



### *Why do we have baptism and confirmation ?*

One of the assignments I gave the confirmation students was to list as many questions as they could think of about God, the Bible, what we believe, why we believe it, why we do certain things, etc...

The above question is one that came out of that assignment.

The most basic answer for that question is this:

Both baptism and confirmation are simply ways of following Jesus' command to "Make disciples."

A 'disciple' is a someone who 'believes in' another person to such a degree that they make a commitment to following that person (in this case, Jesus) with the purpose of learning from that person - having ultimate the goal of becoming more like that person.

After Jesus rose from the grave He commissioned the eleven disciples (as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20) to go and make more disciples the world over saying:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus listed "baptizing" as the first step in the disciple-making process.

The second step is the life-long process of teaching those who are baptized about the things Jesus said - and that we need to follow (obey) everything He said. The confirmation classes that lead up to Confirmation Day are designed to give a good, solid foundation of the things Jesus taught.

Confirmation Day itself is a chance to publicly declare your faith in Jesus, following what He commanded and promised in Matthew 10:32: "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven." The Apostle Paul summed it up this way in Romans 10: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)