

Why Confirmation?

Why confirmation is perhaps a question you have asked for the past three years. Why in the whole do I have to go to confirmation? I have so many other things I could be doing. There is homework. The amount of homework increases when you get to 7th grade and continues to increase throughout confirmation. School also get more challenging. So what do we do to combat the increased demand at school? We add another class, confirmation.

Not only does school become more demanding but there are more and more after school activities, sports and clubs and all sorts of activities. So what do we do? We add another 1 1/2 hours at church.

We won't even get into the physical changes you go through including the changing attitudes concerning the opposite sex that begins to hit during this time.

Does God really need this from us? Can't we do confirmation when we have more time like after retirement?

The short answer is no. God doesn't need us to be confirmed. God doesn't need confirmation. Then why do we have it?

Well with all the changes brought about through Child protective services, this is one of the last ways we can legally torture you.

You might not believe me but I am only kidding.

Why confirmation? We could also ask, why Holy Baptism? Why Holy Communion? Why the Lord's Prayer, the Ten commandments, the Apostle's creed or the Bible.

Through Baptism, God declared his love for you, forgave your sins, officially accepted you into his family and pledged to always love you. Did he need Baptism to declare his love, forgive you sins, accept you into his family or pledge his everlasting love? No.

Through Holy Communion we are reminded of Jesus' sacrifice for us. Through Holy Communion we are forgiven our sins, assured of Christ's presence in this ever changing and hectic world, together with all those gathered in Jesus' name. Does God need Holy Communion to remind us and forgive us and assure us? No.

Through the Lord's prayer we are taught how to pray. Through the commandments we are taught how to live along with our need for Christ's forgiveness. The Apostle's Creed helps us understand God and our faith. Through the Bible we learn many things like God's loving relationship with his people through out history including his relationship with us.

Does God need these things? No. But God believes that we need them or he wouldn't have given them to us. God doesn't need confirmation but we do.

Luther as we have studied did a good job helping us to see the benefits of Baptism, Communion, the commandments, the Lord's prayer, the creed and the bible.

Let's talk about the benefits of the Affirmation of Baptism or Confirmation. Through your preparation for this day you have been reminded of all that God has done for you and continues

to do for you. You have studied different aspects of the Christian faith. We wanted you to move from a 6th grade understanding of the faith to a 9th grade understanding; giving you tools to continue on in your growth in your knowledge of the faith.

We have worked to strengthen the foundation of your faith not only through knowledge and understanding but in your trust of God.

We have also given you a support group for your faith and life. You not only have parents and pastors as a resource for encouragement and support. You also have the adult guides who gave up their time and effort so that God would use them for your benefit. Our commitment to you goes on beyond this day.

Even with all of the things we have done in our preparation it doesn't tell us why confirmation.

Part of the reason we have confirmation is so that you can make your promise.

Studies in stewardship show that people who make pledges give more than those who don't.

Couples that make wedding vows stay together longer than those who just live together.

There is a blessing in a promise, in a vow, in a commitment. It isn't magic. We know that making vows and promises and pledges don't guarantee success. However we do know that do better with things we are committed to.

I wouldn't say that God could care less if you confirm your faith, I would say that it is possible the beginning of doing things for God that ends giving you a blessing.

In the gospel of John we read how Jesus does all these signs, miracles and healing. It says that Jesus did even more than these but that these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and that through believing you may have life in his name.

May your confirmation help you to believe and through believing give you life in Jesus' name. amen.