

Lutheran Foundations: A Confirmation Curriculum©

Year 2. Jesus Christ: His Life and Work

The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish

Lesson 4. The Basics: What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?

Two WRONG Answers:

1. Simply praying a prayer asking Jesus to be your “personal savior” ...
2. Being a good person. Even being a WONDERFUL person...

The Shortest Right Answer:

“Be baptized and live under the Lordship of Jesus”

Christianity is both a right relationship with God (given to us by God as a free and undeserved gift). AND a manner of living in which we respond to our adoption into the Family of God by loving and serving our neighbors as Jesus did.

Christianity is cross shaped. Anything else is a lie and a pretend.

If you get puzzled, think about adoption:

1. The parents adopt the kid – whatever the kid thinks about it – and the kid is often NOT on board. The kid is a full and complete member of the family. Their place is settled and sure. Because the parents have made it so no matter what the kid thinks!
2. Then the kid learns, practices and lives the family rules and traditions.

It's always both. Being Adopted and then Growing into the family. Without both its bad and ridiculous and empty... Without the adoption, you can't get into the family no matter how hard you work. Without the learning and growing and doing, the gifts of the new family identity are wasted.

For a longer answer, let's take another look at the Affirmation of Baptism service (Rite of Confirmation) that you will go through in the fall of your 10th grade year:

PRESENTATION

Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly

The presiding minister addresses the assembly with these or similar words.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

The presiding minister may continue with prayer.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for *these sisters and brothers*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called *them* to yourself,
enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished *them* in the community of faith.

Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Three Renunciation Questions

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

AFFIRMATION

Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

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 serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The blessing may be repeated for each person. The minister may lay both hands on the head of the person and say:

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *her/his* faith, guide *her/his* life, empower *her/him* in *her/his* serving, give *her/him* patience in suffering, and bring *her/him* to everlasting life.

Amen.

Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.