

Confirmation Weekend Planning Guide

2023

The following pages are written to give you an overview of the next few months as well as provide detail regarding a few specific events/process leading up to and including Confirmation Weekend. Do not hesitate to ask questions if something is unclear. Any changes to the following will be communicated with the class in person and via email.

Important Upcoming Dates

February 15	Seder during WNL (<i>not a full dinner, but a tasting</i>) [PLN]
February 22	Lent Begins/Ash Wednesday (<i>*see note below</i>)
March 1	Deadline to have chosen Confirmation verse and notify Pastor Doria
March 12 & 19	Bring Faith Statement Rough Drafts to work on/discuss in Sunday Class
March 31 – April 1	Overnight Retreat to Camp Lone Star – Pines (Tomball, TX) [PLN]
April 2	Upload a photo to be used on the large screens in the Worship Center.
April 12 – 19	Faith Statement Interviews (<i>online sign-up for time slots</i>)
April 26	Upload Faith Statement video. (<i>See link on p.4</i>)
May 6	Faith Statement Presentations
May 7	Confirmation Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 – 10:30am Rite of Confirmation • Your choice of 8:15am or 11:00am for intro's and prayer

*Midweek Confirmation during Lent (begins Feb 22, Ash Wednesday)

- Wednesday class: 6:15 – 6:45pm (You can arrive as early as 6pm for ping pong, etc.)
- No dinners are being provided so please eat before you come.
- Worship services begin at 7:00pm. Duration ~30 minutes.
- No midweek class March 15. (*CyFair Spring Break*)
- The Sundays on either side of Spring Break will allow students to work on and discuss their Faith Statement in their Sunday Small Groups.

Use Link to Order Robe:

[\[Living Grace\]](#)



*White robe.
Order/purchase on your own.
Sooner better than later. ☺

Size Chart		
Size	Fits Height	Length
Junior	4'11" - 5'2"	40"
Small	5'2" - 5'5"	43"
Medium	5'5" - 5'8"	45"
Large	5'8" - 5'11"	47"
Extra-Large	5'11" and up	49"

Faith Statements

Your personal proclamation of faith!

Congratulations! You are nearing the end of your Confirmation preparation and the ***beginning*** of a new life in Christ as a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)! To assist you in “confirming” your baptismal faith in God, the following help is offered.

You are to write a 2-3 page essay, (typed, 14 pt., double space) that expresses your faith in our **Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**. The following suggestions will greatly assist you in prayerfully pondering and formulating your statement of faith (*consider this an outline*):

- Your name, Confirmation Verse and briefly describe its context.
- Express your belief in the Triune God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).
- Express how your verse relates to Jesus and what He has done for you.
- Incorporate an aspect(s) about your life, your faith and your future as a child of God.

Write it in a way that helps you *know* it/perhaps you’ll even memorize it. ☺ It won’t be easy, but it will be worth it. Write it in a way that flows smoothly, conversationally, etc. Use the above outline to help you get started. You will speak this essay and record yourself doing so, dressed nicely with a nice background. You may be nervous. That’s OK. There are details about the recording of your video in this packet, but for now, don’t worry about that. Focus on the development of your Faith Statement now. Therefore, the first thing to do is *prayerfully* consider a Confirmation Verse. Take your time. Ask God to guide you.

The following are *possible* Scripture verses for you to consider. You need to choose only one. There are *many* good and appropriate Scripture verses; certainly, this list does not contain all of them! You can choose a different verse if you want. Make it personal! You will have to tell Pastor Doria what verse you want and why you want it. Pray for guidance and then choose from the following or come up with another one and submit it for approval. Discuss with your parents and ask for their help too!

