

FAITH FORMATION

2019-2020



As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL**



Welcome children, teens and parents to another year of faith formation programs at Grace! We're looking forward to another great year of growing together in faith, as we worship, pray, learn and have fun together. Join us!

SUNDAYSCHOOL



Sunday mornings
September 15–May 10, 9:45-10:45am

Preschool and Kindergarten

JK classroom, southwest corner of the lower level



Children age 3 through kindergarten meet each week for stories, music, crafts, snacks and games. The Spark Sunday School curriculum connects little ones with Bible stories and characters as they make friends and learn that God loves and cares for everyone.



Grades 1-4

Third floor school commons



Our lower-grade elementary-age students meet together for opening worship and then break into smaller groups based on age. The Whirl Lectionary curriculum focuses on the Bible readings heard in church each Sunday morning and explores the challenges of living the faith during the week with short animated videos.



COMMUNION RETREAT

Friday, March 6, 5:30-8:30pm
Saturday, March 7, 9am-noon

Fourth graders and their parents are invited to attend the Communion Retreat at Grace to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children who already receive communion are encouraged to attend the retreat along with their peers. Students will receive communion during worship services on Palm Sunday, April 5.

At the retreat students create a clay chalice to commemorate this important milestone in their faith life. Students also decorate a white garment with symbols of their life and faith. These objects will be on display during Family Sunday activities in Fellowship Hall at 9:45am on April 5. Students will have the opportunity to share their stories with other parents and children.

The VBS that's just the ticket!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through"

June 15–19, 2020
8:30am-noon

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. **Save the dates!**



Family Fun Fridays

6-8pm at Grace

Fellowship, open gym, crafts and dinner for families of Grace Church and Grace School

- September 27
- October 25
- November 22
- January 31 (Chili Cook-Off)
- February 21 (Mardi Gras)
- April 24

CONFIRMATION



Grades 5 - 6 Pre-Confirmation



Third floor classrooms

Fifth and sixth graders study the Bible in more detail, exploring how individual Bible stories connect into larger themes to tell the story of salvation. Fifth graders begin their journey in the Old Testament. Sixth graders continue with the New Testament, learning about Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. Fifth and sixth graders and their parents participate in GIFT Sundays with Grace members of all ages.



Grades 7 - 8 Confirmation



The two-year CoLABorate confirmation curriculum includes units on the Old and New Testament, church history and catechism, and Lutheran living. As they study the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism, students explore and reflect upon their Christian identity. In the fall of their 9th grade year they are invited to affirm their baptismal promises with a statement of faith shared at the Confirmation Witness Service and in the Rite of Confirmation. More information about Grace's confirmation ministry can be found in the Confirmation Handbook, available from Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Mentors

We do not learn and mature in faith alone. We need others who will help us explore our faith in word and deed. Confirmation students are partnered with an adult mentor during the two-year program, church members who join students for monthly Sunday morning conversations and additional service projects and activities. We work with families to select an appropriate mentor for each student, with the goal of building strong relationships that last into the high school years.

Witness Service

Saturday, October 17, 2020, 7pm

Confirmation

Sunday, October 18, 2020, 11am



Grades 6 - 8 Middle School Retreat

November 8-10

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC),
Oregon, Illinois

Share a weekend of faith-building fun as we join Lutheran middle-schoolers from other churches for worship, prayer, study, songs and outdoor activities (including a low ropes course). Car pools will leave Grace after school on Friday, November 8, and return Sunday afternoon. The fee for the weekend is \$145 and includes all snacks and meals. Registration will begin in early September — watch for more information soon!



Grades 7 - 8 Confirmation Summer Camp

June 21-26, 2020

Lutherdale Ministries, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Confirmation learning is not just on Sundays. Our confirmands enjoy fellowship and fun together at summer camp. Each student will attend the Confirmation Summer Camp at least once. Details and registration available in December.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

6th-8th Grade

Middle schoolers gather for special events during the school year to engage and build their unique community. All 6th-8th grade students are invited to attend and are encouraged to invite friends! Our Middle School Ministry aims to provide a safe, nurturing space for young teens to discover their God-given identities and gifts, all while learning about the deep love of Jesus for them and all of God's created world.

