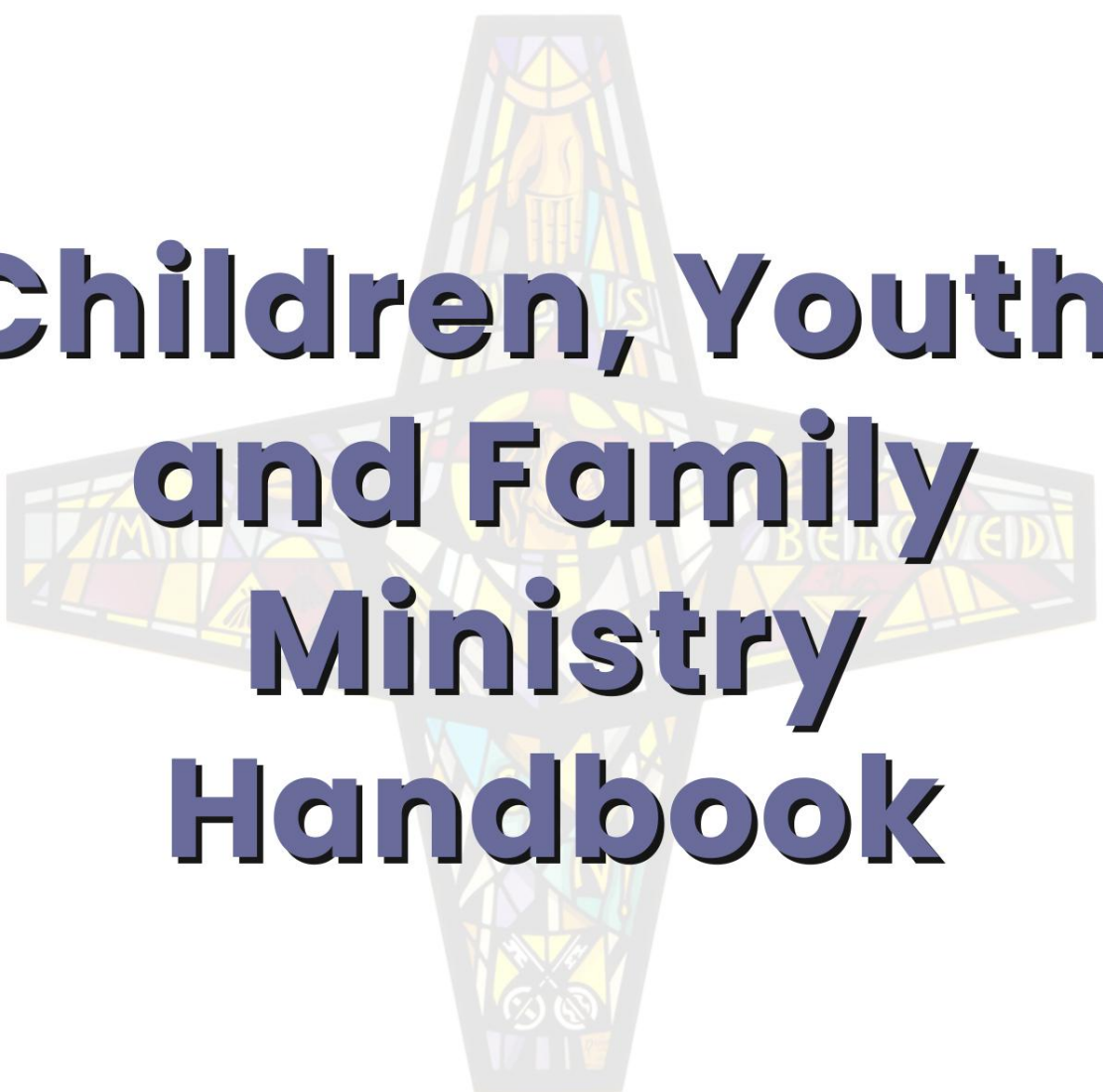




Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Handbook

**Transfiguration
Lutheran Church**

2026-2027

Growing Together in Faith and Community.

Vision:

Transfiguration Lutheran Church is a welcoming and diverse intergenerational community of faith committed to following the way of Jesus by pursuing spiritual growth, love of neighbor, and justice for all.

