

# FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION POLICY

*Established February 2007*

## **FIRST COMMUNION**

Baptized children and youth of the congregation will be admitted to the Lord's Supper through the *Rite of First Communion* after:

- They have learned by heart the six chief parts of the Catechism and their explanations,
- Have a desire to receive the Lord's Supper,
- Their parents believe they are ready to receive the Sacrament,
- Their pastor examines their confession of faith in the presence of their parents and/or sponsors,
- They receive absolution privately.

The *Rite of First Communion* is offered at various times in the year when a child is ready to receive the Sacrament for the first time.

## **CONFIRMATION OF YOUTH**

Baptized children and youth of the congregation will be confirmed in the Lutheran faith through the *Rite of Confirmation* after they have met the requirements for first communion and have successfully completed the foundational courses in catechesis: *Old Testament Catechesis*, *New Testament Catechesis*, and *Lutheran Catechesis* (or *Didache*). They also receive absolution privately before their confirmation.

The *Rite of Confirmation* is conducted at the Easter Vigil Service or Pentecost.

## **BAPTISM OF ADULT CONVERTS**

Adults are baptized after they have been called by the Gospel to repentance and faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for their salvation.

- They have heard the Gospel.
- They confess their sin.
- They confess faith in Jesus Christ and their desire for Baptism.
- They are enrolled in catechesis (*Didache*).
- They are under the pastoral care of the pastor of the congregation.

Adult candidates for Holy Baptism are assigned sponsors from the congregation to pray for them, assist and/or accompany them in their catechesis and attendance at Divine Services, help them understand and use the liturgy of the Church, and assist them in understanding and practicing the Christian life.

## **CONFIRMATION OF ADULTS**

Adult catechumens who desire to be confirmed as Lutherans and become members of the congregation:

- Attend and successfully complete *Didache* – 24 weeks (*Lutheran Catechesis*).
- Learn by heart the primary texts of the Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Sacraments.
- Confess agreement with us in doctrine and have a desire for the Lord's Supper.
- Their confession of faith is examined by the pastor. This is done, if possible, in the presence of their sponsor.
- They receive absolution privately.

The *Rite of Confirmation* is conducted at the Easter Vigil Service or Pentecost.