



Bethel Lutheran Church

Christian Education  
Family Handbook

2015-2016

♥ **BE. THE. Love**

September, 2015

Dear Bethel Youth and Parents,

Welcome to another exciting year! The handbook is a tool for your family. It is our hope that you will find the information helpful.

September 2, 2015, we are having Volunteer Orientation for all teachers and volunteers. We will start at 5:00 with a quick lunch. Donya Blair-Tischer will present "Love and Logic" at 5:30-6:00 and the Sheriff's Department will give a short refresher course on Emergency Crisis. Wednesday School will resume on September 16, 2016 on the same schedule as last year. We are also starting a Family Sunday School on September 20, 2015 from 10:00-11:00. If you are interested in more information on the "Love and Logic" program there will be a meeting on September 23, 2015. The cost is \$50.00 per person for the program.

In order to ensure the safety of our youth, volunteers and staff we will be implementing an Emergency Crisis Plan for Bethel & all Wednesday Activities. All volunteers will be trained by the Richland County Sheriff's Department in dealing with a variety of crisis situations. Please be aware that we will be trying new things and adjusting them as needed to fit Bethel and Wednesday activities.

Our Christian Education students will be using the SPARK-Activate Faith curriculum and CONNECT from Augsburg Fortress (the ELCA publishing house). We are hoping that it continues to provide spiritual growth for our youth, teachers, families and the congregation as a whole. Bibles will be used in the classroom that go along with the curriculum and get the children used to using the bible. They will remain in the classroom and be used by the class.

We will utilize a co-teaching system for the classrooms. This means that each classroom will have two adults assigned to it. This will allow more people to be involved in the program, provide a better learning experience for the youth and keep consistency in our Christian Education classrooms.

It is important that the children be visible and be a part in the life of the congregation. Two of the ways we accomplish this are through stewardship and singing during worship. Each of the classes will sing at least two times a year and be involved in helping out in Wednesday worship during the year. Your participation is encouraged, and welcomed!

We will again be re-enforcing positive behavior this year. Students will be awarded coins for: attendance, good behavior, participation and memorization; coins may be taken away for inappropriate behavior as outlined in the behavior policy. The coins earned can be used once a month at the Way Cool Wednesday Store to purchase a variety of items. Teachers will keep coins in safe keeping for the students.

A Memory Work section is provided so please look at that. Students will work on the memorization in class, and are encouraged to work on it at home too. When memorized, they may recite them to their teacher or the Christian Education Coordinator for coins to be used at the store.

We are excited about the changes we have set in place and hope to get the youth involved in all areas of Bethel!

If you have **any** questions, comments or suggestions during the Christian Education year, please feel free to contact Lila, Pastor Julé or Pastor Erika. We would be happy to assist you in any way that we can.

Please pray for your youth, the teachers that are fostering the faith development of our youth, the Christian Education Board, the staff and the church as they continue with you in this journey.

In Christ,

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## **Family Participation**

Bethel Lutheran Church believes that Christian Education Ministries are in **partnership with families**. It is with that in mind, that parents are encouraged to play an active role in the Christian Education program. The children rely on parents to teach (regularly and as substitutes), lead music, assist in classrooms, be available at special events, assist with the offering, serve on the Christian Education Board, pray for young people, and help in other ways. Opportunities are available for short-term commitments such as a single event or project committee and for longer-term commitments such as the Board of Christian Education.

We are asking all parents to assist in their child's classroom or another classroom at least once during the year. This will provide parents with an opportunity to experience this fun learning time with their child. Parents are welcomed to participate in the classroom at any time.

## **Student Behavior Expectations**



It is the goal of the Christian Education Ministry that the programs offered are a positive and affirming experience for all those involved. The time spent together is an important and exciting time of learning about the great God who made us and loves us, our faith, ourselves and each other. We must understand that we are all uniquely and creatively made by God and so must respect and accept one another as children of God.

### What you can expect from Bethel Lutheran Church

- We will provide committed and prepared teachers equipped with appropriate resources
- We will provide a safe, engaging classroom that is conducive to learning.
- We will provide age-appropriate resources.
- We will bring together all of the above by diligent and prayerful study and preparation and respect for the youth and adults participating the program.

