



Bethel Lutheran Church

The Annual Scoop



Everything you need to know about activities and opportunities for youth in grades 6-12

A note from the director...

Dear Bethel Youth & Parents,

Wow - once again it's spring and what a year it's been! We have now been in our new building for almost a full school year. We are thankful for the flexibility it has provided and the changes and additions

that have occurred as a result.

Some things never change, however, and as is the case every spring, the Bethel staff is starting to plan for fall, 2009.

As in past years, the goal of this publication is to give you the "everything you need to know" guide to the youth happenings at Bethel. It's important to us to help you with your

planning for the coming year by communicating Bethel's plans to you as early as possible. It's also important to update our records every spring as it helps us keep them current for planning in the coming year. As always, we strive to provide quality

ministries to support your child's faith growth, and we welcome your

suggestions to keep our offerings fresh and alive.

Please think prayerfully about your time and your commitments - where you can pick up a piece to add to your schedules and where you need to cut back - as you review the information and

mark your calendars. Then complete this year's registration packet, the activity registration and volunteer portion of the packet, and turn them in by the deadlines listed on the front of the mailing.

So go ahead - pull up a comfortable chair and give yourselves permission to *just sit* for a few moments in your busy day. It's my hope that you'll make time to read this mailing cover to cover now before summer comes and it gets lost among all the other flyers and brochures that will compete for your attention as you plan for next year's school year.

Thank you for cooperation - it helps us greatly!

Barb

2009-2010

Important Dates

- May 31 - deadline for returning the *Scoop* registration packet.
- June 11 - Magical Mystery Tour I
- June 14-19 - 8th Grade mission trip
- July 29-Aug. 7 - Christikon
- July 9 - Magical Mystery Tour II
- July 20-27—High School New Orleans trip
- August 10—13 VBS
- August 13 - Magical Mystery Tour III
- August 23 - Celebration Sunday and Youth "Thanks-a-Bunch" Car Wash
- September 9 - Confirmation Orientation
- September 16 - Confirmation classes and Hi League begin
- September 16 - Sixth Grade Connections begins
- September 20 - Rally Day; Sunday School begins
- October 4 - Confirmation R&R Retreat
- October 11 - Rite of Confirmation
- March 24 - Last confirmation class
- May 23 - Sunday School ends
- June 6 - Senior Sunday

Do you have questions? Here's your expert!

Barb Farmer
Director of Youth Ministry
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Registration Packet

due at the church office by Sunday, May 31

All families are asked to return the enclosed Registration Packet to the church office by May 31st regardless of whether or not your children will be participating in our Youth Ministry programming. If your youth will not be participating, please indicate that on the registration packet itself. There are several pieces of information we need for our records regardless of participation.

Parent Consent/Emergency Form

Rather than requiring that you fill out a consent/emergency form for every program that your youth attends, we ask that you submit a form once a year that will cover all Bethel on-site programming for our Grades 6-12 students, including Sunday School, Confirmation, Sixth Grade Connections, Hi League, etc. In other words, if you are receiving this mailing, you need to fill out the Parent Consent/Emergency Form.

Family Information Form

You may be asking why your family needs to fill out this information *again*. We, at Bethel, feel a strong obligation to provide a safe environment for all our families and it's important that we have current information on file in order to accomplish this. We ask that you update your family information completely every year, even if your youth will not be participating in Bethel's programming, so we can maintain our records accurately. This also saves you time in the long run. If your information on file is current, your child may choose to participate in an event spontaneously with a minimum of paperwork. And when a separate consent form is needed for an off-site adventure and our files are updated, you'll only have to sign the top of the form, refer us to our files for your present medical information, and turn in the form! A win-win situation for us all!

Participation Form

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

Parent Volunteer Form

Use this form to indicate in which areas you will be able to support the Youth Ministry of Bethel.

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Stepping Stones Ministry



As our children and youth progress along their faith journey, there are many constants that take place – Sunday School, confirmation classes, devotions, worship, prayer, etc., that guide them along the way. In addition, there are several very specific steps along the way that are key markers in their faith development.

