



Children's Ministry Road Map

Volume 21

Summer 2022

A Guide to Faith Development Opportunities for Children at Bethel Lutheran Church

Registration Deadlines:

May 15 for Bethel members and anyone currently enrolled in our programming

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Scripture promises that in Christ, all becomes new. As we begin to see light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, we embrace the new. We rejoice at the opportunity to plan for more in person ministry while learning from and keeping aspects that flourished during our remote ministry. Thank you for your patience and support as we have journeyed this path together.

Proverbs 22:6 advises us to “direct [our] children on the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it”. We diligently equip our children with tools to succeed in life...math, reading, writing, social, and emotional skills. While our children can be the best pitcher on the baseball team, fly through Advanced Placement courses, and win every popularity contest, we live in a time of deep unrest. Adults and children alike struggle to know their worth. We struggle to accept that just as we are priceless treasures in God’s Kingdom, so is every person we meet on a playground, checkout line, and in traffic. This brings me to my passion for children’s ministry.

My passion for teaching, equipping, and building children runs deep. I believe we are most successful in this venture when our children know Whose they are, that their lives are purposed, and that their value is bestowed by the King of Kings without any need to earn or maintain it. What an amazing adventure we begin when we grant God the freedom to reign in our lives with limitless power, wisdom and grace!

Thank you in advance for your partnership as we journey together to build life-changing faith in every child at Bethel. I am humbled and blessed to partner with you in this capacity.

Blessings,

Brenda

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Mission & Vision for our Bethel Children

Bethel Children & Youth Ministries Mission Statement

To help our children/youth Be the Light of Christ in the church and the world we will:

- Help our children/youth find their place in the church and in our world by providing connections with other youth, children, and adults of faith;
- Involve our children/youth in the life of the church through worship, evangelism, learning, fellowship, and service as a path toward discipleship;
- Provide experiences for our children/youth that will allow them to develop and explore their faith so, as they move into adulthood, they will have a faith that will go with them and grow with them;
- Equip and empower parents as partners on the journey of faith development for their children.

"The faith development of our children is one of the most important responsibilities we have as parents."

New members and visitors are welcome to join any of our programs at any time regardless of stated deadlines.

Children's Ministry Registration Packet

All whose children will be participating in any aspect of our Children's Ministry in the 2022-23 school year are asked to complete the attached online Registration Packet to the church by May 15.

If your children will not be participating in any on site programming during the 2022-23 school year, you do not need to return the registration packet. **But please contact the church office and let us know that you will not be participating.**

Parent Consent/ Emergency Form

Rather than requiring that you fill out a consent/emergency form for every program that your child attends, we ask that you submit a form once a year that will cover all on-site Bethel programming for our age 3 - Grade 5 students. This includes Sunday School, Limitless! the 3rd Grade Holy Baptism Retreat, the 4th Grade Holy Worship Retreat, and the 5th Grade Holy Communion Retreat.

Participation Form

Use this form to indicate in which programming the children in your family will be participating during the coming year.

Parent Opportunity Form

Use this form to indicate in which areas you will be able to support the Children's Ministries of Bethel in the coming year with your time and talent.

Return Deadline: May 15

If you do not return your registration packet by May 15th, you can expect to receive a reminder email, as well as a reminder phone call or two before the end of July.

We are implementing this registration packet as a matter of convenience for you. Please make its implementation convenient for our office by responding promptly.

Thank You!

Sunday School

9:45-10:30 am.

Classes begin on, September 25, 2022 following our kick off even on September 18.

A nursery is provided for children who will not be 3 years old prior to September 1, 2022.



Nursery Sunday School — Every year we have several students who just miss the cut off for our 3-year-old Sunday School class and so each week in our Nursery, our nursery staff plan special “Sunday School” activities for our older nursery children.

Age 3-Grade 5

This year our children are returning to the Hands on Curriculum,

- Ages 3 - 4 Meet in Room 41 Grades K-1 Meet in Room 43
- Grades 2 - 3 Meet in Room 53 Grades 4 - 5 Meet in Room 54

Special Sunday School Classes

Each year our 2nd and 3rd grade Sunday School classes have a special multi-week class with their parents.

In the fall our 2nd graders and parents learn “How to Use the Bible.”

In January/February our 3rd graders and parents study “Talking With God,” a curriculum on prayer.

Details will be sent to families a few weeks prior to the beginning of class.

During these sessions, the class is taught by our Director of Children's Ministries. Our regular teachers for 2nd or 3rd graders have those Sundays off.

