



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

856 W. Newgrove Street
Lancaster, California 93534
Office 661.948.1018
Fax 661.948.2731
Church www.gracelancaster.com
School www.gracelancaster.org

August 1, 2017

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Savior!

Wow! It's hard to believe that the school year is upon us once again!

This year those of you whose children attend our school, there will be a religion class in the morning taught by their homeroom teacher. **Confirmation instruction will be on Monday evenings at 4:00 pm, starting on September 11.** Please let me know immediately if there will be a scheduling problem.

It is my privilege to be the instructor for seventh and eighth confirmation class. Although it is the duty of the parents to see that their child is raised in the faith, Grace Lutheran Church and School, assists in helping parents fulfill it through additional instruction.

This instruction is designed to clarify elementary Christian doctrine and teach the basic skills of discipleship and spiritual discipline, which include...

- Bible study
- Prayer
- Worship
- Witness
- Service
- Community
- Family Living
- Leadership

Requirements are:

- Memory—assigned Bible passages on date due
- Sermon Summaries not later than two weeks old (20 required)
- Classwork—homework, quizzes, essays
- Participation—prepared, meaningful participation in classroom discussions

In order to practice their faith, your child will also be required to:

- Faithfully attend all Monday classes—missing more than four jeopardizes that year's classes

To Know Christ...
To make Christ known



- Be fully prepared to discuss the readings due on that class date
- Pass the quizzes in the Confirmation Guide
- Summarize 20 of the pastor's sermons from the 7 pm Wednesday or 10 am Sunday worship service
- Memorize the Bible passages assigned and recite on the class date due
- Participate meaningfully in the life of the church, such as youth group, assisting with Sunday school, assisting with VBS, participate in one or more church committee activities or participate in the choir or bell choir, participate in the worship service as an acolyte or usher
- Engage in an oral examination with Pastor prior to the May confirmation ceremony
- Write a fully typed page on these three questions:
 - What do I believe?
 - How will I continue to grow my faith?
 - How will I continue to meaningfully participate at Grace Lutheran?

The primary instructional materials are derived from Luther's Small Catechism, which covers the following subjects:

- The Ten Commandments
- The Apostles' Creed
- The Lord's Prayer
- Baptism
- Holy Communion
- Office of the Keys (Confession and Absolution)

It is expected that this is not a final Bible class, but rather sets the foundation for a lifetime of study and practice in the Christian faith. To that end, we have a Youth Group program that continues modeling the Christian faith and life, while having many engaging activities and helping serve in the church.

I previously taught High School and College while in seminary, so I promise that no child will be left behind and no question will be left unanswered (unless the Bible is silent on that question). The material is not that difficult, and uses handouts, interactive lectures and discussion, assigned readings, videos and, of course, the Bible—all of which will be peppered with humor, honest answers and love.

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Parents are sincerely encouraged to also grow in their faith by attending one of the many Bible studies offered here at Grace—or you can attend the six-week adult confirmation class offered three times a year for six weeks at a time following Sunday worship. It is structured with an eye toward you being able to master the basics of the Christian faith to help you in the faith formation of your child.

Please feel free to discuss anything you wish or any questions your child may have by calling me at 661.406.0659 or stopping by to visit at the church office. I am very approachable and really want us to have a good relationship.

Held in His love,

Pastor Michael Mueller

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