

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

September 2023

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Dear Members of Hope,

Sunday, when I announced that Confirmation preparation would begin on Wednesday, September 20, someone asked me what Confirmation was. I told them the short answer, but when I was first asked my reaction was to be a little overwhelmed, how could I explain Confirmation with the short answer I knew this person wanted. I have been teaching Confirmation to young people since 1976. I have been steeped in the study of sacraments and rituals and how confirmation has evolved in the church, and though I know the short answer to the question, my internal reaction is to become overwhelmed, because Confirmation has been so many things over the history of the Church. I won't give you the book version of what is Confirmation, but I thought I would take this month's newsletter to give you a longer answer to the question; "What is Confirmation?"

In the early Church, Confirmation was part of Baptism. Often adults were baptized, though often their households and families were baptized with them, so that included servants and children who didn't always have a choice. They were Baptized, Confirmed and Received Holy Communion for the first time all at one time and the three rituals were an initiation Sacrament. During times of persecution only adults were baptized and they spent from one to three years preparing for baptism, learning and being mentored by members of the faith community so they would be prepared

for the seriousness of their commitment to Christianity in difficult times, but also for the safety of the members of the Church. Sometimes people would pretend they wanted to become Christians in order to find out who the Christians were and turn them into authorities. No spy would go through a year or three preparation program. Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion were celebrated in one Sacrament of Initiation. Some Catholic Communities have revived that preparation process for new members from other faiths, and it is call the RCIA, the Right of Christian Initiation of Adults. Our Baptism ritual still has the Confirmation Rite within it. Have you noticed how we anoint the baby or person to be baptized with a cross of oil on their forehead, "You are marked with the cross of Christ forever."? That is the left over Confirmation rite still in the Baptism ritual.

So how did Confirmation get separated from Baptism. In the early Church the as clergy evolved and who did what was decided, at first Bishops Baptized all new members of the Church. Eventually as the church grew, that became impractical, so priests baptized and bishops held on to part of the baptism ritual by holding on to the anointing, and naming it Confirmation. The Protestant Reformation changed who did what, but Lutherans decided to keep Confirmation, but not as a Sacrament. As Lutherans reduced Sacraments from 7 to 2 they kept the 5 other rituals but felt only Baptism and Eucharist or Holy Communion were Sacraments because they were the only two, truly instituted by Christ.

Confirmation has struggled to find a purpose and theology or meaning over the ages. For a long time in the Lutheran Church young people did not receive Holy Communion until they celebrated Confirmation in an effort to restore two of the initiation rituals. In recent times families didn't like depriving younger children of receiving Holy Communion, so celebrating Holy Communion as a Sacrament for the first time, is on its own, as is the ritual of confirmation. Some Lutheran Faith communities celebrate Holy Communion for the first time for children in first or second grade. Some, like Hope, let families decide when their children are ready, and have an education class when they are old enough to understand, then explain what Holy Communion is all about. Confirmation is celebrated anywhere from middle school to early high school.



We believe Confirmation is an opportunity for young people to affirm their Baptism promises for themselves, since parents, or guardians and sponsors made the promise for them. They have the opportunity to say, “yes” to the Apostle’s Creed. To say, “Yes”...to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. To say, “yes” ...to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”

Do you remember your Confirmation? What was it like for you? Did you have to memorize the catechism and recite it for the pastor or the church council, or the congregation? Share your experience with a young person, so they learn how we adapt and change rituals to fit the times, but keep the meanings. Confirmation is a meaningful time for young people to become involved and connected with their church and their faith.

Blessings, Pastor Rhea

CHOIR

Choir meets for practice every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 pm. We also have started a tone chime choir that everyone is welcome to participate in. Practice is also at 3:30 pm on Wednesdays.



CAR CRUISE IN

Outdoor Car Cruise is back! On Thursday, September 28th, we will have our next Car Cruise in. Food service will begin at 5pm with cars rolling in around 4pm.

September Birthdays

3	Harold Klinsky, Mary Long
5	Jonathon Pahl, Karmyn Fleming
6	Steve Louvar
7	Jeanne Dahm
16	Kathy McBride
17	Rod Clark, Harlene Stewart
19	Beckie Foizey
21	Trevor Weitnauer
22	Moser, Elliana
23	Liz Kuehl
24	Marilyn Schmidt
25	Travis Rairdin
26	John Eadie
29	Dylan Tharp

Journeys:

Journey’s is a social group that meets monthly at the Legacy Center at Murdoch-Linwood to provide support to those in the community who have experienced the loss of someone they love. The monthly programs vary from carts to self-care tips, seminars and presentations by community experts. It is a safe space to tell your story and try new things. All are welcome. Meetings are the second Monday of the month at 2:30P. There is a brochure on the kiosk in the church entry way.

WOMEN OF HOPE

The Women of Hope will meet this month on September 9th at 9:00am.

MEN OF HOPE

The Men of Hope will meet Saturday, August 12th in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast starting at 8:30 am, followed by the meeting.

Confirmation Class will begin on September 20, 6:30P - 7:30P.

The Confirmation Program will use FaithInk curriculum. Confirmation is an opportunity for young people to affirm their baptism, to learn about their faith and make their own commitment to their faith and their church. The program will be a 2 year commitment for young people in middle school. Over the course of the 2 years study will include Old Testament, New Testament, Luther and Catechism, The Life of Jesus and Confirmation Promises. Please Sign up at Worship Sunday or Call the office at 319/365-3105



Pastor Rhea's Bible Study Thursday mornings at 11:00am.

SPIRITED SENIORS
Spirited Seniors meets every Wednesday at noon for lunch and cards. Bring your own lunch (unless Jim says not to!)



MEMORIALS

In memory of Diane Hunt
From

Marlys and Ben Halberg

DO YOU LOVE MUSIC?

Can you read music? Doesn't matter! Do you like to sing but not in public? No Problem. Would you like to join in a new venture playing Hand Chimes? Well, this is your chance to join a new group that Cody will be directing. We will begin practice on Wednesday, August 30 at 3:30pm. Come and check it out!



PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Welcome new member Larry Evans. Larry has already started getting involved in our church life by helping with the corn wagon. Great to have you with us Larry.

Hope Lutheran Craft Fair



This year we are introducing a new section to our craft fair, including a kids craft table from 10am until 12pm.

There will be a delicious luncheon for purchase from 11am until 1pm.

If you would like to sign up for a table at the fair, please fill out one of the contracts (located on the table in the back of the sanctuary) or contact Tami Rairdin at 319.350-4925.

Time for a new Hope T-Shirt?

We need 15 shirts to order at a cost of \$15.00 each. If you are interested, please sign up on the board in the narthex.