

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

71 Loma Drive Camarillo, CA 93010

www.PeaceCamarillo.com

Confirmation Classes:

Wed. 6:30-8pm

“Contend for the faith that was once
for all delivered to the saints.”

- Jude 3



WHAT IS...
Confirmation?

Confirmed in the Faith...

...The faith...

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a traditional rite of passage for young teens in the Church whose parents have faithfully nurtured that seed of faith first given to their children at Baptism.

The faith Baptism plants within us is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who loved us and died for us on the cross to forgive us all our sins. He rose from the dead and appeared to many, so that our faith in Him would be sure and rest upon a solid foundation.

Along with this gift of faith, Baptism also imparts to us the benefits of trusting in Christ's saving work, namely, forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation!

As a baby at its Baptism cannot yet articulate this saving faith, the community of believers, the Church, speaks it for him - using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Just the opposite now happens at Confirmation, where the congregation sits silent, and the graduating confirmand, himself, expresses his faith before God and the community of fellow believers. Confirmation becomes, then, an outward expression of an inward grace (the gracious gifts of Christ applied to him at Baptism).

So, the Sacrament of Baptism and the tradition of Confirmation compliment each other in the life of the believer. Baptism is the grounds for Confirmation, and Confirmation is the mouthpiece, the affirmation, of Baptism's faith. It's always good to associate the one with the other.

Often times on Confirmation Sunday, the Confirmation candidates not only recite the Apostolic Creed, but they will also go on to expound on its meaning - or the meaning of another part of the Christian Faith.

...Once for all delivered...

The Confirmation program at Peace Lutheran Church takes two years (usually during junior high) to study such basic elements of the Christian Faith as laid out in Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism: namely, The 10 Commandments, The Apostolic Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and the Lord's Supper.

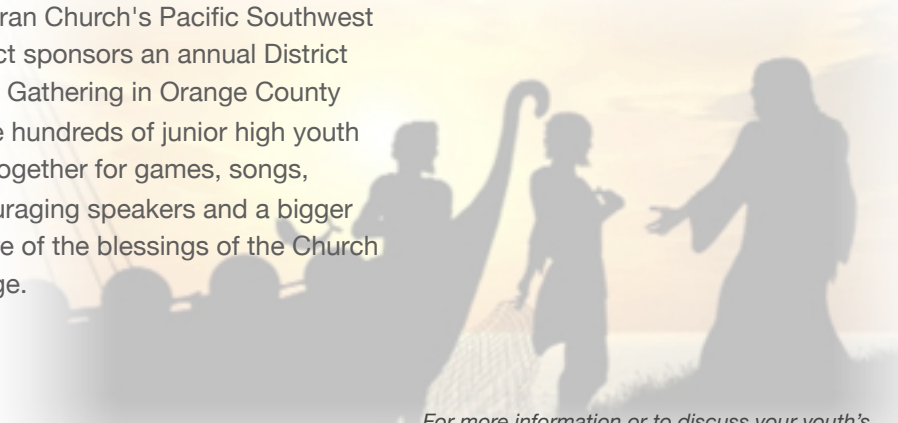
Class time is instructive, creative and, in the words of one recent confirmand, "the highlight of my week." Traditionally, mid-week (Wednesday) nights from 6:30-8pm work out best, but sometimes due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts other times can be negotiated on an individual basis. A 9:30 Sunday morning supplementary course takes students through the flow of the entire Bible (Old and New Testaments), so they can see how all our teaching flows from the ground spring of Scripture.

A highlight of the year for many students has been our extracurricular youth activities. In the fall, a mountain retreat affords the new group of classmates the chance to get away and get to know each other in an accelerated manner not possible within the restrictions of every day schedules. Then in the spring, our Lutheran Church's Pacific Southwest District sponsors an annual District Youth Gathering in Orange County where hundreds of junior high youth rally together for games, songs, encouraging speakers and a bigger picture of the blessings of the Church at large.

... To the saints. (Jude 3)

Finally, in celebration of all the committed effort students exercise over the course of the Confirmation program, graduates (and even those who have completed just one year) enjoy an end-of-year summer retreat to Surf Camp, Lake Nacimiento or a mountain resort (like Arrowhead Lutheran Camp), depending on the rotation year. The graduating Confirmands will have completed their memory and home work, gone through the whole Bible, served regularly as acolytes during Sunday worship, created their own banner to display for Confirmation Sunday and recited an oral presentation on one of the Six Chief Parts of the Christian Faith. They deserve a celebratory get-a-way after all that!

...And parents who, through their own Christian example and encouragement (not to mention commitment in driving, praying and participating in a variety of ways), also deserve to celebrate - knowing that they, too, have taken their vows before God and His Church seriously. They are keeping a promise they made when they first brought their child forth to be baptized into the communion of saints and the life to come in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



For more information or to discuss your youth's participation in Confirmation, contact Deacon Mike Schultze, Director of Youth Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church, Camarillo, CA: (805) 482-3313, Mike@PeaceCamarillo.com.