

Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church

Youth and Family Ministry Handbook



Get ready for a fun and exciting Youth and Family Ministry year at TLO!

First and foremost, Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Youth and Family Ministry is concerned about communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the students.

All TLO Youth and Family Ministry classes teach salvation is by grace alone through faith alone through Christ alone. You will not want you or your children to miss Sunday School, Youth meetings and Family events as we hear:

- God's Word is truth.
- God's attributes are displayed throughout the Bible.
- The Bible presents true history, not just "stories" and not "myths."
- God's plan of redemption through Christ alone is woven throughout Scripture.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, we live in light of what the Bible teaches.
- We must be ready to give an answer for what we believe.

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Register for all TLO Children's, Youth and Family Ministry programs at <https://www.trinityloneoak.org/children-s-ministry>

Worship

Sunday Morning:

8:00 am Worship Service

9:15 am Sunday School and Adult Education

10:30 am Worship Service

Children are always welcome in worship. Children sometimes find it difficult to sit through the entire worship service without wiggling, fidgeting and losing interest. In order to help children and parents make the most of the worship experience, TLO offers these resources:

Nursery/Cry Room - A nursery is available on the sanctuary level for families with sad infants and/or enthusiastic toddlers

Children's Bulletins are available for children from the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins include activities based on the day's Bible readings.

Children's Message – an age appropriate message for children is led by one of the pastors or teachers during both worship services. Parents are welcome to accompany your child(ren).

How to subscribe to TLO Together

The *TLO Together* is TLO's weekly e-newsletter. Subscribe to the *TLO Together* to keep up-to-date with all of TLO's happenings. <https://www.trinityloneoak.org/resources-media-1>

How to Subscribe to TLO Disciple

TLO Disciple is published monthly and contains a topical study in each issue. Recent topics discussed include Freedom, Discipleship, Living in God's Forgiveness, Gifted to Serve, Joy in Fellowship, and Faithfulness to the Word. Visit <https://www.trinityloneoak.org/resources-media-1> and click on Current Issue. To view more than 50 past issues click on Archived Issues. Topics include Parenting and Family, Church Discipline, What is Confirmation, Prayer: How Do I Talk to God?, Stress, Worry and God's Loving Presence, and much more.

Sunday School Registration

Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church invites your family to attend a weekly Sunday class at 9:15am. The children are in groups depending on their grade level.

The Sunday School registration form is available from the Church Office. Or register online at <https://www.trinityloneoak.org/children-s-ministry>

Sunday School Calendar

- September 11, 2022 - Rally Sunday/First day of Sunday School
- September 25, 2002 – Third Grade students receive a Bible during the Sunday worship service
- May 21, 2023 - Sunday School picnic/Last day of Sunday School
 - No Sunday School on the following dates: Nov. 27, 2022; Dec. 25, 2022; Jan. 1, 2023; April 9, 2023

Child Check-in

- All preschool through grade 8 students are to go directly to their classroom for check-in.
- Sunday School children will explore the weekly Bible story.
- All children go directly to their Sunday School room for Check-In.
- During the Sunday School Year we choose Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church mission and ministry partners to collect an offering and donations each Sunday. Needed items will be in the weekly Children's Ministry email.
- Offerings should be brought to your child's classroom.

Pick-up/ Release of Children

- Children in Pre-K — 5th Grade, must be picked up from their classrooms by 10:15 am unless they are participating in music during the 10:30 worship.
- Middle School and High School students, will be released at 10:15 am unless a parent/guardian request otherwise.
- At the end of the school day or church or school activity, TLO pastors, principal, faculty and/or staff members and/or volunteers are responsible for releasing children in their care only to parents, legal guardians, or other persons designated in writing by parents or legal guardians.
- In the event that faculty members, staff members, or volunteers are uncertain of the propriety of releasing a student, they should immediately locate or contact the Senior Pastor, Principal or his/her designees before releasing the student. (From *TLO Child Safety Policy*)

Preschool | Cub Preschool Room

- **Preschool Curriculum-** Growing in Christ: Exploring the Bible through Scripture lessons, crafts, games and more.

