

Dear Parents,

Discipleship Leading to Confirmation preparations are well underway. I am extremely excited that your youth is able to participate in our ministry for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth this year! This ministry is a three-year discipleship journey that culminates at the Confirmation Service. If you have a 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth that does not wish to be confirmed, they are still welcome to attend Ignite. At Grace, we are committed to becoming a family growing in Christ while reaching out in love. Ministry will look different this year, but our mission remains the same. 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. The plans and decisions detailed below have been made with much prayer by our youth ministry leadership team. However, flexibility and grace are needed as plans may need to be adjusted or changed as circumstances shift. Please read through the following information:

**Ministry Structure:** We will meet this year in our day school and/or on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30 PM. Our Ignite Sunday evenings will operate as youth group with large group teaching, small group interaction, and free time. Those that attend classes in our day school are highly encouraged to also be a part of the Ignite Sunday experience! This will give your youth small group and fellowship time that does not happen in the classroom environment. While our structure for in-person ministry is remaining the same, many safety protocols will be in place. We will also have a virtual only option for confirmation this year. More information is below.

**Parent Meeting and Kick-Off:** Ignite kicks off **September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM**. Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM**. This will be our annual parent meeting and youth are encouraged to attend. This meeting will take place at the church on Cross View Way in the Sanctuary. The large space will allow for appropriate distancing and participants are required to wear masks. *This meeting is for all parents of students in grades 6th - 8th grade who intend to go through our Discipleship Ministry during the day at school and/or on Sunday evening.* At this meeting we will discuss details, answer questions, and explain key changes. If you are not comfortable with an in-person meeting at this time, we will offer a zoom parent meeting that same evening (September 1<sup>st</sup>) starting at 7:30 PM. To get the zoom link for this meeting, please mail [studentmin@grace-connect.org](mailto:studentmin@grace-connect.org).

**Online Registration:** ***The Discipleship Leading to Confirmation Registration Process is online!*** This online registration should be completed as soon as possible so that all materials can be ordered and small groups can be organized. If you prefer paper forms, they can be printed from our website or picked up at the church office. When registering for Ignite this year, you will be asked to indicate whether your youth is choosing to engage with in-person ministry or virtual ministry. This will determine which small group your youth will be placed in to start our year. In order to switch this preference, you must email Christine Young at [studentmin@grace-connect.org](mailto:studentmin@grace-connect.org) so small groups can be rearranged. **Register:** <http://bit.ly/IgniteRegistration2020>

**Safety Procedures:** We will be taking measures to make sure our in-person Ignite ministry is as safe as possible. Middle schoolers will meet in the sanctuary and high schoolers will meet in the youth room. This will enable both groups to use different entrances and restrooms. Within the sanctuary, there will be assigned seating by grade and small group. Small groups will be dismissed orderly from the sanctuary and encouraged to meet outside when possible. When weather does not permit for outside small groups they will only meet in larger rooms (sanctuary, narthex, commons, etc.). Free time (7:00-7:30 PM) will only be offered outside, and therefore will be weather permitting. We will have temperature checks and hand sanitizer stations available. Ignite service and fellowship events will be held outside for the foreseeable future. We will continue to follow Grace Lutheran's Covid-19 policies and state mandates.

**Online Ignite:** Each youth that registers for online Ignite will be assigned a virtual small group leader who will meet with them over Zoom on Ignite Sundays starting at 5:30 PM. Youth will watch a video teaching and then participate in a small group discussion. Youth should expect to be on Zoom from 5:30-6:30 PM. Ignite Online will follow the same calendar as in-person Ignite.

**Parent Volunteers Needed:** Our Ignite youth ministry is only possible because of parental involvement. We have a greatly increased need this year for virtual and in-person small group leaders for all grade levels. We also need parents willing to set up and take down free time activities each Ignite Sunday. Please contact [studentmin@grace-connect.org](mailto:studentmin@grace-connect.org) if you are interested in serving our teenagers during this time!

**Confirmation Requirements:** Please read the included 'structure and expectations of discipleship ministry' handout carefully as this has many more details about our confirmation requirements. Youth are expected to attend Ignite either in-person or online regularly as a confirmation requirement. They will be able to turn in service hours, sermon notes, and memory work either in-person or through an online drop-box. The weekend service requirement (i.e. ushering, children's ministry, AV) will be suspended for this year. Students must complete all requirements from the previous year, or it will be added to the next year's requirements as well. To catch up on any confirmation lessons that might have been missed last spring, please go to <https://www.grace-connect.org/ignite-online-lessons>.

**Communication:** Communication has never been more important than in this season. Please make sure you are connected to all the ways we will be communicating this year so you don't miss anything!

*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 [communications@grace-connect.org](mailto:communications@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; 6th - 8th grade youth can sign up for text updates by texting @2df87g to the number 81010.

*Social Media:* Follow Ignite on Instagram at @gracelutheranignite and our Grace Lutheran Ministries Facebook page.

*Mailings:* We plan on sending monthly mailings to anyone who registers for Ignite this year. These mailings will provide devotional resources that allow what we are learning on Sunday evenings to extend into your family's daily life.

**Upcoming Dates:** Typically, we provide a September through December calendar at the start of our ministry year. However, due to the nature of this year, we will be moving to two-month schedules temporarily. Here are the dates you need to know for the next two months:

August 30<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM: Ignite Small Group Leader Training  
September 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 PM (In-person) or 7:30 PM (Zoom): Parent Meeting  
September 7<sup>th</sup>: Online Registration Due: [bit.ly/IgniteRegistration2020](https://bit.ly/IgniteRegistration2020)  
September 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM: Ignite Kick Off  
September 20<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM: Ignite  
September 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM: Ignite  
October 4<sup>th</sup>: Ignite Event (NO Ignite this evening, More Information to Come)  
October 11<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM: Ignite  
October 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM: Ignite  
October 25<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation Service (NO Ignite this evening)

*I also want to encourage you as your child begins or continues this exciting process to partner with them!* The more involved you are in this journey of discipleship, the more likely they are to invest themselves in their spiritual growth throughout their life. Please get involved in your youth's spiritual growth because they will learn from you. We are excited that you and your child will be taking part in this important milestone in their lives! Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at our church office: 262-251-0670 or email me at [studentmin@grace-connect.org](mailto:studentmin@grace-connect.org).

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

Yours in Christ,

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