

## **Epiphany Confirmation Requirements 2023-24**

### **Preamble: a note on the word “Requirements”**

Today’s families are busy. Sports practices, rehearsals, homework, long days, long commute times – we know the drill. Epiphany confirmation students often have longstanding conflicts on Wednesday evenings during some seasons, particularly with sports practices and rehearsals, and do not attend confirmation class for weeks at a time. If this will apply to your family this year, we’d appreciate if you would let us know via email, phone, or in-person conversation about your family’s schedule. We like to know what’s going on when we won’t be seeing a student for a while. We can also send weekly discussion questions home via email so that students who miss a class can talk about each week’s topic at home.

**Ultimately, the confirmation experience is about what each family, and especially each student, puts into it. If participants engage in the experience with open hearts and minds, participating actively in confirmation class and worship when they are present, we expect that they will feel accomplished and ready to engage in the next step in their faith as full-fledged church members by the time Confirmation Sunday comes.**

**We do keep track of attendance and the number of WOW sheets (see below) and service projects completed by each student.** We will provide a mid-year (January) update on number of WOWs and service projects completed. We ask students to complete these for a reason – we believe that the life of a disciple, of a Christian, is about so much more than sitting in church for an hour on Sunday morning. It’s about how we reflect on and engage with our faith, and how our faith can be a source of life for us every single day. These reflection and engagement skills are what we are hoping students develop during their time in confirmation at Epiphany. As parents, you are partners with us in their faith development and formation, and we thank you for this partnership.

For more specifics, please turn the page:

### ***Regular Worship Attendance***

We expect that families who have confirmation students will commit themselves to regular worship attendance. What does “regular” mean? We will let you determine that for your own family. We simply hope that each member of our confirmation families will participate meaningfully in the life, especially the worship life, of the congregation. Worship services at Epiphany are held at 5:30 pm on Saturday evenings and 9:30 am on Sunday mornings, and also stream live most Sundays at 9:30 am at [YouTube.EpiphanyElmhurst.org](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpiphanyElmhurst.org). Read on for more information about completing WOW sheets and serving as an acolyte, which may help you determine when your family might attend worship this year.



### ***Wonderings on Worship (WOWs) sheets***

In worship, students think about what it means to be a part of the Christian community and reflect on what they’ve been learning in class about the Bible and Lutheran traditions. **We ask that each student complete and turn in ten (10) WOWs (“Wonderings on Worship” sheets) in total during the 2023-24 school year (September – May).** If a student attends another church on a Sunday or holiday, they may complete a WOW sheet for that service as well. Finally, WOW sheets can be completed if participating in worship by watching the live-stream or previously recorded worship service at home at [YouTube.EpiphanyElmhurst.org](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpiphanyElmhurst.org).

Look for the “WOW” sign on the short front pew on the south side of the sanctuary to find blank WOWs and turn in completed ones, beginning on Sunday, September 10, 2023. You may also mail, or scan and email, these in– in fall 2023, please mail to Epiphany attn: Kate Mueller or email [kate.mueller@epiphanyelmhurst.org](mailto:kate.mueller@epiphanyelmhurst.org).

### ***Regular Confirmation Class Attendance***

Regular attendance at weekly classes is the most important and meaningful part of Epiphany’s confirmation program. Students sit with their small groups and small group leaders during our large group activity and discussion and then break into smaller groups for the last 20-25 minutes. It’s a thought-provoking, meaningful, fun time! We ask that students make every effort to come to confirmation class, with the goal of missing no more than 5 classes per year. We simply cannot replicate the class experience. If you have special or seasonal circumstances, please speak with us. If you know ahead of time on a given week that your child will not be attending confirmation class, please email us if possible. This helps us better prepared for each week’s class.

### ***Serve as Acolyte***

Students are asked to help lead worship by serving as acolyte during worship approximately 4-6 times per year. Training for new acolytes will take place during the first confirmation class on Wednesday, September 13. ***This year, we’re only scheduling acolytes at 9:30 am on Sundays.*** We will schedule acolyte dates through December 2023 and will share the schedule ASAP via email/Google sheets with families; families can then sign up on their own in the winter/spring. (7<sup>th</sup> graders will be scheduled with a buddy when serving as acolyte for the first time.) If a Sunday does not work for your student or family, please try to switch with another student. We

may also ask for acolytes for “special” services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, etc) if any of our students are willing to volunteer.

***Service Projects***

Students are expected to complete 2 service projects per year—participating in Epiphany’s activities, participating in special activities that we’ll organize as a class, or coming up with ideas on their own. We also ask all students to write a reflection paragraph (handwritten or typed) after they complete each service project, telling us 1) what they did, 2) what they liked and/or didn’t like about it, and 3) telling us how their project reflected their Christian faith in action (or “how they showed God’s love”). Once we receive the paragraph from your student, we’ll note that they have completed a project.