

# Confirmation Class

## 2006–2007

I hope and pray that this class will be beneficial to all involved. This will happen most readily with and greatly depends upon support and enthusiasm from parents and family. I will appreciate any comments, suggestions, or criticisms. I can be reached at 922-2364 anytime (It rings at home, too.) or e-mail any comments to pastor@stpaulslcms.com.

### Goals

This course is designed to teach the students about who Jesus is, what He has done and still does for them, and how we can respond, both through service and witness. For the students, therefore, the purpose is to learn more about their God and how he relates to them individually. This will be accomplished through class participation, home study (with parental participation), service projects, and memorization of select portions of God's Word and the Catechism.

### Materials

Holy Bible, New International Version

Luther's Small Catechism (Provided)

Loose-leaf paper, Pocket Folder, pen (No red ink), and sharpened pencils with erasers

### Assignments

#### Family Skits

Each week, on a rotating schedule, one of the students will be assigned a skit based on the day's lesson. These are short (1–2 pages), and while they need not be memorized, they should be practiced in advance (the script is included in the packet). Most skits have two characters (some have 3), so the student will need a parent or guardian to help him/her perform. I encourage sponsors, where available, to take part in this activity as well. Parents are encouraged to help the student make the connection between the skit and the day's lesson. Let me know if scheduling conflicts prevent parents or sponsors from participating.

#### Service Outlines

As weekly worship is an important element in the life of a Christian, *each week*, students will be expected to be present in worship and to fill out a total of 23 Service Outlines, available in the church narthex. This should be discussed with the family following the service. Students will also be required to turn in *at least* one outline from Wednesday Lenten services, as well as Christmas (Eve or Day), and Sunday School attendance is expected as well. In the event of an absence (vacation, etc.), the student may turn in the bulletin from the church visited and a service outline (Put some in your glove compartment so you don't forget!) (Contact me for a list of LCMS churches in the area visited). A missed Sunday should have a note from parents with a valid reason as a replacement. I heartily encourage attendance at all seasonal services and I encourage parents to set an example for their children to follow. The parents as a group will determine the appropriate alternative to missed Sundays, including Sunday School. If transportation or other factors inhibit Sunday or seasonal attendance, please see me individually.

#### Acolytes

Students will assist in the worship of the congregation by serving as acolytes. This involves arriving early enough to robe and be ready to light the candles at the beginning of the Prelude, then being seated in the front row during the service (The entire congregation is watching you, so behave!), and extinguishing the candles during the closing hymn. Let me know if a schedule conflict exists, and **if you can't make it on any given day, you have the responsibility to find a replacement**. Any changes in the Acolyte schedule will be given to the students, and the latest update will always be available at the website <<http://www.stpaulslcms.com>>. The parents as a group will determine the appropriate alternative to missed acolyte days.

## Memory Work

Students will be assigned weekly portions of God’s Word or the catechism. Missed days will require that the memory work be made up. 10 minutes per day studying the passage will *usually* be sufficient to have the passage perfectly by the following week. *Parents or sponsors are expected to discuss the meanings and context of the passages with the students as part of their study, and students will be responsible for comprehension of the passages, not just knowing the words.* Comprehension Exercises have questions testing comprehension of the memory work. Students may recite the passages during Sunday School or to myself anytime. Students may work ahead if they choose. (Students may want to do a couple shorter passages one week and spend a couple weeks working on the longer ones.) Those with extreme difficulties with memorization may opt to write (by hand—no typing) any given passage twenty times in lieu of memorizing. Use blue or black ink only, please.