Kindergarten | Tigers Preschool Room

- We strive to offer developmentally appropriate learning for all of our preschool classes. Generally speaking, children attend the class for the age they are on Sept. 1. Sometimes parents know in advance that their child will not be attending Kindergarten the year they are 5 on Sept.1. In this case, we recommend that children be placed with the class with which they will enter Kindergarten.
- Curriculum - Growing in Christ: Exploring the Bible through Scripture lessons and hands-on learning experiences

Elementary | 1st & 2nd Grade – Kindergarten Room

| 3rd & 4th Grade – Second Grade Room

| 5th & 6th Grade - Third Grade Room

- First - Sixth Grades - Answers Bible Curriculum from [Answers in Genesis](#) addresses the real-life issues that confront Christians every day. Students get a thorough understanding of the

authority and primary teachings of Scripture. All ages will be equipped to defend the Bible, becoming conformed to the image of Christ, as they apply God's Word in their everyday lives.

Grades 7-8 | Office

- 7th and 8th Grades will study the New Testament using Answers in Genesis Curriculum.
- For students not attending TLO school, Confirmation will be taught two Sundays each month on Sunday mornings during the Bible study hour. Parents are expected to attend with their confirmand when this course is taught.

High School | Youth Room

- **High School Curriculum** - the High School class engages students in God's Word to strengthen faith and embolden their witness

Adults | Gymnasium

- The Sunday morning Bible studies taught by Pastor Kroonblawd and by Pastor Lessing help parents grow in faith and understanding of Scripture, equipping you to engage your children in a thorough understanding of the Christian Faith. [Click here](#) for the list of adult studies; no registration required for our adult studies.

Vacation Bible School

For the past three Summers, TLO has offered a Family VBS in the School Forest the first Monday and Tuesday of August for children ages 2 through 5th Grade and their families. There's great fellowship and we have enjoyed Pigs Unlimited Food Truck for our congregation's biggest Summer party! This past Summer we learned about The Tree of Life.

Trail Life USA MN Troop 2950

Trail Life, for boys K-12th grade, combines outdoor skills and leadership opportunities with discipleship, fun activities, active learning and advancement to help our boys develop into courageous young men ready to honor God, lead with integrity, and serve God and their families.

Troop meetings are held on the first and third Mondays from 6:15-7:30pm. We also schedule activities for outdoor adventure, fun and opportunities to serve.

Text Messages

TLO Youth and Family Ministry would like to send you short text messages for emergencies or reminders. When you register your child for Sunday School, please provide a phone number where TLO can contact you. Be aware that we may need to contact you during class time or a youth ministry event. Please keep your cell phone within reach.

Parental Responsibility

All parents should be encouraged to assume individual responsibility for their children and not assume the church sponsored activity or presence on the church premises is a guarantee of the child's safety. Children should not be left unattended in the church building. Parents are expected to checkin and checkout their children preschool through grade 5.

TLO Child Safety Policy

Parents are needed to serve as the second adults in the classroom. All teachers and assistants complete a Volunteer Application; Complete Personal Background Check and online video course through Protect My Ministry, and attend a course to become familiar with the TLO Child Safety Policy and Guideline.

The following policies and procedures are to help ensure that Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church's ministry is a place where all people can feel they are safe, loved, and valued. The congregation is committed to providing a safe environment for all—including children, youth and vulnerable adults in our midst.

Why is a safety and security policy necessary?

- To affirm and protect children, youth, vulnerable adults, and adults
- To affirm and protect volunteers and staff
- To raise awareness
- To be a leader and advocate in our community
- To affirm and protect TLO Lutheran Church

TLO Abuse Protection Policy

It is the determination of Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church & School to provide a Christian environment that is safe, both for those receiving its ministries and for those providing its ministries. Sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment and physical abuse is not tolerated at Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church & School. When employees or volunteers who provide the ministries of the church engage in sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment or physical abuse, they violate the terms of their employment or voluntary service. A violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, termination of employment, or dismissal.

