead Teacher for the 3rd Trimester, michelle@unitybrookfield.org, 414-732-8615
 - Nicole Krause Confirmation Program Support, nicole@unitybrookfield.org, (262) 227-2271,
 - Sign up directions: Online signups for all things confirmation can be found on this QR code for adults and on Sign Up Genius for students. You can always add or edit your signups on the signup genius pages from our church website signup page.

Adult Sign Up

Student Sign Up





•Time to pray!

7:35 -7:45 SIGNUPS AND PAPERWORK-

- 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.

Thank you for coming this evening! We look forward to a year of growing closer to God and to each other.

Sherrie - Nicole - Justin - Michelle

Program Summary: Here's Everything We'll Do This Year 2025-2026

All Students Are On The Bible-Year Material This Year (2025-2026)

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

Lead Teacher: Justin Kierzek

Second Trimester Jesus' World/Gospels

Memory Task: Ecumenical Version of the Lord's Prayer

Lead Teacher: Sherrie Lorbeck

Third Trimester Acts Plus! The Book of Acts, PLUS: New Testament Letters,

Apocalyptic Writings, Job, Psalms Memory Task: The Benediction

Lead Teacher: Michelle Aprahamian

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:

Winter Orientation - WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2026, 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!

<u>Summer trip dates</u> – More information will be discussed at the January Orientation Meeting on WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2026. SAVE THE DATES!

- Year Two Confirmation Students: ECRT: July 7-10th, 2026. (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: Tentatively June 14-19, 2026 or possibly July 12-17, 2026 (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.)
- O VBS! June 22-25, 2026 from 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!)

<u>Confirmation Weekend for Year Two Students</u> — September 19-20, 2026 at all of the worship services that weekend! Get it on your calendars now and invite baptismal sponsors!

Welcome to Sr. High - Grill out and Games Night to welcome the Freshman into our weekly High School Youth Program! - Sunday, September 20, 2026 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Enjoy family after worship and then bring them back to make sure they feel a part of things from the very beginning!)

Confirmation Calendar 2025-2026

Trimester 1:

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

September 21 Class 1 Alpha

September 28 Class 2 Dinner Night (30 min. before class)

October 5 Class 3

October 12 Class 4

October 19 Class 5 Alpha

October 26 Class 6

November 2 Class 7 Dinner Night (30 min. before class)

November 9 Class 8

November 16 Class 9 Alpha

November 26 Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ COL at 7:00 p.m.

Trimester 2:

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

December 5 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 7 Class 1

December 14 Class 2

December 21 No Class ~ Christmas Break! Celebrate Jesus' Birth!

December 28 No Class - Celebrate the New year!

January 7 Winter Orientation Meeting for ALL students and parents

(6:00 - 7:30 pm at COL)

January 11 Class 3 Dinner Night (30 min. before class)

January 18 Class 4 Alpha

January 25 Class 5

February 1 Class 6 Dinner Night (30 min. before class)

February 8 Class 7

February 15 Class 8 Alpha

Feb. 18 No Wed. Class~Ash Wednesday 7:00pm worship (Double c-mail credit!)

February 25 - WEDNESDAY Class 9

Trimester 3:

Class: Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at COL, see new Lent Wednesday schedule

March 4	Class 1	Soup Supper 5:30, Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm
March 11	Class 2	Soup Supper 5:30, Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm
March 18	Class 3	Soup Supper 5:30, Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm
March 25	Class 4	Soup Supper 5:30, Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm

April 1 No Class ~ Spring Break

April 8	Class 5	Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm
April 15	Class 6	Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm
April 22	Class 7	Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm
April 29	Class 8	Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm
May 6	Class 9	Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Ice Cream Trough 7:30-7:45 pm

May 13 Summer Trip Meeting - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

June 22-26	Vacation Bible School	
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TBD Tentative Confirmation Camp week (Year One Students)

July 7 - 10 East Coast Road Trip (Year Two Students)

September 19-20 Confirmation Weekend for the Year 2 Students!