Mission:

We live into our vision by:

Gathering around God's all-embracing grace and love in worship
Expanding hearts and minds through learning and service
Building compassionate and respectful relationships
Partnering with the local and global community

Welcome Statement:

Transfiguration welcomes all who seek to experience the joy of God's love and grace.

We welcome all because God welcomes all:
people of every race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and relationship status.

Our unity is with Christ.

Therefore, we walk with each other through addictions, physical and mental illness,
legal and socioeconomic purposes, and other life challenges.

All are welcome here. You are welcome here.

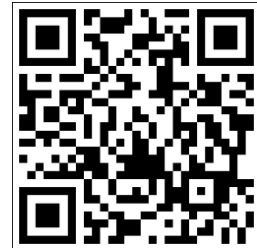
Contact:

If you have any questions regarding Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at TLC, please contact:

- Worship Arts & Emerging Generations: Pastor Hans Peterson, PastorHans@tlcmn.com
- Intergenerational Events & Specialized Support Ministries: Deacon Erica Larson, elarson@tlcmn.com
- Church Office: 952-884-2364
- Website: www.tlcmn.com

Registration

To register for Sunday School, Club 56, Confirmation, or High School Ministry, please scan the QR Code or go to tlcmn.com to complete your registration online.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8-11am	Nursery (6 weeks old – age 5)
9:30am	Worship & Sunday School
10:30am	Fellowship, Adult Education, or Intergenerational Events

Wednesdays

5-6:30pm	ELC/TLC Dinner
6pm	Devotion, Service Project or Seasonal Event
6:45-8pm	Wednesday Youth Ministry
7pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Music with Children, Youth and Families

Over the course of the year there will be some seasonal musical opportunities for different age groups as well as something for parents/children together. If your child or youth likes singing or playing an instrument please let Pastor Hans know: PastorHans@tlcmn.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: BIRTH - 4TH GRADE

Baptism

Jesus says in Matthew 28, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In this gift of God's grace, by water and God's Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world!

As children are brought to receive the gift of baptism, parents and guardians are entrusted with the follow **baptismal promises**: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer. **Baptismal sponsors** promise to nurture children in the Christian faith and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church.

To schedule a baptism, please contact Pastor Elise Pokel at pastorelise@tlcmn.com.

Worship and Nursery

We love to all be together in worship, and children are always invited to participate with their families. As the Church, we will pray, sing, engage in children's messages, listen to God's Word, join in Holy Communion, and be sent to share God's love with the world.

In addition, our children help collect our **Noisy Offering** on the 2nd Sunday of the month; and we invite children, youth, and families to serve in leadership roles in worship!

Our sanctuary **PrayGround** is equipped with pillows, books, fidgets, and coloring materials for young children and toddlers.

Our **Baby Zone** has a padded mat, books, and age-appropriate toys.

Our **Nursery** is open on Sunday mornings and is staffed by TLC Early Learning Center (TLC-ELC) staff and teachers, as well as volunteers who have received a background check and taken our safety training.

Sunday School

Overview

Sunday School is one of our best tools for growth and spiritual development for the youngest generations at TLC, and children in preschool (3+, potty-trained) through grade 4 are invited to participate.

Through Sunday School, we fulfill the baptismal promises we make as a community to support and nurture children in their faith formation.

Every year students get to immerse themselves in Bible stories, build the foundations of their faith, be in community with one another, and experience the love of God. Each Sunday is also an opportunity for us to share two important messages that our students NEED to hear—that God loves them, and we do too!

Time

On Sunday mornings, parents should dropoff children in their classrooms before class and worship begin at 9:30am. The children will rejoin their families in worship during the **Sharing of the Peace** (~10:10am).

Curriculum

- 3-year-olds to grade 2 experience the biblical story arc through Old & New Testaments stories from the **Spark Story Bible**, which is given to all 3-year-olds.
- Grades 3-4 will experience **The Jesus Storybook Bible**, which invites children to discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation – and at the center of their story too. Children receive **The Jesus Storybook Bible** in grade 3.

