

## **Confirmation Expectations: Building Lifelong Faith Habits**

2023-2024

So that you are aware of your child's outward signs of spiritual growth, we ask that each semester you complete and submit the Confirmation Track Sheet found in your child's folder.

Your child is already a disciple of Jesus Christ! We hold these expectations of Confirmation students not because they represent the "perfect" Christian life, but because they encourage and strengthen a relationship with God:

- 1. Videos and Yellow Sheets:** As Christ followers, students will engage God's Word and discuss it with their family and spiritual mentors. The student and parent (or faith mentor) will watch a video of Pastor Keith teaching the week's lesson. Students will then complete the Yellow Sheet page, which is intended to lead to deeper discussion of the material presented in the video.

Take time to **SHARE** about your own faith experiences, **READ** the corresponding Bible or Catechism sections, **TALK** about what you've learned from the video lesson, **PRAY** together, and **BLESS** each other with Scripture. These five steps can also serve as a model for future faith conversations or devotions.

If a student must miss a lesson week, make-up lessons (videos and yellow sheets) can be obtained at [glcvictoria.360unit.com/confirmation/](http://glcvictoria.360unit.com/confirmation/). When the yellow sheet is completed and signed, keep it in your folder and mark it off on your Confirmation Track Sheet. (15 lessons per semester.)

- 2. Attend Sunday Morning Bible Class:** As Christ followers, students will develop authentic relationships with others by attending and engaging in at least 12 Sunday Morning Bible Classes each semester. These Sessions are an opportunity to dig in a little deeper to Scripture and Lutheran teaching. Weekly attendance for Sunday Morning Bible Class should be recorded on the Confirmation Track Sheet.
- 3. Prioritize Regular Worship Attendance:** As Christ followers, students will worship consistently so that they might receive strength and encourage other believers. Church attendance should be recorded weekly on the Confirmation Track Sheet. Students are expected to worship at least 12 weeks each semester. Worship notes are an additional tool to help a student listen carefully and apply the message shared through the scripture, songs, and sermon. Parents or faith mentors, please review your child's worship notes and discuss them with your student.

*7th graders will complete 2 worship notes each semester.*

*8th graders will complete 4 worship notes each semester.*

- 4. Service:** As Christ followers, students will exemplify sacrificial service to their church and community. Service hours may be counted for any project in which a student volunteers their time to help someone else. Regular chores, paid tasks, and fundraisers should not be counted. Examples of service include raking leaves for a neighbor, serving alongside peers in a class or club project, or volunteering at church.

*7th graders will complete 2 service hours each semester.*

*8th graders will complete 4 service hours each semester.*

- 5. Bible Study:** As Christ followers, students will regularly read God's Word and apply it to their lives. Vibrant faith grows through frequent connection to God's Word, including group study, personal reading and reflection, and devotional time together as a household. Each semester, students will track at least 12 weeks of Bible study, in any combination of methods.

For **personal Bible study**, we recommend following a Bible reading plan (many study Bibles include one in the appendix) or following a devotional book. Students should spend at least 3 days a week in personal devotion or read 1-2 chapters of the Bible each week before marking a week of personal Bible study complete on their Confirmation Track Sheet.

For **family devotions**, we recommend listening to an audio Bible together, using the "Faith5" steps to discuss a daily Bible verse, or reading together any of the books recommended above for personal study. Please share at least 3 devotional times or read 1-2 chapters of the Bible as a household each week before marking a week of family devotions complete on the Confirmation Track Sheet.

- 6. Interviews:** As Christ followers, students will be able to explain what they believe in their own words. In December and May, confirmands will have the opportunity to interview with a mature adult member of our faith community who will ask questions about what the student learned during that semester. Along with a parent/faith mentor, students should review the questions (handed out and found on our webpage) beforehand. Interviewers will determine if the student was able to articulate his/her beliefs in accordance with Scripture. Students either pass or have the opportunity to retry. Students must eventually pass each semester's interview.

**7th grade students** will "interview" at home with their parents or faith mentor using the provided questions. On a scheduled date, 7th grade students will then review and recap as a group what they've learned that semester with their Bible Class Leader or Pastor Keith.

**8th grade students** will interview with Pastor Keith and an Elder. Please watch carefully for sign-ups so that students can be scheduled for their interview time slots.

- 7. Prayer:** As Christ followers, students will grow in their relationship with God by speaking to Him regularly, both in personal prayer and together with other disciples. Students will have the opportunity to pray with peers and Bible Class Leader as part of our Sunday and Wednesday times together.
- 8. Witness:** As Christ followers, students will speak with their lips and believe in their hearts that Jesus Christ is Lord. Group events such as Bible Class, Retreats, and other church events offer opportunities for students to invite friends into our community at Grace. They will also prepare a personal **Statement of Faith** to share with the congregation on the day of Confirmation.

Upon completion of these formative years, our prayer for students is that they will recognize the extent of God's love for them and all people. We intend for students to say with conviction on Confirmation Day that "with the help of God" they will follow and serve Him, not because it is what their family expects, but because it is what they desire. We rejoice as we look forward to that day when they will share their personal **statement of faith** with the congregation!