The Stepping Stones Ministry has been created to intentionally observe these important steps, recognizing their significance in a child's faith life and offering the congregation, as a whole, the opportunity to celebrate with the child and the family as these steps are taken. At each of these steps, the child will receive a unique pottery stone to mark the occasion. Families are encouraged to find a special container in which to keep these stones in a place where the child will see them every day as a reminder of where they have been in their faith walk, as well as where they are going and to whom they belong.

Following are some of the special youth events that are offered at Bethel as a part of the Stepping Stone Ministry:

6th Grade Connections	Mentors	High School Trips
Prayer Friends	9th Grade Christikon Trip	wePOD
8th Grade Mission Trip	Confirmation	High School Graduation

Mentors

Meets: Several times per year - Watch the *Banner* and monthly *Scoop!* for dates and times.

Organizational meeting on September 9, 2009

All 9^{ers} (9th grade Bethel youth) are connected with a Bethel adult of their choice for a year of fellowship, service, and faith-building. Several events are planned throughout the school year to facilitate the growth and strengthening of a relationship between the youth and his/her adult mentor. This well-loved Bethel tradition is designed to assist in the faith growth of our 9th grade youth in preparation for their confirmation of faith the following fall.

Prayer Friends

Prayer Friends are an important part of the Bethel youth ministry. Every year, each 8th and 12th grade youth is paired with a Prayer Friend. The Prayer Friend simply commits to pray for their assigned student throughout the school year. Each youth is also asked to pray for his/her Prayer Friend. Students from these two classes are the focus for this ministry because of the transitions they will meet the following year – 8th graders as they enter high school and seniors as they move on to college. Adult Prayer Friends are assigned in the fall, after which they are encouraged to contact the student for whom they've chosen to pray. Please see the volunteer form included with this publication if you are interested in serving as a Prayer Friend to a Bethel youth.

Sunday School

Place: Barb Hanson Youth Center and Sunday School classrooms

Meets: 9:45-10:30 a.m. each Sunday

Start Date: Rally Day, Sunday, September 20



Grades 6 – 8 Classes

Grapple (6th Grade)

Bethel's 6th grade Sunday school class meets in a traditional classroom setting. Students "grapple" with real-life preteen questions and tackle the issues preteens care about most in this fun interactive course of study for preteens. See registration form to register.

Live & Learn: Question Everything! (7th Grade)

This 7th grade class, led by Tom Ett and Brent Kivell, is presented in a traditional classroom setting. Activities and discussion will relate to the gospel reading for the day and will help students see how the Bible still has relevance to our lives today. Instead of reading the Bible and finding out how it relates to their lives, students will talk about what's happening in their lives and what the Bible has to say about that. See the registration form to register.

Grapple, Junior Hi (8th Grade)

The 8th grade youth will also have a Grapple course of study of interactive activities that focus on their biggest questions about God and how faith affects their lives. Included with this class is a safe, secure online site personalized for this class that allows youth to connect about faith outside of their Sunday class. See registration form to register.

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Grades 9 – 12 Options

The following options will be available for all Bethel youth as indicated during the 2009-10 school year. Students are asked to register for one of the options on the participation form in the registration packet.

Sunday School Teachers'Aide – Grades 10 – 12 (younger grades may be considered if openings are not filled by these grades)

It's a commonly known fact that we all learn more about any given subject when teaching it to others. This principle is a primary truth that makes acting as an aide a growth experience for our more mature youth. As a Bethel Sunday school teacher's aide, youth act as a teacher's assistant or as one of a teaching team in age 3

See *Sunday School* continued on next page.

Sunday School, continued

to Grade 5 classes. As a nursery aide, youth help care for and provide simple learning experiences for babies and toddlers. Both options are available on a first come, first served basis and require a strong long-term commitment. Students are asked to carefully consider this option before registering. Our Sunday school staff counts on your consistency, so we ask that you be sure you can commit to being available most Sundays during the school year if you choose this option.

Breakfast Clubs – Breakfast Clubs meet Sunday mornings and are made up of one or two Bethel adults and 4 – 10 youth. A Breakfast Club may be made up of youth from the same grade or a mix of students from different grades. They may meet at Bethel or wherever the group decides (someone's home, a restaurant, a coffee shop, etc.) and are a place to discuss faith in our everyday lives. Youth may create their own group and ask a Bethel adult to lead it.