2025-2026 Unity Confirmation Program Covenant

New This Year! We have made the difficult decision to have classes on Sunday nights for the first two trimesters and on Wednesday when we begin the third trimester.

We chose the Sunday time as that is the same time frame 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!)

lot of memories!)
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 and 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 classor 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 Justin, Pastor Sherrie, and Michelle Aprahamian) 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! 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 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 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 again 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.

<u>Servant opportunities.</u> Each student is expected to serve others as a part of their confirmation experience. 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.

New Name - Same Great Learning Experiences: SALT (Serving and Learning Together)
In addition to Serving, we also want your student to be introduced to some of our Servant
Partners and our Interfaith connections in order to help them learn more about the road that
others have to walk and also the beliefs and rituals of other faith communities. There are
typically 2 Sunday mornings where they learn more about the partner and then there is a time
to visit. (If possible on Sunday mornings, that would be what we would do, but visits to our
friends at the Jewish synagogue in Waukesha or the Islamic mosque in Brookfield would be on a
Friday evening.)

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

NEW this year! Confirmation Mentors. We are looking to create three opportunities for our students to get to know other adults from our congregation and share their knowledge with them. We have witnessed the impact of fostering relationships like this. IF there are adults that you have been struck by in terms of how they reach out to our teens or who you think of as wonderful examples of faith, be sure to pass their names on so we can ask them to consider this important opportunity!

Summers.	Getting away is a perfect time to grow in our faith and as a group.	Confirmation
Camp is er	ncouraged after Year One. The	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.

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

Justin Kierzek - Lead Teacher for 1st trimester, (414) 275-1947, justin@unitybrookfield.org, Sherrie Lorbeck - Lead Teacher for 2nd trimester, (414) 477-7762, sherrie@unitybrookfield.org, Michelle Aprahamian - Lead Teacher for 3rd trimester, (414) 732-8615, michelle@unitybrookfield.org Nicole Krause - Confirmation Program Support, (262) 227-2271, nicole@unitybrookfield.org,

Parent Group Time Tips and Ideas on Leading Small Groups

General Advice

- The lead teacher will <u>email</u> 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.
- 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.
- 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. You can use a simple gesture, eye contact and proximity to the student.
- 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. 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 either!
- TRANSITIONS CAN BE TRICKY. Keep the group together when transitioning. Walk with them and keep everyone focused on getting to the small group activity and back to large group when you are done.

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.)

