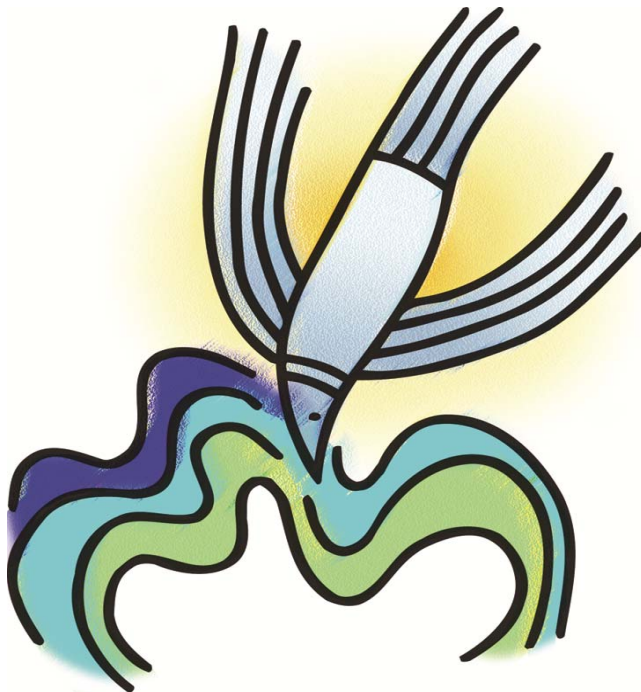


Confirmation Ministry
Handbook
2011-2012



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Geneva Lutheran Church Confirmation Program 2011-2012

This life, therefore is not being but becoming. We are not what we shall be, but we are on the way. The process is not finished, but it is actively going on. This is not the goal, but it is the right road.
~ Paraphrased quote from Martin Luther

Overview

Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church which helps the baptized child, through Word and Sacrament, to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission.

The Confirmation Program at Geneva Lutheran Church works towards the following goals with our participating youth:

- Knowledge & Understanding of Biblical faith & the Lutheran Heritage
- Participation in various service opportunities both in & out of the church community
- Ownership & participation in worship services
- Affirmation of skills & talents
- Supportive & healthy relationships with adult congregational members
- Supportive & healthy relationships with church peers
- Fun & Memorable activities

The following events & activities help to accomplish the goals above:

- Wednesday evening learning activities* (see schedule on pp 2-3)
- Small group time (1-2 Wednesdays a month)
- Sunday Morning's "Something Else"
- Service Commitments in & out of church
- Retreats
- Summer Confirmation Camp at LOMC
- Worship attendance & notes
- Acolyting

*The Confirmation Program is on a two year rotation of curriculum focus. The Year One Curriculum focus is The Small Catechism. The Year Two curriculum focus is the Old & New Testaments. See pages 2 & 3 for the scope and sequence of the year.

Wednesday Night Confirmation Schedule & Learning Activity Focuses

5:30 – 7pm

The Old Testament will be covered during the first half of the year. The New Testament will be covered during the second half of the year.

**We use a curriculum called *Here We Stand* which is published by the Augsburg Fortress.

Confirmation starts promptly at 5:50pm and ends at 7pm. We strongly encourage your students to eat with the group from 5:30pm – 5:50pm.

Old Testament

Date

September

September 14th

September 21st

September 28th

October

October 5th

October 12th

October 19th

October 26th

November

November 2nd

November 16th

November 23rd

November 30th

December

December 7th

December 14th

December 21st

December 28th

Lesson Focus

Getting Started with the Bible

5pm Acolyte Training

Creation/The Human Condition

The Flood – *Small Group*

NO OASIS

5pm Live Nativity Photo Shoot

Sarah, Hagar & Abraham

Isaac & Rebekah – *Small Group*

Service Project/ Rake & Run (weather permitting)

King David

Exile & Return – *Small Group*

NO OASIS

Live Nativity Run Through

Prophets of Israel & Judah – *Small Group*

Christmas Celebration & Old Testament Jeopardy Game

NO OASIS

NO OASIS



Learning Activities Scope & Sequence Continued...

