

Helsinki November 2nd 2020

## Dear parent/parents

Your child is now starting his/her Confirmation Training. You have already asked a few questions of Confirmation Training. He/she is growing up and maybe re-thinking many things in his/her life e.g. values. Confirmation Training is one place to think and discuss these issues. I have sent your child the first letter with the first tasks. Please ask to see that letter.

Lasten ja nuorten keskus ry (LNK-The Finnish Association for Children and Youth) is a service organization for the Finnish church's children's, youth and Confirmation Training work. The main goals of the Confirmation Training are that a young person is getting to know this belief which he/she has been baptized; he is thinking of his relationship with God and feels unity to the Christian church through local congregation.

The Confirmation Trainings in Finland have a plan (Plan 2017), and according to it the Confirmation Training must extend over a minimum period of six months. We are following that order. It's done by us sending letters and that he/she takes part in the local congregational life. When living in another country than Finland this might not be a matter of course.

According to the Plan 2017 e.g. the goal for the Confirmand is that the young adolescents do find connection between their own life and the doctrine of the Christianity. This is done e.g. by participation in Worship Services, by participation in congregational activities, by participation in the projects of the different fields of congregational work, by establishing contacts with the workers, elected officials and responsible persons of the church and getting acquainted with the church and the overall premises of the congregation. This is meant to be done before camp.

If you are interested in the Confirmation Training plan you can find it from the web sites

<https://evl.fi/documents/1327140/39461555/A+Great+Miracle++Confirmation+Plan+2017/9e00b32d-6b14-b0a7-0667-14b6eba60d59>

(In Swedish you'll find it here: [Ett stort under - Plan för konfirmandarbetet 2017](#))

On the English pages is told what Confirmation Training is:

<https://evl.fi/our-faith/what-we-believe/worship-and-life/confirmation>

There you can also find the Catechism in Finnish, Swedish and English

<http://www.evl.fi/katekismus/>

<https://evl.fi/fordjupa-din-tro/kyrkans-bocker/katekesen>

<https://evl.fi/documents/1327140/48878670/Catechism+%28English%29/eb29f82c-882f-8fc2-4fc4-1bfe4042c7c2>

**Please contact me as soon as possible if you are living in a country without any Christian Churches or if this is very complicated in your local Christian parish. You can follow Worship services in Finnish via the internet. You can find the list from our web pages as well the letters we have sent**

**<https://www.lastenjanuortenkeskus.fi/kansainvaliset-rippikoulut/>**

In Finland, taking part in the Holy Communion has been possible for a child with his/her parents, grandparents or godparents for as long as 1979. In order to take part in the Holy Communion, it is however required that the child knows the meaning of the Holy Communion. During Confirmation Training you can take part in the Holy Communion together as a family.

The camp phase of our Confirmation Training has a duration of nine days. It includes many different aspects like getting acquainted, charting the earlier knowledge of the Confirmands and orientation towards the Bible, the Catechism, the Hymnal and other books used in Confirmation Training, prayer, worship and music in Confirmation Training, the faith of the church and the Confirmand's life.

Your child can participate in the Confirmation Training and camp, if he/she is not a member of a Church. If your child would like to be confirmed he/she needs to be a member of a Christian congregation (local parish). You can join him/her to the local congregation before he/she is coming to the camp. If you are an expatriate Finn, the local congregation in Finland is the latest' one you have been a member of, when living in Finland. If your child has not been baptized we can do it in the camp (on the visitor's day or in the morning of the Confirmation day). You can contact us in LNK and me; we would like to help you with these. It's easier that these things are solved during spring.

I'd kindly ask you to write me a letter about Confirmation training (by e-mail or mail). Please tell me what things are in your mind now that your child is at Confirmation Training and what your expectations are. Also, I'd like to know what your wishes for the teachers of the Confirmation Training are and how we can do this work together.

Confirmation Training fee is 740 euros. Please, take care of the first part of it, 160 euros, before the deadline mentioned in the extract. Please use the index number. **This confirms that you are coming to the camp.** In case you will cancel your camp, this amount will not be returned to you. **(If you have asked for paying the entire sum at once in the application, you'll get the whole fee now.)** **The Extract is coming via email.** The two remaining parts of the fee (á 290 euros) we'll send to you in March and May.

Information to the family. LNK -The Finnish Association for Children and Youth has decided to relinquish the Partaharju activities Centre in Pieksämäki. The business activity has been unprofitable already for many years and the cancellations under Covid-19 pandemia have made the decision to the board of the Association essential. We are trying to find new liable operators to the activities of Partaharju. We are trying to negotiate that all the reservations made to the year 2021 can be carried out normally. *"We really hope that The Finnish Association for Children and Youth will have in the future also activities in Partaharju."* (Sami Ojala, executive manager) More information in Finnish: <https://partaharju.info/>

If we are not able to carry out our Confirmation Trainings we are booked a surrogate place from Päivölä College in Sääksmäki <https://www.paivola.fi/fi/> . If changes will be made we are sending you an email as soon as we know. In any case the place will be solved before Christmas.

If you have any questions before, please do not hesitate to contact us!



Some words about myself, I am Elise and I work as a Training Secretary at LNK. I will be sending your child several letters and home studies during this Confirmation Training. I will make a list of all their tasks and maybe e-mail your child, to hurry up with their tasks. So, this is one part of my work. I'll be at either one Confirmation training as a teacher. I live in Helsinki and my hobbies are for example reading, knitting and scouting. I've done Confirmation trainings since 1981 and international ones from 1991.

On behalf of the teachers of the Confirmation training

Elise Kyttä

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