Game Night

Friday, September 27 • 6-8:30pm

Christmas Party

Friday, December 20 • 6-8:30pm

Off-Site Event

Friday, April 3 • 6-8:30pm

Door to Door Dinner (8th graders only)

Friday, May 8 • 6-9pm

Events and dates may change. Be sure to give us your email and cell phone number for updates.

YOUTH MINISTRY



High School Youth Teen Talk

Sundays, 9:45-10:45am
Youth Room

High school youth gather weekly on **Sunday mornings** for a delicious breakfast and conversations exploring how God's story connects with our own daily lives and stories. We share many laughs and challenging questions about life and faith, and we pray about our joys and concerns.

Sometimes we join an Adult Education session about a pertinent issue in the world, sometimes we gather with all the families and children of Grace for a special learning event, and sometimes we pack care packages for the college students who remain beloved friends of our youth group. Whatever we do together, we are united in our common faith and in the love of Jesus Christ.

All high school students are welcome. Come join us!

Our High School Youth Ministry aims to provide a safe, nurturing space where students can live out and discover their authentic God-created identity and gifts.



YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

High school youth gather throughout the year for special events and service projects. All 9th-12th grade students are invited and they are encouraged to invite friends!

In addition summer trips, both domestic and international, offer diverse opportunities to serve God's people—and have fun doing so!

Service in Christ's name is a high value for our youth ministry. Summer trips, both domestic and international, offer diverse opportunities to serve God's people—and have fun doing so!



Join us for another exciting year of Youth Ministry at Grace! Whether you've been coming for years, or you're new to the group, you are always welcome. Come check out what we're up to! We can't wait to welcome you.

EVENTS

Fall Event

Friday, September 13

Fall Service Project

Friday, November 15

Christmas Brunch & Party

Sunday, December 22
9:45am

Winter Break Outing

Monday, December 30

Housing Forward & Pizza

Sunday, March 15
12:30pm

Good Friday Worship & Youth Breakfast

Friday, April 10
8:30am

Door to Door Dinner

Friday, May 8
6-9pm

Youth Sunday & Blessing of Graduates

Sunday, June 7

Events and dates may change. Be sure to give us your email and cell phone number for updates. Contact **Pastor Lauren Wegner: lwegner@graceriverforest.org**

Faith Formation for Adults

Sundays, 9:45-10:45am
Seminar Room

Grace's Sunday morning Education Hour also includes sessions for adults, led by members and guests with expertise in a wide range of subject areas, from Biblical scholarship and literature to social justice and ecology.

The class schedule for the fall of 2019 includes Grace Wolf Chase from the Adler Planetarium, Reformation scholar Kurt Hendel, media experts Amy Merrick and Read Schuchardt, and a book signing with former Grace pastor Bruce Modahl.

News about each Sunday's Adult Ed classes is included in the weekly Sunday Is Coming email. A schedule of upcoming classes is also posted at GraceRiverForest.org.



Growing in Faith Together — GIFT

Fellowship Hall, 9:45-10:45am

Throughout the church year, as seasons change, members of Grace gather on Sunday mornings during the Education Hour to Grow In Faith Together—GIFT, for short. Come to Fellowship Hall on these special Sundays for activities designed to lead you into a new season of spiritual growth. There will be GIFT activities for children and families, small-group discussion opportunities for adults, plus music, snacks, and fellowship for everyone.

Christ Is Coming - November 24, 2019

Remember Your Baptism - January 12, 2020

Marked by the Cross - February 23, 2020

Given for You - April 5, 2020

Endless Eastertide - April 26, 2020



Challenge your own faith to grow — volunteer!

Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth Ministry all depend on volunteers—adults who are willing to share and explore their own faith in conversation with kids. Teachers work in teams and share responsibilities. Leader guides to the curriculum offer lots of easy ideas to use in the classroom.

We'll find a job for you that matches your availability and your comfort level. And we promise that you will learn and grow alongside the kids. Pray about it...consider the opportunity...ask questions! Contact **Julie Modrich** at jmodrich@graceriverforest.org for more information.

Contact for more information

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