The New Testament

January

January 4th
January 11th
January 18th
January 25th

The Birth of Jesus & The Magi – *Small Group*
The Wilderness Temptations
Jesus Calls the First Disciples – *Small Group*
The Beatitudes & The Good Samaritan

February

February 1st
February 8th
February 15th
February 22nd
February 29th

The Transfiguration
Parable of Sheep & Goats – *Small Group*
TBA
NO OASIS – Ash Wednesday
LENT SCHEDULE BEGINS; The Last Supper

March

March 7th
March 14th
March 21st
March 28th

LENT; The Crucifixion
LENT; The Resurrection
LENT; The Book of Revelation
NO OASIS – Spring Break



April

April 4th
April 11th
April 18th
April 25th

NO OASIS – Holy Week
Pentecost – *Small Group*
The Call of Saul – *Small Group*
LAST CLASS WITH CURRICULUM; Love Hymn

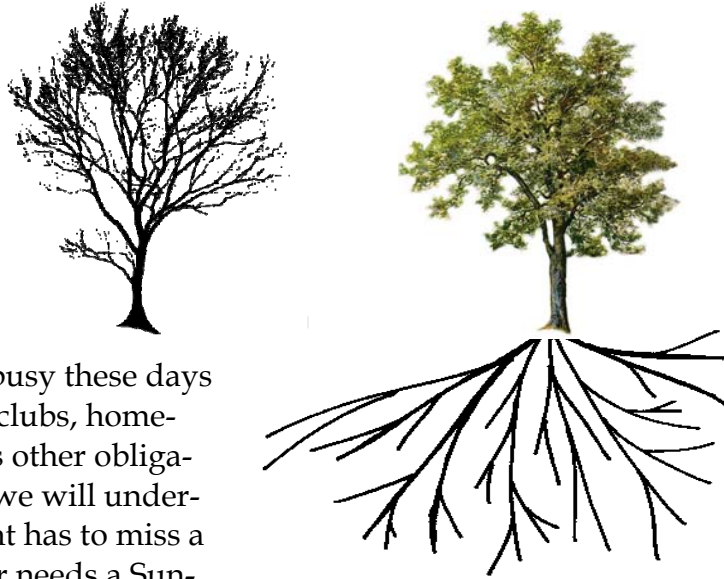
May

May 2nd
May 9th
May 16th

May 23rd

Rite of Confirmation Run Through
Service Project
Service Project; 8th Graders Trained for
Communion Assisting?
Middle School Bash

II. Explanation of Confirmation Expectations



Students are crazy busy these days with sports, music, clubs, homework, and countless other obligations. So, of course we will understand if your student has to miss a Wednesday night or needs a Sunday morning to sleep in.

What we do ask & expect is that you make church a priority. It is our job to provide opportunities that will help your student grow not only in faith with Christ Jesus but grow as individuals as well. Church is an excellent way to keep your youth grounded. As students continue to understand the importance of their faith life, they are more equipped to tackle the challenges of their daily lives & do ministry.

We have put expectations in place so that the church can better walk with your student on their faith journey. The goal is that by the end of their confirmation experience, they will immerge as confident, faith-filled & accepting youth (more like the tree on the right and a lot less like the tree on the left). You putting church as a priority and taking the expectations seriously will very much help your student reach this goal.

See page 5-7 for a list of the Geneva Lutheran Church Confirmation Expectations.

Geneva Lutheran Church

Confirmation Expectations

1. Attendance

Your student is expected in attendance at Wednesday night Confirmation. Please make sure your student brings their Bible & is on time. Your student may have one excused absence between September 14th & December 14th as well as one excused absence between January 4th & May 2nd. If your student cannot attend Wednesday Night Confirmation for whatever reason, please email Dave & Becky & the adult leader of the ministry he/she is involved in by 5pm on the Wednesday your student will miss so we can plan accordingly.

If your student misses more than the excused amount of classes described above, he/she must pick up & complete a **Student Sheet** that covers the material that was missed. Student Sheets can be found in a binder in the alcove right outside the chapel. They must be returned in the bin where sermon notes are turned in *or* handed to Dave & Becky.

A Student Sheet is considered complete only when your student reads the scripture listed at the top of the page, defines the Key Words, reads through the Bible Connection, answers the "Cartoon Connection" questions & completes the activity on the back. Once your student has completed the above tasks, **a parent must sign the sheet.** Then, the sheet can be turned in. All missed Confirmation classes must be made-up by May 2nd.

If more than an acceptable amount of Wednesday nights are missed, you will receive a phone call from Dave & Becky letting you know the next steps your student must take to affirm their baptism.

