

# Confirmation Class 2005–2006

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 any time (It rings at home, too.).

## 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 21 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 Advent or 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. If church and Sunday School attendance average more than one unexcused absence per month, confirmation will be delayed until such time as attendance improves. 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>>. For each unexcused Acolyte absence, the student will be expected to perform an additional Secret Service (see below).

## 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 to me any time or to the adult tutors on Sunday morning, or they may write *by hand—no typing*—the assigned portion 20 times.

## 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 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.” Further discussion will be done on Sunday mornings, where parents will assist. (See Schedule) Note that this 100% requirement will replace the traditional public examination.

## Christmas Test

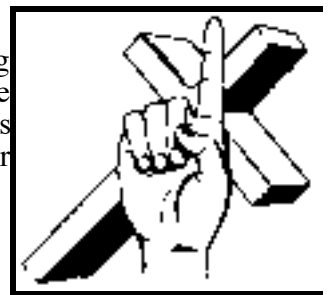
Each student will be required to complete the open-book “Christmas Test” with 100% accuracy before Christmas. Parents are encouraged to assist the child in locating the answers. **This is a family activity!** Any errors will require correction, so please turn in the quiz *well* before Christmas to allow 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

As a class, we may do service projects as a large group, throughout the year. In addition, 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 (if we have one), 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.) If Secret Services are not completed in time, confirmation will be delayed until such time as they are completed.

## O AFC Weekend

Students are required 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 at [stpaulslcms.com/oafc](http://stpaulslcms.com/oafc) or [www.oafc.org](http://www.oafc.org).



## 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. For the Lord's Prayer, only up to and including "What does this mean?" is required for memorization, but the rest of the box and the Q & A which follows (as well as what's memorized) should be discussed with parents so the student understands its meaning.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Memorize</u>
9/7	Law & Gospel.....	Rom 3:23-24
9/14	Luther & the Reformation.....	Eph 2:8-9
9/21	Prayer.....	John 16:23
9/28	<b>PASTOR VACATION..... No Class (Get caught up!)</b>	
10/5	LP: Introduction.....	p. 175
10/12	LP: 1st Petition.....	p. 176-177
10/19	LP: 2nd Petition.....	p. 178
10/26	LP: 3rd Petition.....	p. 181
11/2	LP: 4th Petition.....	p. 184
11/9	LP: 5th Petition.....	p. 188
11/16	LP: 6th & 7th Petition.....	p. 190, 193
11/23	Thanksgiving.....	(No Class)
	-==Class time change: 6:30==-	
11/30	LP: Conclusion.....	p. 195
	-==Class time change: 7:00==-	
12/7	Means of Grace.....	1Cor 1:28
12/14	Nature of Baptism.....	199-200
12/21	<del>CHRISTMAS PARTY.....</del>	<del>CHRISTMAS TEST DUE</del>
12/28	<del>CHRISTMAS BREAK.....</del>	<del>(NO CLASS)</del>
1/4	<del>CHRISTMAS BREAK.....</del>	<del>(NO CLASS)</del>
1/11	Blessings & Power of Baptism.....	204
1/18	What Baptism Indicates.....	210
1/25	Confession & Keys.....	213, 220(WiOoK <sup>1</sup> )
TBA	.....	Lock-In: The Bible
2/1	Nature/Lord's Supper.....	227-228
2/8	Benefit & Power/Lord's Supper.....	233
2/15	How to Receive... ..	238
2/22	Old Testament: History & Writings.....	Deut 6:4-5
	-== Class time change: 6:30 ==-	
3/1	Old Testament: Prophets.....	Isa 53:5
3/8	New Testament: Gospels.....	Zech 12:10
3/15	New Testament: Epistles & Prophecy.....	Ro 4:5
3/22, 29; 4/5	.....Catch-up day	
4/9	Confirmation for those who've completed the course	

<sup>1</sup>What is the Office of the Keys?