Genesis 1:1	Psalms 130:3-4	John 6:68	Roman 8:28	Ephesians 2:8-10
Exodus 15:2	Matt 1:21	John 11:25-26	Romans 8:38-39	Philippians 4:8
Joshua 1:7	Matt 11:28	John 15:5	Romans 10:10	Colossians 2:6-9
Job 19:25-26	Mark 10:45	John 17:3	1 Corinthians 6:11	2 Timothy 3:16-17
Isaiah 9:6	John 1:1-2	Acts 4:12	1 Corinthians 10:16	Titus 3:5
Isaiah 40:31	John 3:16-17	Romans 1:16	2 Corinthians 5:15	1 John 1:7
Psalms 23:1	John 3:36	Romans 6:4	Galatians 2:20	Revelation 2:10b

Choose your Confirmation verse by **Feb 27** and **notify Pastor Doria of your choice**. You then have the month of March to write your Faith Statement. You should have a decent rough draft by the beginning of the retreat, **March 31**. *May the Lord guide and bless you!*

Faith Statement Interview Process

The following explains the Faith Statement Interview process for Confirmation 2023 as well as an overview of the video recording process. See Faith Statement Video handout for more details.

- 1) Confirmands should have picked their Confirmation verse by end of Feb and written their final rough draft by the end of the Retreat (or the next day, April 2).
- 2) The Faith Statement Interviews will occur in person the week of April 12 - 19.
- 3) Confirmands will share their Faith Statements during the Faith Statement Interviews. These interviews are 30-minute time slots set aside where Confirmand, parents and congregational representative(s) meet to hear from the Confirmand about their Confirmation experience, what they've learned, liked, and even struggled with. Most importantly, these times are set aside for the Confirmand to share their Faith Statement verbally. The congregational reps will ask questions and give feedback on the Faith Statement.
- 4) An online Sign-Up will be made; and each student/family can choose their preferred date and time from the options given. The link to the Sign-Up will be emailed out.
- 5) The Faith Statement Interviews will be held at Church. The on-campus location will be determined by the date/time as there are other classes/activities that occur throughout the week.
- 6) Taking to heart the feedback regarding their Faith Statement, Confirmands will tweak their Faith Statement as appropriate. This final version will be emailed to Pastor Doria JDoria@stjohn.tv in a Word doc.
- 7) These Faith Statements will then be spoken in the Worship Center on **Saturday, May 6**, in front of the class, your families, relatives and any church members who want to witness your proclamation of faith.

Faith Statement Video Preparation

It's video time! Once you have had your Faith Statement Interview and have tweaked your Faith Statement, you now get to make a nice video. It will be shared with the rest of your class as well as all the members of St. John and even the world! This becomes a great online keepsake which can be shared with family and friends. You will want to have good lighting, good sound, nice dress/appearance, both of yourself and your surroundings. You can view last year's Faith Statement videos at their playlist at our St. John YouTube Channel.

[Click HERE to view](#)

You'll see a wide variety of clarity of speech, lighting, appearance, etc. Make it the best you can. If you want some tips, let Pastor Jeff know.

Here's a few tips to get you started:

- Start with a smile!
- Use your cell phone in landscape mode for good viewing on TV's and computers.
- Use a tripod (or prop it up so it won't shake during recording).
- You don't need your full body in the video, but you can. The farther away your cell phone is, the more difficult it is to hear what you are saying. Video a couple test runs to make sure you can hear well.
- Have good lighting on your face. Don't stand in front of a window where there is bright light behind you.
- Be sure your sound is good & clear (without background noise).
- Record a portion of your Faith Statement and then check your video. How does it look? How does it sound? What can you do to make it look/sound better?
- Be sure to smile!
- Look at the lens through which your camera is actually recording. This will make your video look much better, like you're making eye contact with the viewer. If you're looking at your own image on the screen, you're not looking at the lens which is doing the recording. ☺ This looks weird to the viewer.
- Have a nice background.
- Record yourself several times and then watch them. Choose the best one or record again until you get a good video you're happy with.
- Did I mention to smile? ☺

UPLOAD your video by **Saturday, April 29** to [THIS LINK](#) on Google Drive.

Confirmation Weekend!