### What Bethel Lutheran Church expects of you

We expect that all behavior and language reflect respect and acceptance of fellow students and staff. **What does that mean?** That means that we are to treat one another with kindness and use encouraging words and actions at all times.

#### We can do that by:

- Raising your hand in class when you'd like to share.
- Always walking
- Always working together to clean up your room at the end of your time together.
- Always keeping voices low when dismissed from class so as not to disturb others who may still be working or those who may be in the sanctuary.
- Always encouraging and including all students!

### Examples of inappropriate behavior:

- Destruction of property-someone else's or the property of the church
- Disruption of the classroom- physically or verbally.  
This takes away from the enjoyment of your classmates as well as the teacher.
- Language that is hurtful, demeaning or vulgar



## **Bethel Lutheran Church Conduct Action Plan**

Attending Bethel Lutheran Church's education program is a privilege and it is not to be abused. Disorderly conduct or disruption in the class will not be accepted. The behavior plan outlined below will be followed:

### **BEHAVIOR PROGRAM**

1. BEHAVIORS THAT WARRANT AUTOMATIC REMOVAL TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFICE:
  - a. Swearing
  - b. Obscene gestures
  - c. Bullying
  - d. Physical behaviors e.g., pushing
  - e. Any unsafe behavior
2. BEHAVIORS THAT WARRANT ONE WARNING:
  - a. Use of iPods, phones, or other electronic equipment during the lesson or singing time that are not put in classroom basket.
  - b. Showing disrespect to the teacher or other students.
  - c. Talking when the teacher is talking or when another student is participating in class.
3. IF AFTER ONE WARNING THE STUDENT PERSISTS IN THE BEHAVIOR, THEY WILL BE ASKED TO REMOVE THEMSELVES TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFICE

4. FIRST OFFENSE:
  - a. The student will be asked to call a parent to tell them why they have been removed from the classroom.
  - b. The student will remain in Christian Education office until Wednesday School is dismissed for the evening, and the parent will be expected to pick up the student from the office.
  
5. SECOND OFFENSE:
  - a. The parent will be called to immediately pick up their child. The parent will need to come up to Christian Education office to pick up their child.
  - b. Parental accountability: Parent will sign a behavior form and will be expected to attend class with student the following week.
  
6. THIRD OFFENSE:
  - a. Case-by-Case basis.
  - b. Pastor involvement

2/14/2012 approved & accepted by Bethel Board of Education

## Schedule

Christian Education will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30. Children are to meet their teachers in their classrooms at the beginning of each session. Each Wednesday we will include announcements, praise and worship and a bible lesson. At the end of the Christian Education hour parents are encouraged to wait for their child/children by their classroom or on the ground floor of the church building away from the bottom of the stairway as it tends to get quite congested.

Way Cool Wednesday School store will be open once a month for the students to purchase items with their "I got caught being good" coins.

We live in an area with some unpredictable weather, so if Christian Education needs to be canceled due to inclement weather we will have it broadcast on KBMW 1450 AM radio.

## Offering

Youth are encouraged to participate in stewardship. All youth offering received will be donated to God's Global Barnyard & Camperships for Bethel youth. We will track class giving throughout the year. At the end of the year, the organization will be presented with the gifts that were collected.

Youth are asked to bring non perishable items anytime to be donated to the Food Pantry. A large box is located in the hall way outside the nursery. January 27 & February 3 have been designated "Souper Wednesdays" all students are asked to bring cans of soup for the food pantry!!

## Music



The youth will be having music during the Christian Education hour. There will be times during the school year that each age group will sing. Please refer to the calendar for those dates. A reminder note or postcard will be sent home. When the classes sing, please meet in the youth room 15 minutes before the service is to begin.

The Christmas Program will be held in December, and students will be singing during the worship services throughout the year. See the attached calendar for those dates.

## Memory Work



The following Memory work is presented as "home work". Families are encouraged to work together with their youth to learn the prayers, scriptures, and other memory work listed. (The classroom teachers will be helping as well.)

We will be using the music portion of the Christian Education hour to help the youth become familiar with the memory work, the memory work with an asterisk\* will be done during the music portion, but please review these at home!

Youth will be given the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned in Christian Education. Awards will be presented to youth as they master their Memory Work.

