

Grace Lutheran Church and School

Confirmation



2011-2012

Handbook, Contact Information, & Calendar

Invitation

Grace Lutheran Church and School invites sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to participate in a three-year confirmation ministry of catechesis, community life, and service in preparation for the rite of the Affirmation of Baptism at the conclusion of the third year of study. The confirmation years are years of identity formation. Through reflection on the Bible and Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*, students explore and reflect upon their Lutheran-Christian identity. In response to all the gifts that have been given to them in their baptism and through this community of worship, they are invited to affirm their faith at the conclusion of this ministry training, both at an evening Confirmation Witness Service and on Confirmation Sunday.

Background

In the service of Holy Baptism in the Lutheran Book of Worship (pp.121- 126), the pastor lays both hands on the person baptized and calls upon God to pour out the 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 God's presence. These words, and the actions which accompany them, are repeated in the Rite of Confirmation and reflect the extension of the gifts of baptism into the life of a young adult.

Properly speaking, nothing can be added to Holy Baptism. A life of growth and maturation in the faith flows from the sacramental waters. Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the Church which helps the baptized child to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission.

When a young person has not been baptized, confirmation instruction can constitute preparation for Holy Baptism. Confirmation creates an opportunity for young people to say "Yes" to Baptism. Affirming one's baptism is not an unrepeatable, once-for-all act, but something that can and should be done at many points in life. The confirmation ministry consists in bringing to bear the fullness of the church's life and mission upon the young person's life so that affirmation may begin and continue.

Being confirmed is a response to God's gift in Baptism. Readiness for affirming Baptism, therefore, is a mutual decision of pastors, parents, catechists, and confirmands. Grace Church celebrates Affirmation of Baptism on the first Sunday in May.

Leadership

The pastoral staff of Grace Church, teachers from Grace School, and lay catechists bring their gifts to this ministry. An individual mentor for each eighth grader plays a vital role in our Confirmation ministry. Special guests also are included throughout the year, depending on their gifts, the topic, or activity. Parents are welcome to attend any or all of the classes and are encouraged to reinforce their children's learning and commitment in the home.

Content

The Bible and *The Small Catechism* are the primary sources for confirmation instruction. Other instructional materials which build on these are also used to facilitate learning. We use the curriculum *Here We Stand*, published by Augsburg Fortress. In support of the curriculum are three additional items: *The Lutheran Handbook I*, *The Lutheran Handbook II*, and *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

While all three years of instruction include components of *The Small Catechism*, the 6th grade curriculum focuses on the Old Testament, the 7th grade on the New Testament, and the 8th grade curriculum covers the chief parts of *The Small Catechism*. The individual components to this program are as follows:

Sunday Morning Instruction and Worship (all grades) From September through May, the primary opportunity for instruction in the tradition occurs on Sunday mornings between services, 9:45-10:45. Students and their families are encouraged to develop a discipline of weekly worship attendance.

Witness Service (all grades) The 8th grade confirmation students share their witness statements at a worship service on Friday before the first Sunday in May as the faith community (including the 6th and 7th grade confirmation students) gathers.

Confirmation Sunday (all grades) The 8th grade confirmation students affirm their faith and are confirmed during a worship service on the first Sunday of May as the faith community (including the 6th and 7th grade confirmation students) gathers.

Fellowship Nights (all grades) Confirmation students are invited to gather for fellowship time on Friday evenings scheduled throughout the year. Check the calendar for exact dates.

Youth Nights / Sunday Evening Classes (7th and 8th grades) Usually scheduled for the first or second Sunday of each month, from 5:30-8:00 p.m., this time will include dinner, study of the *Small Catechism*, group-building exercises, and a learning check (a “Whadayano” or a “Whadayathink”). Students will be checked on the information from their Sunday morning classes and asked to reflect on it. From biblical content and theology to definitions and memory work, the Confirmation Team wants to make sure that the students are meeting our learning goals for them. Group-building activities are included so that participants may come to know and trust each other as members of the body of Christ. The high schoolers will join with us for dinner and worship on these Youth Sundays.

Crucifers and Bible Bearers (7th and 8th grades) 7th and 8th grade students assist in worship as crucifers and Bible bearers.

Fall Retreat (7th and 8th grades) One weekend during the Fall, we travel to a camp for a weekend of learning, group-building, and fun in an intentionally Christian community.

Summer Intensive (7th and 8th grades) For one week during June students entering 7th and 8th grade gather for a week of intense study (and a whole lot of fun) about a specific topic related to and important for faith formation.

Mentoring (8th grade) A mentor is selected for each 8th grade confirmand. A caring mentor is a resource for conversations of faith, as well as part of the “church glue” that unites the confirmand with the on-going life of the community at the conclusion of the three years of confirmation instruction.