See the calendar on page 7 for specific dates for both of these classes and plan now to attend with your child.

Children's Christmas Program

“Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and in your purity. 1 Timothy 4:12. Please mark your calendars now for December 18th during the 8:30 and 10:45 worship services as we share the Children's Christmas Program with our Bethel Family. All our Sunday School and *Limitless!* students may participate.

Sunday School Staff

Age 3 - Grade 5 Teaching Teams

For each of our age 3-Grade 5 classes we recruit a team of adults to lead. All prep work is done for you! A quick glance through the lesson will equip you for an enjoyable and meaningful teaching experience. You may sign up for any of these positions on pages 6 & 7 of the registration packet.

Student Bibles

Growing in God's Love Bibles are used in our Age 3-Grade 1 classes. All Bethel children receive a copy of this *Growing in God's Love Bible* in September of the calendar year they begin Sunday School. If your child wasn't here to receive their bible at that time, and you would like one, please let us know. *Growing in God's Love Bibles* are available for \$15.00. Children do not need to bring their Bible with them to Sunday School.

Hands On Bibles are presented to our Bethel 2nd graders each year. Our Grade 2-5 students use these Bibles each week in class and are encouraged to bring their Bible with them to class every Sunday. If your child needs a Hands On Bible, you may purchase one for \$15.00.

4th and 5th Grade Acolytes

4th and 5th graders at Bethel serve in worship during the school year as acolytes.

What do acolytes do?

- Wear a cool white robe.
- Sit with the pastors and assisting minister.
- Light the candles on the altar.

One acolyte is scheduled for every Sunday morning worship service.

Your child does not have to attend Limitless! in order to participate as an acolyte.



Holy Communion Practices for Children at Bethel

Holy Communion instruction takes place for children at Bethel during the 5th Grade Holy Communion Retreat (See details on Pg. 5). Upon completion of this retreat, children are ready to fully

participate in Holy Communion. However, there are families who occasionally seek to have their younger children participate in Holy Communion. This is an option. Families seeking

this option are asked to contact the church office to make an appointment for a time of private child-friendly instruction on the practice of Holy Communion with one of our pastors.



Bethel Bistro

We are hoping to restart Bistro, but we're not sure when. Stay tuned for updates as we get closer to September



Children's Retreats

All retreats are led
by our Senior
Pastor and our
Director of
Children's
Ministries

3rd Grade Holy Baptism Retreat

On April 23, 2023, all 3rd grade students are invited to an afternoon of learning centered around Holy Baptism. We begin at noon and end at 2:30. The activities include lunch, learning, games, video, and several special activities. Parents are asked to join us for a session designed just for them at 2:15. The afternoon concludes with a joint closing with the children in the sanctuary.

4th Grade Holy Worship Retreat

On March 19, 2023, all of our 4th graders are invited to an afternoon of learning centered around Holy Worship. The afternoon begins at noon and ends at 2:30. The activities include lunch, learning, games and several special activities. Parents are asked to join us for a session designed just for them at 2:15. The afternoon concludes with a joint closing with the children in the sanctuary.

5th Grade Holy Communion Retreat

On Friday night and Saturday October 28 & 29, 2022, all of our 5th graders are invited to a retreat centered on Holy Communion. The retreat begins on Friday at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. - noon. Parents are asked to join us for a session designed just for them at 11:45 a.m. The afternoon concludes with a joint closing with the children in the sanctuary. Retreat activities include a Seder exploration, games, video, and several special learning activities.

We treasure your children!

The safety and security of your child is at the top of our priority list. With this in mind, please note the following **pick up procedures** for our weekly Sunday School and Limitless! ministries.

Sunday School -

Age 3- Grade 1: A parent or older sibling must meet at the child's classroom in the East Pod for pick up. On the first day of attendance, you will be asked to note who may pick up your child.

Grade 2-5: Unless other instructions are given to the teacher or Director of Children's Ministry, these children are free to leave their classroom when Sunday School is finished.

Limitless!

South doors will remain locked until 5:00 pm

If your child is leaving before 5 pm, you must use the East or West doors (Limitless! Deans and children will not open the south doors for you, so please use the unlocked doors)

Upon 5:45 pm dismissal, parents must pick their children up in the Center Pod. (South doors will be unlocked.)

Children will only be released to their parents. If a friend, grandparent, etc. will pick the child up, please notify Brenda Atzinger, Director of Children's Ministry, beforehand.

