



Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Handbook

**Transfiguration
Lutheran Church**

2025-2026

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:

- Youth Ministry: Deacon Erica Larson, elarson@tlcmn.com
- Children's Ministry: Pastor Joe Orner, pastorjoe@tlcmn.com
- Church Office: 952-884-2364
- Website: www.tlcmn.com

Registration

To register for Sunday School, Club 567, Confirmation, or High School Ministry, please scan the QR Code or go to tlcmn.com to complete your registration online.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:00-11 am Nursery (6 weeks old – age 5)
9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship, Adult Education,
or Intergenerational Events

Wednesdays

6:00-8:00pm Nursery (by request only)
6:30-8:00pm Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry;
Adult Choir Rehearsal

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 Wednesday evenings and is staffed by 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

- Preschoolers and kindergarteners experience the biblical story arc through Old & New Testaments stories from the **Spark Story Bible**.
- Grades 1-2 will learn those same stories through **Bible Live**, where they'll work together to create a skit of each week's story, sometimes presenting the skit in Sunday School or worship.
- Grades 3-4 will explore faith and life relational skills through our **Young Samaritans** program.

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 Joe Orner at pastorjoe@tlcmn.com.



YOUTH MINISTRY: 5TH - 12TH GRADE

Club 567

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 6:30-8pm.

Every night includes pizza, fellowship, 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.

This year, our 7th grade confirmation youth will join with grades 5-6 for our **Young Samaritans** program, where they'll grow as leaders, dig deeper in their faith, and explore what it means to live out their faith in daily life.

Confirmation

Overview

Our Confirmation youth gather from 6:30-8pm on Wednesday nights for pizza, 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 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, 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, we have independent learning options for students who notify staff in advance.

Bibles

Every week we will use the *CEB Study 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 confirmation youth will write a **Faith Statement**, have a Faith Conversation with a TLC staff member, and enjoy a special gathering with families.

Confirmation Worship will take place on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

Peer Ministry

Our high school youth will gather on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm for pizza, fellowship, games, service, and learning. They'll experience *Peer Ministry Relational Skills* training, and the *Cherish All Children Safe & Healthy Relationships Guide*. This year, our 8th-9th grade confirmation youth will join with 10th-12th graders for this **Peer Ministry** learning, growing as leaders while they 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, and by assisting with Sunday School.

Peer Ministers will also gather one Sunday a month after worship for fellowship, learning, and service opportunities.

Wednesday Culture & Traditions

Pizza: A \$5 donation is appreciated to help cover the cost of pizza, beverages and snacks each week.

Attendance: If you will be absent, or not eating pizza, please email Deacon Erica (elarson@tlcmn.com) or Pastor Joe (pastorjoe@tlcmn.com) by 4pm on Wednesday afternoons.

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



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.

TLC Fan Club: We want to support you in all aspects of your faith and daily life, so please send us your activity schedules so that we can cheer you on in the things you love to do outside of TLC!

Please send all questions about youth ministry to Deacon Erica Larson at elarson@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, Communion Instruction, the Rite of Confirmation, Graduation, and more.

If you are interested in helping create meaningful milestone experiences for children, youth, adults, and families, 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 crew 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!

Picnic & Play

During warm weather months we gather by the playground once a month after Sunday morning worship. Bring snacks/lunch and a blanket, and we'll enjoy a picnic and time together! The playground will be open, and there will be yard games and sidewalk chalk available. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's safety and supervision. All ages are welcome!

Intergenerational Events

Throughout the year, TLC will host events for members and friends of all ages to promote fellowship and community across generations. Events will include Trunk or Treat, a Reformation Festival, the Christmas Program, an AI learning event, and more!

Partnership in Ministry

Ways for Families to Partner in Ministry:

- Make Sunday School, Club 567, 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 Deacon Erica Larson and Pastor Joe Orner to help create a safe, welcoming and joy-filled community for 5th-12th grade youth. Wednesdays include pizza at 6:30pm, followed by community building, games, bible study, meaningful discussion, small groups, service projects and prayer, ending at 8pm.
- **Sunday High School Ministry Leader:** Join Deacon Erica Larson and the high school youth one Sunday a month following worship for food, fellowship and faith formation.
- **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 Communion Instruction, Confirmation, and Graduation.
- **TLC Fan Club:** Cheer on our children and youth by joining the TLC Fan Club! We choose 2-4 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.
- **S.W.A.T. Team:** We always need adults who can Serve Willingly, Although Temporarily (S.W.A.T.), picking up supplies, making food, helping with intergenerational events and service projects, filling in as needed!

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



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 2026 is planned for June 8-12, 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!

Information about Seeds Camp, Youth Camp, Senior High Camp, Family Camp, and the 2026 summer theme will be announced this winter. Registration will take place on a rolling basis from January 15 – February 15, 2026.

2026 WAPO DATES: *June 19-21, 2026: Seeds Camp (1st-3rd grade)*
 June 21-26, 2026: Youth Camp (4th-9th grade)
 Senior High Camp (10th-12th 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 traditionally held at Camp Wapo in Amery, Wisconsin, or at Wilderness Canoe Base near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota.

