

CONFIRMATION 2017-2018



**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALLENDALE
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, RAMSEY &
ZION LUTHEAN CHURCH, SADDLE RIVER**

WELCOME TO CONFIRMATION!

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALLENDALE
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, RAMSEY, &
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, SADDLE RIVER

Your child's baptism was his or her public introduction to God's unconditional love. Confirmation is another publicly celebrated moment in their continuing faith journey.

In this confirmation program, they will further and deepen their understanding of God's ongoing love for them and for the world, as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

CONFIRMATION THROUGH THE AGES

Traditionally, confirmation is defined as a Christian rite in which a baptized member affirms his or her Christian beliefs and becomes a full member of the church. Teaching and instruction (called *catechesis*) were always part of the church, but when the church first began (around 70 CE), people joined the church as adults. Their baptism, catechesis, and initiation all occurred at the same time. When Christianity became the state religion of the Roman empire (380 CE), there was mass initiation in which infants became baptized.

Through baptism, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit; confirmation developed so that instruction can still be a part of Christian initiation. Confirmation has taken on many roles throughout the years, including instructional, confessional, traditional, pietistic (renewal of baptismal promise), and rationalistic coming of age. We wonder, what is the role of confirmation today in the 21st century?

CONFIRMATION TODAY

In the Lutheran Church, confirmation is the affirmation of one's baptism. When you had your child baptized in the Lutheran Church, you and your child's sponsors made specific promises to raise your son or daughter with faithful people, teach him/her the Lord's Prayer, bring him/her to church to hear the Word of God and bring them to the Lord's Table, and nurture his/her faith. As your child is becoming a young adult, it is now his/her turn to assume responsibility for his/her own faith. Thus, confirmation is for them an opportunity to make those promises for themselves.

Confirmation is **not** a graduation from our church's Christian education program. To diminish this attitude, we have built a confirmation program around the promises your child will make on Pentecost Sunday when they are confirmed:

1. To live among God's faithful people
2. To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper
3. To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
4. To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
5. To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

To help our youth fulfill these promises, we will:

1. LIVE AMONG GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE

Fully participate in the confirmation program, including class sessions, field trips, service projects and retreats.

Attend the Commandment Lock-In at Calvary on September 29th-September 30th.

Attend "Among the Wolves," a junior high (6th-9th grade) NJ synod retreat on November 17-19 at Fairview Lake Camp, Stillwater, NJ. The cost will be \$115. Register online at www.njsynod.org/youth by October 30th, 2017.

2. HEAR THE WORD OF GOD & SHARE IN THE LORDS SUPPER

Worship is central to the formation of Christian identity. Students and their families will be expected to attend worship AT LEAST once a month, and fill out EIGHT worship forms, to be emailed or texted in to his/her pastor.

3. PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD IN CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND DEED

Students will practice proclaiming the good news by participating in small groups during classes on Sunday evenings and completing the Household Movie and Family Activity assignments. During confirmation classes we will also have discussion about issues in which faith and life intersect. Topics might include faith and financial stewardship, every day faith, and relationships.

4. SERVE ALL PEOPLE, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

Students will engage in two different service projects over the course of the year. Possible projects include but are not limited to working with disabled persons, volunteering at a nursing home, addressing poverty in our community, and caring for creation.

5. STRIVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN ALL THE EARTH

We will introduce our youth to the fact that our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, is a public church. Christians are called to wrestle and address social issues that affect the society around us. We will explore an issue throughout the year. Issues might include but are not limited to: access to clean water, addressing hunger, human rights, ending Malaria, etc.

A NOTE ABOUT CLASS

We will meet for every class at **Zion Lutheran Church (96 E Allendale Rd, Saddle River, NJ 07458)**. Each class will consist of large group gathering with a snack and break out to small group discussion. We ask each family signs up to provide snack for one class and join us for the class you sign up for (plan for about 25). **Bring your Student Bible to every class.**

A NOTE ABOUT ABSENCE

Each student matters and his/her presence makes a difference in our class and our outings. We understand that things come up, but we hope you prioritize confirmation in fulfillment of the promises you made your child at her/his baptism. We will allow and forgive one absence, but

further absence will require make up assignments. If your child misses more than half of the confirmation classes/events, a conversation will need to take place between pastor, parents, and student. The makeup requirements are as follows:

- Miss a class: Complete worksheet and return to your pastor within 10 days of your absence OR in lieu of a written assignment, have a conversation with one of the pastors in person or via facetime.
- Miss a service project or field trip: serve for equivalent hours (cannot be for payment or for your family)
- Miss a retreat: personal meeting with your pastor

A NOTE ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS

All of the following assignments are intended to help you articulate your faith. You will not be graded on any of the following, but will be expected to complete each. The assignments will be available on our confirmation website: <http://redeemerramsey.360unite.com/confirmation>

- **Worship Forms:** Complete 10 worship forms. Forms are available on our website.
- **Household Movie:** Pick a movie, watch it together as a household, answer the faith reflection questions provided by your pastor.
- **Family Activity:** Pick an activity and do it together as a family. The intent here is to “unplug” and spend time together as a family. A handout with further instruction will be given in class.