Thank you for your cooperation and partnership!



Limitless!

Begins Wednesday, September 21

Limitless! is open to any student in Kindergarten through grade 5 during the 2022-23 school year. Children rotate through different activities every few weeks during the three sessions. For grade and/or time specific activities, see descriptions below.

Weekly Schedule:

3:20 - 3:55 Gathering Activities & Snack

4:00 - 4:25 Chapel

4:25 - 4:45 Group Skit & Discussion

4:45 - 5:15 Session 1

5:15 - 5:45 Session 2

5:45 Limitless! Dismissal

Snack

A simple snack is provided each week. Two volunteers are needed to prepare and serve this snack.

Limitless! Chapel

This worship experience is designed specifically for children. We worship through song, prayer, and a brief homily or skit. Parents are welcome to join us for chapel at any time and volunteers for the day are asked to sit among students during Chapel.

Group Skit/Discussion

Student volunteers participate in a skit that explores real world scenarios, social interactions, our emotional response to the experience, and how it connects to our faith.

Faith Stretch

Parent volunteers lead a session for K-3rd graders that combines storytelling, with recreating the story through movement. Lessons are prepared for you.

Faith Building

Our parent volunteers will read a short Bible story and then direct the children to free-form build an item or scene from a Biblical story out of Lego, etc. Stories and suggestions are prepared for you.

Joyful Noise

Children bring a Bible story to life by using Orff instruments to create sound effects

Magnified

In Magnified, our 4th and 5th graders get into the Small Catechism and have discussions with real world application of how these aspects of our faith are lived out. Armed with finger fidgets and hot chocolate, the students love this session.

Serving Others Daily (SOD)

The goal here is to serve... whether serving Bethel or our broader community. Service projects are prepared for you ahead of time. Led by parent volunteers.

Fruity Skits

For 2nd and 4th graders; Parent volunteers lead kids in discussing 2 Fruits of the Spirit and kids create short skits to illustrate using or not using those fruits in our lives.

Skits on Command

For 3rd and 5th graders; Parent volunteers lead kids in discussing 2 of the Ten Commandments and kids create short skits to illustrate honoring or not honoring those commandments in our lives.

Scripture Search

For 3rd through 5th graders;

Parent volunteers lead this session. Kids are divided into two teams and given a word. They use the concordance at the back of the Bible to find as many scriptures as possible about that word. The team with the most examples receives an extra piece of candy!

Chime Ensembles

Grace Notes and Half Steps are our hand chime ensembles. Hand chimes are a precursor to learning handbells. Children do not need to be able to read music to begin. The children will learn how to read music, learn how they can use their talents to serve God, and nurture a love of music at the same time.

Choir

Praise opens our hearts to receive God's presence. We will explore musical praise together through singing and more!

- Carol Choir
4th and 5th grade
(September - December)
- Alleluia Choir
1st - 3rd grade
(February - May)

Music Expectations

It is important that children who participate in any of our vocal choirs or instrumental ensembles be consistent in their attendance at rehearsals and performances as they will each have specific parts/roles. When they aren't in attendance, there is a hole in the presentation that isn't easily filled. Please do all you can to insure your child is present for weekly rehearsals and scheduled performances.

The Bethel Bus

Each week we rent two buses from Benjamin Bus Company to pick up our Limitless! participants from Spring Creek, Greenvale, and Bridgewater Elementary Schools. In addition, one of our buses originates at the Middle School in order to pick up our Prairie Creek students. Students are then transported right to Bethel. Please indicate on page 4 of the Registration Packet which school your child attends and whether or not they will be riding the Bethel Bus to Limitless! each week.

Volunteer Opportunities

We can't do any of our children's ministries without you. We rely on several volunteers each week to keep our program running and our children safe and engaged. Check out the Volunteer Opportunities on page 6 of the Registration Packet and choose one or more ways in which you can serve. A nursery is provided for children of volunteers who are not yet old enough for Limitless! *When everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot!*

Christmas Program

Children take the lead in sharing the birth of Christ with our Church family and the community. This year will be a live Children's Christmas program during worship December 18th at both services.