Teacher, Parent, Student Code of Conduct

Christian beliefs, as understood and taught in the LCMS, pervade everything that is done at Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church and School. This ministry's code of conduct is rooted in its sincerely held religious

beliefs and is consistent with the following: The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17); The Great Commandments as stated by Jesus Christ (Matt. 22:37-40). It is expected that all members of our ministry community will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with biblical standards, values, and character.

TLO Bathroom Policy

The TLO Bathroom policy is based on Genesis 1:1, *"In the beginning God the heavens and the earth."* And Genesis 2:27, *"...male and female He created them."* Therefore, use of bathroom is based on biological sex given as a gift to be treasured. For a complete TLO Code of Conduct and Discipline, please speak with the Pastor.

Classroom Behavior and Discipline

Behavior issues will be handled with gentleness and grace. If a child is out of control or his/her actions are threatening the safety of other children, the Sunday school lay leader will be contacted to help with the child or the teacher will contact the parents.

Please review the following with your child

- Show God's love to everyone in class.
 - Do not touch items in the classroom except under direction by the teacher.
 - Respect others.
 - Listen when the teacher or a classmate is speaking.
 - Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
-

Photo Permission Information

In House: Children's Ministry takes photos to use for bulletin boards, class projects and our weekly newsletter.

Social Media: On occasion, we post photos on our Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church Facebook page. We will not print your child's name or tag any photos.

If you would like to not have your child's photo used for either in-house projects or social media, please be sure to register and let us know.

Food Allergies

We strive to create an inclusive environment for all children. If your child has food allergies, we will work with you to find a comparable alternative during special snacks. All snacks must be pre-approved by the

Sunday School Teacher. Please ask before bringing snacks to share. Please provide your child's food allergy information.

Resources

RightNow Media has been called the Netflix of video Bible studies and for good reason. With the largest library of on-demand Bible study videos anywhere, there is truly something for every member of your family. TLO pays your subscription fee! Don't have an account? Text RIGHTNOW TLOLC to 41411; Or visit the TLO website to sign up <https://www.trinityloneoak.org/rightnowmedia>.

Are you seeking parenting resources? TLO can help. Here's a few parenting and family organizations that can help you raise your children in the Christian faith: *The Parent Cue* app: www.theparentcue.org; *Focus on the Family* www.focusonthefamily.com; National Fatherhood Initiative www.fatherhood.org

Would a little extra support help your child fully participate?

Because children learn differently and have different needs, if there is something we can do to support your child, please include that information on your child's registration form or contact your child's teacher.

STEPPING STONE/FAITH LIFE STAGES

Each person develops physically and emotionally through different stages in life. The same is true of one's spiritual development. At Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church, we've been asking, "What are the different spiritual milestones in that development?" Also, "How can we best support a child's spiritual development in our Christian Education programs in the TLO Church ministry and TLO Lutheran School ministry?"

Baptism

The beginning of all spiritual development is Baptism, so at a child's baptism, the parents and sponsors (Godparents) are asked to nurture that development in their children and "pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper." Those words make an excellent guide for us to think about how the church can be the best help and support to parents and Godparents.

To support parents in the ongoing instruction in the Christian faith to their children, TLO has a **Cradle Roll** with materials for parents to teach their newborn infant through the first three years leading to Sunday School. The next stepping stone of faith is the **First Bible** program which runs throughout the third- and fourth-grade Sunday School years. The next stepping stone in faith is a two-year **Confirmation Ministry** that children are invited to join, starting in the seventh grade.

Finally, for the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper while participating in Confirmation Ministry there is a special class with the Pastor to learn the blessings and benefits of the Lord's Supper before children receive **First Communion** on **Confirmation Day**.

