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Bethel Lutheran Church Christian Education Guidebook

Bethel Lutheran Church is a community of believers called by God to invite all people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, build them up in the faith, and send them out to be witnesses in word and deed to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To live our mission, Bethel Lutheran has several ministries available to serve you and your family at every stage of life. **Please join our community as we learn and grow in our faith.**

Dear Bethel Youth and Families,

This guidebook is a tool for your family. We are hoping that it continues to provide spiritual growth for our youth, teachers, families, and the congregation.

Bibles will be used in the classroom to 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.

**All are welcome at
Bethel Lutheran
Church to learn and
grow in faith.**

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

We will be reinforcing positive behavior. Students will be awarded coins for attendance, good behavior, participation, and memorization. The coins earned can be used at Wednesday Store to purchase a variety of items. Teachers will keep coins in safe keeping for the students.

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

In Christ,

Lisa Bassingthwaite,
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Family Participation

Bethel Lutheran Church believes that Christian Education Ministries are in partnership with families. It is with that in mind, that parents and guardians are encouraged to play an active role in the Christian Education program. The children rely on parents and guardians 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 longer-term commitments such as the Board of Christian Education.

God is calling us into the world together.

Faith Formation

Bethel Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. ELCA congregations seek to focus on lifelong faith formation in spiritual practices, respectful relationships, guided learning, and faith-filled service. Together with families, Bethel's goal is to journey with our children as they learn to live out Jesus' love.

Youth milestones celebrated at Bethel include baptism, the first Bible, communion, confirmation, and graduation.

Bethel recognizes that everyone's faith journey is unique. The age brackets are meant for quick reference. We encourage parents and guardians to determine what works best for their child's spiritual development.



Bethel journeys with you in your faith formation.

PreK-5th Grade

Christian Education at Bethel introduces youth to God's love, the Bible, and Jesus' story. We provide many opportunities for youth to grow and explore their faith. At Bethel, we believe learning should be active and fun. You can expect lots of hands-on activities, praise, conversation, and prayer.

Wednesday School

Wednesday School is held during the school year from 5:30-6:30 pm. Each Wednesday we will include a Bible lesson, music, praise, and worship. Children meet their teachers in their classrooms at the beginning of each session. 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.

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 and posted on Facebook and Instagram.

Offering

Youth are encouraged to participate in stewardship. The offering received during Wednesday School will be presented to local charities, agencies, foundations, and youth programs in the community.

Youth are asked to bring nonperishable items anytime to be donated to the Food Pantry.

Music

The youth will be having music during the Christian Education hour. There will be times during the school year when they will sing at the 6:45 pm service. A reminder note or postcard will be sent home along with posts on Facebook and Instagram to let you know when this is happening.

The Christmas Program will be held in December.

Sunday School

We share a children's message during Sunday worship services and offer a once-a-month Sunday School from 10-11 am. Our lesson is based on the Gospel for that day.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Each summer we hold a four-day VBS that is filled with crafts, games, music, and learning about Jesus. We also hold special VBS single-day events throughout the year.

Camps (Red Willow)

Bethel supports and provides camper sponsorships for Red Willow Bible Camp in Binford, ND. With several camps offered each summer, Red Willow is a community for students to hear God's call to live in a relationship with God and one another.

Wednesdays

4:45-5:30 pm Meal

5:30-6:30 pm Education

6:45 pm Worship Service

*Wednesday nights are
alive. Join us for a faith-
filled evening!*

Things to Know

Table Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, Let these gifts to us be blest. Amen

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

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.

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

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

Books of the New Testament

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

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

6-9th Grade – Confirmation

Confirmation, also known as Affirmation of Baptism, is the time when young people declare for themselves that they will live out the promises made for them by their parents and sponsors during their baptism. At Bethel, this typically begins in 6th grade with four years of classes, activities, and events for students to explore faith, life, and the church. Confirmation class is held on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 pm September through May.

Mentor

Every confirmation student at Bethel is required to have a mentor outside their family. Their mentor should be a trusted Christian adult whom the student sees living an active, vibrant faith.