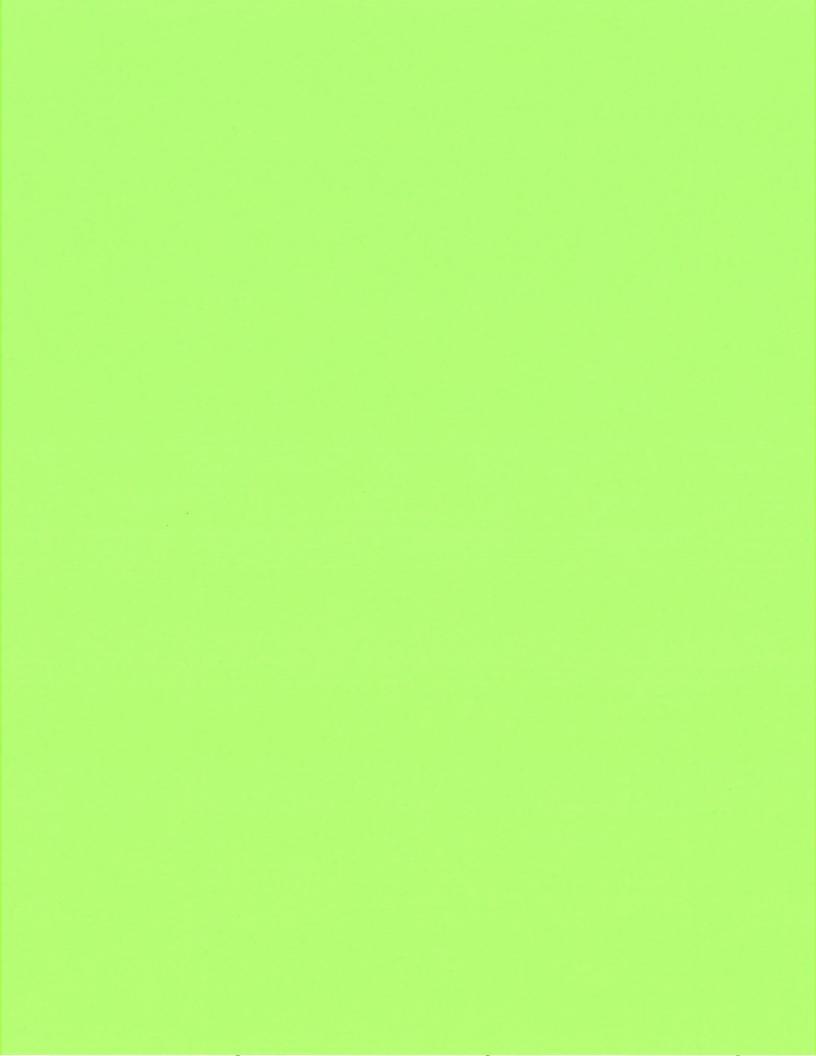
- Kids who chatter in large and/or small group. (Direct their attention to what's going on in large group, separate talkers for the second large group, remind them of your task in small group, avoid shaming people but don't be afraid to call someone on their behavior...for example, "Name, let's focus so we can get this timeline 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 (lead teacher)." 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 the conversation. Give them the chance with lines like, "You look like you're tracking that, 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. Introduce "Mutual Invitation". This is
 when the leader starts with their thinking and then explains to the group, I will invite someone
 to speak next. When they are done speaking, they will call on another person until everyone
 has had an opportunity to share.

The big thing...BE ENGAGED. Most importantly, enjoy the time with your group.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38

UNITY Confirmation Program 2025/2026- 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?



Confirmation Student Info Sheet 2025-26

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	g over the summer:
1.	
2.	
3.	
If this is your second year, one thing you liked	about Confirmation last year:
Have you heard anything about Confirmation you most worried about or not looking forward	
What would you WANT to do or learn or get or	ıt of Confirmation this year?

1.) If you have a cen phone, wh	nat is your number?:	
Is it an iphone?	Or Android?:	
2.) Do you have an email addr If so, what's your email address (yes no
3.) Any sports that you play/o If so, what? When do you praction		
4.) Have a music talent? If so, do you sing or what instrur	nent do you play? How long hav	ve you played?
5.) Have any other talents or i Robotics, technology, building stu artwork, etc.,		
6.). Tell us more about you	what do you wish we knew a	bout you?
In what ways do you best learn	n? (check as many that describe	you)
Listening and taking notes Acting it out/Doing it Talking about it with others When its connected to my l	Reading about it/Study	ring it out on my own

Dear 2025-2026 Confirmands:

In one or two years you'll be confirmed. A lot will change in one or two years.

One of the things we'll hand back to you that day is this sheet! Answer it tonight. <u>No one sees it but you, so be as interesting, honest and detailed as possible.</u>

We've all experienced how quickly our world can change. Guessing the future is harder than ever - so let's see how clairvoyant you can be! And, of course, hopefully this experience in confirmation will start, change and/or deepen your faith.

Let's see what changes and what doesn't change between now and that important day next fall!