Bethel Youth Coffee Hour – This high school education option will be available based on interest and is offered to all 9th – 12th grade students. The hour will be a casual time for coffee (with flavorings & whipped cream – the works!), treats, and conversation. Youth are encouraged to create their own topics of discussion based on the previous week's happenings – either personal or newsworthy events – with an emphasis on how faith helps determine how we live.

Let's Talk

One result from past forums was some great intergenerational conversation among our youth and parents. Because caring conversation is one of the 4 Keys to building lifelong faith and because we want to encourage conversation among our youth and adults, we offer *Let's Talk*, three Sundays throughout the school year for youth, parents, and other Bethel adults to meet in the youth room for discussion around topics that affect our youth. A different topic is highlighted each session and discussion questions are provided. All high school and middle school youth meet in the Barb Hanson Youth Center for a large group presentation to introduce the day's topic followed by smaller discussion groups. Please consider joining our Bethel youth for some good faith talk on those Sundays!



See you at Sunday School

Confirmation

Bethel's confirmation ministry has a "longer and later" approach. Our children begin their first steps toward confirming their faith with CAT classes in 4th and 5th grades, then continue into middle and high school with 6th Grade Connections, traditional confirmation classes, and Confirmation Crossroads. Here are the details.

Sixth Grade Connections

Meets: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m., every other Wednesday

Start date: September 16, 2009

6th Grade Connections meets every other Wednesday night starting in September; please see the schedule on page 15. A team of parents and Bethel's Director of Youth lead this fun, interactive learning experience designed to connect the elementary and middle school segments of our longer and later confirmation programs, the 4th and 5th grade CAT classes, and 7th – 9th grade confirmation classes. The word "connection" also signifies the connections made between our youth, their parent leaders, and their God. To enroll in 6th Grade Connections or volunteer for the parent planning team, please see the registration and volunteer sheets.

Lord's Prayer Retreats:

Three Lord's Prayer Retreats are offered as a part of the 6th Grade Connections program. They take place on Sunday afternoons during the school year from noon to 3:00 p.m. and are led by the Director of Youth and parent volunteers. Each retreat focuses on a different petition of the Lord's Prayer:

Lord's Prayer Retreat I First Petition *Hallowed be Thy name.*

Lord's Prayer Retreat II Fourth Petition *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Lord's Prayer Retreat III Fifth Petition *And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.*

To help as a parent volunteer, please see the volunteer sheet.

Confirmation Classes for Grades 7–9

Meets: 7:00 p.m., Wednesday evenings

Confirmation Orientation: Wednesday, September 9 (classes begin September 16)

Traditional confirmation classes are offered every Wednesday evening from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. during the school year except during church holidays and school breaks. Please see schedule on page 14.

The confirmation curriculum has been thoughtfully planned to provide a strong faith foundation for our youth in preparation for their affirmation of baptism, which traditionally takes place in the fall of their sophomore year. Classes start with a large group presentation by the class teacher. Students are then divided into small groups for discussion, which are led by parent volunteers. The hour closes with a wrap-up of the information by the teacher.

Bethel's confirmation classes are open to all 7th – 9th grade students. Registration may be completed on the enclosed registration sheet. Parents - Please see the volunteer form in the registration packet to volunteer as a confirmation small group leader.

The following are the specifics for each class, including teachers and curriculum:

7 th grade	Pastor Tim	24 Stories You Should Know (Bible Study)
8 th Grade	To be determined	Luther's <i>Small Catechism</i>
9 th Grade	To be determined	Discipleship



Confirmation Crossroads

Confirmation Crossroads is a series of evening classes for our soon-to-be confirmed students to help them make the transition from confirmation student to confirmed Bethel member. Throughout a child's elementary and confirmation years, our goal at Bethel is to give students tools to equip them for a faith life that will last a lifetime. We feel that this last step before the Affirmation of Baptism helps our confirmation students begin to take ownership of their own faith life and gets them started on that lifetime journey. With that in mind, all sophomores meet during the month of September at the regularly scheduled time for Confirmation Classes on Wednesday evenings to each create a visual display of their own personal faith statement. Their work is then displayed in the narthex on their Confirmation Day. Parents help guide the process as they have throughout their child's confirmation programming. Please see the volunteer form included with this publication if you are able to act as a parent guide.

