

# CONFIRMATION

2024-2025



## Handbook and Calendar

Grace Lutheran Church and School

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## 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.

During confirmation, young teens are discerning how and where they belong in the church. We also explore how the gifts God has given them can be put to meaningful use in the world. Through family relationships, friendships, 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, serve, and grow together in faith and friendship. During confirmation, students partner with parents, leaders, and an adult mentor for guidance through these years.

## Background

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. Confirmation creates an opportunity for young people to say "Yes, I will live in the promise of baptism."

When a young person has not been baptized, confirmation instruction also prepares them for baptism. If this pertains to your child, please reach out to one of the pastors, so they can begin this conversation.

The promises of God are true for us in every stage of our lives. We grow and mature in the faith that flows from the waters of baptism.

*"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."*





## 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 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 in mid-October of students' ninth grade year.

## 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 worship reflections.
- Serve as Crucifer/Book Bearer.
- Make time to serve and build a relationship with their confirmation mentor.
- Attend a weekend retreat at least once during their 7th and 8th grade years.

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

## What to Expect in the Classroom

Our 7th and 8th grade students meet on Sundays from 8:45-9:45 a.m. to explore their faith. Lessons are led by pastors and a team of parent shepherds. Confirmands explore the Bible and Luther's *Small Catechism* as the sources for understanding the faith.

### 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
- Confirmation Promises

## Worship Reflections

We expect students to participate in the worship community at Grace during confirmation and beyond. Students 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 worship.

There are many opportunities for students to complete their reflections: Sunday worship, Wednesday services in Advent and Lent, and other services throughout the year.

## Crucifer and Book Bearers

Our students don't just sit in the pews for worship. They help lead! As a Crucifer, students lead the procession, holding high the cross, the symbol of our salvation. As a Book Bearer, students carry the stories of our faith. Students receive the offering from ushers. In communion, students receive the bread and wine at the table with pastors and other worship leaders and hold the baskets during the distribution of communion.

Each student serves 10-12 times a year during both the 7th and 8th grade years. Parents may select the dates their children serve using an online scheduling site.



## Mentors

We do not live our faith alone. We need partners and mentors who help us explore our faith through conversation and service. We work with each family to select a mentor to walk alongside their child throughout their confirmation years. A 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 Grace. Each student is partnered with their mentor during their 8th and 9th grade years.

A mentor will:

- Provide a long-term relationship during and beyond confirmation.
- Attend mentor educational sessions with their student.
- Provide experiences that nurture faith and serve others outside of Sunday mornings.
- Explore worship at another faith community with their confirmation student.



## Retreat, Serve, Have Fun!

Confirmation is not just on Sundays. Faith is daily and lifelong. We work, rest, and play in faith. The confirmation retreat is an opportunity for students to deepen relationships with each other, connect with nature and explore faith with other youth.

The confirmation experience includes a weekend retreat at Camp Lutherdale in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. **March 7-9, 2025.**



# Confirmation Schedule Fall 2024

<b>Grace Gathers in Fellowship Hall, 8:45-9:00 a.m.</b>		
DATE	<b>CONFIRMATION</b> Grades 7 and 8 School Library 2nd floor 9:00 a.m.- 9:45 a.m.	<b>MENTOR SUNDAY</b> 8th Graders and Mentors School Library 2nd floor 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Sept. 8	<b>PicnicFest</b> <i>Picnic after worship - All invited</i>	
Sept. 15	LC9: The Sacrament of Baptism - lesson with parents	
Sept. 22	LC6: The Ten Commandments	<b>Mentor Sunday 9th gr.</b>
Sept. 29	LC7: The Lord's Prayer	
Oct. 6	LJ1: Gospel Overview	
Oct. 13	<b>Fall Break No SS or Confirmation</b>	
Oct. 20	<b>Confirmation Sunday</b>	
Oct. 27	LC5: Martin Luther: A Legacy	
Nov. 3	All Saints	<b>Mentor Sunday</b>
Nov. 10	CP4: Serve All People, following the example of Jesus	
Nov. 17	LC10: The Sacrament of Communion	<b>Mentor Sunday</b>
Nov. 24	<b>Thanksgiving Break No SS, Confirmation, Teen Talk</b> ( <i>Thanksgiving Nov. 28</i> )	
Dec. 1		
Dec. 8	OT8: The Psalms	
Dec. 15	LC8: Apostles' Creed Overview	
Dec. 22	LJ2: The Birth of Jesus	
Dec. 29	No SS and Confirmation - Christmas Vacation	

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Jan. 12	<b>Shining Our Light - Epiphany activities</b> <i>in Fellowship Hall, 8:45 a.m.- All invited</i>	
Jan.19	CP3: Proclaim the Good News in Word and Deed	
Jan. 26	OT1: The old Testament overview	<b>8th Grade</b> Mentor Sunday
Feb. 2	OT2&3: Creation and The Fall	
Feb. 9	OT4: People of the Promise	
Feb. 16	OT6: Moses and the Wanderings	
Feb. 23	OT10: Voice of the Prophets	
Mar. 2	<b>Marked by the Cross - Lent activities</b> and <i>Breakfast provided by Mentors and Confirmands in Fellowship Hall, 8:45 a.m.- All invited</i>	
Mar. 9	LUTHERDALE RETREAT	
Mar. 16	LJ4: The Teachings of Jesus	<b>8th Grade</b> Mentor Sunday
Mar. 23	LJ5: The Miracles of Jesus	
Mar. 30	LJ6: The Hard Sayings of Jesus	
Apr. 6	LJ7: The Last Commandment	
Apr. 13	<b>Palm Sunday - White garment conversations</b> <i>in Fellowship Hall, 8:45 a.m. - All invited</i>	
Apr. 20	<b>Easter Sunday</b> - No SS, Confirmation, Teen Talk	
Apr. 27	LJ9: The Resurrection	
May 4	LL7:: The Meal and Sending	<b>8th Grade</b> Mentor Sunday

**GRACE  
LU<sup>+</sup>HERAN  
CHURCH  
& SCHOOL**

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