2. Sermon Notes

For the purpose of learning the hymns, liturgy and habit of Sunday Worship, each student is required to attend worship a minimum of 20 times from September 17th – April 29th. Twenty "Thoughts about Worship" (Sermon Notes) are due by April 29th to verify worship attendance. Special services, such as Thanksgiving or Good Friday are acceptable worship times. If a student worships at another church, they may complete a "Thoughts about Worship" there & hand it in here with a bulletin from that church service. Thoughts about Worship Forms are located in the alcove right outside of the chapel.



3. Service Hours

A total of 20 service hours are due by May 2nd. These service hours can be completed by participating in one (or more) of the following:



- Puppets—7pm—7:30pm on Wednesday Nights. Puppets lead worship one Sunday a month. Led by Renee Riani.
 - Mrs. Riani is only able to accommodate 8 students per season. Everyone who wants to participate will get a chance to be a part of the ministry, but may not be able to participate for the entire year depending on the amount of students interested.
- Chimes—7pm—7:30pm on Wednesday Nights. Chimes lead worship one Sunday a month and are directed by Amy Steenson
- Assorted Ministry (A.M)—7pm-7:30pm on Wednesday Nights. Help create artwork for the church or do odds & ends that need doing with Dave & Becky!
- Service of your choice—Service done outside of church. *This can only be done for one season (see seasonal dates below)*

The above options are seasonal, meaning your student can switch to a different service commitment once the season is over. The dates for seasons are as follows:

FALL: 9/14—11/16; CHRISTMAS—11/30—12/14; WINTER—1/4—2/15;
EASTER—2/29-3/21; SPRING—4/11-5/16



- Sounds of Joy (formerly Music Ministry) — Rehearsals run from 7pm -7:30pm on Wednesday Nights or 4:30—5pm on Saturday Nights and need to be set up through Deborah Ayotte. Opportunities are available for instrumental and vocal solos, ensemble work and percussion work.
- This & That— There are a lot of service projects that can be done outside of Wednesday Night including:
 - Hanging of The Greens — November 25th
 - SERVE Group with your family
 - Angel Tree Adoption (December)
 - Cook for Lazarus House
 - Easter Pancake Breakfast — April 8th

4. Event Participation

We are requiring that your students participate in all of the events listed below. If there is a major conflict that cannot be worked around, please let Dave & Becky know ASAP.



1. Crop Walk—Sunday, October 16th—To help end hunger, we will be walking a 5K in Batavia. We ask that each walker seek out at least \$30 in donations. See handout for more info.
2. Peder Eide Retreat—Friday, November 18th—Sunday, November 20th; \$135; A really cool retreat at LOMC lead by Contemporary Christian Artist Peder Eide! Awesome!
 - “Peder Eide is coming to LOMC for a weekend of music, worship, and fellowship. Peder uses his music, family stories, and personal witness to encourage young people to live out their faith.”
3. Live Nativity—Friday, December 2nd—6pm—9pm (selected performances). See page 13 for adult volunteer opportunities.
4. Cook-Out & Sledding @ Fabyan!! Sunday, February 12th—Noon-3pm; Come Sled & Eat a burger at Fabyan park (by the windmill!)
5. Service Projects—Wednesday, May 9th & Wednesday, May 16th—5:50-7pm. Activities are TBD.
6. Middle School Bash—Wednesday, May 23rd—Time & Event TBD
7. Confirmation Camp (for those entering middle school for the 2012-2013 school year.) June 24th—June 29th, 2012



5. Acolyting

All Confirmation Students are scheduled to Acolyte throughout the school year (thanks to Sherry Navigato!) If a substitute is needed, it is up to your student & you to find one. Please notify the church office of any changes to the schedule. Also, after your student serves as acolyte, he/she must get the signature of Deborah Ayotte, Pastor Martha, Amy Steenson or Dave & Becky on their Service Card. Acolyte training will take place on Wednesday, September 21st @ 5pm for any student who has not yet been trained

Service Cards

Service Cards are given to each student to help track the amount of service hours each student has earned. These cards are to stay at church unless a student is doing a service project of their choice. In order for hours to be counted toward the twenty total hours, each youth must record what activity they participated in, the date of the activity as well as the signature of the adult leader on their service card. Service Cards are located in the alcove outside of the chapel.