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Rite of Confirmation

Confirmation R & R - Sunday, October 4, 2009

Youth who are confirming their faith are asked to set aside the first Sunday in October in preparation for their confirmation service. Their parents are asked to join them in the evening. The specifics of the day are:

Confirmation Retreat: All youth who will be confirming their faith meet immediately following the late worship service and are bused to Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. The day is spent in preparation for their confirmation service the following Sunday. The youth return to Bethel at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Confirmation Rehearsal: Parents are asked to join their child at 5:00 p.m. to walk through the confirmation service with the pastors and youth director.

Confirmation Dinner: All confirmands and parents are served a dinner by the 9th grade youth and parents, followed by a photo session in the sanctuary. The dinner is a meaningful end to a full day of planning for the rite of confirmation.

Confirmation Service - Sunday, October 11, 2009

Every fall, an afternoon service is dedicated to the rite of confirmation for all Bethel youth who wish to confirm their faith (traditionally 10th grade youth). This service takes place on the second Sunday in October in the Bethel sanctuary and is held separately from our regularly scheduled services in order to provide the space needed for our confirmands, their families, and friends. Detailed information is sent to the confirmands and their parents in the summer months before they confirm their faith.



Retreats for our Youth

6th Grade Lord's Prayer Retreat

Three Lord's Prayer Retreats are offered as a part of the 6th Grade Connections program. They take place on Sunday afternoons during the school year from noon to 3:00 p.m. and are led by the Director of Youth and parent volunteers. Each retreat focuses on a different petition of the Lord's Prayer:

Lord's Prayer Retreat I	First Petition	<i>Hallowed be Thy name.</i>
Lord's Prayer Retreat II	Fourth Petition	<i>Give us this day our daily bread.</i>
Lord's Prayer Retreat III	Fifth Petition	<i>And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.</i>



Fall Confirmation Kick-Off Retreat

A confirmation retreat takes place each fall for all youth entering 7th through 9th grade confirmation class. This is a one-night overnight at Bethel that is a great chance to learn more about your confirmation journey and get to know your confirmation teachers for next year in a fun, relaxed setting. Details will be sent during the summer. This retreat is scheduled for Friday evening and Saturday morning, September 18–19, 2009.

2009 Confirmand Retreat

All youth who will be confirming their faith on October 11, 2009, meet for a retreat the week before the Confirmation service. See the details on page 7.

Senior Stepping Stones Retreats

Three Senior Stepping Stones retreats are offered during the school year for high school seniors and their parents, one in November, in February, and in May. These retreats are scheduled from noon to 3:00 p.m. on a Sunday and are a time for families to pause and reflect as they prepare for graduation. In the first retreat, families take a look back at the events and people who have blessed and helped them to this point in their lives; during the February retreat, we look at where families are at that moment in their transition toward graduation and what they want to be sure to accomplish as a family by the end of the year; and in May, we spend time looking ahead to the changes the future holds for them as a family. To volunteer for the parent planning team or senior quilting team, please see the enclosed volunteer sheet.

30-Hour Famine

For several years, Bethel's middle school youth have participated in a 30-Hour Famine in an effort to make an impact on our world. For this event, youth are encouraged to ask adults to sponsor them as they fast in some form (food, electronics, TV, etc.) for 24 – 30 hours. Proceeds go to World Vision to help alleviate world hunger.

The retreat is a way for youth to encourage one another and learn more about the challenges associated with hunger. The evening consists of games, interactive learning experiences, worship, and fun. It ends in the morning as the group "breaks the fast" with a morning meal.

Information about the 30-Hour Famine is sent to all middle school youth prior to the retreat.

High school youth are integral in organizing and leading the 30-Hour Famine for our Bethel middle school youth. Please see the enclosed registration form to volunteer for the high school leadership team.

Hi League

Meets: 2nd Wednesday of month – 6:30 p.m.

4th Wednesday of month – 7:00 p.m.

Start date – September 16, 2009

Bethel's youth in grades 10 – 12, or Hi League youth, meet the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of every month for faith, fellowship, and service events. Bethel youth are encouraged to bring a friend to these events.



