

separate

Early Church

catechumenate

In the first several centuries confirmation was part of the "rite of baptism" and connected to the **adult catechumenate**. (48)

bishops

separate rite

By A.D. 1000, the **rite of confirmation** became fully separated from baptism and was "**performed by a bishop**." Yet practically it was hard to live this commitment out, as bishops did not have easy access to parishes. Therefore many parishes ignored it. (50)

Confirmation was an official action of the church in which "Christians grow in grace and are strengthened in faith." (50)

confirmation history

Pre-Reformation

sacrament

confirmation completes baptism

less catechetical instruction

sacrament
Councils of Florence (1439) and Trent (1547)

By the 8th or 9th century, the time between baptism and confirmation grew longer and confirmation became seen as "**a completion of what was begun in infant baptism**." (85)

During this period confirmation became to be viewed as a **sacrament** and became "fixed as doctrine" through the Council of Florence (1439) and the Council of Trent (1547). (86)

During this period where confirmation was a sacrament there was more emphasis on the rite of confirmation and **less emphasis was placed on catechetical instruction**.

Reformation

rethink

tradition

rethinking sacramental nature

multiple understandings

The Reformation was an opportunity to **rethink confirmation**, not only in practice, but also theologically.

Reformers were in agreement on keeping the practice of confirmation because of the **tradition**, but because it was not in Scripture **did not want to make it a sacrament**.

Yet the Reformers **viewed confirmation differently** and this led to "a wide variety of views of confirmation" both in practice and in purpose during the Reformation. (51)

This era of Lutheran history is shaped by the **immigrants** that made up American Lutheranism. In 1910 American Lutherans were separated into 24 bodies. (56)

North America

define

connection to First Communion

education by Pastor

study and definition

3 themes were present: **education was primarily the role of the pastor**, reference to baptism was common, and confirmation was viewed as preparation for **first communion**. (57)

reference to baptism

Because of the merges taking place within Lutheran bodies, there was a call to **study confirmation**.

In the 1970s the church offered this **definition**: "Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church which helps the baptized child through Word and Sacrament to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission." (61)