



2024 – 2025

Discipleship Leading to Confirmation Handbook



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www.grace-connect.org



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Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**



**N87 W16173 Kenwood Blvd
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our “Discipleship Leading to Confirmation” ministry! This ministry is a three-year discipleship journey that culminates at the Confirmation Service. Our desire is to serve your family well through communication, prayer, and support. We want youth to know that their faith development is vitally important to their family, their church, and their God.

Ignite Youth Ministry: Ignite operates as a youth group with 30 minutes of large group teaching, 30 minutes of game time/free time, and 30 minutes of small group discussion. Attendance at Ignite is a requirement for confirmation. If students must miss Ignite, they are expected to watch the teaching video and fill out a note sheet for that week’s lesson. However, you do *not* need to be getting confirmed at Grace to attend Ignite. Friends are always welcome! On weekends where there is either a service or fellowship event, there will be no Ignite.

While Grace Lutheran School (GLS) students receive instruction during their Confirmation Class, GLS students are *highly* encouraged be a part of the Ignite Sunday experience. They can attend the entire evening or they can come from 6:00-7:00 PM to receive the fellowship and small group experience that they do not receive from the classroom.

Online Registration and Ignite Kick-Off: Please complete our online registration as soon as possible at bit.ly/ignite24-25. Ignite kicks off on **September 8th at 5:30 PM.**

Parent Volunteers Needed: Our Ignite youth ministry is only possible because of parental involvement! We need parents willing to supervise the youth room during free time for each Ignite Sunday. We also need parents to help supervise various youth ministry events. Contact youthmin@grace-connect.org or sign up at bit.ly/igniteparent24.

Communication: Here are all the ways we will communicate with you this year!

Email: Important information will be communicated to you through a monthly newsletter that is emailed at the beginning of each month. If you do not receive these emails, please contact youthmin@grace-connect.org to be added to the list.

Text Messages: This will be how we communicate changes and important reminders. If you are a parent please text the following: @grace-prnt to the number 81010. You can text @leave to stop receiving texts.

Social Media: Follow Ignite on Instagram at @gracelutheranignite and Grace’s Facebook page.

I also want to encourage you as your youth begins or continues this exciting process to partner with them! Take the time to look through their Ignite binder and talk about what they are learning in the large group teaching each week. Consider serving alongside your youth in the area they have chosen to serve! Make weekly worship a non-negotiable for your family. Please get involved in your youth’s spiritual growth because they will learn from you. We are excited that you and your youth will be taking part in this important milestone in their lives!

May our God and Savior bless you through the journey of confirmation.

Yours in Christ,

Matt Burgener: Minister of Youth and Young Adults

Email: youthmin@grace-connect.org Phone: 262-345-3938

Expectations of Grace Lutheran Discipleship Leading to Confirmation Ministry

Please note, the following expectations are for all youth that wish to be confirmed at Grace Lutheran Ministries. All 6-8th graders are welcome to attend Ignite and youth events without the intention to be confirmed. We intentionally plan our evenings to be welcoming to all youth who wish to attend!

1. Discipleship Growth

A. Ignite Sundays: Education, Fellowship, and Discipleship

The scope and sequence will flow in yearly cycles:

Cycle A: The Plan of Salvation (Old & New Testament)

Cycle B: The Apostles' Creed, Sacraments, Discipleship Issues (Cycle for 2024-2025)

Cycle C: Ten Commandments & Lord's Prayer

Ignite takes place on most Sunday evenings from **5:30-7:00 PM**. In 30 minute intervals, we have a large group teaching (education), large group game/free time (fellowship), followed by small group discussion (discipleship). If students must miss Ignite, they are expected to watch the teaching video and fill out a note sheet for that week's lesson. GLS students can meet this requirement in their 8th grade confirmation class, but they are encouraged to come to Ignite for game/free time and small group discussion. That way, they receive the fellowship and discipleship they do not get in the classroom.

B. Fellowship & Service Events

Every month we will have a large event that will take the place of our Sunday night gathering. We will rotate between an event focusing on fellowship and an event focusing on service. We ask that your youth do everything possible to attend these events as this is an essential part of their discipleship formation. Gym and Hymn nights will take place at Grace Lutheran School (Kenwood Campus) and will include open gym, dinner, and contemporary worship.

2. Worship Attendance & Sermon Notes

An important aspect of your youth's development is their time spent in worship where they can hear God's Word and receive His gifts. Youth must fill out a minimum of 20 sermon notes every year. Please keep track of your sermon notes. You can email info@grace-connect.org if you need an update.