Material

Here We Stand Bible (\$25 check made payable to *The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer*)

Lutheran Catechism App: students are asked to download the Lutheran Small Catechism App with this logo:



If your child does not have access to a smart phone, we will provide a small paperback catechism.

If you desire to be confirmed at the end of your second year, you will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018.

Pastor Jenny McLellan, Calvary
Office: 201-327-4786
Cell: 201-961-2844
Email: jmclellan@clavaryluth.org

Pastor Michael Linderman, Redeemer
Office: 201-327-0148
Cell: 201-675-4591
Email: miklindernan@gmail.com

Pastor Wes Smith, Zion
Office: 201-327-0655
Cell: 201-675-2280
Email: zionpastorwes@gmail.com

2017-2018 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

MONTH	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Sept.	Sun. 17th	4:30-6pm	Zion	PARENTS + STUDENTS	Kick-Off, get to know you BBQ
Sept.	Fri. 29th-Sat. 30th	4pm-10am	Calvary	Lock-in	Ten Commandments
Oct.	Sun. 8th	1-3pm	Redeemer	Service	Packing Food at Redeemer in Ramsey
Oct.	Sun. 15 th	4:30-6pm	Zion	Justice Class	First Friends and Stamp Out Despair
Oct.	Sun. 29 th	4:30-6pm	Zion	Class	Martin Luther
Nov.	Fri. 17 th -Sun. 19th	4pm meet at Zion (return Sun 3pm)	Stillwater, NJ	Retreat	Among the Wolves Retreat, NJ Synod
Dec.	Sun. 3rd	4:30-6pm	Zion	Class	Lord's Prayer and other prayer
Dec.	Sun. 17th	4:30-6pm	Zion	FAMILY	Christmas Party and Review
Jan.	Sun. 7th	ASSIGNMENTS DUE: 4 Completed Worship Notes and Household Movie Response (turn in at class)			
Jan.	Sun. 7 th	4:30-6pm	Zion	PARENTS + STUDENTS	Belief and Apostle's Creed Introduction
Jan.	Sun. 21 st	4:30-6pm	Zion	Class	Apostle's Creed: God and Jesus
Feb.	Fri. 2 nd	7-10pm	Calvary	Service	Camp Acorn Dance
Feb.	Sun. 11 th	4:30-6pm	Zion	Class	Apostle's Creed: Holy Spirit
Feb.	Sun. 25 th	4:30-6pm	Zion	Class	Baptism
Mar.	TBD	4pm meet at Zion (return Sun 3pm)	TBD	Retreat	Vocation and Confirmation Stoles
Mar.	Sun. 25 th	4:30-6pm	Zion	Class	Lord's Supper
Mar.	30 th	Friday, 11:45 am	Calvary	Field Trip	Allendale Way of the Cross
Apr.	Sun. 22 nd	4:30-6pm	Zion	Class	World Religion
Apr.	TBD	TBD	Meet at Zion	Field Trip	Mosque Visit (Elzahra Islamic Center, Midland Park)
May.	Sun. 6th	ASSIGNMENTS DUE: 4 Completed Worship Notes and Family Activity Response (turn in at class)			
May	Sun. 6th	4:30-6pm	Zion	PARENTS + STUDENTS	Stewardship & Using Gifts in the Church/World
May	20th	Pentecost Sunday		Confirmation	8th grade (Redeemer, Zion); 9th grade (Calvary)

Color Key:

White Class sessions We will gather at 4:30pm at **Zion Lutheran Church** for a large group activity and lesson then break for snack and small group discussion about Luther and his small Catechism.

Yellow: Service Projects

- **Packing Food:** Join with other volunteers from other churches to help pack 10,000 meals for the Center for Food Action. At Redeemer, 1-3pm. Shifts available
- **Camp Acorn Dance:** a three-hour social evening where campers with disabilities can interact with their peers at Calvary Lutheran Church. For more information: <http://www.campacorn.org/dances.html>

Blue: Field Trips

- **Allendale Way of the Cross:** On Good Friday, we gather at Guardian Angel RC in Allendale then take turns carrying a large cross to different stations set up around town to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross.
- **Mosque Visit:** We will observe a prayer service and have discussion with Imam Shaykh Moutaz Charaf.

Green: Overnight

- **Lock-In (sleepover) at Calvary:** Crazy fun relays, art challenges, junk-food and worship: 1 night, 10 Commandments
- **Among the Wolves:** Explore God's Love and learn how together we can make a difference in the world through worship, songs, workshops, games, and service projects.
- **Christian Vocation Retreat:** Through interactive projects we will connect our faith with our God given gifts and our calling to use those gifts to make a difference in the world.