

TLC Children, Youth and Family Handbook 2024-2025



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:15-10:45am Nursery (6-weeks to 5-years-old)
8:30am Bible Study with preaching pastor
9:30am Worship & Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship & Adult Education or Intergenerational Events

Wednesdays

6:00-8:00pm Nursery
6:30pm Confirmation & Club 56 with Peer Ministers, Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00pm High School Hangout/Peer Ministry Training

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: BIRTH TO 4TH GRADE

BAPTISM

In Matthew 28 Jesus says, "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 they bring their children to receive the gift of baptism, parents and guardians are entrusted 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 help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church. Baptisms can be scheduled on almost any Sunday and one meeting with a pastor will be arranged prior to the baptism. Contact Pastor Elise Pokel at pastorelise@tlcmn.com.

WORSHIP & NURSERY

We love to be all together in worship! Children can be taught to pray, stand and sit with others during worship, listen to music and learn songs, come forward for children's messages, and receive Holy Communion or a blessing. Our sanctuary PrayGround is equipped with pillows, books, fidgets, and coloring materials. Our Baby Zone has a mat and age appropriate soft books and toys. Our nursery is open on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings and is staffed by childcare workers from our Early Learning Center and volunteers who have received a background check and taken our safety training. Our children help collect our Noisy Offering on the 2nd Sunday of the month; and on 5th Sundays we invite children, youth and families to take a leadership role in worship!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.

FAITH MILESTONE MINISTRY

Transfiguration Lutheran Church has a long history of celebrating faith milestones, and we will be reigniting that tradition over the course of the year! A faith milestone is a marker along life's journey that says, "This is something important, and God is here, too!" Some of the faith milestones we will celebrate this year include Baptisms, Confirmation, Bible Sunday, Holy Communion Instruction, and Graduation. If you are interested in creating meaningful milestone experiences for children, youth, and even adults, contact Deacon Erica Larson at elarson@tlcmn.com.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Date	Story & Scripture Passage	Additional Information
9/8	Rally Sunday! All together in worship, noisy offering.	God's Work Our Hands projects after worship
9/15	Creation: <i>Genesis 1:1-2:4a</i>	First day of Sunday School!
9/22	Noah's Ark: <i>Genesis 6-9</i>	
9/29	Children in outdoor worship – NO CLASS	Blessing of the Animals, first-timer Sunday
10/6	Abraham & Sarah's Visitors: <i>Genesis 17-21</i>	
10/13	Isaac's Blessings: <i>Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40</i>	Noisy offering
10/20	Free from Slavery: <i>Exodus 5:1-6:13</i>	
10/27	The Red Sea: <i>Exodus 14:1-30</i>	Reformation Sunday
11/3	The Ten Commandments: <i>Exodus 20:1-17</i>	All Saints' Sunday
11/10	The Battle of Jericho: <i>Joshua 6:1-20</i>	Noisy offering
11/17	Naomi and Ruth: <i>Ruth 1:1-22</i>	
11/24	David & Goliath: <i>1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50</i>	
12/1	Jonah and the Big Fish: <i>Jonah 1-4</i>	
12/8	Angels Visit: <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	Noisy offering, Advent Festival after worship
12/15	Jesus is Born: <i>Luke 2:1-20</i>	
12/22	Winter Break – NO CLASS	Possible children's Christmas program
12/29	Winter Break – NO CLASS	Lessons & Carols worship, first-timer Sunday
1/5	Jesus' Baptism: <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	Epiphany Sunday & Camp Sunday!
1/12	The Disciples: <i>Matthew 4:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1-4</i>	Noisy offering
1/19	The Lord's Prayer: <i>Matthew 6:5-15</i>	
1/26	Woman at the Well: <i>John 4:5-42</i>	
2/2	A Storm: <i>Matthew 8:23-27</i>	
2/9	The Centurion's Servant: <i>Matthew 8:5-13</i>	Noisy offering
2/16	Jesus Blesses the Children: <i>Mark 10:13-16</i>	
2/23	Jesus Heals Two Blind Men: <i>Matthew 20:29-34</i>	
3/2	The Transfiguration: <i>Matthew 17:1-13</i>	Transfiguration Sunday
3/9	The Sower: <i>Matthew 13:1-9, 19-23</i>	Noisy offering
3/16	The Wedding Banquet: <i>Matthew 22:1-14</i>	
3/23	Jesus Feeds 5,000: <i>John 6:1-14</i>	
3/30	The Greatest Commandment: <i>Matthew 22:34-46</i>	First-timer Sunday
4/6	Holy Week: <i>Matthew 21:1-11; 26:17-30</i>	
4/13	Children in worship – NO CLASS	Palm Sunday, noisy offering
4/20	Children in worship – NO CLASS	Easter Sunday
4/27	Doubting Thomas: <i>John 20:19-31</i>	
5/4	The Ascension: <i>Acts 1:6-14</i>	
5/11	The Holy Spirit: <i>Acts 2:1-21, 36-42</i>	Noisy offering
5/18	Saul to Paul: <i>Acts 9:1-20</i>	Confirmation Sunday

YOUTH MINISTRY: 5TH - 12TH GRADE

CLUB 56

Growing in faith doesn't end in 4th grade! It's a lifelong journey, and our 5th-6th graders continue their journey on Wednesday nights, beginning with pizza and fellowship at 6:30pm. We will learn, serve, play, grow, and worship together in an intentional community where we are committed to creating a safe space for our youth and their friends to explore the bible, faith, and life. We also hope that our 5th-6th graders will join their families for worship on Sunday mornings and share their gifts and time by greeting, ushering, lighting candles, and reading scripture.