3. Service Hours

Youth must complete a minimum of 10 hours of service every year. This service may NOT include doing service for your family, weekend serving responsibilities, or something the youth gets paid to do. This can include Ignite events and Vacation Bible School.

There is a service hour form that must be filled out each time your youth does an act of service in the community toward these 10 hours. Please keep track of your service hours. You can email info@grace-connect.org if you need an update.

4. Memory Work

Memory work is vital to the development of disciples as they learn the faith and the Word of God. Memory work will take place at the beginning of the large group teaching every week of Ignite and will be a “fill-in-the-blank” sheet of paper. The memory will be split between Luther’s Small Catechism and Scripture. GLS students can complete memory work at Ignite or in Confirmation class.

There are some who have problems with learning memory work. If this becomes an issue, please speak to Matt Burgener right away. We are willing to help work through this process to make sure that everyone has every chance to succeed.

5. Weekend Service Responsibilities

Service and involvement in our church body is a mark of discipleship for our youth. All 6th through 8th graders will be scheduled to serve according to the ministry they choose during registration. If no weekend service responsibility is chosen, students will be assigned to the ushering team. It is vital that you respond to service requests through Planning Center promptly, especially if your youth cannot make your scheduled date.

6. Communion

Communion is received by each youth after they have completed the communion class process, which will have its own registration and requirements. Each youth is required to go through this year-long process before they are confirmed.

7. Faith Testimony – 3rd Year Only

Youth will choose or receive a Bible verse to be blessed with during the Confirmation Service. This scripture verse will be used to write a faith testimony. More information on this faith testimony can be found in a separate document.

8. Confirmation Rehearsal, Pictures, Retreat, and Service - 3rd Year Only

The mandatory confirmation rehearsal, pictures, and retreat will be on May 3rd from 8:00-12:00 PM.

The confirmation service will be on May 4th, 2024 at 1:30pm.

9. Discipline Policy:

1st Offense: Verbal Warning

2nd Offense: Call Home Warning

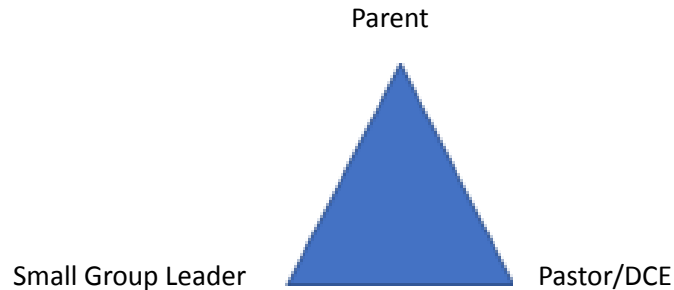
3rd Offense: Asked to Not Return for 2 Weeks

This discipleship ministry is about your youth’s continued growth, instruction, and discipleship. As such, involvement in every aspect of this ministry is a required component to participate in the confirmation service. Incomplete work will either be added to the following year or will delay the date of their confirmation. A youth’s readiness to confirm their faith will be determined by the youth, Pastor, DCE, small group leader, and parents.

Philosophy of Ministry

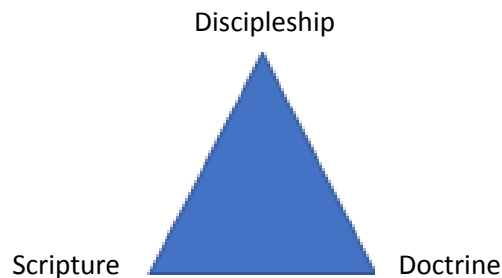
This ministry is and always has been about our youth's spiritual growth and walk with Christ. Foundational to this are Hebrews 5:11-6:3 and Matthew 28:18-20. We want to share with you what we see as the foundation of this discipleship ministry.

