

Confirmation FAQ

When will Confirmation happen?

- It will happen from September to May in a student's 8th grade year, with one service project required with their group.
 - FALL (September - December): 12 sessions on Sundays
 - SPRING: (January-May): 9-10 sessions (this is a little more flexible on meeting times, it'll depend on what works for the group as a whole).

What if I can't make it every Sunday?

- We get it - life happens! We do allow your student to miss up to three meetings in the fall. If you miss a meeting, you'll be expected to watch the Teen Alpha video together at home, and send in question responses once you have talked about it together.
- In the spring, Confirmation groups can continue to meet on Sundays, **OR** they can choose another time during the week. As long as everyone from the group is able to be at your meeting, before your next meeting, you can meet whenever it works for you!

What will we be doing during Confirmation?

- Acts 2:42 says, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer."
 - We will be doing just that! We're going to learn from teaching (e.g. Teen Alpha, Lutheran theology) together, eat a meal together, discuss together, and pray together.

What if my student doesn't want to participate in Confirmation? Can they still come Wednesday nights?

- YES! This re-framing of the Confirmation tradition is so students can make the choice themselves if they want to dive deeper. This will allow us to reach more students on both sides of the spectrum of why they attend St. Mark's. Confirmation is an "AND THEN". Students can come on Wednesday nights for youth group, AND THEN attend their Confirmation group if that is what the student chooses.

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Who is my student's mentor?

- The mentors will be hand selected and interviewed before being brought on to the team to work with your students. The goal is that students will be paired with a group mentor who will work well with that student's personality and needs. If you have a more introverted student, the goal is to pair them with an adult who is easy to talk to so the conversation flows better.

Does my student meet one-on-one with their mentor?

- Students will be grouped up in small groups in the fall, and move with that same group into the spring. They could meet one-on-one toward the end of the year as they work on faith statements, but our desire is to help students cultivate community together through this process.

When will my student be confirmed?

- Confirmation will be in May.

Can my student choose to do this as a high school student?

- Absolutely! Historically, this has been something for 8th grade students, however we know there are students who come to make this decision later on. Our new program is approachable for any student wanting to take the next step in their faith in this capacity.

Can I (a parent) be considered for a mentor?

- We will not be considering parents of a student in the program as a mentor. We want our parents to participate *WITH* their child. Therefore, we will be intentionally seeking individuals from our congregation to be our mentors.

How much does it cost?

- If you are able, we ask your family for a \$50 payment to help cover the costs of food in the fall while we gather together in our learning.

When do you need to know that my child will be participating in Confirmation?

- June 1 is the desired date to let us know if your student is going to be participating. The number of mentors will need to be determined so we can get the interview process going and groups can be determined.

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What happens if my child has a friend that wants to join after a few sessions or my child decides they want to be in Confirmation in the middle of September?

- Students can miss up three meetings in the fall. If they do not exceed this number, then they will be able to join us. Otherwise, the student can join us the following year.

Do the students have to write a Faith Statement?

- Yes! The entire year of the intensive discipleship program will help students build into writing a statement of faith for our Confirmation celebration. Faith mentors will be helping their Confirmation groups write this during their time together.

Will there be any expectations as a parent beyond attending Alpha with my child in the fall?

- In the spring, parents and students will be asked to do a RightNow Media study together, provided by the Middle School Ministry Coordinator, to continue learning together in the home. Our hope is to help cultivate healthy discussion habits and learning in the fall that can transcend into a lifetime!

We co-parent. Can we take turns attending Confirmation with our child?

- Absolutely! We understand schedules can be tricky and we are willing to accommodate. Preferably, it wouldn't exceed more than two individuals coming with the student, so there would be consistency.