The Mix was a new offering in 2008-09 focused on fellowship and worship for Northfield high school youth that will continue into the 2009-10 school year. *The Mix* is an interfaith worship experience that provides a place for youth from various Northfield congregations to come together with other teens who share their values of Christian faith. The evening starts with a meal at 6:30 p.m. which is followed by a contemporary worship service. *The Mix* events are scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month and move in a round robin schedule to a different host church each month.

The fourth Wednesday of the month, the Hi League youth meet for faith talk, fellowship, and service in the Barb Hanson Youth Center.

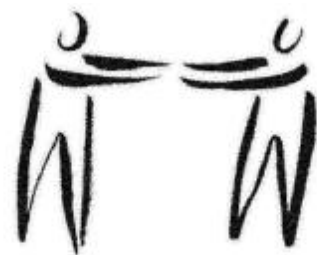
A senior planning team creates and organizes events focused on promoting faith growth through relationship-building experiences. Please see the Hi League schedule on page 15 for dates. Please see the volunteer form included with this publication if you are interested in being a part of the senior planning team.

wePOD—We are a Presence of Devotion

wePOD is a ministry of high school aged youth who have a passion for helping others and “being there” for people. This ministry can be compared to the BeFrienders here at Bethel, or to a Peer Ministry program, but wePOD is specifically designed for Bethel youth. wePOD is an important ministry in Bethel that helps connect the youth to each other and creates deeper friendships among peers. It is an important part of everyday life to help others know that they are loved and cared for, especially when life becomes hectic and crazy - this is primary to the mission of wePOD.

Interested youth are trained in interpersonal skills such as active listening and relationship boundaries. The group then meets together monthly to discuss how their ministries are progressing and to learn and grow from each others' experiences. Adult guides are present at these monthly sessions to assist and support wePOD participants. As a part of their commitment to others, the wePOD youth also lead several service and justice events throughout the year, including the March Food Drive and the 30-Hour Famine.

Training sessions are offered two to three times during the year to youth who are interested in the wePOD ministries. Attendance at training sessions is important. If you have further questions, contact Barb Farmer. If you would like to be a part of the wePOD ministry, please indicate your interest on the registration form.



We are a presence of devotion

Other Opportunities

Summer Trips and Fun!

Youth of Yahweh Summer Fun!

Magical Mystery Tours: Once a month during the summer, the Youth of Yahweh (grades 6 – 8) go to an unknown destination. Youth receive notice of the meeting time and place and anything they may need for the event, but no details – that’s part of the fun! Every event is a *mystery!* As in past summers, Bethel is sponsoring these events with several Northfield area churches. This year’s Magical Mystery Tours will be scheduled for the following dates ~ June 11th, July 9th, and August 13th. Put the dates on your calendar; you don’t want to miss even one! Parents will receive a letter of details along with a permission form well in advance of every tour.



8th Grade Mission Trip: Every summer the Bethel youth who have completed 8th grade have the opportunity to participate in the 8th Grade Mission Trip to the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. This trip traditionally takes place in June or July; youth leave on a Sunday and return on Friday. During the five days, youth have the opportunity to “spend time with the elderly in a nearby senior citizen center, partner with social service organizations who minister to the needs of the homeless, work with a local ministry to rehabilitate urban homes in order to help ease the affordable housing crisis, or assist an area church with a daily children’s program.” An informational meeting is held for all 8th grade youth and parents the October before the trip.

9ers

Christikon: Christikon is a ministry of Lutheran congregations that is based in an outdoor setting in the mountains of southern Montana which offers experiences grounded in and shaped by the gospel of Jesus Christ. A Bethel tradition for years, Bethel’s youth who have completed 9th grade participate in the “Mountaineers” trip backpacking as a part of their preparation for confirmation. This trip usually takes place in July. An informational meeting is held for all 9th grade youth and parents the October before the trip.

Hi League

High School Summer Trip: Bethel’s summer trip for youth who have completed grades 10 – 12 follows a 3-year rotation:

- Outdoor adventure trip
- ELCA National Youth Gathering
- Mission trip

The high school summer trips generally last about 7 - 10 days. Youth on this summer’s trip (2009) will travel to New Orleans to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering with over 36,000 youth from all over the United States and Latin America. The 2010 summer trip will be a mission trip focused on service to others. An informational meeting is held for all 10th – 12th grade youth and parents the October before the trip.

