

Biblical Background

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs'.... And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:14-16)

Grace Lutheran Church extends the welcoming arms of Jesus to all of God's children. One blessing we offer is the assurance of safety and respect at all times. The Safe Church Policy guides us in providing this blessing.



The full Safe Church Policy and attendant forms are available in the main office.

For more information or clarification about this policy please contact a pastor or the Youth Ministry Coordinator.



Mission Statement

Celebrating God's gifts in community, through worship and education, inspiring us to be the heart, hands, feet and voice of Christ in the World.

Grace
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Grace
Lutheran Church of LaGrange

Safe Church Policy

Protecting All God's Children



Providing a safe and secure environment for the children, youth, and adults who participate in our programs and activities.

Protecting All God's Children

Grace Lutheran Church of La Grange has instituted a safe church policy to ensure that all who participate in this ministry will have a safe place to experience the love of God and grow in their faith relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Specifically, this policy focuses on...

- protecting the children and youth of Grace from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior
- protection for our staff and volunteers.

CHILD ABUSE - For the purposes of this policy "child abuse" is any action or lack of action that endangers or harms a child's physical, psychological, or emotional health and development.

Safe Church

Staff and Volunteer Selection and Training

This screening includes the following:

- 1. Six Month Rule –**
Volunteers will be considered for a position involving contact with children and youth after he/she has been involved with Grace Lutheran Church for a minimum of six (6) months after membership date.
- 2. Background Check –**
A criminal background check will be performed on all paid employees. Members volunteering for a church sponsored activity or program must consent to having their names cross-checked against the appropriate sex offender registry.
- 3. Church Provided Training –**
Staff and volunteers will attend church provided training regarding the Grace Lutheran Church, Safe Church Policy.

The Two Adult Rule

It is our policy that a minimum of two adults will be on the premises at all times when children or youth are being supervised. Minors should not be alone with one adult on our premises or in any sponsored activity, unless in a counseling session, when the following restrictions apply.

One-On-One Interactions

During one-on-one interactions with children and youth, the door of the room used should remain open for the entire session. If privacy is a necessity, a closed-door session is acceptable only if there is a window in the door or a side window beside it and the occupants are visible.

Transportation of Children and Youth

Drivers providing transport of youth attendees to an off-site event must be twenty-one years of age and possess a valid driver's license and current proof of insurance. It is recommended that two adults be placed in each vehicle or the vehicles teamed in minimum groups of two that stay together at all times.

Responding to Allegations of Child Abuse

In the event that an individual caring for children and youth at Grace Lutheran Church becomes suspected of abuse or neglect of a child under his/her care, the appropriate authorities will be notified. If allegations are made against the pastor or other rostered member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Bishop will be informed.