



GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1624 E. Euclid Ave. | Mount Prospect, IL 60058  
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## MINISTRY DESCRIPTION 2015-2016

### Faith Formation

- ✝ During 2 years, youth in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will learn about the main aspects of the Christian faith and through the Holy Spirit deepen their relationship with God in Jesus through worship, fellowship, learning, service and outreach.
- ✝ Desired outcome is the youth's Affirmation of Baptism in the Confirmation rite as a personal confirmation of faith and commitment to discipleship lived out through active participation in the church as an adult member.

### Worship – every Sunday

- ✝ Regular weekly attendance is expected. A total of 24 Worship Reflections over a 12-month period are required (2 each month). You can start any time!

### Workshops – usually twice a month, Sundays 10:10 to 11:10am. *This schedule is on a trial basis October through November. Meeting days and times may be changed after evaluation.*

- ✝ Pastor Stefan Munker teaches 25 minutes till 10:35am.
- ✝ Families share 35 minutes discussion till 11:10am.
- ✝ The focus of lessons this year is on Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Old Testament stories, Stewardship, and other faith topics.
- ✝ A gift Bible will be given to every new confirmand on Reformation Sunday, October 25, at the 9:00am service. The cover will be embossed with your name.
- ✝ Absences: anyone missing more than two workshops for the year will be asked to attend a makeup session in May. Lesson material also needs to be made up in advance or after missing a class. Whenever you miss a meeting you miss faith experiences.

### Small Group Events – usually once a month, Tuesdays 7:00 to 8:30pm, or as announced

- ✝ In addition to workshops, students will meet once a month with their guide(s) as a small or large group for either a fellowship or service event. These opportunities are as important for faith formation as the workshops and attendance is required.
- ✝ Parents are asked to indicate willingness to help as needed with preparations, assisting with an activity, or chaperoning/driving for outings.

### Serving as an Acolyte – Sundays at 9:00 and 10:45am, as scheduled

- ✝ Confirmation youth will assist as acolytes in worship by carrying the cross, lighting candles, presenting the offering, collecting communion cups, and other ways.
- ✝ The schedule starts in October and will be sent out in September. Please trade dates if necessary and then notify the church office of the change.
- ✝ Training will be provided during the orientation meeting or individually as needed.
- ✝ Confirmed high school youth are also scheduled to help acolyte.

### Retreat Options – as determined

- ✝ Options will be presented for a retreat on a weekend in the fall or spring, usually at one of the nearby Lutheran camps.
- ✝ Information will be provided with requests for help of parents for chaperoning.

**Our Mission: To tell the good news of Jesus and touch people with his love.**

- ✚ Attendance is required. Retreats are an important opportunity for group building and faith formation. Kids in the past reported that camp was one of their favorite experiences.

### **Special Outings** -- as announced

- ✚ Special outings may be planned as part of our small group events or as additional opportunities present themselves. Information will be shared and arrangements for chaperones be made.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring** – February 7, 2016, 9+10:45am Services

- ✚ On Super Bowl Sunday, youth will collect donations of food or monies at the end of each service as part of a national drive for local pantries. The annual congregational meeting with lunch will follow that afternoon.

### **Easter Breakfast** – March 26 and 27, 2016

- ✚ This is an annual service project for all confirmands and parents. Other youth and families will be asked to help.
- ✚ A planning meeting will be held to coordinating the set-up on Saturday, and parents work together with kids on preparing and serving breakfast on Easter Sunday morning.

### **Rite of Confirmation** – for 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth

- ✚ Confirmands who complete the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class in the spring and express their readiness to confirm their faith during an interview will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism with the rite of Confirmation at the 10:45am service on September 24, 2017.
- ✚ Youth will begin a list of topics and insights during their first year of Confirmation, and write a Faith Statement essay in the winter and spring of their second year. It will be the basis for showing their readiness to affirm their faith, and be read by them at their Confirmation service.
- ✚ A spiritual gifts assessment will be taken to help youth make choose a ministry area they will serve in after being confirmed. Confirmands are asked to complete and return Gifts and Talent forms.
- ✚ April to May of the second year, interviews for personal faith conversation with the pastor will be held.
- ✚ Information about preparation and the Confirmation service will be sent out in August before the rite. A rehearsal will be held during the preceding week.