

CONFIRMATION

2021-2022



Handbook and Calendar

Grace Lutheran Church and School

Pastor Dave Lyle

dlyle@graceriverforest.org

Pastor Troy Medlin

tmedlin@graceriverforest.org

Julie Modrich

Children's Ministry Coordinator

jmodrich@graceriverforest.org

Invitation

Grace Lutheran Church and School invites 7th and 8th graders to participate in a two-year confirmation ministry, leading to the Affirmation of Baptism in the Rite of Confirmation in the fall of their 9th grade year. They will participate in four units: The Old Testament, Lutheran History and Catechism, The New Testament, and Lutheran Living.

During the confirmation years young teens are discerning how and where they belong in the world and how the gifts God has given them can be put to meaningful use. Through family relationships, friendships, school and extracurricular activities, and faith exploration, they discover more about themselves and about their unique roles in God's creation. Through reflection on the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism, confirmation students explore and reflect upon their Lutheran Christian identity. They are invited to learn together, to serve together, and grow together in faith and friendship. To enhance this time of learning and identity formation, our confirmation students partner with parents, teachers, and an adult mentor for guidance through these years.

In response to the gift of grace received in baptism and through the gifts and relationships found in the church, students are invited to affirm their Christian faith with the whole church at the Witness Service and Confirmation Sunday in the fall of their 9th grade year.

Background

When all of us come together and affirm our faith in conversation with our confirmands, we echo the blessing of the baptism we share:

“Pour out your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.”

We are reminded in our confirmation that the grace of baptism continues with every stage of our lives. Nothing can be added to Holy Baptism. We grow and mature in the faith that flows from the sacramental waters.

Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church, helping our baptized children identify more deeply with their Christian community and participate more fully in our mission. When a young person has not been baptized, confirmation instruction also prepares them for Holy Baptism. Confirmation creates an opportunity for young people to say “Yes, I will live in the promise of baptism.” Affirming one's baptism is not an unrepeatable, once-for-all act. It is something that can and should be done at many points in life. The confirmation ministry brings the fullness of the church's life and mission into the young person's life so that their affirmation may begin and continue.



Witness Service

Our confirmands affirm their faith by choosing a Bible verse and reflecting on it as a witness to the work of God in their lives. In consultation with the pastors, confirmation mentors, parents, and other church leaders, confirmands will create a Witness of Faith expressed through media – writing, music, a video, or visual art – and present their Witness project at the Witness Service. This service takes place on Saturday, October 16, 2021, for students who graduated from eighth grade in the spring of 2021.

Expectations for Students and Families

We invite each student and family to participate in our confirmation program. It is free and open to all who want to participate. Participating in this program means that, with your support, your child promises to:

- Attend worship and confirmation class regularly.
- Complete the worship reflections.
- Serve as Crucifer/Bible Bearer.
- Make time to serve and build a relationship with their mentor.
- Attend summer camp or weekend retreat at least once during their 7th and 8th grade years.

We understand that schedules are busy, and your child may occasionally miss confirmation class or worship. Please make attending confirmation class and worship a priority in your family's life.

What to Expect in the Classroom

Our 7th and 8th grade students will meet on Sundays from 9:45-10:45 a.m. to explore their faith together. Their lessons will be led by our Grace Pastors and a team of parent shepherds. They will explore the Bible and Luther's *Small Catechism* as the sources for understanding our faith. We will be using curriculum from Faith Inkukators, Head to Heart to guide us.

The 7th and 8th graders will explore:

- The Old Testament
- The Ten Commandments
- Luther and the Catechism
- The Life of Jesus
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Apostles' Creed
- The New Testament
- Lutheran Life



Worship Reflections

Confirmation is an experience with God, in community. This is why we expect students to participate in the worship community at Grace during confirmation. Students will complete worship reflections throughout the year. Worship reflection worksheets are available in the narthex and should be turned in to the mailbox of the pastor who delivered the sermon.

The 7th graders complete 12 worship reflections.

The 8th graders complete 7 worship reflections.

These reflections provide a place for students to ask questions and give feedback to our pastors, and for our pastors to respond. They are conversation starters! They also help us see what students are learning through their participation in our community. There are many opportunities for students to complete their reflections: Sunday worship, Wednesday services in Advent and Lent, Holy Week, and other church services and worship events throughout the year.

Crucifer and Bible Bearers

Our students don't just sit in the pews for worship. They get to help lead! As a Crucifer, students lead the procession, holding high the symbol of our salvation. As a Bible Bearer, students lead the procession, carrying the stories of our faith. In communion, students receive the bread and wine at the table with the pastors and assisting ministers and then help with the distribution of communion to other worshipers.

Each student will serve 4-5 times a semester during both the 7th and 8th grade years. Semesters run from August to January, and January to July. Parents are given the opportunity to select the dates their children will serve using an online scheduling site.

Mentors

We do not learn our faith alone. We need partners and mentors who will help us explore our faith through conversation and service. We will work with each family to help select a mentor to walk alongside their child throughout their confirmation years. A caring mentor is a resource for conversations of faith, as well as part of the “church glue” that unites the confirmand with the ongoing life of the community.

A mentor will:

- Provide a long-term relationship during and beyond confirmation.
- Attend mentor educational sessions with their student.
- Provide opportunities for nurturing faith outside of Sunday mornings.
- Explore worship at another church with their confirmation student, as well as participate in serving our community together.

Each student will be partnered with their mentor during their 8th-9th grade years. We hope to build strong relationships that last beyond their high school years.

We will also provide service opportunities for mentors and confirmands. They are expected to complete a service opportunity at least once each semester.

Retreat, Serve, Have Fun!

Confirmation is not just on Sundays. Faith is daily and lifelong. We work in faith, rest in faith, and play in faith. We want our confirmands to fellowship and serve together outside of the classroom. It is an opportunity for our students to build stronger relationships with each other, have adventures, and experience their faith with each other and other youth. The confirmation experience includes summer camp or a weekend retreat at Camp Lutherdale in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

November TBA Weekend Retreat

June 19-24, 2022 Summer Camp

Each student is required to attend Confirmation summer camp or weekend retreat at least once during the 2-year confirmation program.

An additional opportunity for ALL junior high students: a Winter Weekend Retreat!

January TBA, Camp Lutherdale in Elkhorn, WI

Calendar coming soon.

Calendar coming soon.

**GRACE
LU⁺HERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL**

Grace Lutheran Church & School

7300 Division St. • River Forest, IL 60305 • www.graceriverforest.org