Witness Statement (8th grade) During the Winter and Spring of their final year of Confirmation, 8th grade students work to prepare a statement of faith that witnesses to their identity as a Lutheran-Christian. Preparation includes choosing a Bible verse, participating in brainstorming, writing an essay, and sharing the witness at the Witness Service.

Supplies and Contribution

The confirmation ministry is subsidized by the church budget. 6th grade (and first year participant) parents are asked to contribute \$50 for initial supplies. 7th and 8th grade students will cover their own costs for the Fall retreat. Please make your checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

Parental/Family Involvement

Just like the greater church community, the Confirmation ministry at Grace depends on the participation of all its members. During the year, we will need assistance from parents in encouraging youth to participate in all components of this ministry, preparing meals for the Sunday night gatherings, providing transportation to and from events, and assistance in facilitation and supervision at fellowship events.

Expectations

The primary requirement for participation in the rite of the Affirmation of Baptism is a living faith in Jesus Christ. This faith includes a grateful reception of Christ's love through the fellowship and mission of the Church and expresses itself in a positive attitude about the Christian life. Of course, Grace Lutheran Church cannot in a coercive manner "require" this faith, commanding it to happen through rules and regulations. At the same time, we expect that those who wish to be confirmed do so out of the experience of faith, and not because parents or others present it as a necessary obligation.

Participation in all of the above mentioned activities is a firm requirement. Special exceptions can be made for illness and other extenuating circumstances. The foundational requirements are attendance at both Sunday Morning Instruction *and* Sunday Morning Worship. In the Service of Holy Baptism, parents and sponsors promise to bring a child to worship. Regular reception of the Lord's Supper and the experience of worship strengthen readiness for affirmation of faith. Continued disregard of worship and Sunday morning instruction will necessitate pastoral conversation with parents and confirmand about readiness and the desire for Confirmation.

Pastor Faulstich will handle all make-up work for Confirmation. Since it is impossible to repeat the community formation component of these learning events, please note that excused absences are the exception and not the rule. If an absence, late arrival, or early dismissal is necessary, please inform Pastor Faulstich ahead of time. Conferences may be requested either by confirmands/parents or by one or more of the instructors. The purpose of these conferences is to increase the level of understanding, cooperation, and participation in the Confirmation ministry on the part of the student and their family.

And finally, who's that guy winking at me?

This cartoon version of Martin Luther illustrates the playfulness of the man who began what we know as Lutheranism. Martin Luther was a German monk who wanted to see the church reform, not split into numerous denominations, least of which one named after himself. Luther wrote *The Small Catechism* as a means to help educate the lay people of the church on the basic parts of our Christian faith. In the *Small Catechism*, Luther wrote explanations for what he identified as the main parts of the Christian faith: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

2011-2012 Confirmation Contact Information

Senior Pastor

Bruce K. Modahl

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Associate Pastor/Confirmation Coordinator

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Catechists

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Mentor Team

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6th Grade Sunday Morning Team

Jeff and LeAnn Cribbs

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7th Grade Sunday Morning Team

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Jeff and Claudia Wood

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8th Grade Sunday Morning Team

Tim and Tara Dull

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Deb Schmidt-Rogers

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Grace Lutheran Church and School Confirmation
September 2011

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1	2	3
September 4	5	6	7	8 7:30 p.m. Orientation Meeting All Parents and Youth	9	10
September 11 9:45 a.m. Rally Day Breakfast Mentor Orientation (Mentors Only)	12	13	14	15	16	17
September 18 9:45 a.m. Confirmation 6 th : Getting Started with the Bible 7 th : Uncomplicating the Bible 8 th : I Am Who I Am Alternate Mentor Orientation (Mentors Only) 5:00-7:00 p.m. 8 th Grade Potluck For Parents, Mentors, & Confirmands	19	20	21	22	23	24
September 25 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Creation 7 th : Annunciation 8 th : Mentor Week "Fellowship"	26	27	28	29	30	

Grace Lutheran Church and School Confirmation
October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
October 2 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : The Human Condition 7 th : The Birth of Jesus 8 th : The Lord's Name	3	4	5	6	7	8
October 9 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : The Flood 7 th : Magi 8 th : Sabbath Day	10	11	12	13	14	15
October 16 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Classes 6 th : Abraham and Sarah 7 th : Simeon and Anna 8 th : Father and Mother 5:30-8p.m. Youth Night / Confirmation Class	17	18	19	20	21 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fellowship Friday	22
October 23 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Sarah, Hagar, and Abraham 7 th : The Wilderness Temptations 8 th : Mentor Week "Worship/Prayer"	24	27	25	26	27	28
October 30 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Isaac and Rebekah 7 th : Jesus' Nazareth Sermon 8 th : Safeguard Life	31					