First Bible

What will happen at Church?

When a third- or fourth-grader joins our Sunday School at Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran, he/she receives a special student's Bible at the beginning of the year. Children are encouraged to highlight special verses in the Bible as we go through the year's lessons in Worship and Sunday School.

At some point during the year, there will special sessions to cover the Bible basics, which will go book by book, with key verses highlighted. At the end of this time, we hope that the students will have a good working knowledge about where things are in the Bible and the main teachings about Jesus.

Taking it Home

During this time, we hope that there will be conversations at home about what the students are learning. Students may come home with a suggested verse or two to talk about during the week.

Receiving Your First Bible

At the end of the year's highlighting in the Bible, we will present the student with that Bible so that it can be taken home. We do this in a special rite at church where parents, grandparents, and Godparents are welcome to attend. This is normally done at the 10 a.m. worship on the second Sunday in June.

RECEIVING FIRST COMMUNION

We typically offer the Rite of First Communion on Confirmation Day held the First Sunday in May. During Confirmation Ministry with the pastor, students will be instructed on how to receive Communion. Receiving Communion regularly helps to strengthen our faith. We also become more and more aware of our need for God's forgiveness and the need to forgive others. Continuing to read the Bible and receive Communion lays the foundation for taking the next step in the journey.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

What Will Happen at Church and at Home?

TLO Confirmation Ministry is a teaching ministry of the Church designed to assist parents in helping their baptized children deepen their knowledge of the basic teachings of the Christian faith; grow understanding of God's Word; by the Holy Spirit empower students to know, believe and confess their

faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior; understand Christian growth is live-long process of maturity as members of the body of Christ; and grow in the life of the Christian community and its mission. Confirmation is a Ministry offered at 7th and 8th grades or in consultation with parents. If they have not received their First Bible at that time, arrangements may be made with the Pastor.

After two years in the Confirmation Ministry, students may receive the Rite of Confirmation. This is normally offered the first Sunday in May. After receiving the Rite, students are considered Confirmed members of Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran, able to participate in the church's youth group. At age 18, Confirmands are able to participate in the Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church Voters' meetings. After having gone through all three faith life stages, our students will have developed good habits connecting to God's Word and the Sacraments that will help them grow spiritually through their teenage years and beyond.

INTRODUCING TRINITY LONE OAK LUTHERAN CHURCH'S Middle School and High School Youth Focus

CRUX Student Ministry - *Crux Sola est Nostra Theologia*

Name: The CRUX Student Ministry

Motto: *Crux Sola est Nostra Theologia*

Why "the CRUX"

Many high school students and young adults are no longer continuing the faith of their parents and of their childhood. According to recent research, only 1 in 4 Americans in Gen Z attend church on an almost weekly basis and only 58% of Gen Z identify with any sort of religious affiliation. This ministry hopes to get to "the crux" of the problem.

Through an intentional and dynamic engagement with Culture, Relationships, Understanding, and eXample, this ministry will reach into the struggles and the challenges of young people as they attempt to navigate the intersection of life and faith and will teach them the skills and the habits of successful Christians.

We also want to be a resource to parents and other Christians who need assistance navigating the quickly changing and increasingly hostile culture. With Church attendance on the decline and the rise of hopelessness and nihilism among the new generations, the CRUX hopes to be conduit of God's Grace and faithful Lutheran ministry to the students of High School age.

What does CRUX stand for?

