



Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

Confirmation Portfolio

What is a Confirmation Portfolio?



Affirmation of WHAT? In lieu of traditional programming with a set number of classes which deem you “ready” to be confirmed, Valley of Peace believes the choice of “when” should be yours. Confirmation is an Affirmation of Baptism. This is the moment we ask you to affirm the promises that were made in your baptism in front of your faith community. What follows is an outline of each of those promises with suggested activities, projects, and opportunities that will prepare you for Confirmation. It is our hope that in completing the Confirmation portfolio, you will gain an understanding of service, word, Christian community, Lutheran theology, and commit to a life of learning and discipleship.

Ideally, completing the elements of the portfolio will take you two years or longer. When you have completed the activities and reflections under each of the Affirmations and feel ready to be confirmed, you will choose a date with Pastor Chris for your confirmation during worship.

When do I start my portfolio?

Let's Get Started! The Confirmation Portfolio can be started at any time after sixth grade. Most students will begin the portfolio process at the start of their 7th grade year and complete it sometime during their high school years. You can go as fast or as slow through this journey but we do recommend that the portfolio not be completed in less than two years. 6th grade students are welcome to participate in Confirmation activities, Wildfire outings, and the mentor program but do not need to start the portfolio until they begin 7th grade.

Submitting Portfolio Information

There are multiple means of submitting reflections for your portfolio. You can simply hold on to this binder and write out each reflection with a parent or you can obtain electronic copies of all of the documents and save them in a folder on your computer. Blank reflection forms will be posted on the church website for you to print at any time. At some point, we'd love to create a Valley of Peace online portal through which all documents could be submitted, but until then, we'll be old school.

Affirmation #1

To Live Among God's Faithful People

In order to prepare to make this promise, we are asking that you...



- **Participation in Monthly Confirmation Mentor Tables** the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Come for the dessert and stay for some good conversation. Each confirmand will be assigned to a table with other adults and/or older students that will meet monthly throughout the school year. We will discuss life, faith, and all the questions that come in between.
- **Volunteer to help with with Family Faith Formation and/or Children's Movie Nights 4 times/school year** and write a general reflection form on two of your experiences (one per school year) noting the dates of participation that you will not reflect on.
- **Attend Camp Wapo at least once, hopefully more!** and write a general reflection form about your experience.
 - **OR**
- **Participate in two summer activities through Valley of Peace or another church.** This might be a mission/service trip, a group outing, VBS, or Habit for Humanity. Anything summer related and tell us how it went! Write a general reflection on one of the activities.
- **Reflect on two Youth Group activities or projects during each school year.** These may include, but not limited to, the following:
 - Lock-ins
 - New Year's Eve Party and Peace worship
 - Winter Retreat
 - Halloween Party
 - Game Nights
 - Youth Group conversations and outings



Affirmation #2

To Hear the Word of God and Share in the Lord's Supper

In order to prepare to make this promise, we are asking that you...

- **Attend worship regularly with your family.** Worship is the primary time to gather as a family of God and hear the Word. It is also the only time in the week that our community gets to see YOU and we love seeing you!
- **Regularly attend Youth Forum Sunday mornings** Gather with your peers, have a snack, and talk about the scripture verse of the day and how it might apply to your understanding of God and discipleship. We will meet after worship from 11:45 am – 12:30 pm. This is a bi-monthly opportunity to learn and grow with other students.
- **Complete 4 Worship Reflections/each school year.** We want to hear what you have to say! Complete 4 Worship Reflection Forms each school year and think about what makes worship meaningful for you. Is it the people, the songs, the sermon, the readings? Let us know!
- **Participate as a Worship Leader 6 times (total)** What do you like to do? Read, sing, help with communion, or usher? Perhaps you'd like to give a Children's sermon or train to be a Worship Assistant. Set up a time with Emilie to provide your leadership in worship and write a general reflection on two of your experiences.
- **Reflect on the Word.** Ever wonder what the Small Catechism is saying? Have a favorite Bible story or verse that you'd like to unpack a bit more? Choose a story/verse from the list below (or come up with your own) and write a couple paragraphs on what this verse/story mean to you and/or where you see God's work in the world.
 - Luther's Small Catechism
 - Creation of the world – Genesis 1
 - The Passover–Exodus 12:1-14
 - God gives The Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:1-21
 - Birth of Jesus– Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25
 - Baptism of Jesus – John 1:29-37 (Luke 3:21-23a)
 - Jesus raises Lazarus to life – John 11
 - The Last Supper — Matthew 26:17-30
 - The crucifixion— John 19:17-20 and 23-24; Matthew 27:39- 44; John 19:28-42
 - The resurrection and appearance to disciples and followers – Luke 24:1-12 and 36-47; 1 Corinthians 15:3-9.

Affirmation #3

To Proclaim the Good News of God in Christ Through Word and Deed



In order to prepare to make this promise, we are asking that you...

