

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Dakota Dunes, South Dakota



Because Confirmation instruction is only one aspect of Christian growth and integration into the total life of the Church and congregation, the Board of Elders of Holy Cross Lutheran Church adopts the following Confirmation policy:

1. Confirmation instruction at Holy Cross is provided only for children of parents or other guardians who are members of Holy Cross or currently taking Adult Information Class to become members. This does not extend to members of other Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) or other Lutheran congregations. Parents or other guardians who are not members of Holy Cross can have their membership transferred to Holy Cross, or begin Adult Information Class, prior to their children beginning Confirmation instruction if they wish to have their children take Confirmation instruction at Holy Cross.
2. To be confirmed the children's participation is required in Confirmation classes with at least 75% class attendance per year for 5th-8th grades, for the time during which they are members or their parents or other guardians are taking Adult Information Class to become members.
3. To be confirmed the children accompanied by their parents or other guardians are required to attend at least 40% of Sunday services (or Saturday services during summer) at Holy Cross per year of Confirmation instruction, 5th-8th grades, for the time during which they are members or their parents or other guardians are taking Adult Information Class to become members. (Although our Lord desires weekly worship in the His house and that is the example we should all be setting for our children, we recognize that many families travel on weekends and some spend the summer in other locations, so we have purposely set the required overall Sunday worship attendance per year low at 40%, which is only 21 out of 52 weeks.)
4. Attendance at another church can count toward the Sunday worship attendance requirement a maximum of ten times per year, with a bulletin from that congregation and the regular Confirmation worship report regarding worship at that church provided to the Pastor of Holy Cross.
5. Attendance at special midweek Advent and Lent services at Holy Cross by the children accompanied by their parents or other guardians is integrated into the Confirmation schedule and is also required at a minimum of 75%. In the case of midweek Advent and Lent services, but not Sunday services, absences can be made up with attendance at other special services such as Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, or Good Friday. Attendance at such a service at another LCMS congregation can count toward the midweek worship attendance requirement, with a bulletin from that congregation and the regular Confirmation worship report regarding worship at that congregation provided to the Pastor of Holy Cross.
6. Attendance at other special services such as weddings and funerals does not count toward the worship attendance requirements.
7. As part of the Confirmation program the children will faithfully serve in worship, at both midweek and Sunday services, as acolytes and crucifiers.
8. Exceptions to these requirements may be granted for extraordinary circumstances by the Board of Elders.
9. In particular, we recognize that certain family situations may make exceptions to some of these requirements necessary, and we want to work with parents and guardians in such circumstances.
10. Because the Sunday worship attendance requirement has been set at only 40% overall per year, participation in other activities on Sunday morning will not be considered an extraordinary circumstance.

This policy is effective beginning with the 2011-12 school year. Non-member students who have previously begun Confirmation instruction are grandfathered in with regard to requirement #1. Requirements #2-10 are effective for all students beginning that year.

First Reading by the Board of Elders, May 12, 2011; Subject to Change Before Final Adoption