



CONFIRMATION UPDATES

Hello families!

Over the last few years, the Next Generation Ministries team, along with Pastor Steve and Aaron, have taken some time to reflect on our church's Confirmation process and how we can best help students to grow in their relationship with Jesus and to be prepared for their faith walk after high school. Please either watch the video or read the content below to hear about the upcoming changes with Confirmation.

If you have further questions, please plan to attend the Confirmation Info Meeting on Sunday March 5th at 12:30 pm upstairs at Mill Run. You can always reach out to us with questions if you can't make it.

Click [this video](#) to watch Steve & Kelsey explain the changes, or read the content below:



CONFIRMATION-New for 2023-2024

CONFIRMATION

First, a few important things about Confirmation:

1. Confirmation is a powerful experience that can help our teenagers grow stronger in their relationship with Jesus. **But it is not mandatory.** We would love for all our students to participate, but Confirmation is not necessary for someone to be a Christian or to be a church member.
2. We believe in two purposes for Confirmation:
 1. The first is the responsibility of the church to create a faith-centered community for students, disciple them, and affirm the work of the Spirit in their lives.
 2. The second is to give students the opportunity to take further ownership of their faith as they prepare to launch out into the world on their own.
3. **Confirmation MUST be the student's choice.** Parents, your influence in your child's faith is instrumental and will continue to be, but we will not confirm a student if they do not choose it themselves. This process is about a young person desiring to grow in their personal Christian faith.



With these things in mind, here are the changes we are making in the Confirmation process going forward:

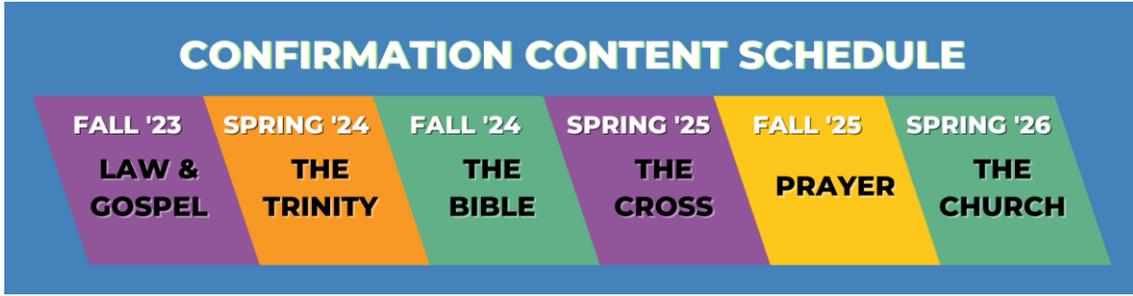
- **Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, the word "Confirmation" will refer to the entire process of getting confirmed**, which starts in 6th grade with learning the Foundations, and continues until a student's Confirmation Year in high school. See the diagram below.
- **Starting in Fall of 2023, attendance at MSM and HSM will be a required element of the confirmation process.** As stated above, one of the purposes of Confirmation is so that the church can affirm students' faith. Historically, we have had many high schoolers complete Confirmation that have never been a part of our youth groups, and that we barely knew. Moving forward, we feel as though we can't in good faith confirm students who we don't know and whose faith we can't truly affirm. There are a few caveats to this:
 - **One** - there is no strict rule or number of days that a student must attend. In general, we expect students wanting to get confirmed to attend at least half of the Sundays of the school year. The relationship with your student is what's important here, not a hard and fast rule.
 - **Two** - we know that some of your students are deeply connected and involved in other spiritually-fulfilling youth groups, such as Young Life Campaigners. If this is the case for your student, and they regularly attend Sunday service at UALC and desire to be confirmed, please reach out to us. We hope that students who attend another youth group at least twice a month on average are hearing the gospel, being equipped as a disciple, and being poured into by

Christian mentors. This is what we desire for all students, so if your student is already getting that elsewhere, let's talk about what Confirmation will look like for them. It will include conversations with their current youth leaders to discuss your student and their faith.

- **From this point forward, the year students get confirmed (Confirmation Year) will be limited to juniors and seniors.** This change goes back to our original purposes for Confirmation. The Confirmation Year is a time when students prepare for faith life after high school, and students are better equipped for this later in high school. They are also more spiritually and emotionally mature, therefore the Confirmation Year takes on more meaning.
- **We are changing the requirement regarding camps/mission trips.** We are no longer requiring students to attend a camp or retreat, but they must have attended an HSM or MSM mission trip in 8th grade or later in order to participate in Confirmation Year.
 - We believe the missions experience is vital to Christian formation, and we want to make sure kids have this experience before going through Confirmation Year.

Foundations

- **The content needed to complete Confirmation will now be delivered at weekly MSM and HSM Sunday Night youth group,** rather than in separate, additional workshops. These are called Foundations.
 - ***What are the Foundations?*** The Foundations include the Small Catechism content—prayer (Lord's Prayer), law and gospel (Ten Commandments), and the trinity (Apostles' Creed)—as well as three other important topics: the Bible, the cross, and the Church.
 - ***How will these be taught?*** Foundations content will be taught at MSM and HSM Sunday Night twice a year, in a 6-8 week series. Middle schoolers will receive the content at an age-appropriate level in middle school, and then receive it again at an age-appropriate level in high school.
 - ***What if my student has to miss a few weeks in a series?*** That is okay. We will be sending home parent resources during these series, and they will receive the content more than once, so they will have multiple opportunities to learn it. The purpose here is not to give you a check list of things, but to form relationships with your students and disciple them in the faith.



Confirmation Year

- **Confirmation Year is the school year in which high schoolers get confirmed. Confirmation Year will now be limited to *juniors and seniors only*.** Here’s what Confirmation Year will look like:
 - Begins in September and ends in May
 - Regular youth group and Sunday morning worship attendance
 - Monthly workshops with Confirmation Year students and leaders
 - Monthly meetings with a mentor of their choice from UALC
 - Fall Confirmation retreat (students must attend this retreat to be confirmed)
 - Confirmation service in May

CONFIRMATION YEAR 23-24 CALENDAR

<p>September 10th - First Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>October 8th - Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>November 17th-19th - Confirmation Retreat</p> <p>December 10th - Confirmation Workshop</p>	<p>January 14th - Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>February 12th - Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>March 10th - Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>April 14th - Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>May 5th - Confirmation Service</p>
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We understand that this is a lot of information. Please feel free to reach out with questions, or attend the meeting **this Sunday, March 5th at 12:30 at Mill Run.**

Thank you, and we are praying regularly for your families!

Grace & peace,
Kelsey Bacon, *Next Gen Ministries Director*
Steve Almquist, *High School Ministry Director*
 Upper Arlington Lutheran Church