Celebration Sunday and Youth Thanks-a-Bunch Car Wash

At the end of every summer, Bethel youth and children celebrate their summer faith experiences with a Celebration Sunday. Youth who went on summer trips and the VBS children share music and memories and serve as worship servants. The youth also put on “The Absolutely Free - No Strings Attached - Thanks-a-Bunch Carwash” as a thank you to the Bethel congregation who supported their fundraising efforts throughout the year.



Get Involved!

YES—Youth Energized to Serve

The YES team was formed to organize and lead regular periodic service opportunities for Bethel middle and high school youth throughout the year. The team identifies needs within Bethel, in the community of Northfield, and beyond, and organizes events to encourage volunteering as a way to live as disciples of Christ. YES project details are advertised in the monthly and weekly Banners and in the weekly Scoop prior to an event. Youth or parents who would like to be a part of the YES planning team are encouraged to indicate their interest on the registration packet in this publication.



Fundraisers, Fundraisers, Fundraisers!

Bethel provides several fundraisers throughout the school year that create a time of fellowship and connection for the youth and the adults of the congregation as well as a great opportunity for the youth to earn some or all of their trip expenses. Information about each fundraiser is sent to all youth and parents well before the event. Funds earned are “banked” in individual youth accounts.

Youth Sundays

The third Sunday of every month is designated as Youth Sunday for worship assistants at both services. Youth in grades 6–12 serve as readers, ushers, assisting ministers, and sacramental ministers. Instructions and training are provided.

Youth Music Opportunities:

Youth are encouraged to share their musical gifts in worship as vocal or instrumental soloists or ensembles. If you are interested in this opportunity, please indicate this in the enclosed registration packet or contact Rhonda Reece, Director of Music Ministries. Youth are also warmly invited to be a part of the adult choir directed by Dan Kallman which meets in the music rehearsal pod from 7:15 – 8:30 on Wednesday evenings.



Ring Forth

Ring Forth is a bell choir made up of middle school and high school age students led by Jill Mahr. They rehearse Wednesdays from 5:30–6:15 from September to May. Prior music reading skills are required but not necessarily handbell experience. For youth who have gone through the Bethel chime program in BAM, Ring Forth is their next step. The group plays about every six weeks in church throughout the school year.

Brio

Brio is a more advanced bell choir made up of middle school and high school age students led by Jill Mahr. They rehearse Wednesdays from 6:15–7:00 from September through May. Prior handbell experience is required. Youth in Ring Forth may move into this group with instructor permission. The group plays in worship about every six weeks throughout the school year.

Get Involved continued on next page.

Get Involved (cont. from page 11)

Audio Visual Room Technicians:

Opportunities abound at Bethel for our youth to use their special talents, and this is a wonderful offering for youth interested in technology. Youth are encouraged to learn new technological skills and share them with the congregation by monitoring the sound and recording systems for Sunday and special worship services. Youth are given hands-on training prior to working in the AV room and are asked to commit to two Sundays of work a month. If you are a youth interested in this exciting opportunity or an adult who would like to be involved in a supervisory capacity, please indicate this in the registration and volunteer packets.



Vacation Bible School Assistants



VBS for children who will be 4 years old through those entering 1st grade in 2009-10 will be held August 10-13 from 9:00 -12:00 each day. There will be several opportunities for middle and high school students to serve as assistants and small group leaders during this week. Please indicate your interest on the enclosed registration form and you will be contacted this summer.

BAM Aides

If you grew up coming to Bethel for BAM (Bible, Arts, & Music) after school on Wednesdays and miss the activity and fun, this may be a perfect opportunity for you! Pam Vig is looking for some youth who are able to be here from 4:00 – 5:30 every Wednesday, one Wednesday a month, or just occasionally to help out as BAM youth aides. You can plug in wherever you have an interest – leading K Club (for our kindergarten children), games, or crafts. Think about this if you love kids and have a little extra time on Wednesdays! Please indicate your interest on the registration packet in this publication.

