



grace church—

the episcopal church in galena, illinois

Wondering About Membership?

All people are welcome at Grace! And all are invited to take part in our worship, our programs, and our parish life. If you are exploring a commitment to membership in the Episcopal Church at Grace, here are some things that might be helpful in your decision. First of all, simply come to church, worship here, and speak with a greeter or the rector about our ministries or your questions. Attend our coffee hour after church and meet some of our members. Or you may fill out a newcomer card to indicate if you would like to be on our mailing list for our weekly e-newsletter or be contacted by clergy or a member of the church.



- Baptism makes you a Christian. The Episcopal Church recognizes your baptism in another tradition, and Grace can recognize you as a baptized member by recording your denomination and baptism in the parish register.

If you have not been baptized and would like to be, please call or e-mail the church and you will be contacted and invited to meet with the rector.

- A member (or “communicant in good standing”) is defined by the Episcopal Church as a baptized person:
 - whose baptism is recorded in the congregation's records (wherever it occurred)
 - who is known to the clergy or leaders in a congregation because they attend worship on a regular basis and are involved in the life of the community.
 - who contributes to the mission and ministries of the congregation in a manner that can be recorded by the treasurer.
- It is also appropriate for those who come from another tradition to make a commitment in one more way—by being confirmed or received by our bishop at a special service. This is a reaffirmation of your baptism and a public affirmation of your Christian life as part of the Episcopal Church. Inquirers’ classes are offered periodically for those preparing for confirmation or reception. You may also attend the classes if you are not yet certain about taking this step.
- If you were previously a member of another Episcopal parish, we can arrange to transfer your membership to Grace Church. Simply indicate that intention on the Newcomer Information Form.

Are you ready? Please complete the Newcomer Information Form attached and get involved in our ministries and get to know our people.

Interested in learning more about Grace, but not quite ready to become a member? Let us know that, too. We would be delighted to schedule a time to meet with you and get to know each other better.

NEWCOMER INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the form below for each person in your family and return it to the church office.

- Name: _____
- Address: Street _____
- City _____ State ____ Zip _____
- Phone: _____ e-mail: _____
- Date of Birth: _____
- Marital Status: Single ____ Divorced ____ Widowed ____
Married/Partnered ____ Spouse Name _____
- Children? Yes ____ No ____ Names and ages _____

- Baptized? Yes ____ No ____ Date _____
Church Name _____ City _____ State ____
- Confirmed/Received in the Episcopal Church? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, Church Name _____ City _____ State ____
If no, Previous Faith Tradition _____
- If your previous church was an Episcopal church would you like us to transfer your membership?
Church Name _____
Diocese _____ City _____ State ____
If there is no letter of transfer, do we have your permission to enroll you as a member with your personal records of baptism and/or confirmation? ____ Yes ____ No
- I would like information on baptism ____ reception or confirmation by the Bishop ____
Return to Grace Episcopal Church
309 Hill Street
Galena, Illinois 61036



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where the table is set for you!