Once per school year:

- **Volunteer as a youth leader with Valley of Peace summer Vacation Bible School.** Let your light shine before the youngest in our community by volunteering to be a part of Vacation Bible School. Assist with music, snacks, games, or Bible study with children ages 3 through 5th grade. When finished, write a general reflection form on your experience during the week.
 - **OR**
- **Volunteer with another agency/school activity of your choosing.** Do you already do something with your school or another community agency that you feels fits this affirmation? Wonderful! Tell us about it! Reflect on the experience by writing a general reflection form on what you did and how you felt you proclaim the Good News in Word or deed.

- **Show your skills!** Looking at the list below, choose one activity to lead at Valley of Peace per school year. If you would like to co-lead an activity with a peer, that is just fine too! Let us know what you would like to do and we'll find a time. Upon completing the activity write a general reflection on it.
 - Lead a Sunday Youth Forum or Bible Study
 - Give a Children's Sermon during worship
 - Participate in a TIM Team planning Meeting
 - Help Emilie plan and execute a youth group outing
 - Prepare one of the Stations of the Cross for Good Friday
 - Give a Temple Talk in worship on a topic of your choosing
 - Or an idea of your own!

Affirmation #4

To Serve all People, Following the Example of Jesus



In order to prepare to make this promise, we are asking that you...

- **Attend one Valley of Peace Board or Committee Meeting** Ever wonder what happens at all those meetings? Come and find out! There are meetings taking place all the time at Valley of Peace that help the church run smoothly. Join a meeting from the list of groups below and reflect on what happened using a general reflection form. Contact Emilie to find out when a particular meeting will be. We'll make sure they know you will be joining them.
 - Church Council
 - Children, Youth, and Family Team
 - Hospitality Committee
 - Parish Life Committee
 - Property Committee
 - Social Ministry Committee
 - Stewardship Committee
 - World Missions Committee
 - Worship and Music Committee
 - Worship Arts Team

- **Participate in One of the Following.** Jesus served his people in so many ways. Looking at the list below, choose one experience where you can be of service and write a general reflection form on it.
 - Kid Pack Assembly
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - God's Work, Our Hands
 - Assist at the Welcome Center Sunday morning
 - Rake N Run
 - Church Wide Clean Up
 - Lenten Soup Suppers
 - Youth Service opportunities
 - Volunteer at a political rally or community service event
 - Show kindness toward a neighbor, friend, or grandparent
 - Complete family chores
 - An idea of your own

Affirmation #5

Strive for Justice and Peace in all the Earth

In order to prepare to make this promise, we are asking that you...



- **Participate in Golden Valley Pride Fest** Volunteer for the festival, help plan, stand at the Valley of Peace booth, or simply attend and reflect on your experience with a general reflection form.
 - **OR**
- **Attend a community festival or event of your choosing that is working towards justice or peace** We are lucky to live in a community that is always striving to be better and work toward growth and positive change. Find a cause that is important to you and attend a speech, debate, workshop, festival, or event around that issue and tell us about it through a general reflection form.
- **Attend two Healing Services at Valley of Peace** This is your opportunity to experience a different type of worship service and reflect on what it means to bring peace to a community or individual through worship. Valley of Peace holds a healing service on the second Sunday of every month. Join us for two of them and reflect on the service using a general reflection form.

Final Meeting and Project

I'm prepared to make my Affirmation of Baptism!

After completing all of the activities and reflections outlined above, we will ask you to create a **Confirmation project**. Your faith journey has been one-of-a-kind. You are one-of-a-kind. Therefore, your project will be unique, too. The purpose of this project is to depict what your faith means to you and/or where you see God working in the world. It might be a paper, statement, poem, a collage, a sculpture, a movie, a service project, or a song! There is a lot of room for creativity and self-expression.



When you are ready and your project is complete, you can **set up a meeting** with Pastor Chris, Emilie, a mentor, and/or anyone else you would like, to talk through your project, take a look back at your confirmation portfolio, and set a date for your confirmation in worship!

You are ready to be confirmed!



General Reflection Form

Name:

Affirmation promise:

Activity:

Date/s:

Describe what you did:

What did you enjoy most?

How or where was faith expressed through this experience and/or where did you see God?

What is one question you now have?

Signature of Parent _____

Signature of Pastor, Youth Director, or Confirmation Mentor _____



Worship Reflection Form

Name:

Date of Worship Service:

What did the overall theme of the worship service seem to be?

Name one way the hymns reflected the theme of the day.

In a sentence or two, paraphrase the scriptures that were read.

What was one of the main points of the sermon?

What was the most interesting, helpful, or uplifting part of the service for you?

What questions did this scripture, sermon, or service leave you with?

Signature of Parent _____

Signature of Pastor, Youth Director, or Confirmation Mentor _____