Youth Continental Easter Breakfast

Every Easter Sunday, the Bethel youth serve a continental breakfast for the congregation. Youth in grades 6 – 12 are asked to work a shift in the Fellowship Hall or kitchen that morning and to provide pastries. Parents act as supervisors at each shift. To volunteer as a shift supervisor or Easter breakfast coordinator, please see the enclosed volunteer sheet.

Senior Sunday

Every year, Bethel honors its high school seniors at a Senior Sunday worship service at the end of the school year. This service is planned by the seniors and gives the congregation a chance to celebrate and affirm them as they move on to their new adventures after graduation.



Bethel Bistro

Each week, many of us look forward to a break in our Wednesday schedules with a meal at the Bethel Bistro, served from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A variety of menu options is available each week, including a vegetarian offering — and peanut butter and jelly. Many families have found Bistro to be a wonderful opportunity for a simple family meal on a very busy night. Fellowship with other Bethel folks is an added benefit. Plan to make the Bistro a part of your weekly routine. A free-will offering is collected at the door.

Closing Thoughts

Whew! You made it! Congratulations and thank you for taking the time to read through this volume of information. There will be extra copies of this information packet 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 Youth Ministry at Bethel.

Partners in Faith

The Christian education of our children is one of the most important responsibilities we have as parents. Statistics show that the most influential factor in a child's faith development is whether or not their parent(s) model that faith. (Yes, contrary to what you might think, even your teen cares what you think!) There is no one more qualified than you to pass on your faith to your child.

It is the responsibility of the community of believers, the church, to support you and guide you in this endeavor. To be truly successful in developing the faith of our children, we as parents and church need to be in partnership. Neither the church nor the parents can do this important ministry without the other.

But That's Just Not My Gift!

Many of our Youth Ministry volunteers over the years have come into their positions with some hesitation. However, once they are on board, very few of them have regretted their decision to share of themselves and their time. It is quite likely that at the end of a volunteering stint you will feel that you got more out of it than the kids did. It is almost always a mutually beneficial relationship.

At Bethel we are committed to doing everything we can to make volunteer experiences meaningful and manageable. You will never be asked to do more than you are able. Isn't God's grace amazing!

Let's Just Wait and See

Are you thinking that you need to wait and see what your schedule is like next fall? Chances are it will be very similar to what your schedule was like this year. Don't wait to volunteer — sign on now and build your fall schedule around your commitment to Bethel and our children. If things become too hectic, you can always resign.

Put Your Schedule Where Your Heart Is

Please search your heart during the next two weeks. We have several wonderful, fun, and exciting programs in our Youth Ministry at Bethel, a ministry that has a place for you and your child(ren). Where do your gifts lie? How will you use those gifts for your own faith development? How will you partner with Bethel and other parents to nurture the faith of all our children?

We are all looking forward to another great year of Youth Ministry at Bethel Lutheran Church. It is our hope that you and your family will join us on this journey.



Hey, you made it this far. Why not sit down right now and fill out the enclosed Registration Packet? You'll make the Director of Youth Ministry at Bethel ecstatic and you can spend the rest of the spring with your feet up, eating bonbons, sipping lemonade, and watching the world go by!



Sunday School 2009-2010

September	6	Labor Day Weekend
	13	Jesse James Weekend
	20	Rally Day - 1st day of Sunday School
October	27	Sunday School classes
	4	Sunday School classes
	11	Sunday School classes
	18	Sunday School classes
November	25	Sunday School classes
	1	"Let's Talk" Sunday
	8	Sunday School classes
	15	Sunday School classes
	22	Sunday School classes
December	29	Sunday School classes
	6	Sunday School classes
	13	Sunday School classes
	20	Sunday School classes
January	27	Christmas Break - No Sunday School
	3	Christmas Break - No Sunday School
	10	Sunday School resumes
	17	Sunday School classes
	24	Sunday School classes
	31	Sunday School classes
February	7	"Let's Talk" Sunday
	14	Sunday School classes
	21	Sunday School classes
March	28	Sunday School classes
	7	Sunday School classes
	14	Sunday School classes
	21	Sunday School classes
April	28	Sunday School classes
	4	Easter Sunday—No Sunday School
	11	Sunday School classes
May	18	"Let's Talk" Sunday
	25	Sunday School classes
	2	Sunday School classes
	9	Sunday School classes
	16	Sunday School classes
	23	Last Sunday of Sunday School
	30	Memorial Day Weekend

