



# CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Victoria, TX

2023-2024

## **What is the Confirmation Track?**

Confirmation at Grace Lutheran Church is an opportunity to affirm the vows that were often spoken on behalf of students at their Baptism. Our Sunday Morning Bible Classes and small group gatherings give students a chance to explore what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. If students stay on the Confirmation Track through middle school and choose to confirm their faith, they will make a public confession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord on the first Sunday of May in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

## **What is our Confirmation Philosophy?**

At Grace, we believe that it is our responsibility to provide parents with tools to help raise their children in the faith. Martin Luther intended for parents to use the questions, answers, and explanations in his Small Catechism as a tool to raise their children to know and love God.

Our hope is that you, the spiritual leader of your household, will take the time each week to talk with your children about what they're learning on Sunday mornings and through their studies at home about how God's Word applies to their relationships, lives at school, and eventual professional vocations.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 sets the example for how household faith leaders are to **connect children to Christ and His Word**: "these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

## What is the end goal of Confirmation?

We seek to guide students as they develop a lifestyle of following Jesus (discipleship). Each step of the Confirmation journey is intended to model a discipleship lifestyle of:

- *Learning and applying God's Word* by talking about faith issues with peers and adults in both the home and church community.
- *Building authentic relationships* grounded in our grace-filled relationship with Christ.
- Growing closer to Jesus through *regular, intentional worship*.
- *Sacrificially serving* the community and Church.
- *Connecting to Christ through His Word* in group Bible Study, by reading the Bible individually, and through family devotions.
- *Speaking to God regularly through prayer*, both personally and along with other believers.
- *Sharing the belief that Jesus Christ is Lord* with our neighbor by inviting the lost into relationship with Him.

Details about each of these goals and how we track progress may be found on the blue "Confirmation Expectations" page.

## Who is Confirmation for?

Students entering grades 7 and 8 (or the equivalent level, if homeschooled) are eligible.

Registering for the Confirmation Track does not necessitate that confirmation will be the end result. Rather, we hope that as the student learns more about Jesus and how faith is expressed in daily life, he/she is able to confirm Christianity as his/her own beliefs.

## What is expected of the Students?

Students who desire to be on the Confirmation Track at Grace Lutheran agree to these values:

- Commitment
- Confidentiality
- Respect
- Caring
- Participation
- Accountability
- Reaching One More

All Students should bring with them to Sunday Morning Bible Class and to the small group meetings their:

- Bible
- Catechism
- Confirmation Folder with:
  - Yellow Worksheet pages signed by a parent/faith mentor.
  - Update Confirmation Checklist

**Phones** will not be allowed for use during Sunday Morning Bible Class or small group meetings. If necessary, they will be collected at the beginning of class time and returned to students at the end.

Students are expected to show respect and share appropriately.

**Respect:** your Bible Class Leader, your group members, the spaces and rooms we use at the church, and yourself. Jokes, gossip, and negative talk of others are never ok.

**Share:** your honest answers, feelings, and learnings. Share your meeting space, supplies, and encouraging words with everyone.

**Students who do not meet these expectations** will receive a verbal warning from their group leader. If the student chooses to continue their behaviors, group leaders will contact a parent/guardian. In the event of unresolved issues following the parent contact, Pastor Keith (in partnership with the

parents) will determine the best course of action for the student, group, and leaders.

## **What is expected of Parents?**

Parents are the most influential examples of faith for children. Though we are honored to serve your students for an hour or so each Sunday in Bible Class and in small group meetings, you care for and lead your child each and every day! In order to help your student gain the most from the Confirmation Trach, we encourage you to:

- **Engage your student** in the discussion, Catechism and Bible reading, video lessons, and prayer in their Yellow Worksheets.
- **Regularly encourage** their progress through the Confirmation checklist. Ask how they plan to serve, when they will take worship notes, etc. Help minimize student's stress levels by not letting your child fall behind or wait until the last minute!
- **Worship together** and discuss the service as a family.
- **Serve together** and talk about the experience as a family.
- **Model Bible study for your child.** When your child participates in the Sunday Morning Bible Class, take the time to join in a Bible Study yourself. If your child chooses to read a portion of the Scriptures, read it yourself and talk about it together. If your family chooses to share family devotions, hold your children accountable to a routine (with at least three family devotions per week).
- At the end of each semester, work with your student to **prepare for their Confirmation** interview.
- **Pray together** as a family and personally for your children
- **Encourage your child to participate** in youth gatherings, summer trips, and other your group events. When your child invites a friend to be a part of or attend a church youth event, help them by connecting the friend's parents and family.

## What else do I need to know?

If your student has any special educational or behavioral needs, please inform Pastor Keith. WE want all our students to learn in a way that suits them best. If you inform of your child's needs, we can more effectively assist you in helping them succeed in the Confirmation Track.

Visit the Grace Lutheran Jr. Confirmation webpage at [glcvictoria.360unit.com/confirmation/](http://glcvictoria.360unit.com/confirmation/) for electronic copies of your Confirmation folder materials, for links to the video lessons, and more.

Your registration cost each year helps us cover the costs of materials, snacks, your Catechism, and more. If registrations costs will be an undue financial burden please speak with Pastor Keith about other possible arrangements.

## Contact Us.....CHURCH OFFICE: 361-573-2232

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