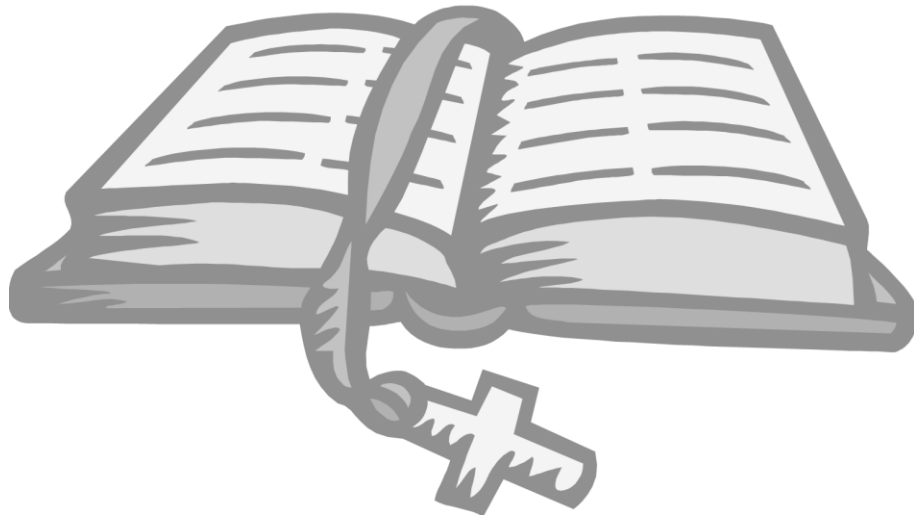


Confirmation Workbook

**2022-2023
(first semester)**

September 18 – December 18, 2022

**Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor Nancy M. Raabe**



My Name: _____

Confirmation at Grace

Welcome to Confirmation! Mr. Roney and I are very excited to be working with you this year.

This year's program is "new and improved." Instead of weekly meetings, we will get together in the Wagner House after late worship, from 11:30-12:30 on the **THIRD** Sunday of each month (with food). **These dates are September 18, October 16, November 20 and December 18.** In 2023 we move to the fourth Sunday of each month.

This journal contains our plan for the fall, with a different general topic each month. We'll have new journal for the spring. Following each class, you will do the worksheet for that topic at home (as soon after our meeting as possible so you don't forget what we talked about). At our next class we'll start by going over those worksheets together. If you want, you can work ahead in this journal and make notes for our class time.

During the year you will also be planning your own service project to benefit the church or community.

Each class session is VERY important because there are so few of them. So please do everything possible to attend. If you are sick, we can always Zoom you in.

We also have a new series of requirements for worship reports and service points. There are 17 Sundays in each of the fall and spring semesters, so I will be looking for **10 worship reports and 20 service points per semester.** Forms for these are available at church or can be found on our website. **Worship reports** help me learn what you did or did not get out of the service. **A service point** includes anything you do in church – acolyte, crucifer, lector; baking communion bread; or any special job you do to help your family or neighborhood that is *in addition* to your regular jobs that your parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, or mentors expect of you. We will also have service projects together out in the community every so often. These will count as **DOUBLE** service points.

The goal of our program is to help you understand how we are to live out our faith. Being a Christian isn't just something we think about on Sundays; it affects all areas of our lives. When you reach 9th grade, you will share your faith in public on Confirmation Sunday (which is always the Sunday closest to Reformation Day, October 31). Then your life as a confirmand is over and your life as a full voting member of Grace Lutheran Church begins.

It will be a great year. Mr. Roney and I can't wait to get started!

Love, Pastor Raabe

**** You will always need this journal and your Bible for our class sessions. ****

Service Project Plan: September 2022

Please share some ideas for your service project.

What is your passion? What do you care most about?

How can your deep desire meet the world's deep need?

(Frederick Buechner)

In other words, how can you turn your own passion into a project that will help our church and/or community?

Service Project Report: April 2023

Please write down exactly what you did for your service project.

Vocation: Living your faith in the everyday

September 18, 2022

Vocation means "calling." Everyone has a vocation (or even more than one) – student, parent, nurse, teacher, pastor, farmer, CEO, custodian, etc.

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Colossians 3:23, NLT



OPENING DEVOTIONAL TIME

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

- What do you think is the main point of this passage?
- What kinds of gifts does God give to people?
- Are we OK living without the help of others, or do we need each other? Why?

SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER

When you were a small child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Why? What do you want to do now?

What do other people think you should do as an adult? Do you agree?

What's the best thing you did this summer? The worst thing?

What do you like about school this year? What don't you like?

What are you most looking forward to in the coming year (at home, work, school etc.)?

LUTHER ON VOCATION

The Bible doesn't tell us much specifically about vocation. But from a lifetime of Bible-reading, Martin Luther had lots to say about vocation as a calling from God. You may have heard pastors talk about working in the church as a "calling." A calling is more than just thinking, "I guess I'll do this to make some money." It is the awareness that God is choosing a job or a role for you for an important purpose. Although we may not know at the time what that purpose is, it usually has to do with the way in which the gifts God gives us can be used to help others. Enjoying what we do is also a big part of vocation. Pastors aren't the only ones who receive a "calling" from God. All forms of service in the world are "callings," if we understand our entire life as one of following Christ.