## Comprehension Exercises

Students will hand in a comprehension exercise for each week. Exercises are available now for the entire year, and if the student loses one or more, they can be found at the church website in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. Students without Internet access can speak to me for replacement copies if needed. Exercises with errors will be handed back to the student for corrections until completed with 100% accuracy. I am always available for coaching, and ***I encourage parents & sponsors to help students with these exercises*** (without actually giving them the answers!). **These are intended to involve parents.** Note also that CE’s may be worked on during class and Sunday School, and while many of the answers will be gained from class discussion, students should do as much as possible before class in order to “know which blanks they need filled in.” Students may also work together to complete these, thus building each other up and teaching each other. If students have difficulty completing these, they have two alternative options. I will allow them to give verbal answers to the questions if writing them is too difficult. If they wish to forego the 100% accuracy rule, they may instead give a public witness through public examination, which will be in front of family, elders, and any other member of the congregation who would like to attend.

## Christmas Test

Each student will be required to complete the open-book “Christmas Test” with 100% accuracy before Christmas. Parents are encouraged to assist the child in locating the answers. **This is a family activity!** Any errors will require correction, so please turn in the quiz *well* before Christmas to allow for correction time. I recommend early October, since most students will require *at least* two corrections. Students may use any resources to determine the answers, but the best source will be their Bibles. Those who do not have 100% by Christmas will also be required to complete a similar Easter Test, so don’t put it off! Copies of the test are also available at [www.stpaulslcms.com](http://www.stpaulslcms.com). This test is intended to be a family activity.

## Service Projects

Students are expected to perform one “Secret Service” each month for their church, school, or community for a total of seven. Parents will sign a sheet verifying the service. Students may work together on Secret Services. All Secret Service forms must be completed and turned in three weeks before Easter. Note: Students may bring friends to Church, Sunday School, the Lock-In, and Confirmation Class. Each person the child brings to any of them may be counted as a Secret Service. (One per guest, so you can’t just keep counting the same person, although students are encouraged to bring friends to any of the above as often as they’d like.)

## O AFC Weekend

Students are required, as available, to attend *at least* one weekend retreat with the Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (O AFC) before confirmation. Talk to Pastor Dale to make arrangements if you haven’t yet attended one. Additional weekends may be counted as Secret Services. An O AFC schedule is available on the church website or [www.oafc.org](http://www.oafc.org).

## Confirmation Retreat at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Students will attend a Confirmation Retreat at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca with Pastor Dale and another adult chaperone. The cost of the Friday–Saturday retreat is \$30. If this cost is prohibitive, please let me know. The dates are September 24-25.

All assignments must be completed and corrected to 100% accuracy before confirmation. St. Paul's Elders have agreed that those who have not completed all assignments before confirmation will be confirmed at a later date once all work is completed. Pastor is available anytime to answer questions, offer private tutoring, or any other means necessary to accomplish our goal within the allotted time. If a student has a learning disability or has difficulty with one or more assignments, please see Pastor privately.

## Class Schedule

Starting time: 7:00 p.m.

Opening Worship

Family Skit

Memory Work

Discussion of Lesson

Student Prayer (Led by student with skit)

Dismissal: 8:00 (Lent & Advent: 6:30–7:15)

## Reports to Parents

Progress reports will be sent home 3 times throughout the year and as needed.

*\*\*\* I can't stress enough the importance of parental involvement in the spiritual lives of children. Studies show that the single greatest influence in the spiritual practice of young adults is the previous practice of their parents. I encourage daily time set aside for devotion, meditation on God's Word, and prayer, as well as regular worship attendance. For information on how to implement these, contact me.\*\*\**

*Thank-you for your participation in this program. We look forward to helping you fulfill Jesus' command in "teaching them everything I have commanded you."*

*—Pastor Dale & St. Paul's Elders*

## Tentative Schedule

(This is 100% Tentative and 99% likely to change, but it **should** be accurate for at least the first week or two.) Memorization is either a Bible passage or a section of the Small Catechism. For the Catechism sections, the part in the box (like this ¶aragraph) is to be memorized, but the Q & A which follows (as well as what's memorized) should be discussed with parents so the student understands its meaning.