Culture

Relationship

Understanding

eXample

Mission

The mission of the CRUX Youth Ministry is to provide a space for High School students to build community and to engage with the difficult and controversial questions faced by young adults in an increasingly post-Christian America from a perspective informed by our motto “*the Cross alone is our theology*” and faithful to the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Vision

The vision of the Crux ministry is that students shall

- Learn the theology of the Cross and its application for daily life
- Understand how to live out their faith daily
- Encourage regular Church attendance and service
- Build Christ-centered relationships among themselves and the Church
- Be able to anticipate and defend the Church against common complaints
- Provide a space and opportunity for evangelization of non-affiliated teens
- Understand how other mature Christians remain faithful when faced with various hardships

Guiding Verses

- **Romans 12:1-2** - *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
- **Hebrews 10:25** - *Do not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- **Colossians 2:8** - *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*
- **Joshua 22:5** - *But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.*
- **1 John 4:7-10** - *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

CRUX STUDENT MINISTRY - Middle School Group (Grades 7-8)

Middle School Youth Activities led by parents of Grades 7-8.

CRUX STUDENT MINISTRY - High School Group (Grades 9-12)

Meets second and fourth Mondays of each month from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. CRUX High School Group will be led by Matthew and Elizabeth Berg.

Fire Evacuation Plan

In the event of a fire emergency, the following action should be taken:

- Staff or supervising leaders will immediately dial 911 and report that Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church, 2950 Hwy 55, has a fire.
- Staff, ushers, and leadership on site will immediately begin to assist any class, group, volunteers or residents out of the building through the nearest exit. Sunday School teachers will move students directly out the nearest exit. PARENTS SHOULD NOT TRY TO GET

THEIR CHILDREN OUT OF CLASSROOMS DURING A FIRE ALARM. THIS WILL CREATE CONFUSION AND DIFFICULTY IN EVACUATION.

Teachers will take attendance lists with them, if possible. All fire exit doors are unlocked from the inside at all times.

☑ All groups evacuating will come together at the far side of the parking lot, a safe distance away from the structure and emergency vehicles.

PARENTS MUST MEET CHILDREN AT THE PARKING LOT NEAREST THE PRE-SCHOOL PARKING LOT. DO NOT TAKE CHILDREN OFF GROUNDS UNTIL THEY ARE ACCOUNTED FOR.

- Any available adults will help supervise children. If there is direct knowledge of people still in the structure, inform the fire department immediately upon their arrival.
- Let all emergency vehicles have the right of way. Cars and vehicles should not leave the parking lot. This may cause bottle neck at entry, parking lot, and intersection.
- Fire extinguishers are located: in the gathering area, at each end of the back hallway, outside of the library, outside of the sanctuary, in the nursery, in the fellowship hall (by the windows), and by the emergency exit in the offices, among other closets as well.
- One designated staff member such as the Facility Manager or Pastor will begin a search of the building to determine if there is smoke or fire or if it could be a false alarm. Upon the sight of any smoke, immediately evacuate and inform the arriving fire department where the smoke was located.
- There are nine exits that lead directly to the outside: two in the sanctuary, in the gathering area, in the kitchen, and in the rear of the fellowship hall, two in the Sunday School hallway, the back of the offices and of course the front doors. During a fire, evacuate directly outside through the nearest exit and proceed to the southwest corner of the parking lot.

The building is equipped with emergency lights.

Tornado Evacuation Plan

In the event of a tornado warning, the following action should be taken:

- All groups and people in the church will move to the following interior windowless rooms/areas: the nursery, the bathrooms across from the music room, the hallways (music room to in front of

the nursery and gathering area to the back council room), the Sunday School Supply room and the coat closet.

- Staff, ushers, and leadership on site will immediately begin to assist all people to the designated areas. Sunday school teachers are responsible for guiding their students to these locations. Teachers will bring attendance lists if possible.
 - Staff or supervising leader will monitor the weather alert radio located in the office area.
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Crisis and Emergency Management

- In the event of an emergency or crisis, a Crisis Team consisting of the Senior Pastor and TLO Executive Committee will meet. Others may be included as needed.
- The Crisis Team will appoint a spokesperson in consultation with the Minnesota South District (MNS).
- The Crisis Team will communicate with additional council members and staff, the MNS Office, and the congregation as appropriate.
- Information to share—Confirm facts. Are people safe? Are they being cared for? Describe action plan.