



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

A Teacher's Guide to Lutheran Confirmation

Lesson 6: Readiness for Confirmation and the Ceremony

When is a student ready to be Confirmed?

Some students are able to memorize well. Others are not. However, a student is not ready to be confirmed simply because he is smart or has answered questions well. It is the pastor's job to evaluate each student to see whether he has these qualifications:

- He has received instruction in the basic teachings of the Bible and is able to show that he has learned these things.
- He can declare his faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior and promise to dedicate himself to live his life as a faithful child of God.
- He can show that he understands the true meaning and value of the Lord's Supper, and that he is able to "examine himself" (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) in preparation for Holy Communion.

If the student meets these goals, then he is ready to be confirmed. If he has not met these goals, more instruction may be necessary.

Sample Confirmation Ceremony

On Confirmation Sunday, the students who are being confirmed come forward, and the pastor says:

Dear Students of God's Word, Our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded You; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith according to our Lord's command. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

1. Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this Christian congregation, affirm the solemn covenant which the Lord made with you at your baptism? If so, then answer "I do."

2. Do you, then, renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways? If so, then answer "**I do.**"
3. Do you believe in the Triune God of Holy Scriptures, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit? If so, then answer "**I do.**"
4. Do you affirm your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and do you desire to follow Him in true Christian discipleship? If so, then answer "**I do.**"
5. Do you desire to be a communicant member of this Lutheran church, and of our larger church body? If so, then answer "**I do.**"
6. Do you accept the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, word for word, as God's Word and the only true rule for faith and life? If so, then answer "**I do.**"
7. Are you in agreement with the teachings of this Lutheran Congregation, drawn from the Bible, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism? If so, then answer "**I am.**"
8. Do you intend to follow God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Means of Grace, and in faith, word and action to remain true to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for as long as you live? If so, then answer, "**I do so intend, by the grace of God.**"

Given this affirmation of your faith and commitment to the Word of God, I invite and welcome you, as members of this Evangelical Lutheran congregation, to share with us all the gifts our Lord has for His Church in a lifetime of worship and service. May the almighty and most merciful God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless and keep you. Amen.

Short Answer Study Questions:

1. Is a student ready to be confirmed simply because he or she memorizes well? Explain.
2. List the three qualifications that show a student is ready for confirmation.
3. What should happen if a student has not met the goals for confirmation?
4. What promise does the confirmand make regarding faithfulness to God's Word?