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.

Youth Service Trip

Current 8-12 graders will become the hands and feet of Christ during a service-learning trip in the **summer of 2026**. The week will include prayer, worship, devotions, working alongside others in community, and experiencing God in profound and life-changing ways.

This fall, we will determine our service trip location and share details about registration. In preparation for the experience and to grow as a team, students and adult leaders will commit to participating in fundraisers and monthly gatherings.



TLC YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE 2025-2026

September

- 9/17 Youth Ministry Kickoff & Orientation
- 9/24 Club 56, Confirmation, Peer Ministry

October

- 10/1 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 10/8 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 10/15 MEA – Optional Service Night @ FMSC
- 10/22 Becoming Real: Special Event, 6:20-8pm
- 10/29 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry

November

- 11/5 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 11/12 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 11/19 Youth Service Project Night
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie, 6:30pm

December

- 12/3 Advent Worship, 6:30pm
Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, 7pm
- 12/10 Advent Worship, 6:30pm
Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry, 7pm
- 12/17 Advent Worship, 6:30pm
Youth Christmas Party, 7pm
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship 2:30 & 4:00pm

January

- 1/7 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 1/14 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 1/21 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 1/28 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry

February

- 2/4 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 2/11 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 2/18 Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:30pm
- 2/25 - 3/25
Lenten Midweek Worship, 6:30pm
5th-9th grade Mentor Meetings, 7pm
10th-12th grade Peer Ministry, 7pm

March

- 3/29 Palm Sunday Worship, 9:30am

April

- 4/2 Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:30pm
- 4/3 Good Friday Children's Worship, 10am
Good Friday Worship, 7:00pm
- 4/5 Easter Sunday Worship, 8am & 9:30am
- 4/8 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 4/15 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 4/22 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 4/29 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry

May

- 5/6 Club 567, Confirmation, Peer Ministry
- 5/13 Youth Spring Party

TLC SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE 2025-2026

Date	Spark Story (Preschool-2 nd Gr.)	Young Samaritans (3 rd -4 th Gr.)	Additional Information
9/7/25	Sunday School Teacher Training, 10:45am		
9/14	Rally Sunday — All Ages in Worship		
9/21	Adam and Eve	Introduction to Young Samaritans	Milestone: Student/Teacher Blessing in Worship; Touch & See Church, 10:30am
9/28	The First Sin	Young Samaritan Experience	Milestone: Bible Blessing Sunday
10/5	Joseph and His Brothers	WHEAT-ing	
10/12	Baby Moses	Everyone Has a Name	
10/19	The Burning Bush	The Well: Learn to Listen...	
10/26	Deborah	Listening	Reformation Festival, 10:30am
11/2	God Calls Samuel	Listening Some More	
11/9	David is Chosen	Listening One More Time	
11/16	Queen Esther	Spirit Nudges: Nonverbal Listening	
11/23	Daniel and the Lions	Ask: Questions That Care	
11/30	Angels Visit	What is Empathy?	Christmas Program Rehearsal, 10:45am
12/7	Mary Visits Elizabeth	Empathy for Life's Lcks	Christmas Program Rehearsal, 10:45am
12/14	Jesus Is Born	Great Conversations	Christmas Program Rehearsal, 10:45am
12/20	Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal, 9:30am (Saturday)		
12/21	Christmas Program – All Ages in Worship – No Sunday School		
12/28	Winter Break – All Ages in Worship – No Sunday School		
1/4	Winter Break – All Ages in Worship – No Sunday School – Epiphany Party, 10:30am		
1/11	Simeon and Anna	Wonder Mores	Camp Sunday
1/18	Boy at the Temple	Choose Kindness	
1/25	John the Baptist	Kindness Rocks	TLC Annual Meeting, 10:30am
2/1	Jesus Goes to Nazareth	Even More Kindness	
2/8	The Disciples	Dealing with Conflict	
2/15	Four Friends	Conflict: Healthy or Unhealthy	
2/22	Ten Men Healed	Superpower of Encouragement	
3/1	The Good Samaritan	Adults to Trust	
3/8	The Lost Sheep & Lost Coin	Good Decisions	Milestone: Communion Instruction, 10:30am
3/15	The Prodigal Son	Decisions: Thou Shall Not Should	
3/22	Mary and Martha	Journey: Choices, Changes, Challenges	
3/29	Palm Sunday – All Ages in Worship; Palm Procession, 9:30am – No Sunday School		
4/5	Easter Sunday – All Ages in Worship – No Sunday School		
4/12	The Empty Tomb	Well Aware: Community Aware	
4/19	The Road to Emmaus	Plan: Mission Possible	AI Intergenerational Learning Event, 10:30am
4/26	The Holy Spirit	Invite: Come and See	
5/3	Early Believers	Welcome: Surprising Hospitality	
5/10	Lydia	Hurt: Welcoming the Unwelcome	
5/17	Paul and Silas	Opening: Big Doors	Last day of Sunday School Milestone: Teacher Recognition
5/24	--	--	
5/31	--	--	Milestone: Confirmation Sunday
6/7	--	--	Milestone: Graduation Sunday

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