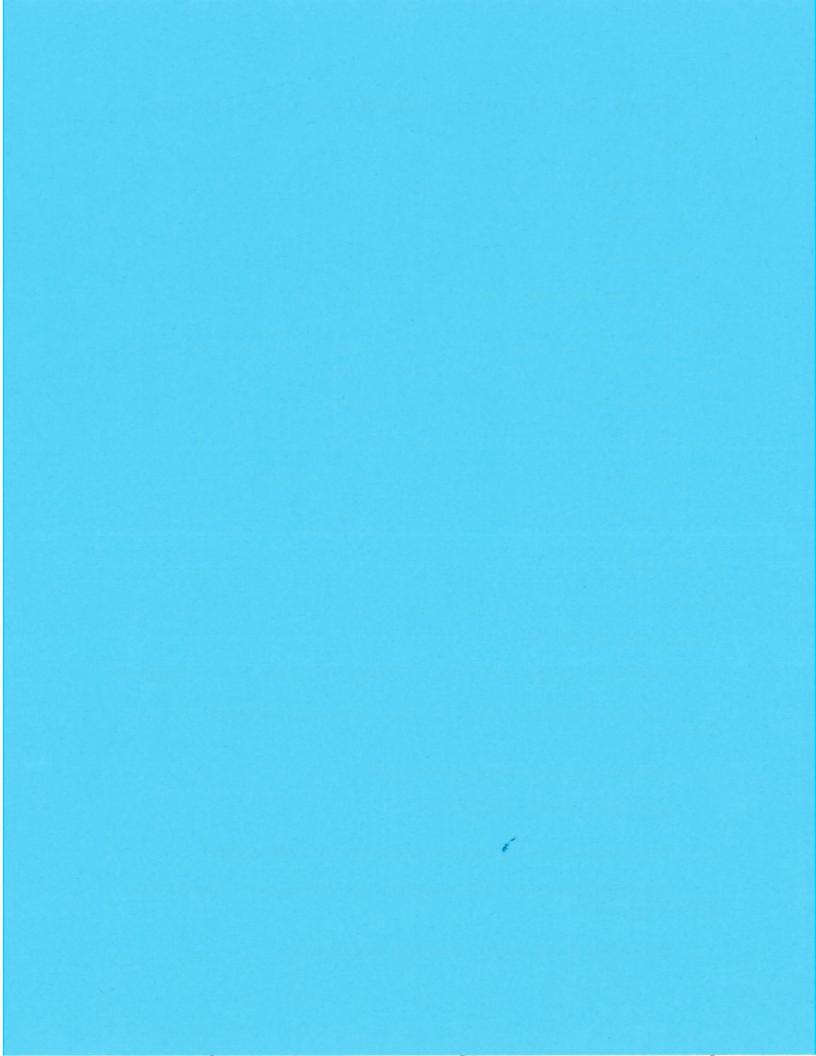
Name				

- 1. When you are not in school, what do you like to do in your spare time? What sports to you play? What instruments or other activities are you involved with?
- 2. A question I'd like to ask God is....
- 3. What are the most important things you look for in a friend?
- 4. Looking back in your life up until now, what has been one of the most difficult things you've had to experience? (Learning from home during Covid? Moving to a new school or place? Losing a loved one? etc.,)

6. What important person in your life do you feel best understands you? Why?
7. What is one place that you'd love to travel to and why?
8. By the time I'm in my late 20's I'd like to be
9. What's one important decision you'll make between now and the end of high school where you might lean on your faith or the people in this faith family?
10. Complete this sentence. God is like

Time & Talent Sheet for the 2025-26 Confirmation Students

Your Name				
Your Address (Street, City, Zip)				
Your Cell Phone				
Your best e-mail:				
Circle the service you usually attend: COL 5:00	8:30 10:30 CTK 9:30			
Worship (Sign up to help with oneor more : > You'll be scheduled by our program and you can input date conflicts in advance and receive the schedule via email. We'll also train you for each of them so you know what to do!)				
Worship Visuals F	Reader			
Sound Board \	Norship Assistant			
Livestream H	Help serve Communion			
	Acolyte (or let us know if you'd like us to take you off from being an acolyte.)			
Parents Email:				
Parent's e-mail:				
Building, Program, and Service				
Saturday or Tuesday Evening Nursery Child Care Provider (PAID, scheduled)				
Help with Technology (Edit or shoot mini videos, run Smart Board in Sunday School, etc.,)				
Be a crew leader or site helper during VBS				
Sing with the Vocal Fellowship choir				
Ring bells with Hosanna Handbell choir (Beginner to intermediate)				
Do you play the piano? If so, would you piece during worship?	ever be interested in playing a piano			
Do you play an instrument? If so, what do you play?:				



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. We will keep it on file for all Confirmation Class and Youth Events. Please keep this form updated if your coverage or contact numbers change during the year.