Confirmation 2009-2010

September	9	Orientation meeting at 7 p.m. 9 th grade Mentors meeting - 8 p.m.
	16	Regular classes begin
	23	Confirmation classes
October	30	Confirmation classes
	7	Confirmation classes
	14	No Confirmation class (MEA break)
	21	Confirmation classes
November	28	Confirmation classes
	4	Confirmation classes
	11	Confirmation classes
	18	Confirmation classes
	25	No Confirmation (Thanksgiving Eve service)
December	2	Confirmation classes
	9	Confirmation classes
	16	Confirmation classes
	23	No Confirmation (Winter break)
January	30	No Confirmation (Winter break)
	6	Confirmation classes
	13	Confirmation classes
	20	Confirmation classes
	27	Confirmation classes
February	3	Confirmation classes
	10	Confirmation classes
	17	No Confirmation (Ash Wednesday)
March	24	Confirmation classes
	3	Confirmation classes
	10	Confirmation classes
	17	Confirmation classes
	24	Last day of Confirmation Classes
	31	No Confirmation (Spring Break & Holy Week)

All middle and high school Sunday School classes are encouraged to plan their own Service Sunday once a quarter. Contact Barb (507-786-8877) if you need service ideas.

Hi League 2009-2010

September	2	
	9	
	16	Hi League - Juniors & Seniors
	23	Hi League - Juniors & Seniors
	27	Wild & Wacky Welcome
	30	
October	7	
	14	"The Mix"
	21	
	28	Hi League
November	4	
	11	"The Mix"
	18	Hi League
	25	Thanksgiving Eve—Worship with your family!
December	2	Advent Vespers - Worship with your family!
	6	Hi League Progressive Dinner
	9	"The Mix"
	16	Advent Vespers—Worship with your family!
	23	Christmas Break - No Hi League
	30	Christmas Break - No Hi League
January	6	
	13	"The Mix"
	20	
	27	Hi League
February	3	
	10	"The Mix"
	17	Ash Wednesday—Worship with your family!
	24	Hi League
March	3	Lent Vespers—Worship with your family!
	10	"The Mix"
	17	Lent Vespers—Worship with your family!
	24	Lent Vespers—Hi League
	31	Spring Break—No Hi League
April	7	
	14	"The Mix"
	21	
	28	Hi League
May	5	
	12	"The Mix"
	19	Hi League - Senior Send-off BBQ
	26	
June	6	Senior Sunday
	9	Summer "Mega-Mix"

6th Grade Connections 2008-2009

September	2	
	9	
	16	6 th Grade Connections
	23	
	30	6 th Grade Connections
October	7	6 th Grade Connections
	14	MEA
	21	6 th Grade Connections
	28	
November	4	6 th Grade Connections
	11	
	15	Lord's Prayer Retreat I
	18	6 th Grade Connections
	25	Thanksgiving Eve - Worship with your family!
December	2	Advent Vespers - Bistro & Worship as a group
	9	Advent Vespers - Worship with your family!
	16	Advent Vespers - Worship with your family!
	23	Christmas Break - No 6 th Grade Connections
	30	Christmas Break - No 6 th Grade Connections
January	6	6 th Grade Connections
	10	Lord's Prayer Retreat II
	13	
	20	6 th Grade Connections
	27	
February	3	6 th Grade Connections
	10	
	17	Ash Wednesday—Soup supper & worship as a group
	24	Lent Vespers—Worship with your family!
March	3	6 th Grade Connections
	7	Lord's Prayer Retreat III
	10	Lent Vespers - Worship with your family!
	17	6 th Grade Connections
	24	Lent Vespers - Worship with your family!
	31	Holy Week—Worship with your family!
April	7	6 th Grade Connections
	14	
	21	6 th Grade Connections End-of-the-Year Party

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The Scoop
2009-2010

Bethel Lutheran Church is a body of
believers redeemed by Christ who

Call and welcome all people;

Act to serve our neighbors in need;

Respond with God's love to one another; and

Encourage spiritual growth.