CONFIRMATION

Vision and Goals

Confirmation is a time to uncover the mystery of God's promises and presence in our lives. It is a time to affirm the promises made in baptism and say YES to the God who first said yes to us. Our goal is that every student will:

- Know that faith is a journey lived in a community experiencing fellowship, service, worship, and prayer, while entering into one another's joy and suffering

- Experience scripture as a living example of God's ongoing and faithful promises
- Experience Jesus as a friend and model of a faithful life
- Experience the Holy Spirit as the very real and mysterious presence of God at work in the world
- Think about their gifts and talents and how they can be used to love and serve others

Worship, Learning Experiences, and Expectations

Our Confirmation youth gather from 6:30-8pm on Wednesday nights for pizza, fellowship, games, small groups, service projects, and conversations about the Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, safe and healthy relationships, vocation, spiritual gifts, and important life questions. Friends are welcome! After the first visit, we ask friends to bring back a completed Registration Form and Medical Form if they'd like to continue their participation.

Confirmation is a time for our youth to take responsibility for their own faith journey, and their commitment to participate in a community comes with expectations that will encourage conversation and accountability. We ask our youth to:

- Actively participate in worship on Sunday mornings and Confirmation on Wednesday nights.
- Share their gifts and time in worship by greeting, ushering, lighting candles, and reading scripture. Grow as leaders by signing up to be a Sunday School Teacher Assistant.
- Serve our church and community.

We want you here as often as possible! But we understand that families have commitments outside of this faith community and we want to support you in all aspects of your faith and daily life. We have independent learning options for youth who must be absent for extended periods of time.

Affirmation of Baptism

In 9th grade, our confirmation youth will write a Faith Statement, have a Faith Conversation with Deacon Erica Larson, and experience a special confirmation gathering in preparation for the Confirmation Worship Service. The 2025 service is on Sunday, May 18, 9:30am!

YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

September:

- 9/18 Youth Ministry Kickoff & Orientation
- 9/25 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH

October:

- 10/2 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 10/9 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 10/16 MEA – Optional Game & Movie Night
- 10/23 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 10/30 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH

November:

- 11/6 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 11/13 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 11/20 Youth Service Project Night
- 11/27 Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie, 6:30pm

December:

- 12/4 Advent Worship, 6:30pm
Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH, 7pm
- 12/8 Intergenerational Advent Festival
- 12/11 Advent Worship, 6:30pm
Youth Christmas Party, 7pm
- 12/18 Advent Worship, 6:30pm
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship 2:30 & 4:00pm
- 12/25 Christmas Day – no programming

January:

- 1/8 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 1/15 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 1/22 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 1/29 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH

February

- 2/5 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 2/12 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 2/19 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 2/26 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH

March & April

- 3/5 Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:30pm
- 3/12-4/6 Lent Worship, 6:30pm
Mentor Meetings, 7:00pm
- 4/13 Palm Sunday Worship, 9:30am
- 4/17 Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:30pm
- 4/18 Children's Good Friday Worship, 10:30am
Good Friday Worship, 7:00pm
- 4/20 Easter Sunday Worship, 8:30am & 10:00am
- 4/23 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 4/30 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH

May:

- 5/7 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, HSH
- 5/14 Youth Spring Party

Peer Ministry

TLC Peer Ministry offers leadership and community connection for post-confirmation students. Peer Ministers model the faith journey and engage in activities with younger children and youth in the congregation. They also have opportunities for training and Peer Ministry gatherings outside of their leadership commitments.

FAMILY MINISTRY AND SUMMER EXPERIENCES

We believe that faith formation happens primarily in families. At Transfiguration Lutheran Church, we see our role as one of partnering with families in fulfilling the promises made at baptism. We are all on this journey together!

Some ways 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 and pray together at home.
- Participate in the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service at TLC.
- Find a good fit for your gifts and passions. In what ways can you contribute to our community? In addition to our ministries with children and youth, there are many opportunities throughout the congregation to be involved in meaningful ways!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

3-year-old through 6th grade grads enjoy five days of worship, Bible stories, games, snacks, crafts and adventure; and 7th-12th grade grads and adults serve as leaders! VBS 2025 is June 9-13, 9:00am-12:00pm.

LAKE WAPOGASSET LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP

We encourage Bible camp for ALL because it helps our youth grow in their faith, and creates a tight knit community. Camp includes Bible studies, worship, campfires, swimming, games, cabin activities, arts & crafts, and so much more! Information about Family Camp, Grandparent/Kid Camp, and the summer theme announced in January.

2025 WAPO DATES: *Seeds Camp (1st-3rd grade grads), June 20-22*
 Youth (4th-9th grade grads) & Senior High (10th-12th grade grads), June 22-27

WILDERNESS CANOE BASE

All ages can stay at Wilderness Canoe Base for **Family Camp**, where you'll have options such as day trips paddling canoes, a night out on trail, rock climbing, swimming, campfires, worship, crafts, hiking and more. It's a great option for families. A traditional **Canoe Trip** takes you out on trail to paddle and portage, swim, fish, sleep in tents, cook over a campfire, and experience life in the BWCA. 6th-12th grade grads and adults can participate in a Canoe Trip. If you have an interest in Family Camp or a Canoe Trip, please contact Deacon Erica Larson.

YOUTH SERVICE TRIP

This summer, our high school youth will become the hands and feet of Christ during a service learning trip. These experiences include prayer, worship, devotions, working alongside others in a community, and experiencing God in profound and life changing ways. This fall, we will determine our service trip location and share details about registration. Participants and leaders will commit to participating in fundraisers and monthly gatherings for team building and preparation.



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