As you heard in 1 Corinthians 12, God has given everybody lots of different gifts to be used for lots of different purposes. Just think: If everybody was supposed to be a pastor, who would sit in the congregation? Everyone has a calling and a purpose.

Listen to what Paul goes on to say in **1 Corinthians 12:14-31** (read together).

We need a variety of parts to make the whole body work. And that's what it's like in the church and in the world. Everyone has a special form of service they can offer to the world. If they do it in Jesus' name, they are glorifying God – they are telling people, through their work, about who God is.

Now, name a few jobs that people might not think of as "a calling."

As Christians, sometimes we separate our faith from what we do every day. As in "I'm an engineer during the week, a Christian on Sundays." But Martin Luther tells us that we live out what we believe every day by doing our jobs, by living out our vocation(s), whether it be as a student, teacher, mother, father, husband, wife, farmer, nurse, computer programmer, gas station attendant, store clerk, actor, pastor, or president. No matter what our vocations are, God wants us to use our gifts to help others and to do it with joy. When you enjoy what you do, you are glorifying God.

What are some of your gifts? What are you good at? How can you use those gifts, both in church and outside the church, to glorify God? (Jot down ideas below.)

CLOSING

Music for quiet prayer

Is there anything specific you'd like to pray about with the group?

Remember that we also pray for each other every week.

Closing prayer: Pastor

Pray together:

Gracious God, you've given us many gifts that we can use to serve you and your people, and we thank you.

Help us to use our gifts to help others, and help us to find ways to serve you that give us joy and satisfaction.

Be with us this year, and bless us as we learn and grow together.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Vocation Worksheet

In your own words, what is a vocation?

What is your vocation right now?

What would you like your vocation to be someday?

If you do that vocation, how could you glorify God?

**Worship: The people come together in Word and
Sacrament**

October 16, 2022



**Worship
at
Grace**

OPENING DEVOTIONAL TIME

Read 2 Kings 17:35-39

- What does this text say about worship?
- Why do you think God wants us to worship him?

Read 2 Kings 17:40-41

- What was the Israelites' response to God's command to worship him? What effect did that have on future generations? What impact is this response having on the church today?

Skim Exodus 32

- Why do you think the people worshiped the golden calf?
- Why did God and Moses get angry?

SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER

What do you like about our regular worship service? What don't you like?

How would you change our worship to be more appealing and engaging? Are you willing to help with that?

What does it mean that we have communion regularly? Should we have it more often?

How is worship important to your faith and to your relationship with God?

Can you think of other ways you can worship even when you're away from church?

CHECK UP TIME

What's the best thing that's happened to you in the last month?

The worst thing?

How are things going at school and home?

Has anything really exciting happened lately?

What's your favorite time of year? Why?

SHARING

- What other kinds of worship services have you seen or attended? (other churches, styles, etc. – for example: high Catholic masses, Baptist or Pentecostal revivals, camp worship services, Jewish synagogues, TV evangelists, contemporary worship)
- How are those different from what you're used to?
- What kind of worship makes you feel connected to God?
- What kinds of churches or other religious services would you like to experience?

CLOSING

Music for quiet prayer

Is there anything specific you'd like to pray about with the group?

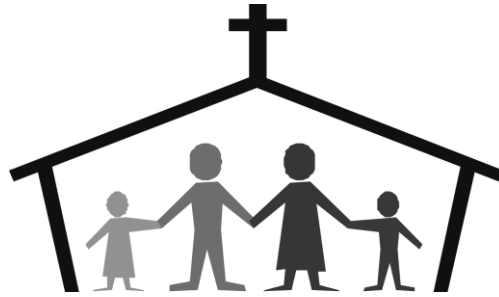
Remember that we also pray for each other every week.

Closing prayer: Pastor

Then pray this prayer together:

God of the universe, we give you thanks that you have created this world that feeds us and supports our lives. You call us to worship you so that we may remember all the awesome things you've done for us. Help us to continue to praise and worship you throughout our whole lives, both in our church and in our homes. And help us realize that it is in prayer and worship that we are closest to you. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Worship Worksheet



1. What's your favorite part of worship? Why?
2. What are your favorite hymns? Why?
3. How is worship important to your faith?
4. If you could change one thing about worship, what would you change?

Fellowship

November 20, 2022

Fellowship is spending time with one another in the church, as friends and companions, sharing in conversation and enjoyment together.



OPENING DEVOTIONAL TIME

Read Philippians 1:3-11

- Name some of the fellowship activities we do at Grace.
- Why is fellowship, gathering together at times other than worship, important for us?
- How do we hold people in our hearts?
- Is there someone you are especially praying for? Why?

