

8th Grade (Third Year) Confirmation Information - 2018

Life Verse

The first thing that you should think about is your life verse, also referred to as your confirmation verse. The goal of your life verse is to be one verse from Scripture that resonates and integrates with the life and faith of the confirmand. This verse will be used and referenced in your statement of faith, your banner assignment, on the red stole that will be worn at Confirmation, and it will be read aloud on Confirmation Sunday. Please give careful thought to this important choice, as it is something that is meant to stay with you for the rest of your life. Some churches even have the tradition of the pastor preaching a sermon based on a person's life verse/confirmation verse at their funeral!

Your favorite verse can come from any number of sources:

- A Bible verse that stood out to you from your confirmation lessons, camps, and retreats
- A Bible verse that has been meaningful during a significant time in your life
- A Bible verse that fits with your personality and/or hobbies and interests
- Concordia Publishing House (CPH) has posted a sampling of confirmation verses, linked at our website
- If you need some help selecting a verse, feel free to talk to Pastor Wachter, Pastor Gimbel, or Mr. Joshua Ulm for help.

Once you have selected your verse, please inform Pastor Gimbel for approval. The deadline to select a verse will be Wednesday, February 7.

Statement of Faith

Once you have selected your life verse, begin thinking about your statement of faith. Your statement of faith is a short devotion on your life verse that will be shared publicly before the congregation at a worship service in the months before Confirmation Sunday, beginning on March 4 and concluding the weekend of April 21-22. This devotional statement has four parts: an opening illustration, some Bible background, a connection between the verse and your life, and a short closing prayer. These statements of faith need to be typed and double spaced so that it is easier to make comments, and changes at the review. Specific guidelines for the statement of faith devotionals as well as sample statements will be given once each life verse has been chosen, and also posted online.

On the Tuesday before the public sharing of your statement of faith, you will need to e-mail the statement to Pastor Gimbel at agimbel@hcross.com for review. On the Wednesday before the public sharing of your statement of faith, you will need to review your statement of faith with one of the pastors or Mr. Ulm. Signups for these statements of faith will be done online through Signup.com at the link at confirmation.hcross.com. Please select your desired service time online or check with Pastor Gimbel.

If you need to change the date or time when you will be sharing your statement of faith, or if you need to make special arrangements for a specific date or time, please contact Pastor Gimbel as soon as possible.

Interview

As noted above, each student will have a concluding interview that coincides with the statement of faith review. At this interview, each student will have a chance to look back and share their favorite confirmation memories, while at the same time have a discussion with Pastor Gimbel, Pastor Wachter, or Mr. Ulm that looks into the future about their Christian life of faith in high school and beyond. If you have any questions about the interview, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Gimbel.

Banner

Another way you will share your life verse is through the banner project. Here, you will use your creativity and design a theme for the banner that ties together with your life and the verse you have selected. If you need any ideas, there are pictures from previous years' banners to help spark some creativity. Your design must be pre-approved by Pastor Gimbel on or before Wednesday, April 4.

The banners are 27 inches wide and 48 inches tall and will be displayed in the church in the weeks before Confirmation Sunday. The details for materials and requirements are spelled out in the Banner Assignment

guidelines in the information packet, along with a calendar of important dates that are related to the banner. Holy Cross has many resources and materials from the banners over the years and is willing to help you get a start for your project as well as be a connection point to work with and share materials with other families. Simply ask about these resources when you turn in your banner sketches.

Information Form – Online

Online at confirmation.hcross.com, there is a link to a Google Forms page for you to complete which will provide the necessary information for the bulletin on Confirmation Sunday. Please double check your entry on the online form for accuracy, as this is how your name and information will be printed in the bulletin, on your Confirmation certificate, and on your stole. Please complete the form on or before April 25. If you need help with some of the baptism information, the church office will have records of baptisms for anyone baptized at Holy Cross.

A rough draft of the confirmation bulletin with this information will be available at the confirmation reception on May 2. At this time you will have the chance to look through the bulletin and initial your approval of the bulletin that evening.

Confirmation Reception

The confirmation reception will be Wednesday May 2 at 6:30 PM. The confirmation reception is a time where Holy Cross and its leaders celebrate this important day. Several things will take place at the reception: presentation of gifts by congregation leaders, dessert will be served, and there will be some members of the high school LYF group to welcome you to their group.

Formal pictures will be taken on this day, so you will need to wear your confirmation robes with nice clothing underneath. Girls, please consider the length of your dress – if it is too short, it might look like you are only wearing the confirmation robe. Brian Storm will be our photographer and will have order forms available on that day for individual and group pictures.

You will also have photographs taken with your families by your banners which will be posted in our welcome center on Confirmation Sunday.

Confirmation Sunday

The confirmation service is at 10:30 AM on Sunday, May 6. Please plan to arrive no later than 9:45 that day.

Upcoming Schedule

- Statement of Faith Draft – E-mailed to Pastor Gimbel Tuesday before your Statement of Faith presentation
- Statement of Faith Review and Interview —Wednesday before your Statement of Faith presentation
- February 7 – Life Verse/Confirmation Verses Chosen
- February 14 – Ash Wednesday – First of the weekly Wednesday night midweek services where attendance is required in lieu of regular classes (February 14, 21, 28, and March 7, 14, 21)
- April 4 – Banner Sketch Due (feel free to submit earlier)
- April 25 – Robe Pick-up, Completed Banner Due, and Information Card Due
- April 28-May 6 – Banners displayed in church
- May 2, 6:30 PM – Confirmation Reception
- May 6 – Rite of Confirmation during the 10:30 AM service
- May 6, after church – Return robe (take home stole and banner)

Website

For this document and all other resources, please visit the confirmation.hcross.com website, which will be active on or before January 17.