



**ST. PAUL'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# *Affirming Your Baptism at St. Paul's*

"In holy baptism the triune God delivers us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church." (from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p.225)

Affirmation of baptism, or confirmation, is the opportunity for young people to indeed affirm this gift of faith. For many of them, this was first given to them when they were very young and could not answer for themselves. It is an important rite in the life of the Lutheran Church, and especially at St. Paul's. In addition to being an opportunity to deepen faith and spiritual practices, affirming one's baptism allows a young person to have a full participation in the life of the church before they are a legal adult.

Confirmation at St. Paul's is integrated into the life of the wider congregation, working to maintain the foundations of this time of formation that have been present in St. Paul's Confirmation programs. Students are welcome to begin Confirmation beginning in 7th grade and take as long as they need to meet the expectations to participate in an Affirmation of Baptism service in worship.

## **Areas of Focus & Expected Units for Completion**

<b>Scripture*</b> <b>(3 units)</b>	Students will engage in studies or classes to deepen their understanding of and comfort in the Bible. Studies or classes that meet for 6 or less sessions are considered a ½ unit; more than 6 sessions are 1 unit.
<b>Catechism*</b> <b>(1 unit)</b>	With topics that focus on The Lord's Prayer, 10 Commandments, and Creed, the Small Catechism is one of the greatest gifts that Martin Luther left for followers of Jesus!
<b>Spiritual Practices*</b> <b>(1 unit)</b>	Developing spiritual practices that focus on prayer, study, generosity, invitation, encouragement, worship, and service help encourage a life of faith.
<b>Leadership</b> <b>(2 units)</b>	Using your gifts to lead and serve is a part of following Jesus. There are lots of ways to serve and lead at St. Paul's - talk with Pastor Ed to identify something that's a good fit for you. Serving as a worship leader 6 times equals 1 unit.

**Our Church  
(1 unit)**

There is a lot that makes St. Paul's a special and effective community of faith, so this is your chance to be a part of that. Students are expected to connect with a ministry, committee, or project in a significant way that helps them learn more of the integrated life of our church.

**Wider Church\*  
(2 units)**

The church is bigger than just St. Paul's! Students are expected to participate in at least 2 wider church opportunities, which include retreats, mission trips, and Synod Assembly among others.

**Electives\*  
(3 units)**

Individual students will certainly have an interest in one area more than another, whether that is in one of the above areas or in another focus. Electives provide the space for a student to explore one area deeper, or to focus on another area altogether.

**Faith Statement  
(1 unit)**

As students are nearing completion of other requirements, they are expected to meet with Pastor Ed two times to work on a statement of faith for this point in their faith journey.

For all of the above areas, students are expected to complete the Reporting Form and submit it to Pastor Ed within 30 days of the end of the study or project for unit to be granted.

An independent study can also be used for any of the above areas with a "\*" above. Please complete and submit an Independent Study Form to Pastor Ed prior to beginning your work in this area in order to have it approved for unit.