

CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK



GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

feels like home

2012-2013

Confirmation: A Faith Nurturing Ministry

Grace Lutheran Church
N87 W16171 Kenwood Blvd.
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
(262) 251-0670

Dear Confirmands and Parents,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior.

Some of you may be familiar with our confirmation program from having past children who were a part of this ministry. We ask that you still read through this booklet as it goes over the different elements of this ministry, some of which may be different from past years.

We are very excited that this year's confirmation program is ready to go. The pastors and volunteers are already preparing for your child to come and learn from them. We want to invite your children to bring their friends to confirmation and junior youth events throughout this year to learn and grow as they do.

We are also excited to look to include volunteers and parents that are willing to work with our Confirmands this year. If you would like to serve along side other parents or volunteers please contact Pastor Joel Howard in the church office. We are always in need of more volunteers. You are truly an indispensable part of the effectiveness of our ministry. We also encourage you to talk about and interact with the material that your child is learning. *The more you show your investment in confirmation the more they will invest in it.* Your attitude will be reflected in their attitude.

We truly appreciate, enjoy, and look forward to the opportunity to work with your child and see your confirmand grow and mature in their journey of faith. We are always seeking new and better ways to make this confirmation instruction more effective in reaching your child. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please feel free to contact Pastor Howard in the church office.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joel Howard

Why go through Confirmation?

Titus 3:14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Confirmation is a time of continued learning and growth. The Lord tells us that our wisdom is folly but His wisdom is to be sought after. In confirmation we study the wisdom of God through His Word and how the beliefs of the Lutheran Church are based on the wisdom of God.

There are many things that your child is learning right now in school. While these subjects are certainly important, we feel that the most important things your child needs to learn about are: the grace of God found in Christ, that what we believe is based on the faith produced in us, the reason why we hold to the faith we have, and what this means for our life.

Confirmation is a time where your child will learn many of the following things:

- Who the great Biblical men and women of faith are
- Stories from the Old and New Testament
- What the Lutheran Church believes
- What God's work is in our life
- What God calls us to do in response to the faith we have
- What it means to be part of the church
- How we as Christians are to deal with what happens in our life
- How to continue to grow in your relationship with Christ through continued discipleship through your life.
- And much more

We take this instruction seriously because this instruction is about the salvation that is only found in Christ Jesus and His Word. As this is a major milestone in your child's life we continue to seek new and better ways to help teach your child these truths of the faith and apply them to their everyday life.

We use a three year structure to go through the Bible in the first year and the catechism in the following two years. Thus, the typical confirmand will take confirmation during their 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years.

Confirmation class is offered at two different times.

- If enrolled at Grace Lutheran School: Confirmation takes place during religion class in their classrooms
- If a member of our area public schools: Confirmation takes place on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:30. This will take place at the new church on Cross View Way.

Confirmation classes are all taught by one of our three pastors. We are all here for the sake of your child's continued growth as a disciple of Christ.

Confirmation is a reaffirmation of the promise that God made to you in baptism. It is through baptism that God claimed you and now it is through confirmation we speak back that vow and receive a further gift – the body and blood of Christ. Please also note by completing confirmation you further develop your journey of discipleship with the Lord, and you become a communicant member of the LCMS. *Confirmation is not a "requirement" of salvation.* Confirmation is a right of the church body at Grace.

If you at any time have a question about confirmation please contact us. If you have a question about the program as a whole, please contact Pastor Joel Howard. If you have a question in regards to something going on in the classroom please contact the pastor that is currently teaching your child.

Structure/Expectations of Confirmation

1. Confirmation Class

- This is the most important and crucial part of your child's confirmation program
- They must bring each time: Bible, Catechism, journal, and pen/pencil.
- The curriculum will flow cyclically with all classes taking the same curriculum:
 - o Cycle A: The Plan of Salvation (Old Testament & New Testament)
 - o Cycle B: Luther and the Catechism, The Apostles' Creed, Lutheran Life (*Current Cycle for 2012-2013*)
 - o Cycle C: Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and Life Issues
- There is an 90% attendance requirement for these classes in order to be confirmed. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Howard. For unexcused absences make up work will be assigned. Any absence that puts you below 90% will either have a make-up class session or make-up work assigned.
 - o Please e-mail or send a note with your confirmand ahead of time (if planned) or the next session (if unplanned) to let us know why your child was/will be absent.

** Classes for those attending on Wednesday evening are held at the church on Cross View Way. We need parental involvement for these classes as there will be much small group interaction needing adult leadership.

2. Church Attendance

- The most important aspect of your child's development is their time spent in church. Therefore we want to stress how important this part of the confirmation program is for the confirmand.
- Each confirmand must attend at least 20 services at Grace in each 12 month period during each of their 3 years in confirmation. Services take place on Thursday and on the weekend.
- Attendance will be kept based off of the worship note reports that are handed in but please sign the friendship register as this does give us a way to double check.

