



Road Map

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

Registration Deadlines:

May 20 for Bethel members and anyone currently enrolled in our programming

Inside this issue:

Acolytes	4
Limitless!	6
Bethel Bistro	4
Calendar	7
Holy Communion	4
Registration Packet	Insert
Registration Packet Information	2
Retreats	5
Stepping Stones Ministry	4
Sunday School	3

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy, amusement, and enthusiasm that I am carrying the torch onward after Pam Vig's wonderful 22-year run as Director of Children's Ministry. As a mom with three children currently participating in the children's ministry at Bethel, our family has been blessed by Pam's leadership. The first day my daughter participated in our Wednesday after-school program (BAM), I sat in the back with the overwhelming thought that "I want to be part of this!" Never in my wildest predictions did I imagine God would call me to lead the entire children's ministry four years later.

However, my passion for teaching, equipping, and building children runs deep. I believe we are most successful in this endeavor 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 His limitless power, wisdom and grace!

Drawing upon my background as a teacher, mom, and opera singer, we are bringing some new ideas to Bethel's children's ministry. You may notice more movement during Wednesday afternoons, more hands on tactile activities, and the return of a children's Christmas program, just to name a few. In case you are wondering if everything is changing...no. Bethel is blessed with a solid foundation in children's ministry, and I am delighted to contribute to this faith building in our youngsters.

Thank you in advance for your patience, support, and volunteer efforts as we move forward 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 Atzinger

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Mission & Vision for our Bethel Children

Mission Statement of the Youth Ministry Advisory Board:

Bethel Lutheran Church will provide a spiritual environment for each child that nurtures them in a transformational, life-long relationship with God. Each child will be equipped for their life journey through scripture, worship, prayer, and relationships with people of faith. Each child will be encouraged to discover their calling, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to lead a life of service.

Vision for Children and Youth:

- Provide a nurturing partnership between church and home;
- Help our youth find their place in the church and in our world by providing connections with other youth, children, and adults of faith;
- Involve our youth in the work of the church through worship, evangelism, learning, fellowship, and service as a path toward discipleship;
- Provide experiences that will allow them to develop and test their faith so, as they move into adulthood, they will have a faith that will go with them and grow with them.

“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 2018-19 school year are asked to return the enclosed Registration Packet to the church by May 20th.

If your children will not be participating in any on site programming during the 2018-19 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! CAT Class, 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 20

If you do not return your registration packet by May 20th, you can expect to receive a reminder email, as well as a reminder phone call or two before the end of May.

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 Rally Day, September 16, 2018

A nursery is provided for children who will not be 3 years old prior to September 1, 2018.

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 1

Our age 3 — grade 1 classes use the Hands On curriculum by Group Publishing. Classes for this age group are held in our East Pod. A 15-minute musical opening in the East Pod begins our class time each week.

Grades 2-5

Our Grade 2—5 classes meet each week in our Center Pod. The morning opens with praise music. The students are then dismissed by grade to their classrooms.

If you would like your child to have a specific teacher or would like your child to be placed in a class with a specific friend, please indicate this on page 5 in the Registration Packet.



Special Sunday School Classes

Each year our 2nd and 3rd grade Sunday School classes have a special four-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 four-week sessions, the class is taught by our Director of

Children’s Ministries. Our regular teachers for 2nd or 3rd graders have those four Sundays off.

See the calendar on page 10 for specific dates for both of these classes and plan now to attend with your child.

Children’s Christmas Program

After several years of enjoying Advent Programs done by our Sunday School children, we are moving back to a beloved tradition of old...a Children’s Christmas Program! Please mark your calendars now for December 16th at 2pm and 3:30pm at Bethel, with a dress rehearsal Saturday morning December 15th, 9:30-noon. All our Sunday School and Limitless! students may participate.

Sunday School Staff Opportunities

Age 3 - Grade 5 — Teaching Teams

For each of our age 3 — grade 5 classes we recruit a team of four adults who take turns rotating teaching duties. Each team works out their own schedule with the only requirement that at least two of the four be present each week. We have lovely spacious classrooms and an easy to follow curriculum and leader’s guides. Lessons and activities are prepared for you! You may sign up for any of these positions on pages 6 & 7 of the registration packet.

Student Bibles

Spark Story Bibles are used in our Age 3-Grade 1 classes. All Bethel children receive a copy of this Spark Story Bible in January 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. Spark Story Bibles are available for \$15.00. Children do not need to bring their Spark Story 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.
- Walk into the worship service with the pastors and assisting minister.
- Sit with the pastors and assisting minister.

- Light the candles on the altar.
- Distribute and collect the offering baskets to and from the ushers.
- Collect the glasses during holy communion.

Two acolytes are scheduled for every Sunday morning worship service.