RELATIONSHIPS



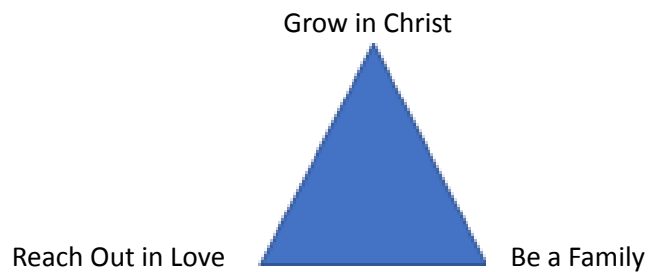
There are 3 key relationships that need to be present in the life of our youth as they grow spiritually: their parents, their pastor or DCE (Director of Christian Education), and another adult. The most important person that your youth can have a spiritual relationship with is you. We believe that parents have the primary role in the spiritual development of their child. This is an honorable calling, but a difficult one! We want to partner with you in doing this! The more you show your investment in your youth's spiritual growth the more *they* will invest in it. A church leader will invest in your youth's spiritual growth through teaching. Their small group leader, who is not a parent or pastor/DCE, will be that important third voice of encouragement, accountability, and engagement.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION



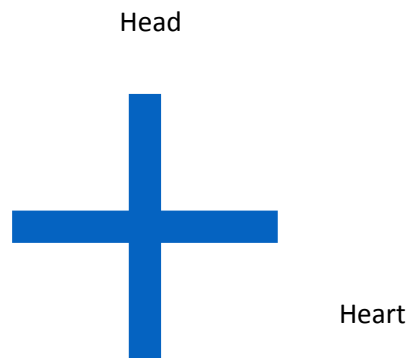
There are three key understandings that will be foundational to your youth's spiritual growth. Those are discipleship, doctrine, and Scripture. We will teach them to listen to the Scriptures as God's Word and understand what His Word means for their life. We will help them to understand from the Scriptures what we believe and why we believe it. This doctrinal teaching comes from a Christian worldview, instead of the secular humanist worldview. Finally, we will explore what it means to follow Christ, learn the marks of a disciple, and learn how to listen for God's voice.

DISCIPLESHIP DIMENSIONS



We believe that youth discipleship should be focused on growing in Christ, being a part of the family of God, and reaching out in love through witness and service. Because of this belief, throughout the year we will engage your youth in opportunities to live out their faith in all three dimensions. We will have discipleship events that focus on fellowship and fun with one another (Family) and other events that are focused on serving others (Reaching). During our discipleship class times, we will be spending time towards God and equipping them to pray and spend time in devotions on their own (Growing).

ENGAGE



In youth discipleship, we want to engage the head and the heart of your youth. Head without heart brings understanding of God and His will without application and experience. Heart without head allows for experience and application without Godly wisdom directing our experience. Discipleship seeks to combine increasing our knowledge and shaping our actions at the same time.

We want to invite your youth to bring their friends to youth events throughout this year to learn and grow as they do. We truly appreciate, enjoy, and look forward to the opportunity to come alongside your youth as they grow in their journey of faith. We are always seeking new and better ways to make this discipleship ministry more effective. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please feel free to contact our Director of Christian Education, Matt Burgener, at youthmin@grace-connect.org.

2024-2025 IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

- † August 18th – Sunday Service Volunteer Training (11:15 AM)
- † September 1st – Ignite Online Registration Due (bit.ly/ignite24-25)
- † September 8th – 6th Grade Faith Milestone Celebration (11:15 AM)
- † September 8th – Ignite Kick-Off (5:30 - 7:00 PM)
- † September 29th – Generate Retreat Informational Meeting
- † October 6th – Ignite Parent Night (5:30 - 7:00 PM)
- † October 9th – Parenting Workshop on Sexual Integrity (6:00 - 7:00 PM)
- † November 3rd or December 8th – Communion Class (11:15 AM)
- † November 10th – Faith Testimony Due (3rd Year Only)
- † November 13th – Parenting Workshop on Authentic Faith (Zoom, 7:00-8:00 PM)
- † December 1st – NO IGNITE: THANKSGIVING
- † December 22nd & December 29th – NO IGNITE: CHRISTMAS BREAK
- † January 8th – Parenting Workshop on Technology (Zoom, 7:00-8:00 PM)
- † February 9th – NO IGNITE: SUPERBOWL
- † February 12th – Parenting Workshop on Healthy Habits (6:00 - 7:00 PM)
- † March 2nd – 8th Grade Parent Meeting (7:00-7:30 PM)
- † April 17th – First Communion Service (6:30 PM)
- † April 10th – NO IGNITE: EASTER
- † April 27th – Last Ignite of the Year (5:30 - 7:00 PM)
- † May 3rd– Required Confirmation Rehearsal, Pictures, and Retreat (8 AM - Noon)
- † **May 4th – Confirmation Sunday (1:30 PM service)**
- † May 18th – High School Graduation Faith Milestone, Stepping Up Celebration



Scan the QR code to the left to register for our Ignite ministry & to RSVP for all family ministry events!

Not a QR code person?

Just head to
bit.ly/grace-family