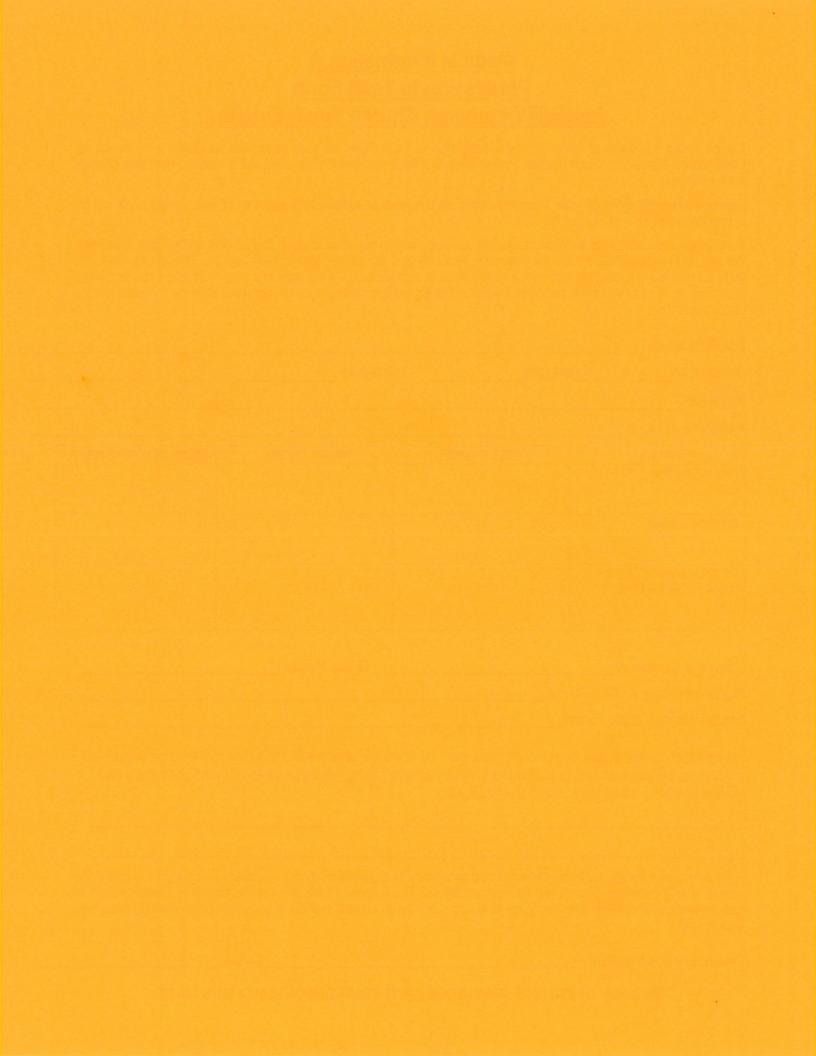
Please copy both sides of your insurance card on the reverse side of this sheet or attach a copy. We will be happy to do that for you at church.

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.

VOLITIUS NIABAT

TOUTH S NAME							
GENDER MF	BIRTHDAY						
ADDRESS							
PARENT E-MAIL(S)							
NAME	CELL PHONE:	WORK PHONE:	HCME/OTHER NUMBER:				
Parent/Guardian:							
Parent:/Guardian							
Other Emergency Contact Name and Relatioinship:							
	urance Company* Group Number						
Dentist (Name & Office Phone	e)						
	(e.g. allergies to medication	which our adult leaders would be not not only and medications are medications					
care of UNITY Lutheran Church	ch and its representatives.	y by qualified medical personne The purpose of this information be contacted as soon as possik	form is to allow my child to				
Parent/Guardian Signature:Date:							

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



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				
•	an adult driveres.	r I will consum	e no alcohol whi	le driving for Unity
I carry liability	v coverage on t	3.7	ill use for driving	
Signature				
Date				