Objectives

That every child would:

- Experience God's—and the church's—love for them
- Learn to love and serve God and others
- Have fun and make friends

Please send all questions about Sunday School and Children's Ministry to Pastor Hans Peterson,
PastorHans@tlcmn.com



YOUTH MINISTRY: 5TH - 12TH GRADE

Club 56

Growing in faith doesn't end with Sunday School! It's a lifelong journey, and our youth transition to ministry programming on Wednesday nights, from 6:45-8pm. Families are invited for dinner, served between 5-6:30pm.

Wednesdays includes dinner, fellowship, games, large group activities, and discussions in small groups. Together, we will learn, serve, play, grow, and worship in an intentional community focused on growing in our relationships with God and each other while exploring the Bible, faith, and life.

Confirmation

Overview

Our 7th-9th grade Confirmation youth also gather on Wednesday nights for dinner with families between 5-6:30pm, and then Confirmation from 6:45-8pm with fellowship, games, small groups, service projects, and conversations about the Bible, Catechism, safe and healthy relationships, and Peer Ministry relational skills.

Throughout our three-year Confirmation program, we'll be asking and discussing big questions as we seek to better understand God, our faith, and their impact in our daily lives. As a congregation, we pray that TLC would be a place where youth can challenge, celebrate, and experience God's great love for them; that they would find a sense of belonging within the congregation while also developing a heart to serve in and outside of it; and that faith would be central to their life—now and always.

Objectives

- To experience, understand, and be affirmed in the baptismal promises of God's love.
- To be welcomed into a safe and loving community where they can explore faith and ask deep questions.
- To gain a better understanding of the Bible and one's faith.
- To be empowered to take responsibility for one's own faith formation.

Expectations

Because Confirmation is a time for our youth to take ownership and responsibility for their own faith journey and their participation within the church, we ask our youth to:

- Attend worship regularly on Sunday mornings and Confirmation on Wednesday nights.
- Share their gifts and time in worship by greeting, ushering, lighting candles, being assisting ministers, sharing their voice and musical gifts, and/or reading scripture.
- Consider signing up to be a Sunday School Teacher Assistant so they can grow as leaders.
- Serve our community and inspire our church in new ways that are meaningful to them

If an extended absence is expected or Wednesday participation is not possible, we have independent learning options for students who notify staff in advance.

Bibles

We will use *The CEB Student Bible* during class. This Bible is given to all TLC students as they enter 7th grade and begin Confirmation (and to all new students as needed). It is meant to be used as a lifelong Bible. Please bring yours each week!

Affirmation of Baptism

At the end of their third year, confirmands are invited to affirm the promises of God that were proclaimed over them at their baptisms and to be blessed in their responsibility of continuing in their lifelong journey of faith formation as confirmed, voting members of the congregation.

In preparation for the Confirmation Worship Service, our 9th grade youth will write a **Faith Statement**, have a Faith Conversation with a TLC staff member, and enjoy a special gathering with families.

High School & Peer Ministry

High school youth in grades 10-12 are invited to serve as Peer Ministers on Wednesdays from 6:45-8pm so they can learn, grow as leaders, and take ownership of their own faith journey. Peer Ministers model the faith journey and we encourage them to engage in activities with the younger children and youth in the congregation by creating a safe and welcoming space for others, by assisting with Sunday School, and by sharing their gifts in worship.

High School youth will also gather at other times during the month, schedule to be determined this fall.

Wednesday Culture & Traditions

Congregational Dinner: Every Wednesday from 5-6:30pm all TLC and Early Learning Center families are invited for dinner! Regular meals will include pizza and a taco bar. Yum!

Guests: Friends are always welcome! After the first visit, we ask friends to complete our online Registration Form if they'd like to continue participating. Please use the QR Code or go to tlcmn.com.



Behavior: By participating in Wednesday night ministries, each person agrees to treat all youth and leaders with respect, to listen to each other, to help create a safe space where all people are encouraged and feel supported, and to help one another grow as Christians and as people. If students engage in inappropriate behavior, or behavior that is distracting to those around them, they may be asked to leave for the remainder of the gathering. There is zero tolerance for bullying, harassment, intimidation, or violence of any kind.

Please send all questions about youth ministry to Pastor Hans Peterson, PastorHans@tlcmn.com



FAMILY MINISTRY

At Transfiguration, we believe that faith formation happens primarily in families, and we take joy in partnering with families in fulfilling the promises made at baptism. We are all in this journey of faith and life together!