2022-2023 Children's Ministry Calendar

Sundays:

18 BethelStock
 25 Sunday School begins
 2nd Grade Parent/Child Bible Class

2 2nd Grade Parent/Child Bible Class
 9
 16
 23
 30 1st Grade Parent/Child Share, Save Spend

6
 13
 20
 27

4
 11 Music Festival Sunday
 18 Children's Christmas Program
 25 No Sunday School - Christmas Break

1 No Sunday School - Christmas Break
 8
 15 3rd Grade Parent/Child Prayer Class
 22
 29 Congregational Mtg

5 3rd Grade Parent/Child Prayer Class
 12
 19
 26

5
 12
 19 4th Grade Holy Worship Retreat
 26 No Sunday School - Spring Break

2 Easter Egg & Story Event
 9 No Sunday School - Easter Sunday
 16
 23 3rd Grade Holy Baptism Retreat
 30

7
 14
 21 Last Day of Sunday School
 28 Memorial Day Weekend

Wednesdays:

September 2022

21 1st Day of Limitless!

October 2022

5 Half Steps Begins
 12
 19 No Limitless! - MEA
 26

November 2022

2
 9
 16
 23 No Limitless! - Thanksgiving Break
 30

December 2022

7
 14
 21 No Limitless! - Christmas Break
 28 No Limitless! - Christmas Break

January 2023

4 No Limitless!
 11 Limitless! Resumes
 18
 25

February 2023

1 Grace Notes Begins
 8
 15
 22 Ash Wednesday 5:15 Chapel

March 2023

1
 8
 15
 22
 29 No Spring - Spring Break - No Limitless

April 2023

5
 12
 19
 26

May 2023

3
 10 Last Day of Limitless!
 17 5th Grade Finale
 24
 31

Special Dates:

5th Grade Holy Communion Retreat, October 28 & 29, 2022, 4th Grade Holy Worship Retreat, March 19, 2023 & 3rd Grade Holy Baptism Retreat, April 23, 2023

Children's Ministry Fees



Other than a nominal fee to cover food and extra supplies during Vacation Bible School (see page 3) and our three retreats throughout the year (see page 5), we do not charge a fee for our weekly Children's Ministry programming. The cost of these ministries is significant — Sunday School curriculum, general supplies, Limitless! snack and bus, and of course the mortgage, maintenance, and utility bills associated with our wonderful building. These expenses and many more are all funded through the annual giving of our members and visitors. We encourage all families with children in our programming to support our ministries through time, talent, and treasure. See page 6 of the Registration Packet to volunteer your time and talent. You can contribute to the general fund of our congregation by giving weekly to the offering collection in worship services or by sending your contribution in to the church office. Contact the church office to hear details on how you can have funds automatically transferred from your account to Bethel's through our Simply Giving program or use the QR Code listed on the left. Thank you for giving of your time, talent, and treasure to support the ministries of Bethel Lutheran Church. We could not do it without you!

**Registration Packets
are due by May 15
2022. New
members and
visitors may
register at any time
during the year.**

Closing Thoughts

Whew! You made it! Congratulations and thank you for taking the time to read through this volume of information. Hey, you made it this far. Why not sit down right now and fill out the enclosed Registration Packet? It will make a huge difference in our work load if we receive all of our Registration Packets on time. Thank you for your help with this. Extra copies of this information packet are available in the church office throughout the year. Please feel free to share them with friends, neighbors, and visitors who would like to know more about our Children's Ministries at Bethel. A copy of this brochure as well as a link to the Children's Ministry Registration Packet can also be found on our website at: www.bethelnorthfield.org.

Children's Ministry Shorthand

Limitless! ~ Our Wednesday after school program

Magnified ~ An activity session that allows 4th & 5th graders to get into the Small Catechism in a fresh, applicable way.

Faith Stretch ~ An activity session combining faith-based storytelling & recreating the story with movement.

Faith Building ~ An activity session that allows students to create a Bible story scene or item out of Lego.

Fruity Skits ~ An activity session where 2nd & 4th graders create skits using Fruits of the Spirit as the theme.

Music ~ An activity session where we explore ways to praise God through instrumental and vocal music.

Skits on Command ~ An activity session where 3rd & 5th graders create skits using the Ten Commandments as the theme.

Scripture Search ~ An activity session where two teams use the concordance to find scriptures on the word of the day; the winning team receives an extra piece of candy!

Serving Other Daily (SOD) ~ An activity session where students do a service project, for Bethel or the broader community.

CLC ~ Christian Life Center where most Bethel meals and treats are shared.

Grace Notes ~ Grades 4 - 5 hand chime ensemble - Rehearsal is during Limitless!

Half Steps ~ Grade 3 hand chime ensemble - Rehearsal is during Limitless