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

Acolyte Shepherds

We need 4-6 adult volunteers to help our 4th and 5th graders put on robes and quickly review the acolyte duties from 8:15-8:30 and 10:30-10:45 each Sunday from September through December.



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 above.). 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.



Stepping Stones Ministry

At Bethel, we intentionally observe specific steps in a child's faith journey, recognizing their significance in a child's faith life and offering the congregation, as a whole, the opportunity to celebrate with the child and family as these steps are taken. Stepping Stones are given out for the following Faith Steps in a child's life at Bethel:

Baptism, Beginning of Sunday School, 2nd Grade Prayer Class, 3rd Grade Bible Class, 3rd Grade Holy Baptism Retreat, 4th Grade Holy Worship Retreat, 5th Grade Holy Communion Retreat, 6th Grade Lord's Prayer Retreats, 7th Grade Beginning of Confirmation Instruction, 8th Grade Mission Trip, 9th Grade Christikon Trip,

10th Grade Confirmation Service, High School Summer Trip, and 12th Grade Graduation.

*If your child has observed any of these steps at a church other than Bethel, you can order a stepping stone to mark it. Order forms are available in the church office or online at bethelnorthfield.org.

Bethel Bistro

Bistro serves a tasty home cooked meal every Wednesday from 5:30–6:30 p.m. during the school year (with the exception of Lent when we have soup suppers and Christmas and Spring Breaks). Peanut butter and jelly are also a weekly staple. A suggested donation of \$3.00 per person for this delicious meal is collected at the door.

Many families have found Bistro a wonderful opportunity for a simple family meal on a very busy night. Fellowship with other Bethel folks is an added benefit.

Plan now to make the Bistro meal a part of your Wednesday night routine.

A playroom, staffed by our nursery staff and located in the Center Pod, is provided during Bistro each week for children to utilize while their parents are finishing their meal and visiting. Parents are asked to check their children into and out of the playroom each week in order to keep our children and our building safe. Children not in the playroom must be



Children's Retreats

3rd Grade Holy Baptism Retreat

On April 7, 2019, all 3rd grade students are invited to an afternoon of learning centered around Holy Baptism. We begin at noon and end at 5:00. The activities include lunch, learning, games, video, and several special activities. Parents are asked to join us for a 30-minute session designed just for them at 4:15. The afternoon concludes with a joint closing with the children in the sanctuary.

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

4th Grade Holy Worship Retreat

On March 10, 2019, all of our 4th graders are invited to an afternoon of learning centered around Holy Worship. The afternoon begins at noon and ends at 5:00. The activities include lunch, learning, games and several special activities. Parents are asked to join us for a 30-minute session designed just for them at 4:15. The afternoon concludes with a joint closing with the children in the sanctuary.

5th Grade Holy Communion Retreat

On Friday night and Saturday November 9 & 10, 2018, all of our 5th graders are invited to an overnight retreat centered on Holy Communion. The retreat begins on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and ends Saturday afternoon around 3:00 p.m. Parents are asked to join us for a 30-minute session designed just for them at 2:15 p.m. The afternoon concludes with a joint closing with the children in the sanctuary. Retreat activities include a Seder meal, games, video, good food, and several special learning activities. Lights out is at 11:00 and sleeping is a requirement.

Mark your calendars

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 the Center Pod when Sunday School is finished.

Limitless! (formerly BAM)

South doors will remain locked until 5:15 pm

If your child is leaving before 5:15 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. Limitless! Deans can direct you to the correct location. (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.



Limitless!

Limitless!~ begins on Wednesday, September 12

Limitless! is open to any student in Kindergarten through grade 5 during the 2018-19 school year. See page 10 for a full 2018-19 Wednesday calendar.

Weekly Limitless! Schedule:

3:30-Gathering Praise music in Center Pod

3:40-Snack in the CLC

3:57 Chapel in the CLC

4:25-K-Choir

Grades 1-2-Rotating activities

Grade 3-Chimes/Rotating activities

Grades 4&5-Faith Stretch

4:53-K- & Grade 3 Faith Stretch

Grades 1&2-Alleluia Choir/Rotating activities

Grades 4&5-Chimes/Rotating activities

5:20-K Rotating activities

Grades 1-2 Faith Stretch

Grades 3-5 Carol

Choir/Rotating activities

5:30-Bistro Begins Serving

5:45 Limitless! Dismissal

Snack

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

Limitless! Chapel

Chapel is led by one of our pastors and includes fun action songs, 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 arrive in time to sit among the students during Chapel.

Faith Stretch

Parent volunteers lead a session that combines Yoga, faith-centered storytelling, and the children recreating the story with 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.

Serving Others Daily (SOD)

Brief service projects, with the option for children to get homework help if they prefer. The goal here is to serve... whether serving our own through school needs or serving others. Service projects are prepared for you ahead of time. Led by parent volunteers.