Faith Milestone Ministry

A Faith Milestone is a marker along life's journey that says, "This is something important, and God is here, too!" Many of our milestones also have opportunities for families to join together for learning. Some of the Faith Milestones that will be marked this year include: Baptism, Bible Blessings, Touch & See Church, Communion Instruction, Affirmation of Baptism, and Graduation.

If you are interested in helping create meaningful milestone experiences for children, youth, adults, and families, please contact Pastor Hans Peterson, PastorHans@tlcmn.com

Intergenerational Events

Throughout the year, TLC will host opportunities for members and friends of all ages to promote fellowship, faith formation, and community across generations. Events will include Feed My Starving Children, Trunk or Treat, a Reformation Festival, the Christmas Pageant, Lenten Prayer Stations, a Pentecost Celebration, learning events, and more! If you would like to help shape and plan Intergenerational Events, please contact Deacon Erica Larson at elarson@tlcmn.com.

TLC Fan Club

Is your student involved in any activities? We'd love to support them with our presence and encouragement! The TLC Fan Club is made up of adults from the congregation who care about our students and want to cheer them on in whatever they are passionate about.

If you'd like the fan club to come to your student's event—sports, concerts, theater productions, etc.—please share their schedule and some preferred dates for our Fan Club to attend by emailing Deacon Erica Larson at elarson@tlcmn.com.

Parents Night Out

TLC and ELC families are invited to drop off children aged 0-12 for an afternoon of fun and care, while parents enjoy some time for themselves. Games, crafts, and snacks are provided, though you're welcome to send a meal with your child(ren) as needed. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Free will offering available.

Please Note: NO NUTS! TLC is a nut-free facility.

If you enjoy working with kids and would like to lend a hand, we warmly welcome volunteers to help! Contact Pastor Elise Pokel at PastorElise@tlcmn.com.

Partnership in Ministry

Ways for Families to Partner in Ministry:

- Make Sunday School, Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, and high school involvement a priority!
- Worship together at TLC as a family.
- Read the Bible, discuss faith in daily living, and pray together at home.
- Participate in fellowship and service opportunities at TLC and in the greater Bloomington community.
- Utilize your gifts and passions, and discern: how can we work together to share your gifts and skills, build community, and best contribute to and engage in the life and mission of the congregation?

Ways for Families to Serve in CYF Ministries:

- **Nursery Assistant:** Work alongside our paid nursery staff to care for children age 5 and under during worship, 9:15-10:45am.
- **Sunday School Co-Teacher:** Partner with adults and youth to share Bible stories, play games, do crafts, and pray with children one to two times a month. Children ages 3 through grade 4 meet on Sundays at 9:30am in classrooms, and join their families in worship during the Sharing of the Peace.
- **PrayGround & Baby Zone:** Help keep the PrayGround and Baby Zone clean and organized and replenish supplies.
- **Wednesday Night Ministry Leader:** Join a team of adults along with Pastor Hans and Deacon Erica to help create a safe, welcoming and joy-filled community for 5th-12th grade youth. Wednesdays include dinner from 5-6:30pm, followed by community building, games, bible study, meaningful discussion, small groups, service projects and prayer, from 6:45-8pm.
- **Faith Milestone Ministry:** Help create meaningful milestone experiences for children, youth and adults. A faith milestone is a marker along life's journey that says, "This is something important, and God is here, too!" Current Faith Milestones include Baptism, Bible Blessing, Communion Instruction, Confirmation, and Graduation.
- **Intergenerational Events:** Help shape, plan, and facilitate opportunities for members and friends of all ages to promote service, fellowship, faith formation, and community across generations.
- **TLC Fan Club:** Cheer on our children and youth by joining the TLC Fan Club! We choose about 2 events a month that we can attend as a group, wearing matching TLC Fan Club buttons, so that we can support and celebrate our kids at their sports, choir, band, orchestra, dance, theater, and other events. You can attend every event, or as often as time allows.
- **Lent Mentor:** Mentor a 5th-9th grade youth during the season of Lent. You'll be provided with a booklet full of topical conversation questions and meet with a mentee following Lent worship, from 7-8pm. We encourage mentors to join in worship at 6:30pm.
- **Parents Night Out:** We currently offer a once a month Parents Night Out, caring for children ages 0-12 while parents have a free night to do whatever they want! We'll need adult and youth helpers for these events.