Youth-led Worship on Wednesdays

Confirmation students at Bethel take active roles in worship on Wednesday evenings. This is an opportunity for students to grow as servant leaders.

6th Grade Year Requirements

- Attend confirmation weekly.
- 5 sermon notes over the course of the year.
- Participate in 5 worship services.
- Find a mentor and finish the 6th grade mentor booklet.
- Attend the worship mentor event with your mentor.

7th Grade Year Requirements

- Attend confirmation weekly.
- 6 sermon notes over the course of the year.
- Participate in 6 worship services.
- Attend the baptism mentor event with your mentor.
- Continue your mentor relationship and finish 7th grade mentor booklet.

Confirmation Celebration

Bethel's confirmation celebration takes place during a special church service every spring. Confirmands participate in a liturgy in which they affirm their baptism and their faith and express their desire to serve God and other people.

Wednesdays

4:45 pm Meal

5:30-6:30 pm Confirmation

6:45 pm Youth-Led Worship

To own their faith.

8th Grade Year Requirements

- Attend confirmation weekly.
- 7 sermon notes over the course of the year.
- Participate in 7 worship services.
- Continue your mentor relationship.
- Attend the funeral mentor event with your mentor.

9th Grade Year Requirements

- Participate in confirmation seminars held on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Make stole for confirmation.
- Attend confirmation retreat.
- Complete a Faith Does project at Bethel or in the community.
- Conduct a confirmation interview with a pastor or youth director.
- Write a Faith Statement.

High School and Beyond

Youth Group

After confirmation, youth group and youth nights provide students with opportunities to connect with peers, build community, and serve in the congregation. Many participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering, the largest gathering of Christian youth and young adults in the country that happens every three years.

Adult Education

Adult ministries provide fellowship opportunities and continued spiritual growth. Bethel's adult education programming includes Bible study groups, book clubs, special events and classes, and access to a robust library. Bethel works to provide fun, multi-generational faith-building opportunities throughout the year. All are welcome!

God is calling us into the world together.

Fostering a Safe, Positive Learning Environment

It is the goal of Bethel's Youth Ministry to provide a positive and affirming experience for all those involved. The time spent together is an important and exciting time for 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, as such we 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 through diligent and prayerful study and preparation, we will provide respect for the youth and adults participating in 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. That means that we are always to treat one another with kindness and use encouraging words and actions.

Code of Conduct

Appropriate behavior and common courtesy to pastors, staff, and volunteers assisting with Bethel Youth Education programs and fellow students are expected at every grade level. All students and parents/guardians must read, sign, and return the Code of Conduct annually.

Bethel Youth Ministry Code of Conduct

The following is a statement of conduct to be read and agreed to by your signature.

Respect of People: Youth must respect, listen to, and cooperate with all educational leaders as well as fellow youth. Bullying, harassment, and intimidation will not be tolerated. Negative talk, put-downs, and disrespect are not allowed.

Respect of Property: Youth will respect the facility where the activity takes place, others' property, and their own. Any form of stealing or using other's property without approval will not be tolerated.

Participation: We expect our youth to participate in the spirit of the event so they can grow in Christ and have relationships with each other and Christian adults. We will not accept behavior that interferes with the full participation of others' education or growth.

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will result in the following response:

1. **First time:** The leader will give a warning to the student.
2. **Second time:** The leader will call the Director of Youth & Family Ministries to give a warning and notify the parent(s)/guardian. The second warning may include time sitting outside of the activity.
3. **Third time:** The parent(s)/guardian will be called immediately and asked to come and get their youth. A conference will be scheduled for the Director of Youth & Family Ministries, parent(s)/guardian, and the youth involved to resolve the conflict. This conference must take place before the youth will be allowed to return.
 - Lack of improvement in the student's behavior may result in a request for a parent/guardian to accompany the student to each session or a request to teach the student at home.

Severe misbehavior: If the severity of the offense dictates it, church leadership reserves the right to send home the youth who is intentionally oppositional or repeatedly refuses to follow the Code of Conduct for any Bethel Lutheran Church or youth event without warning.

I have read, discussed, and understand the Code of Conduct. (Families can use one form.)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date