

## Requirements Leading to Confirmation

- A. The role of catechetical instruction in preparation for Confirmation is to assist parents/guardians in bringing up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord through instruction in God's Word (Deut. 6:6-7; Prov. 22:6; Mark 10:13-16; Eph. 6:4). We expect that parents/guardians will be examples to their children in church attendance and the life of the congregation and ensure that their children are responding positively to the instruction and discipline carried out in the classroom. Children enrolled in our school receive instruction by the pastors in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years. Children enrolled in public schools receive instruction by the pastors in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
- B. We expect parents/guardians not only to encourage regular attendance at worship and Sunday school and class for their children, but themselves to set the example by their regular attendance at worship and organized Bible study.
- C. A requirement for enrolling and continuing in catechetical instruction is for the parents/guardians and child attend worship at least 50% of the Saturday/Sundays in the 12 months before classes begin. If parents/guardians and children have poor church attendance (less than 50% of Saturday/Sundays) starting in September through the end of November, they will be notified that they have been placed on "probationary status" until the end of January. If the required improvement has not been made by then, the child cannot be enrolled to begin instruction. If the church attendance requirement has not been met and the parents/guardians still want to enroll a child, they must meet with the Council of Deacons, which will decide whether or not the child may enroll. If allowed to enroll parents/guardians will agree to conditions that will allow their child to continue in the class.

Before catechetical instruction begins, a parent/guardian and child must attend an orientation meeting before enrolling in one of the classes, at which meeting the parent/guardian and child will sign an agreement acknowledging and agreeing to the requirements.

A requirement for entering the final year of instruction (ordinarily in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade) is to recite for memory to a pastor at least three of the required six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism with their meanings: Ten Commandments, Creed, and Lord's Prayer. During the final year a meeting will be held concerning the public examination and the Rite of Confirmation.

Sunday School attendance is highly recommended for all children of that age.

- D. Church attendance will be monitored throughout the years of Instruction. If parents/guardians and children have poor church attendance (less than 50% of Saturday/Sundays in a three-month span), they will be notified that they have been placed on "probationary status" for the next two months. If the required

improvement has not been made by then, the issue will be discussed at the next Council of Deacons meeting and a decision whether or not to dismiss the child from class for the rest of the year will be made.

- E. We require that all assignments in memory work, assigned readings, sermon reports, and workbook assignments will be completed on time. Understanding individual needs, we are open to alternate testing methods and to working individually with special needs students. We expect parents/guardians to assist in assigned homework, sermon reports, other class activities, and in discipline concerns. If class is missed, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the pastor to receive any new assignments.
- F. Displaying an attitude of faith toward Jesus Christ and an attitude of love for His Church will be the major indicator considered for Confirmation. Incomplete classroom work, poor attitude and behavior, and spurning worship are indications of lack of spiritual attitude and will serve as reasons for not confirming individuals if deemed appropriate by the pastors and the Council of Deacons.
- G. We expect the confirmands to witness to their faith and to assist the congregation in reviewing the Six Chief Parts of Luther's Small Catechism through a public examination.
- H. Parents/guardians will be informed of their student's classroom work and behavior in writing or personal contacts, as appropriate.
- I. We expect parents/guardians and children to remain active members of the congregation after Confirmation in the areas of worship, communion attendance, Sunday school and Bible class attendance, use of time and talents, and in financial support of the Lord's work through regular offerings.

### **Procedures**

1. The year before entering catechetical instruction (5<sup>th</sup> grade for the public school and 6<sup>th</sup> grade for SPL School) a letter will be sent to the parents/guardians with the policies along with a report of how well the attendance requirement was met the previous year.
2. Before the first year of instruction (6<sup>th</sup> grade for public school and 7<sup>th</sup> grade for SPL School) a letter will be sent inviting at least one parent/guardian and the student to a required orientation meeting. The last twelve months of attendance will be noted and a copy of the policy will be included in the letter. The policy will be signed at that meeting (see "C" above).
3. After the first six (6) weeks of instruction a progress report will be given to the parents about how well the requirements for remaining in class have been met.
4. Students are encouraged to greet a pastor on the way out each time they attend weekend worship.

*Approved at 10/27/10 Congregational Assembly Meeting.*