Read 1 John 1:5-7

Scripture Note – Confused about what this passage is saying? Here’s a help:

We have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ – we have friendships and relationships with one another. It’s important to go to church to worship God so that we can worship *together* with other Christians. We can and should pray on our own, but if that’s all we do, we’re missing the important fellowship aspect of faith. Jesus knew it was important to have a community to worship with, a community to serve with, and a community to help us when we’re having a tough time. It’s tough to be a Christian alone, without a community to encourage us and worship with us. *Being a Christian means being a member of a community that worships and fellowships together. That is why we have church!*

And because we love one another, we try to help one another lead faithful lives, which means both helping one another see our sins, but also forgiving one another and helping each other to “walk in the light.”

Just for fun, read on: 1 John 1:8-9

- Where have you heard this before?

REALITY CHECK

What do you think youth worry about?

What do you think adults worry about?

What do you think is the greatest danger confronting youth today?

What do you think is the greatest danger confronting adults today?

For the grownups: How the worries of today's youth today different from those when you were young?

CHECK UP TIME:

- What's an exciting thing that's happening in your life right now?
- What's the hardest part of your life right now?
- How does having a community, like the church, help you deal with difficult times?
- What are some fellowship ideas you have for this parish?

CLOSING

We pray for each other:

Gracious Lord, I thank you for _____. I especially thank you for the gift of _____ which you have given him/her. Keep him/her safe from harm and danger, keep him/her ever in your care, and help all of us to grow in love and share in fellowship. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Fellowship Worksheet



Why is fellowship an important part of the church?

What do you think it means that we are in fellowship with God? How might that make you feel or act?

Do you think it's possible to be a Christian alone, without a church? Why or why not?

What fellowship activities do you think we should try?

Stewardship

December 18, 2022

Stewardship is how you manage what you have been given.

OPENING DEVOTIONAL TIME

Read Matthew 25:14-30, the “parable of the workers in the vineyard”

- Was the owner a good steward of the money he used to pay the workers?
- Do you think the workers thought he was a good steward? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 25:14-30, the “Parable of the talents” (*a talent was a large amount of money equal to 6,000 days of common labor – the largest unit of currency at the time*)

As you read this story, assume the master gave the money to his slaves so they could use it to produce more money for him – not just to keep it safe.

- How is this parable about stewardship?
- Who was a good steward of the money given to them?

Who wasn't a good steward? Why?

Stewardship is about how you manage what you have – your money, your time, your talents, your possessions. Stewardship is about taking care of what you have and figuring out the best way to use it for the sake of the world.

Finance 101:

- What are the risks and benefits of saving all the extra money you have?
- What are the risks and benefits of investing all the extra money you have?
- What are the risks and benefits of spending all the extra money you have?
- What are the risks and benefits of sharing all the extra money you have?
- What kinds of choices can you make to maximize benefits while minimizing risks?

Read Numbers 18:25-29

In the Old Testament, God calls the people to give a thank-offering for all the blessings they've received – a part of their grain, wine, livestock, etc. in order to thank God for life and prosperity. Often, they would give God one-tenth of what they had earned, which came to be known as a tithe. Our offerings given to the church are a thank-offering to God. Some people still give a tenth of their income back to the church. Others give what they can give.

Why are offerings to the church important?

Discuss

What do you like to spend your money on?

What advice might you give someone about money?

Some people say "time is money." Are you a good manager of your time? How could you improve?

What gifts and talents do you have to share with others and with your church? How can you share them?

CHECK-UP TIME

- What's the best thing that's happened to you in the last month? The worst thing?
- How are things going at school, work, home?
- What do you feel most grateful for in your life?
- How could you use the things you've been given to show your gratitude to God?

CLOSING

Quiet music for prayer

This month we will pray on our own for a few minutes, and then come back together with this prayer:

Generous God, you have given us so many gifts that we cannot count them all. You've given us food, shelter, clothing, loving families, special abilities, and life to enjoy all these things.

We ask you to make us good stewards of the things you entrust to us. Remind us that everything we have is from you and that when we share our wealth, we give you back what is truly yours. Help us realize the best gift you ever gave us is the life of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Stewardship Worksheet



1. God gives us everything that we have! How do you think you can thank him for all the blessings he's given you? (money, family, time, talents, etc.)

2. How do you usually deal with your money?

3. Are you good at managing time? Why or why not?

4. What are some of the talents and gifts God's given you?

5. How can you use these gifts in service to God and others?

WORSHIP REPORT FOR CONFIRMATION

Grace Lutheran Church, 2022-2023

Your name:

Date of service:

What season of the church year are we in?

One thing you heard in the sermon or children's message that you already knew, or didn't know before:

A comment about the service itself--something you liked or a suggestion you have:

A question or comment for Pastor Raabe:

A prayer request:

(Answers must be more than one word, and "nothing" is not acceptable! 😊)

Grace Lutheran Church – Confirmation Service Report

Name of student:

Date of service:

Description of service:

Signed (teacher, parent, supervisor):

Grace Lutheran Church – Confirmation Service Report

Name of student:

Date of service:

Description of service:

Signed (teacher, parent, supervisor):

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