If you would like to volunteer in a leadership role, please contact Pastor Hans Peterson or Deacon Erica Larson.



SUMMER MINISTRIES

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Children who are 3 years old through 6th grade enjoy five days of worship, Bible stories, games, snacks, crafts and adventure. Adults and youth who have completed grades 7-12 are invited to volunteer as leaders!

VBS 2027 is planned for June 7-11, 9am-12pm.



Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp (Camp Wapo)

We encourage Bible camp for ALL because it helps our children and youth grow in their faith and in community. Your time at Camp Wapo includes Bible studies, worship, campfires, swimming, games, great food, cabin activities, arts & crafts, and so much more!

Camp Sunday is on January 10, and information about Seeds Camp, Youth Camp, Senior High Camp, Family Camp, and the 2027 summer theme will be announced this winter. Registration will take place on a rolling basis from January 15 – March 15, 2027.

2027 WAPO DATES: June 25-27, 2027: Seeds Camp (1st-3rd grade)
June 27-July 2, 2027: Youth Camp (4th-9th grade)

Family Camp

Each summer, families are invited to enjoy a weekend of campfires, vibrant worship, meaningful Bible studies, swimming, time in the great outdoors, and their favorite camp games and activities. Family Camp Weekend is held at Camp Wapo in Amery, Wisconsin from July 30-August 1, 2027.

Wilderness Canoe Base

Experience the beauty of God's Creation on a canoe trip up in the Boundary Waters, where you'll get to paddle canoes, swim, cook over campfires, sleep in tents, worship, rock climb, hike, and experience life in the BWCA. Students who have completed grades 6-12 and adult leaders can participate in a Canoe Trip.

ELCA Youth Gathering: *Imagine More*

Every three years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America holds their annual **ELCA Youth Gathering**. In the summer of 2027, the gathering will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota! The 2027 Gathering is more than an event – it's a movement where young people and leaders come alive in faith, grow in hope, and move with purpose. This is where the church comes to life! Youth Gathering dates are June 27-July 2. Current 8th-12th grade youth can register, and will commit to participating in fundraisers, retreats, and monthly gatherings for team building and preparation.

Key Dates:

- **Informational Meeting:** Wednesday, September 16, 7:30pm
- **Mass Gathering Retreat:** Friday, October 2 – Saturday, October 3
- **Registration Forms Due:** Sunday, October 11, 11:00am



TLC YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE 2026-2027

Wednesday dinners for all ages will be served from 5-6:30pm beginning on September 23.

Wednesday Youth Ministry (5th-12th grade) is from 6:45-8pm unless otherwise noted.

Date	Wednesday Youth Ministry	Additional Information
9/16	Youth Ministry Orientation (5 th -12 th grade and parents), 6:30pm	9/16 ELCA Youth Gathering Info Meeting, 7:30pm
9/23	Youth Ministry Kickoff	9/20 Student/Teacher Blessing in Worship
9/30	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	9/27 Bible Blessing Sunday
10/7	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	10/2-10/3 Mass Gathering Retreat
10/14	MEA–Congregational Service Project Night @FMSC, 6:30-9pm	10/11 Youth Gathering Registration Forms Due
10/21	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	10/25 Reformation Festival, 10:30am
10/28	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
11/4	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
11/11	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
11/18	Congregational Service Project Night	11/22 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:45am
11/25	Thanksgiving Eve Worship, Pie & Christmas Caroling, 6:30pm	11/29 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:45am
12/2	Advent Worship, 6:30pm; Youth Ministry, 7pm	12/6 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:45am
12/9	Advent Worship, 6:30pm; Youth Ministry, 7pm	12/13 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:45am
12/16	Advent Worship, 6:30pm; Youth Christmas Party, 7pm	12/19 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 9:30am 12/20 Christmas Pageant in Worship, 9:30am
12/23	No Wednesday Youth Ministry	12/24 Christmas Eve Worship, 2:30 & 4pm
12/30	No Wednesday Youth Ministry	
1/6	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	1/10 Camp Sunday!
1/13	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	1/15 Camp Wapo Registration begins
1/20	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
1/27	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	1/31 TLC Annual Meeting, 10:30am
2/3	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
2/10	Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:30pm	
2/17	Lenten Worship, 6:30pm; 5 th -9 th grade Mentor Meetings, 7pm	Lenten Prayer Stations during Wednesday dinner
2/24	Lenten Worship, 6:30pm; 5 th -9 th grade Mentor Meetings, 7pm	
3/3	Lenten Worship, 6:30pm; 5 th -9 th grade Mentor Meetings, 7pm	
3/10	Lenten Worship, 6:30pm; 5 th -9 th grade Mentor Meetings, 7pm	
3/17	Lenten Worship, 6:30pm; 5 th -9 th grade Mentor Meetings, 7pm	3/21 Palm Sunday Worship, 9:30am
3/24	Holy Week: No Wednesday Youth Ministry	3/25 Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:30pm 3/26 Good Friday Children's Worship, 10am 3/26 Good Friday Worship, 6:30pm 3/28 Easter Sunday Worship, 8am & 9:30am
3/31	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
4/7	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
4/14	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
4/21	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
4/28	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
5/5	Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry	
5/12	Youth Spring Party	5/16 Teacher Recognition 5/16 Pentecost Celebration, 10:30am
		6/6 Graduation Sunday