Grace Lutheran Church and School Confirmation
November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
November 6 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Jacob and Esau 7 th : Jesus Calls the First Disciples 8 th : Remain Faithful 5:30-8p.m. Youth Night / Confirmation Class	7	8	9	10	11-12 7 th and 8 th Grade Retreat to Lutherdale (through Sunday)	
November 13 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Joseph 7 th and 8 th : No Class, Returning from Retreat	14	15	16	17	18	19
November 20 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Moses' Birth and Call 7 th : The Beatitudes 8 th : Mentor Week "Worship"	21	22	23	24	25	26
November 27 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Moses and Pharoah 7 th : Join Families in Fellowship Hall for Advent Wreath Making 8 th : Protect Property	28	29	30			

Grace Lutheran Church and School Confirmation
December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
December 4 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Wilderness to Land 7 th : Feeding of the 5000 8 th : Defend Truth 5:30-8p.m. Youth Night / Confirmation Class	5	6	7	8	9	10
December 11 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : 10 Commandments 7 th : The Transfiguration 8 th : Do Not Covet	12	13	14	15	16 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fellowship Friday	17
December 18 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : A So Far Sunday 7 th : Geresene Demoniac 8 th : Mentor-Parent Breakfast	19	20	21	22	23	24
December 25 No Sunday School	26	27	28	29	30	31

Grace Lutheran Church and School Confirmation
January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 1 No Sunday School	2	3	4	5	6	7
January 8 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Judges 7 th : Sending of the 70 8 th : Mentor Week "Life of Service I"	9	10	11	12	13	14
January 15 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Ruth 7 th : Healing of the Bent-Over Woman 8 th : Creed Overview 5:30-8p.m. Youth Night / Confirmation Class	16	17	18	19	20 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fellowship Friday	21
January 22 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Samuel and Saul 7 th : Zaccheaus 8 th : Article One	23	24	25	26	27	28
January 29 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : King David 7 th : The Good Samaritan 8 th : Article Two	30	31				

Grace Lutheran Church and School Confirmation
February 2012

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
			1	2	3	4
February 5 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : David and Nathan 7 th : Parables of Lost and Found 8 th : Article Three 5:30-8p.m. Youth Night / Confirmation Class	6	7	8	9	10	11
February 12 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Solomon 7 th : The Rich man and Lazarus 8 th : Purpose of Baptism	13	14	15	16	17 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fellowship Friday	18
February 19 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : A Split Kingdom 7 th : Sheep and Goats 8 th : Word With Water	20	21	22	23	24	25
February 26 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Exile and Return 7 th : The Parable of the Vineyard 8 th : Mentor Week "Life of Service II"	27	28	29			

Grace Lutheran Church and School Confirmation
March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
March 4 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Esther 7 th : A So Far Sunday 8 th : Benefits of Baptism 5:30-8p.m. Youth Night / Confirmation Class	5	6	7	8	9	10
March 11 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Prophets of Israel 7 th : The Last Supper 8 th : History of Communion	12	13	14	15	16 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fellowship Friday	17
March 18 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Prophets of Judah 7 th : The Crucifixion 8 th : Take and Eat	19	20	21	22	23	24
March 25 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Daniel 7 th : Resurrection 8 th : Mentor Week "Spiritual Gifts"	26	27	28	29	30	31

Grace Lutheran Church and School Confirmation
April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : A So Far Sunday 7 th : The Road to Emmaus 8 th : Benefits of Communion 5:30-8p.m. Youth Night / Confirmation Class	2	3	4	5	6	7
April 8 Easter Sunday No Sunday School	9	10	11	12	13	14
April 15 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Job 7 th : Pentecost 8 th : Greatest Prayer	16	17	18	19	20	21
April 22 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Psalms for Help and Trust 7 th : Baptism of the Ethiopian 8 th : A So Far and What's Next Sunday	23	24	25	26	27	28 9-10 a.m. Witness Rehearsal All 8 th Graders
April 29 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Psalms of Creation 7 th : The Call of Saul 8 th : Mentor Week "Congregational Leadership"	30					

Grace Lutheran Church and School Confirmation
May 2012

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		1	2	3	4 7:30 p.m. Witness Service	May 5 9-10 a.m. Confirmation Rehearsal All 8 th Graders
May 6 Confirmation Sunday @ 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Proverbs 7 th : Philippians and Love Hymn 8 th : Confirmation Picture at 9:45 a.m. (Sanctuary)	7	8	9	10	11	12
May 13 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes 7 th : Paul and the Resurrection 8 th : Teen Talk	14	15	16	17	18	19
May 20 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class 6 th : A So Far Sunday / Celebration 7 th : Revelation 8 th : Teen Talk	21	22	23	24	25	26
May 27	28	29	30	31		



Please mark your calendars



2012 Summer Intensive “Luther and Lutheranism”

June 4-7, 2012

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(with optional open gym from 8:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)