**It is important for our learning to expand past the walls of the church and into each home.** Memory work is yet another way Bethel Lutheran Church hopes to be a partner with your family. We are given this instruction in Deuteronomy 6:5-8, "So love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. Memorize his laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning. Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and foreheads to help you obey them." We are told in this scripture to take ANY opportunity with our children to teach them. We are told to write the scripture down to help us remember them. *We are not asked as parents to know everything, we are asked to use the tools that God has given us to teach our children God's Word.*

Memory Work is listed for each grade level. **Youth are encouraged to build each new year's knowledge upon the previous year's knowledge.** All scripture listed comes from the New Revised Standard Version. The requirements can be altered to fit each individual's learning ability. Please visit with your child's teacher, or with Lila, or a Pastor.

### **Preschool & Kindergarten**

#### **Table Prayer:**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, Let these things to us be blest. By thy hand we all are fed, bless us all our daily bread. Amen

### **First Grade**

#### **The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

### **Second Grade**

#### **The Ten Commandments:**

1. You shall have no other Gods.
2. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
4. Honor you father and mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his manservant or his maidservant or his cattle or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### **Third Grade**

#### **Apostle's Creed:**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again, he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

### **Fourth Grade**

#### **Scripture: Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

### **Fifth Grade**

**Service Project:** This can be anything done within the church. Examples are ushering, greeting, helping with coffee hour, helping with younger grades etc. Other projects may be done if they are given the okay with Laura, or Pastor's.

**Memory work:** Pick a bible verse from the following list (or if you have a favorite, let us know) and memorize it. You will also want to keep working on all previous grades memory work, as you will use them in confirmation!

### **Sixth Grade**

**Service Project:** This can be anything done within the church. Examples are ushering, greeting, helping with coffee hour, helping with younger grades etc. Other projects may be done if they are given the okay with Laura, or Pastor's.

**Memory work:** Select a Bible verse that has meaning to your life; one that encourages, strengthens, or relaxes you and memorize it. Write down the Book, chapter, and number of verse as well as the type of Bible it came from.

You will also want to keep working on all previous grades memory work, as you will use them in confirmation!

### **Bible verse selection:**

#### **The Beatitudes:**

Matthew 5:3-12 – "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the

peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you whom people revile and persecute and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**Matthew 19:14**

"But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and don't try to stop them; for it is such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

**Deuteronomy 6:5**

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."

**Romans 8:28**

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

**Luke 11:9-10**

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you, search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

**Psalm 67:1**

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us."

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and 13**

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

**1 John 4:7-8**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

**Matthew 22: 37-39**

He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

**John 8: 12**

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**Jeremiah 29:11**

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not harm you, to give you a future with hope."

**Philippians 4:9**

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

**Memory Work Practiced during Music:**

**Preschool-Second Grades**

**\*Song:**

Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong, they are weak but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

**\*Mealtime Prayer:**

Be present at our table Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we, may feast in paradise with thee. Amen

**\*Scripture:** John 3:16- "God loved the people of the world so much that He gave His only son so that everyone who has faith in Him will have eternal life and never really die."

### Third-Sixth Grades

#### **\*Books of the New Testament:**

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Acts	Romans	1 Corinthians	2 Corinthians
Galatians	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians
1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians	1 Timothy	2 Timothy
Titus	Philemon	Hebrew	James
1 Peter	2 Peter	1 John	2 John
3 John	Jude	Revelation	

#### **\*Books of the Old Testament:**

Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers
Deuteronomy	Joshua	Judges	Ruth
1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings
1 Chronicles	2 Chronicles	Ezra	Nehemiah
Ester	Job	Psalms	Proverbs
Ecclesiastes	Song of Solomon	Isaiah	Jeremiah
Lamentations	Ezekiel	Daniel	Hosea
Joel	Amos	Obadiah	Jonah
Micah	Nahum	Habakkuk	Zephaniah
Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi	

#### **\*The Twelve Apostles of Jesus**

Simon Peter	Andrew	James (Zebedee's son)
John	Philip	Thomas
Matthew	James (Alphaeus's son)	Thaddaeus
Simon the Patriot	Bartholomew	Judas Iscariot