Transfiguration Lutheran Church

11000 France Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431
952-884-2364 – www.TLCmn.com

TLC SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE 2026-2027

Date	Spark Story (Preschool-2 nd Gr.)	Young Samaritans (3 rd -4 th Gr.)	Additional Information
9/13		<i>Rally Sunday — All Ages in Worship</i>	
9/20	Creation	The Story and the Song	Teacher Blessing in Worship
9/27	Noah's Ark	The beginning: a perfect home	Milestone: Bible Blessing Sunday
10/4	Abraham & Sarah's Visitors	Son of laughter	Milestone: Touch & See Church, 10:30am
10/11	Isaac's Blessings	The present	
10/18	Free from Slavery	God to the rescue!	
10/25	The Red Sea	God makes a way	Reformation Festival, 10:30am
11/1	The Ten Commandments	Ten ways to be perfect	
11/8	The Battle of Jericho	The warrior leader	
11/15	Naomi and Ruth	The teeny, weenie...true king	
11/22	David & Goliath	The young hero and the horrible giant	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:45am
11/29	Jonah and the Big Fish	God's messenger	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:45am
12/6	Angels Visit	Get ready!	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:45am
12/13	Jesus is Born	He's here!	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:45am
12/19	<i>Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 9:30am (Saturday)</i>		
12/20	<i>Christmas Pageant — All Ages in Worship — No Sunday School; Christmas Cookie Exchange, 10:45am</i>		
12/27	<i>Winter Break — All Ages in Worship — No Sunday School</i>		
1/3	<i>Winter Break — All Ages in Worship — No Sunday School</i>		
1/10	Wise Men	The King of all kings	Camp Sunday
1/17	Jesus' Baptism	Heaven breaks through	
1/24	The Disciples	Let's go!	
1/31	The Lord's Prayer	How to pray	TLC Annual Meeting, 10:30am
2/7	A Storm	The Captain of the storm	
2/14	Jesus Blesses the Children	The Friend of little children	
2/21	Jesus Feeds 5000	Filled full!	
2/28	The Transfiguration	Washed with tears	
3/7	The Greatest Commandment	The Servant King	Milestone: Communion Instruction, 10:30am
3/14	Holy Week	The sun stops shining	
3/21	<i>Palm Sunday — All Ages in Worship; Palm Procession, 9:30am — No Sunday School</i>		
3/28	<i>Easter Sunday — All Ages in Worship — No Sunday School</i>		
4/4	Doubting Thomas	God's wonderful surprise	
4/11	The Ascension	Going home	
4/18	The Holy Spirit	God sends help	
4/25	Philip and the Ethiopian		
5/2	Saul to Paul	A new way to see	
5/9	An Angel Frees Peter	A dream of heaven	
5/16	Paul's Letters	To be continued...	Milestone: Teacher Recognition Pentecost Celebration, 10:30am
6/6			Milestone: Graduation Sunday

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