Below is an example of a Service Hour Card.

Students, make sure to write down the activity you participated in as well as the date of the event. Also, make sure to get the signature of the adult leader who led the activity. Four services as acolyte required, as well as signature of an adult leader present during the worship service. Adult leaders, please sign your name next to the amount of hours the student served dutifully.

Hours	Date & Event	Adult Leader Signature
½		
1		
1 ½		
2		
2 ½		
3		
3 ½		
4		
4 ½		
5		
5 ½		
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6 ½		
7		
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17 ½		
18		
18 ½		
19		
19 ½		
20!!		
Event	10/16 CROP Walk	
Event	11/18-11/20 Retreat	
Event	12/2 Live Nativity	
Event	2/12 Fabyan Sledding	
Event	5/9 Service Project	
Event	5/16 Service Project	
Event	5/23 MS Bash	
Acolyte Date #1:		Signature:
Acolyte Date #2:		Signature:
Acolyte Date # 3 :		Signature:
Acolyte Date #4:		Signature:



Additional Confirmation Expectations for 8th Graders

1. *Ministry Chats*

Ministry Chats will take place at the end of March & beginning of April. Various ministry leaders from the congregation will visit during Confirmation on Wednesday evenings & talk about the ministries they take a part in leading (Bell Choir, Altar Guild, etc). Ministry Chats will take the place of small group. 8th graders are expected to attend ministry chats, & turn in notes about them. If your student is missing during a ministry chat, he/she may copy notes from someone who was present.

2. *Faith Statement*

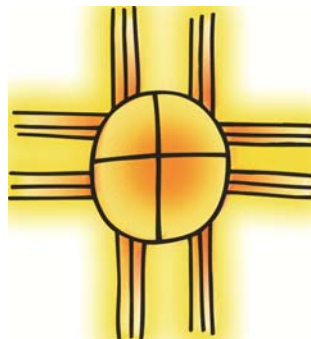
8th graders will be given a series of questions that relate to their faith life and faith journey. We ask that they put sincere thought into their answers. Their answers will help prepare them for their interview at the end of April. Below are important due dates for the faith statement:

- Wed. February 29th– Faith Statement questions given to 8th graders
- **Wed. March 14th – Faith Statement I due**
- Wed. March 21st – Faith Statements Returned with comments
- **Wed. April 11th – Faith Statement II due**

3. *8th Grade Interviews*

To get a better understanding of how 8th graders will take on a greater responsibility with their faith journey, Dave & Becky will be conducting interviews at the end of April. We also will have interview questions related to how 8th graders view their faith & why. Questions will stem from students' completed Faith Statement. Interviews will be held during the following times:

- Sunday, April 15th: 11:30, 11:50, 12:10, 12:30 & 12:50
- Sunday, April 22nd: 11:30, 11:50, 12:10, 12:30 & 12:50



III. Reports

A periodic report will be mailed to each parent, outlining each student's service participation, worship attendance and class attendance.

IV. Acolyte Schedule

September 2011 – December 2011



If there is a change to the schedule, please notify the church office.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolyte #1</u>	<u>Acolyte #2</u>
September 11 th :	Maddie Parise	_____ ?
September 18 th :	Jessie Hopkins	Rachel Butler
September 25 th :	Lars Palmquist	Giovanna Vilchis
October 2 nd :	Kayla Mickelsen	Kyle Mickelsen
October 9 th :	Brad Geneser	Ryan Chippas
October 16 th :	Jake Mozden	Julian Desens
October 23 rd :	Emily Martinez	Anaka Riani
October 30 th :	Kayla Mickelsen	Brad Geneser
November 6 th :	Anna Moritz	Lindsay Pojasek
November 13 th :	Brad Geneser	Ryan Geneser
November 20 th :	Anthony Roenna	Daniel Sandberg
November 24 th (Thanksgiving):	Maddie Parise	Kayla Mickelsen
November 27 th :	Gianna Navigato	Michael Navigato
December 4 th :	Maddie Parise	Erin McKenna
December 11 th :	Emily Martinez	Andrew Martinez
December 18 th :	Giovanna Vilchis	Ivan Vilchis
December 24 th @ 4:30pm:	Daniel Sandberg	Julian Desens
December 24 th @ 10:30pm:	Anaka Riani	Olivia Pittsley
December 25 th :	_____?	_____?

