

Confirmation, Reception, & Reaffirmation



Christ & St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



"Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop."

–Book of Common Prayer

Along with Reception, Confirmation is the formal process of joining the Episcopal Church, and thus, Christ & St. Luke's. Those who are confirmed members of the Episcopal Church can reaffirm their baptismal vows in the Reaffirmation rite.

If you are coming from another Christian denomination and have already been baptized, you may be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop. Additionally, Confirmation is particularly appropriate for youth and young adults who were baptized in an Episcopal church as infants or small children and would like to make a mature declaration of their faith. Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation are offered at Christ & St Luke's at one service conducted by the Bishop each year during the Bishop's Annual Visitation.

If you are interested in one of these rites, or have questions about which one may be correct for you, please speak with a member of the clergy.

- **Confirmation** is for those who have been baptized, but never Confirmed; or Confirmed in a Christian denomination without a bishop in apostolic succession.
- **Reception** is for those who have been Confirmed in a Christian denomination by a bishop in apostolic succession.
- **Reaffirmation** is for those who are already confirmed members of the Episcopal Church, but who would like to reaffirm their faith commitment and have the Bishop lay hands on their head and pray for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

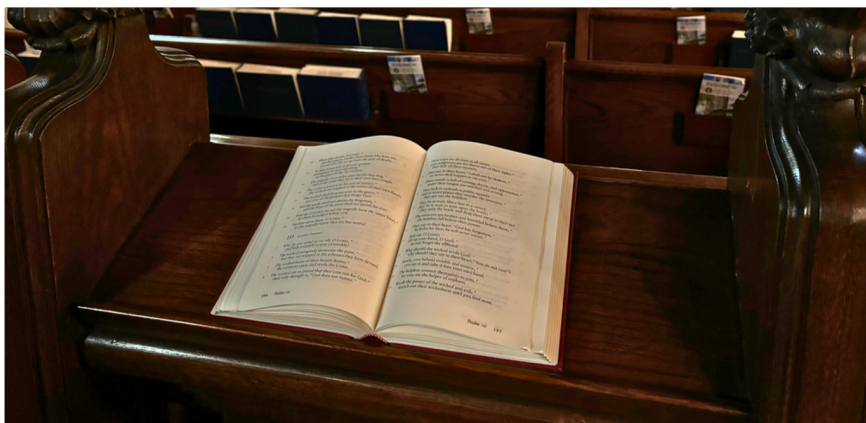
In each of the above cases, you kneel before the Bishop who will then, with differing prayers, confirm or receive you into the Church, or bless your reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

Adult Candidates for Confirmation or Reception must participate in the Episcopal 101 course offered each Fall. Youth Confirmation Candidates will complete a youth-specific preparation course.

Confirmation Process

The first step is to inquire about Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation with a member of the clergy. Please reach out to The Rev. Jared Grant (jared.grant@christandstlukes.org) with any initial inquiries. As noted above, these rites are offered during the Bishop's annual visitation. Depending on when you reach out, the timeline from inquiry to confirmation can be anywhere from 6-12 months. The Bishop's visit is typically in the late Fall, but fluctuates from year to year. It is advised that you reach out no later than early summer to begin the confirmation process.

Your initial conversation with a member of the clergy will outline the confirmation/reception preparation that will be a part of



your process. After your initial conversation, you may complete the Application for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation.

You may apply online at christandstlukes.org/confirmation.

Checklist & Timeline

- **6–12 Months Out:** Inquire about Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation with a member of clergy
- **6–12 Months Out:** Submit the “Application for Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation”
- **3–4 Months Out:** Attend the appropriate Prep Course outlined by the clergy
- **Near the day of the Bishop’s visit:** Attend the required rehearsal
- Join or Reaffirm your place in the life of the Church!

Preparation Courses

Going back to the Early Church, it has been tradition for candidates for rites of initiation, including Baptism, Confirmation, and Reception, to spend a specific period of time in preparation and study before participating in their various rites. At Christ & St. Luke’s, we honor that tradition with a formal preparation process for our candidates. Your initial conversation with the clergy will outline what sort of preparation is best for you.

Episcopal 101

Episcopal 101 is our standard preparation for adults seeking confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation. This course is offered once a year, typically 2-3 months before the Bishop's annual visitation. Generally, this means that the course is offered in early Fall. Facilitated by clergy and staff members, participants spend time learning about the essentials of life in the Episcopal Church. Since those who will be confirmed or received will become official members of the Episcopal Church, this course is designed to highlight some of the specifics of the denomination's beliefs and practices.

Youth Confirmation

As noted above, Confirmation is particularly appropriate for youth who were baptized as infants or small children in any denomination, and who would like to make a mature declaration of their faith. This is generally appropriate around age 16 and beyond. Youth (18 and under) interested in Confirmation will spend a time of preparation with other youth from Christ & St. Luke's and the diocese. Additionally, Youth are welcome to participate in the Episcopal 101 class. Reach out to Kathy Hanna with questions about youth specific Confirmation preparation (kathy.hanna@christandstlukes.org).

Take A Dip Into Baptism

This course is specifically designed for adults seeking baptism and for the families of infants and children seeking baptism. While it does not fulfill the preparation requirements for confirmation or reception, it is a wonderful way to explore the rite of Baptism in depth—a worthy endeavor for any Christian! It may be a good addition to anyone preparing for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation. The course is offered twice a year: once in the Fall (Sept./Oct.) and once in the Winter (Feb./Mar.).



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