



Dear Middle School Families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year of Middle School Ministry at Peace!

Our 6th-12th Grade Students at Peace are all a part of our Student Ministry.

Our Student Ministry encourages students to live out the Peace purpose of loving God, neighbor, and self in all that we do. We are committed to partnering with parents and families as we nurture the faith of 6th-12th Grade students. Through learning, study, fellowship, and service, we explore how our lives can be a reflection of God's love and a response to God's grace. We celebrate both the ways we experience Jesus Christ and the opportunity we have to do life together.

We have set aside the middle school years for intentional conversation about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, moving the student to make a public affirmation of their desire to continue to follow Jesus--what we call Affirmation of Faith.

Middle School J.A.M. Sunday Sunday

We have scheduled a class time for 6th-8th Graders during the Sunday learning J.A.M. hour: 9-9:40am in the Fireside Lounge. Come connect with other students, learn a simple Bible teaching, and think about what God might be saying to Middle Schoolers with these biblical stories! Adult/parent co-leading support appreciated! (We will always have 2-3 HS/adults to lead this time)

7th/8th Grade Catechism

Our 7th/8th Grade Catechism track is a requirement for families to complete prior to Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) at the end of 8th Grade. We highly encourage and recommend you invest in this formative time in your child's life and walk with them on this journey.

We have designed a catechism track that is comprised of six 2-week courses. You will be required to complete the six courses over the 7th-8th grade two-year period. With a renewed commitment to the parent or guardian's role in faith formation, these 2-week courses are for both student and parent/guardian(s) to complete together. Any combination of parent(s)/guardian(s) is acceptable.

We hope this "mix and match" model will provide flexibility as you cater the offerings to your own family's schedule and desires. The courses are offered twice a school year, so a student has 4 different opportunities to complete each course over the 7th-8th grade period. We will encourage families to map out their years and plan ahead as to how they will complete catechism together.

The two-hour Catechism courses will be offered on **Sundays at 12:00pm**. Lunch is provided and teachings start at **12:30 pm**. Pastor Kai and Pastor Doug will share teaching and leadership responsibilities throughout the year. The first week will be the Catechism class. The following week, students and family members will be able to join our Catechism Experience Field trips. These field trips are designed to apply a life experience to what the students have learned the previous week in Catechism. Parents and children of all ages are welcome to attend these field trips with the Catechism students.

These courses are designed to provide some core Lutheran teachings while also identifying other topics and conversations important to the faith development of Middle School students:

Everyday Faith: How Can We Live Out Our Faith?

Experience: *First English Lutheran Service Project*

Lutheran Identity: Who Are We as Lutheran Followers of Jesus?

Experience: *Tour of Olde Gahanna*

Old Testament: A Closer Look at Abraham, Moses, and David

Experience: *Meet with Rabbi Lynette Herzog*

Worship: How/Why Do We Pray, Praise, and Participate? (Formerly "Prayer & Relationship with God")

Experience: *OSU Campus Ministry with Pastor Grant Eckhart*

Difficult Faith Questions: How Do We Talk About the Hard Stuff?

Experience: *Noor Islamic*

Cultural Center

New Testament: Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection

Experience: *Lent: Practicing Jesus' Faith*

Spring Project (8th grade) Faith Board Project

For any questions about our Catechism program contact Greta Clouse at gclouse@peacegahanna.org.

Middle School Ministry

Our ministry beyond catechism is for 6th-8th students and their friends. We understand the value of being together in a faith community apart from the classroom. They will include a January retreat to Lutheran Memorial Camp, fun outings, service opportunities, and Student Mission Trips in the summer months.

We look forward to being a part of this journey of faith with you all!

God's Peace,

Tirzah Hawley - Student Ministry Leader (thawley@peacegahanna.org)
Pastor Kai Nilsen
Pastor Doug Warburton