V. Sunday Morning's "Something Else" Middle School Sunday School

Something Else is an awesome branch of Confirmation run by Anthony & Renee Riani that takes place during Education Hour on Sunday. The expectation for this year is that your student attend **at least** twice a month. Something Else takes place in the Middle School Youth Room.

The calendar:

- September 11: Rally Day!
- September 18, 25: Regular Classes
- October 2, 16, 23, 30: Regular Classes (Off Oct 9, long "no school" weekend)
- November 6, 13, 20, 27: Regular Classes
- December 4, 11: Regular Classes (Off Dec. 18, 25; Christmas Break)
- January 8, 15, 22, 29: Regular Classes (Off Jan. 1, New Years Day)
- February 5, 12, 19, 26: Regular Classes
- March 4, 11, 18: Regular Classes (Off March 25, Spring Break)
- April 1, 15, 22, 29: Regular Classes (Off April 8, Easter Sunday)
- May 6, 13, 20: Regular Classes

May 6th is Confirmation Sunday!!



V. Parent Involvement

As parents, you have the biggest impact on your child's faith-life. The more you are in church, the more likely it is that your student will be an active member of the church when he/she grows-up. There are a number of ways for you to get involved in the confirmation program and for your youth to see the work you do here at GLC. See below:



1. **Provide the meal for Oasis** – Sign-up to cook/provide the meal for a month & have your student help! (They will get service hours!) We provide a list of options for you to choose.
2. **Be a table Host-** Pick a week each month to sit with the Confirmation youth during dinner. We'll provide you with ice breakers & activities.
3. **Sign-Up for a Faith Share** – Come into Confirmation on Wednesday night & describe an experience that has deeply impacted your faith life! We'd love to have you & the students would enjoy a fresh face!
4. **Be a Confirmation Guide Sub** – We have all four Confirmation Guides, but we need subs! If you are willing to volunteer your time for an hour on Wednesday nights, sign-up! We will give you an outline of the role you will fill.
5. **Bulletin Board Assembler** – There are many events where we take pictures & these pictures need to be displayed! We have all the materials you will need, all you need to do is put them up!
6. **Chaperone the Peder Eide Retreat** – Drive students and participate in the LOMC Peder Eide Retreat in November. The weekend is led by Peder Eide! You will get to work with the youth, listen to fun music & spend the weekend at camp!

7. **Live Nativity Roles** – *We need every parent's help with this event!* The roles are below:
 - Costumes – organize costumes and help students dress their part
 - Directors – lead the run-through November 30th & direct the shows on December 2nd
 - Publicity – put up posters around Geneva & the Tri-Cities
 - Refreshment Head – Recruit workers, make shift lists, find volunteers to bake cookies, etc.
 - Stable Set-Up – Help the Property Committee Set-Up the Stable
 - Set-Up – Be around during the day of December 2nd to help set-up
 - Clean-Up – Stay after the shows to help clean-up
 - Server – Serve Cookies & Refreshments during the performances
 - Photographer – Take pictures of the evening! Fun!

8. **February Fabyan Day** – Help Grill Burgers & Chaperone the Youth while they sled on Sunday, February 12th

9. **Drive** – There are many events that need drivers!

10. **Fundraise for Confirmation Camp?** Think of fundraising ideas & help lead them!

**Confirmation Parent Guides, Subs &
Sunday Morning Leaders**
Special thanks to our parent team!!

Confirmation Guides

Nicole Hopkins
Amy Parise
Craig Desens
Steve Chippas

Guide Subs

Chris Chippas

Sunday Morning "Something Else" Leaders

Anthony & Renee Riani



Middle School Summer Fun!



Whom to Call

Becky Elliott, co-youth director

Church: 630-232-7063

Cell: 630-987-8039

Church Email: youth@genevalutheran.org

Personal Email: becky.a.elliott@gmail.com

Dave Elliott, co-youth director

Cell: 630-779-7079

Personal Email: davidcraigelliott@gmail.com

Deborah Ayotte, Sounds of Joy Director

Cell: 708-707-5330

Amy Steenson, Director of Music Ministries

Church: 630-232-7036

Cell: 630-502-4331

Church Email: amy@genevalutheran.org

Renee Riani, puppets

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Church Email: renee@genevalutheran.org