Chime Ensembles

Grace Notes and Half Steps are our handchime ensembles and are included as one of our rotating activities. Handchimes 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. Half Steps is open to our 3rd graders and begins in February. Grace Notes is open to our 4th and

5th graders. 4th graders rehearse from Sep-Dec. 5th graders rehearse from Jan-May.

Choirs

Vocal choirs are a fun component of our Limitless program. If your child is not able to commit to regular attendance at rehearsals or performances, or is just not interested in participating in music, please note that we have alternative fun, faith-building activities scheduled for your 1st-5th graders during this time. Rehearsal times are as follows:

Kindergarten Choir

4:25—4:50

Grades 1-2 — Alleluia Choir
4:53—5:17

Grades 3-5 — Carol Choir
5:20—5:45

Kindergarten Choir

In Kindergarten Choir we emphasize early musical experiences such as learning about rhythm, matching pitch, and following the Director. This choir will sing in worship services with the Alleluia Choir occasionally throughout the year.

Alleluia Choir

Singers in Grades 1 and 2 participate in the Alleluia Choir. This choir is designed as a preparatory program through songs, games, and movement. They will sing in worship services occasionally throughout the year.

Carol Choir

3rd through 5th graders sing in the Carol Choir. This group participates in worship services generally once or twice a month.

Choir and Chime

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 three buses from Benjamin Bus Company to pick up our Limitless! participants from Sibley, 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. This is especially true of our Limitless! ministry. 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!*

2018-2019 Children's Ministry Calendar

Sundays:

16 Rally Day
 23 2nd Grade Parent/Child Bible Class
 30 2nd Grade Parent/Child Bible Class

7 2nd Grade Parent/Child Bible Class
 14 2nd Grade Parent/Child Bible Class
 21
 28 1st Grade Parent/Child
 Share/Save/Spend Class

4
 11
 18
 25

2
 9 Music Festival Sunday
 16 Children's Christmas Program
 23 No Sunday School - Christmas Break
 30 No Sunday School - Christmas Break

6
 13 3rd Grade Parent/Child Prayer Class
 20 3rd Grade Parent/Child Prayer Class
 27 3rd Grade Parent/Child Prayer Class

3 3rd Grade Parent/Child Prayer Class
 10
 17
 24

3
 10
 17
 24
 31

7
 14 Palm Sunday
 21 No Sunday School - Easter Sunday
 28

5
 12
 19 Last Day of Sunday School
 26 Memorial Day Weekend

Wednesdays:

September 2018

12 1st Day of Limitless!
 19
 26

October 2018

3
 10
 17 No Limitless! - MEA
 24
 31 No Limitless! - Halloween

November 2018

7 Limitless! Super Service Day
 14
 21 No Limitless! - Thanksgiving Break
 28

December 2018

5 5th Grade - Field Trip
 12
 19 No Limitless! - Christmas Break
 26 No Limitless! - Christmas Break

January 2019

2 No Limitless! - Christmas Break
 9
 16
 23
 30

February 2019

6 Half Steps Begins
 13
 20
 27

March 2019

6 Ash Wednesday 5:15 pm Chapel
 13
 20
 27 No Limitless! - Spring Break

April 2019

3
 10 Limitless Super Service Day
 17
 24

May 2019

1
 8
 15
 22 Last Regular Day of Limitless!
 29 5th Grade Finale

Special Dates:

5th Grade Holy Communion Retreat, November 9 & 10, 2018, Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal, December 15, 2018
 4th Grade Holy Worship Retreat, March 10, 2019 & 3rd Grade Holy Baptism Retreat, April 7, 2019

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, BAM 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 20, 2018. 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 Children's Ministry Registration Packet can also be downloaded from our website at: www.bethelnorthfield.org.

Children's Ministry Shorthand

Alleluia Choir ~ Grades 1 & 2 - Rehearsal is from 4:53 - 5:17 during Limitless! Each Wednesday

Limitless! ~ Our Wednesday after school program

Faith Fam ~ A mixed age group of students who sit together in Limitless! Chapel and snack.

Faith Stretch ~ A weekly 25 minute session combining yoga, Bible-based storytelling and recreating of the story with movement.

Faith Building ~ A rotating 25 minute session that allows students to create their own version of a scene or item from a Bible story. Lego or other similar items will be used.

Serving Other Daily (SOD) ~ A rotating 25 minute session where students do a service project, with the option for children to be served with homework help if desired.

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

Grace Notes ~ Grades 4 - 5 hand chime ensemble - Rehearsal is during Limitless! each Wednesday. 4th Grade meets Sept. - Dec. 5th Grade meets Jan. - May

Half Steps ~ Grade 3 hand chime ensemble - Rehearsal is during Limitless each Wednesday starting in February

Kindergarten Choir - Rehearsal is at 4:25 during Limitless each Wednesday