Date	Subject	Memorize	12/13	6th Commandment	79
9/6	Law & Gospel	Romans 3:23–24	12/22	<del>CHRISTMAS PARTY: CHRISTMAS TEST DUE!</del>	
9/13	Luther & the Reformation	Ephesians 2:8–9	12/29	<del>CHRISTMAS BREAK:</del>	<del>NO CLASS</del>
9/20	Apostles' Creed-Creator	105	1/3	7th Commandment	83
9/27	Apostles' Creed-Creation	Genesis 1:1–2	1/10	8th Commandment	85
10/4	Apostles' Creed-Jesus Who?	115–116	1/17	9th & 10th Commandments	87 & 89
10/11	Apostles' Creed-More/Jesus	Isaiah 53:5	1/24	Evangelism & Stewardship	Matthew 28:18–20
10/18	Trinity & Holy Spirit	144	TBA (Lock-In)	The Life Everlasting	Job 19:25–27
10/25	The Church	Ephesians 2:20	1/31	Worship & Liturgy	Acts 2:42
11/1	1st Commandment	55	2/7	Baptism	1Corinthians 1:28
11/8	2nd Commandment	60	2/14	Lord's Supper	1 Tim 4:8
11/15	3rd Commandment	66	*Class Time Switch: 6:30 (If transportation is a problem, let me know!)		
11/22	Thanksgiving: No Class	Get caught up!	2/21–3/28	Make-up days	
11/29	4th Commandment	72	4/1	Confirmation	
12/6	5th Commandment	75			

## Explaining the Comprehension Exercises

Each Comprehension Exercise is designed both to determine the student's knowledge of the material, but also to put that knowledge into practice in every day life. If the student can repeat back various teachings but has no understanding how it applies to him or her, the training is all but useless. Comprehension Exercises have been designed with this in mind. Also note that the students will be unable to complete every question independently. Since catechesis is ultimately the father's responsibility, as well as the mother's and sponsors', work together with your child to complete these. Discuss them, and if you get stumped as a family, don't be afraid to say, "I don't know. Let's call Pastor." Ideally, the entire family will learn from this experience and grow not only in their relationship with God, but with each other.

### I. Cram the Memorization into your brain

Most of the time, you don't carry your Bible with you, so when a spiritual question arises, and these questions often need immediate answers, you need to be ready to answer them. By memorizing select portions of the Bible and the catechism (a summary of teachings from the Bible), you will be ready to answer these questions and develop a greater understanding of God's role in your life, or, rather, your role in God's eternal plan.

### II. Did you do a Secret Service yet this month? If not, plan one now!

(This is simply a reminder.)

### III. Defining Terms

The "Defining Terms" section aims to resolve the problem of, "What's the point of memorizing when you don't know what it means?" Students may use a dictionary or whatever resources they wish, but if a dictionary is used, the definition chosen must be the one appropriate for the context.

### IV. Unsheathe Your Sword!

"Unsheathe your sword" gives the student first-hand experience in actually reading the Bible. It is practice in finding selections in the Bible, as well as seeing how these teachings can be found in God's Word.

### V. Getting the details

"Getting the Details" is the main content of the lesson. They summarize the lesson and allow the student to demonstrate understanding of the material.

### VI. Tying it in

The "Tying it in" section is the "practical application" section. These two questions help the student see that these teachings are important to daily life.

#### 1. Compare (X) & (Y).

The first part helps the student understand God's Word as a bunch of connected teachings, not just a list of unrelated subjects. If a person understands how the teachings relate to each other, he or she can easily spot false teachings that don't agree with the teachings of the Scriptures.

#### 2. How is this wrong teaching dangerous to the soul?

The second part teaches them to stand up for their faith against many of the wrong teachings out there as well as to understand the importance of holding to the truth. They will be constantly assaulted with lies told them by cults, society, and the media, and they will need to know not only how to counter these lies, but also to respond with the truth.

### VII. What's the Point?

The last section, "What's the Point?" intends to give them experience sharing their faith with others, especially their friends, which is the most important skill they could ever learn.