

Confirmation Ministry

Hope Lutheran Church, Wake Forest, NC

Parents,

“Welcome to Confirmation at Hope Lutheran Church!!!” This is a wonderful time in your student’s life. It is a chance for them to take the lessons others have taught about Jesus and make it personal, as they confirm the promises given at their baptism. What a great time of spiritual growth and excitement! They may have lots of questions during this time and the church staff wants to partner with you to help you answer their questions and help them in their commitment to follow Christ. The Church staff will be here with you during this journey to cheer you on as you make this time a priority for your family.

Overview of Hope Lutheran’s Confirmation Program: Hope’s Confirmation program partners with parents to help youth grow in faith and knowledge. During the two years youth learn basic teachings of the Lutheran Faith, grow in their understanding of the Bible, and make friendships that can last a lifetime. Our model includes a combination of small groups, large group teaching times, family time, retreats, and fellowship events. Parents, small group leaders, Pastors, and DCEs all become part of the team that help our young people grow in faith.

Parents still have the most influence to instill values and beliefs on their children and teenagers. Therefore, Hope Lutheran wants to partner with parents to help them talk about faith at home, answer hard questions that are asked, and enjoy the benefits of a Christian community. As we work together, we will have more opportunity to help teenagers live and proclaim the word and love of Jesus throughout their lives. The materials we use will have a “Home Huddle” worksheet each week which will lead families. Parents are strongly encouraged to model the commitment to Christian education by attending an Adult Education class of their own (many options at Hope are offered on Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and Small Groups).

Getting Started:

1. **Parent Orientation:** **Wednesday, September 3 from 6:30-8:00PM** for all parents of Confirmation students. Meet with the Pastors, church staff, and other parents to see how you can help your student have fun and get the most out of their Confirmation experience. We will discuss expectations, the calendar for the year, forms and paperwork needed. This information can be overwhelming so we will walk you through everything you need to know.
 - Nursery care will be provided for young children; please call the church office at 919-554-8109 if you plan to use the free childcare to reserve your spot.
 - Enclosed is the required 2014-2015 Confirmation Registration/Waiver Form. Please bring the completed copy to the Confirmation Parent Orientation on September 3.
 - Personal folders and a paper copy of the Catechism will be provided. All materials can be picked up at the Confirmation Parent Orientation. Bibles and hard cover Catechisms can also be purchased.
2. **Classes** begin **Wednesday, September 10 from 6:30-7:30PM in room 301** on the Adult Education rooms on the third floor. Classes will begin in a large group, and then divide into smaller groups around Hope’s campus. Parents should plan a meeting place after classes to

connect with their students. Adults who are interested in helping with small groups and retreats need to apply with Krista Young. A background check will be done before adults can meet with youth.

3. **Materials**: Students will be given a folder of materials, and a paperback copy of Luther's Small Catechism (*provided by the church*). Each student should bring a personal Bible with them to classes. Families may choose to purchase a hard-cover Luther's Catechism (\$12) and/or a Faith Alive ESV Bible (\$25) during Orientation. Please make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church, earmarked Catechism/Bible.
4. **Retreats**: We end the 6th grade year with a retreat that helps culminate the information they have studied. This year it will be March 7-8 at Camp Agape in Fuquay Varina. We ask all students to please set aside this weekend for this special experience. Also, NEW THIS YEAR is a 5th grade retreat October 10-12. This retreat is designed to help new 5th grade students understand the confirmation process and build relationships with other students. It will be held at Kure Beach Ministries Retreat Center at the beach. Retreat costs are \$130, and can be paid as a one-time check, payments during the year, and participation in fund raisers.
5. **Prayer Partners**: Please consider an adult who knows your child and will commit to praying for them during the Confirmation journey. It may be a relative, neighbor, church member, or your student's Baptism sponsors. I encourage you to find someone who lives in or near this community who will be available to connect with your student during the year. If you do not know anyone in this community, please let Krista Young know so she can help you partner with someone here at Hope. They will be invited to a Prayer Breakfast in February with the students.

It is such an honor and privilege to serve with you and help students walk in faith. It is always so wonderful to see families pursuing spiritual growth for themselves in spite of busy and hectic schedules. I believe you and your family will be blessed as you make your faith life a priority. Please know that the Pastors and church staff are available if there is anything we can do to support your family. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

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