3. Sermon Notes

- 20 Sermon Notes are due each year of confirmation
- Confirmands may begin working on this the first Sunday in June
- Notes must be turned in on the same day as they were taken.

4. Service Hours:

- “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve” Matt. 20:28
- **10** total hours of service must be completed by the end of April each confirmation year. This service may not include doing service for your family, ushering/acolyting, or for something you get paid for.
- There is a sheet that must be filled out each time you do an act of service toward these 10 hours.

5. Memory Work

- Memory work is very important to the development of the confirmand as they learn the faith and the Word of God.
- The memory will be split between catechism and Scripture memory work. Please note there are places where you will have the ability to choose your own confirmation memory.
- The sheet should be checked off by a confirmation instructor and turned in on the appropriate date.
- Some confirmands have problems with learning memory work. If this becomes an issue please speak to Pastor Joel Howard right away. We are willing to help work through this process to make sure that your confirmand has every chance to succeed.

6. Acolyte and Ushers

- 6th grade confirmands will be scheduled to acolyte throughout the year. 7th and 8th grade confirmands will be scheduled to participate as ushers. We are encouraging that one or both parents participate on the same usher team that their child is on.
- If you cannot make your scheduled date you need to switch with someone else and notify the church office.

7. Statements of Faith – 3rd year confirmands

- During the confirmands 2nd year, they will choose or receive a confirmation verse to be blessed with on their confirmation.
- The confirmation verse will be used to write a statement of faith.
- Statement of faith is due the first Sunday of November to be reviewed by Pastor Joel Howard.

8. Catechization – 3rd year confirmands

- During the end of the 3rd year of confirmation each confirmand will be given a list of questions and answers which will be used for the night of witness. This is a night where your child will be examined using those questions about what they have learned during their time in confirmation.
- We do this night of witnessing to help the confirmands learn to answer questions about their faith in front of others and to see how they have developed from their first year throughout the time of their confirmation.

9. Confirmation Retreat - 3rd Year confirmands

- There will be a retreat at the end of the third year of confirmation which will be held at the church on Cross View Way. The retreat is from 8:30 until noon.

Please note that God does not require confirmation as something you must do to be saved. Confirmation is a ministry that you have voluntarily chosen for your child that is about continued growth, instruction, and discipleship. As such, involvement in every aspect of the confirmation ministry is a required component to be confirmed. *Incomplete work will either be added to the following year or will delay the date of your confirmation.*

Confirmand Parent Covenant

Through the power of the Holy Spirit it is the intention of the Confirmand's Parent to:

- *Be a model in leading a Christian lifestyle, making worship a priority, partaking of the sacraments, personal Bible study and prayer, Christian fellowship, and making service a priority in daily living.*
- *Make Confirmation a priority in the life of my family.*
- *Pray for my confirmand.*
- *Discuss what is going on in confirmation and in their child's life.*
- *Encourage the confirmand to complete all confirmation requirements.*
- *Assist the confirmand in completing assignments.*
- *Keep Confirmation meetings and activities a priority.*
- *Assist in servant events as encouraged and as time permits.*
- *Support the pastors and volunteers in the decisions made concerning confirmation.*

Signature of Parent(s)

Confirmand Covenant

Through the power of the Holy Spirit it is the intention of this Confirmand to

- *Make confirmation studies a priority in my life.*
- *Seek to deepen my relationship with the Lord and with my brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- *Attend all confirmation gatherings, sessions, and retreats.*
- *Make service hours a priority in completing them.*
- *Notify group leaders in advance of a planned absence.*
- *Finish all assigned work on the day that it is due.*
- *Be prepared for all confirmation sessions.*
- *Participate in group discussions and activities*
- *Seek help and encouragement as needed to complete and understand work.*
- † *Be committed to growing in my faith through regular study of God's Word, worship, attendance, and prayer.*

Signature of Confirmand

***This is included only as a reference to you. There will be a separate sheet handed out to you to sign and return.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION 2012-2013

- † Week of September 5th - First Week of Confirmation Class
- † November 4th - Confirmation Statements of Faith due (3rd Year Only)
- † November 21st - NO CLASSES: THANKSGIVING BREAK
- † December 26th & January 2nd - NO CLASSES: CHRISTMAS BREAK
- † April 3rd - NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK
- † April 24th - LAST CLASS (ALL Confirmation Work Is Due!)
- † April 27th - 3rd Year Confirmand Retreat @ 8:30 until Noon
- † May 1st - 3rd Year Confirmation Catechization @ 6:30pm
- † May 4th - 3rd Year Confirmation Rehearsal & Pictures @ 8am until 11:30am

**CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY
May 5th at 1:30 P.M.**