May 6 - 7, 2023

The long-anticipated milestone is only a few months away. This update gives insight into what to expect for the Confirmation weekend, both Saturday and Sunday! Please contact Pastor Doria if you have any questions. 210.387.5413

Confirmation Saturday

- 1) **Time**: Faith Statements begin at 9:00am. Come a little early to get yourself ready. Worship Center doors will be open by 8:30am.
- 2) **Dress/Robe**: Wear your white robe on both Saturday and Sunday of Confirmation weekend. Also, please dress appropriately for this special ceremony. A nice dress for the girls; slacks and a white shirt (perhaps even a red tie) for the boys. Solid colors work best due to slight transparency of white robe. Our Worship Center will be dressed up too as it will have the red colors (cross/paraments) signifying Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit back some 2,000 years ago while also reminding us the Holy Spirit is still at work today. Confirmation is just that, another way the Spirit strengthens His people, the Church, through the profession of one's baptismal faith.
[Parent Leader Needed (PLN)]
- 3) **Flowers**: Boutonnieres and Corsages will be ordered and ready for you in the Commons. These will be pinned on your robe before you enter and removed after your ceremony. The flowers will again be refrigerated and then be ready for you on Sunday. More details on robes/flowers as we get closer. **[PLN]**
- 4) **Arrival**: Please seek to be on time (20 minutes early) to get ready with robe and flower. As you enter the Worship Center, please remember that the Worship Center should be a place of worship and respect. Keep the volume level of your conversations low, lest your talking will be picked up by someone recording a Faith Statement. **[PLN]**
- 5) **Pictures**: After each Confirmand shares his/her faith statement, the family can take a picture of confirmand with pastors in front of the altar/cross. We will take a class picture on this morning as well. Also feel free to take pictures in the Prayer Garden or anywhere else on the campus. If you are interested in organizing an indoor photo backdrop for the Confirmands and families to be set up in the Commons, talk w/ Pastor.
- 6) **Breakfast**: I hope to work out a brunch with the SIS (LWML) group for the Confirmands/families after the faith statements. If you would like to help on this, let me know. **[PLN]**

Confirmation Sunday

- 1) **The Ceremony:** The official Rite of Confirmation will begin at 9:30am. Please don't be late. Be dressed in robe, flower, and ready to go by 9:20am. We will go over the Rite of Confirmation in one of our upcoming classes, so you are aware of what it contains. This ceremony will be Live Streamed and posted on our YouTube Channel later that day.
- 2) **8:15 or 11:00?:** In addition to attending the Rite of Confirmation, you will attend whichever of our normal two Sunday services you wish. Please be ready to go in the Commons 10 minutes before start of service. Whichever worship service you attend, you will process in with the pastors. Confirmands will then sit with their families following the procession, preferably on the aisle so that the confirmand can come forward easily when the time arises. At that special time, you will be called forward as a group and line up behind the mic, facing the congregation. One by one, at the microphone, you will share your name and Confirmation verse. Pastor will then pray over you all as a group. During that service, Holy Communion will be offered. Yes, you'll have an opportunity to take Holy Communion twice that day.
- 3) Confirmands will lead the congregation in speaking the Apostles' Creed.
- 4) Holy Communion will be offered during these Sunday worship services. Confirmed members of the family are encouraged to worship and commune together.
- 5) Praise God!!! Your Confirmation instruction may be over but the beginning of your adult walk of faith is just starting! Stay connected with God and each other! Walk well, my friends, as you Celebrate, Live, Serve, and Share and in the True Riches of Jesus.

Parent Leader Needed

Seder: (Two) To help prepare food for event.

Robes: (One) to assist any family in need of help in ordering or getting dressed on those mornings.

Flowers: (Two) to help pin on robes Saturday and Sunday.

Gift: (One) Communicate, organize with youth/parents to purchase a gift for St. John.

Giving Thanks: (One) encourage the youth/parents to thank their Sunday Leaders in a special way for all their time this year. *Their service has truly benefitted the students this year!*

Sunday Leaders:

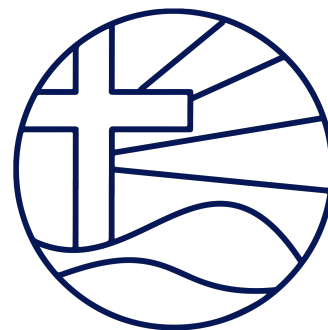
- Kevin and Jennifer Schindewolf

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

Pastor Jeff Doria

210.387.5413

JDoria@stjohn.tv



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.