

Essay of Faith Instructions

As part of their final preparation for Confirmation students may choose to express their faith through an “Essay of Faith” to be written and shared publicly in the month leading up to Confirmation Sunday. These faith essays will be written in the form of answering two questions. The first will be a general question of faith that all students will answer and the second a specific question or two that the student may choose from the attached list.

Part 1 of the “Essay of Faith” process is where the confirmand will write his/her personal answer to each question based on the information learned to that point. The pastor/teacher will then give him/her resources from the Catechism and from Holy Scripture to redirect, bolster, or focus his/her answer—in short, to help in overall development of the essay. **Due: Friday, March 1 (ZLS) Sunday, March 3 (ZLC)**

Part 2 is where the confirmand will take his/her original answers, the additional resources and guidance received from the pastor/teacher and, with his/her parent(s), expand on the answer, forming it into a 1 – 1 ½ page typed rough draft. This will be submitted to the pastor/teacher for a final review and correction. **Due: Friday, March 23 (ZLS) Sunday, March 25 (ZLC)**

Finally, in Part 3 the manuscript is finalized and the confirmand will meet with the pastor and youth minister to rehearse in the sanctuary his/her presentation. The essay of faith will then be read in a service of the confirmand’s choosing: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. **Due Sunday, March 31, April 7, or April 14 (Date of reading)**

Essay of Faith Questions

This question is to be answered by all who choose the “Essay of Faith” option. This is the first half of your essay, and the final copy should be at least ½ of a typed page.

What does it mean to you to be a Christian / Disciple of Jesus? Why do you believe you are ready to publicly “Confirm” your faith?

Now, for the second half of your essay choose one of the following questions... This second part should be ½-1 page typed.

1. What is: 1) the Law? 2) the Gospel? and 3) the difference between the two? How do you properly separate the two? How does each apply to your life?
2. What does God forbid and, what does God require of us in the first commandment?

3. In the second commandment and the first petition of the Lord's Prayer, we learn how important God's name is to Him. Why is it so important and how are we to defend and use it?
4. Why is the third commandment so important to God? Why should it be important to us? How do we follow this commandment today?
5. What does God forbid, require, and promise in the fourth commandment?
6. Why are abortion, suicide, and murder sins according to the first and fifth commandments?
7. Why is it so important to God that you lead a sexually pure and decent life?
8. Why is your reputation and the reputation of everyone so important to God?
9. What are the three uses of the Law? How does each of these uses help you in your life as a Christian?
10. How does the Triune God make Himself known to you? Give real life testimonies of each person of the Trinity.
11. For what reason is there evil and suffering in the world? What is God's answer to it?
12. What does it mean when we say that Jesus Christ is my Redeemer?
13. What does it mean when we say that Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, and King?
14. What does the Bible teach about Christ's Second Coming and why is that a comforting thing for you as a believer?
15. What is the Holy Spirit's role in your life?
16. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? How are we to use our gifts?
17. What is the Holy Christian Church? What is life in the Church supposed to be like?
18. What is Baptism? Why is it so important?
19. How does God want your Baptism to impact you every day?
20. What blessings do you receive in Baptism? How does that impact your life?
21. What is Confession? Why is it so important in the life of a Christian?
22. If you could choose your own confirmation verse, what would it be, and why?