

Confirmation Crossroads - At Home Session #1
The Rite of Confirmation also known as The Affirmation of Holy Baptism
What?

We are sorry you missed our class this week. Please read through this lesson together (parents and confirmand).

On Sunday, May 23rd, our 10th graders will be confirmed in a worship service that is called both The Affirmation of Holy Baptism and The Rite of Confirmation. Discuss together the definition of the following words.

Affirm – to declare positively; assert to be true

Confirm – to verify

Read together through the following promises that are made at the time of Baptism by parents/guardians and sponsors.

Baptismal Promises:

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

- To live with them among God’s faithful people,
- Bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
- Teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- Place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God,
- Proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made,
- And work for justice and peace.

Students, if you have ever said to your parent, “Why do I have to go to confirmation, Sunday School, church, etc.” this is why. Because they promised. They promised on the day you were baptized to do all they could to raise you to have a faith of your own.

Besides your parents and sponsors/godparents, the congregation also made a promise to you at the time of your Baptism:

- People of God, do you promise to support _____ and pray for them in their new life in Christ? **We do.** (From the ELW page 228.)

At Bethel, we take very seriously the promises that we make at baptism. All that we do in Sunday School, CAT Class, confirmation classes, and the many other children’s and youth ministries that we have at Bethel is out of our desire to fulfill our promise as a congregation to partner with your parents and godparents to raise you in a faith that you can claim as your own.

Parents, please share with your child the details/memories of their baptism day. Time of year, weather, church, pastor, godparents, who else was there, special food, etc.

Read together the following promises that will be made by those being confirmed in October:

Confirmation Promises:

The pastor will say: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

- To live among God’s faithful people,
- To hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,

- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

You will respond: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Students:

- What is it about your Baptism that you are affirming?
 - The promises. You are saying that the promises made by your parents, godparents and congregation at the time of your Baptism are promises that ring true for you today. You are saying that you believe in the faith in which you were raised. The Apostles' Creed sums up these beliefs and that is why it is an important part of your confirmation service.
- What is it that you are confirming in the Rite of Confirmation?
 - That you will continue to live the life you were called to live through your Baptism. In confirmation, you are making the promises of Holy Baptism your own. You are confirming that the promises made by others at your baptism are promises that you now are willing to make yourself.
- Together with your parents, compare the promises in Holy Baptism with the promises in Affirmation of Baptism.
 - What is different?
 - What is the same?
 - What do each of the petitions mean?

Sparks:

The goal of the last six years of CAT and confirmation classes has been to prepare you to take on the promises that others made for you in Holy Baptism and make them your own. The goal of this four week class for you and your parents is to help you sum up the faith that you are affirming on Confirmation Sunday in the form of a Faith Statement and to help you begin to identify how you currently live out your faith and how you will continue to live out your faith in the future. (We will talk more about your faith statement in next week's session.)

One way we will do that is to talk about "Sparks." The Search Institute has identified sparks as a special quality, skill, or interest that lights us up and that we are passionate about. A spark comes from inside of us, and when we express it, it gives us joy and energy. It is our very essence, the thing about us that is "good and beautiful, and useful to the world". A spark is God-given and can be:

- Something you are good at – a talent or skill
- Something you care deeply about – such as the environment or serving your community
- A quality you know is special – caring for others or being a friend

When we say in Holy Baptism, "let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven," we are saying, "let your sparks – the things that are special about you, be used in a way that will bring glory to God and allow you to live out your faith."

Parents and students, think of at least one spark of your own and then think of one spark for each other and share how you see that spark shining out in each other.

Close with the following prayer:

Dear God.

We thank you for those who made promises on our behalf at the time of our Baptism and for those who have partnered with us to keep those promises. Be with us in the coming weeks as we reflect on these last years of instruction in faith and guide us as we begin to plan for and consider how we will now live out this faith that has become our own. Amen.

Blessing

Everyone present should make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads and say: *May God guide you as you live out the promises of your baptism every day.*