

Zion Lutheran Church Children's Ministry Handbook 2020-2021

Engaging Families to Live the Legacy of Faith

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord." Psalm 78:4



413 East Avenue D

Bismarck, ND 58501

Website: zionbismarck.org

App: Search "Zion Bismarck" in App Store

Facebook: "Zion Lutheran Church" @zionbismarck

Please find our closed Facebook page:

"Zion Sunday School" for live Sunday School when we can't meet in person

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Children's & Family Ministry Events

Social events will be provided throughout the year for children and their families such as: Trunk or Treat, Family Game Night, King's Kids T-Ball, Picnics, Swimming, Sledding, Scavenger Hunts, etc. Family servant event opportunities will also be made available. Please see calendar and watch Life & Growth for exact dates.

Sunday School Hours & Locations

Sunday School begins at 9:30 am and closes at 10:30 am. All students will be dropped off & picked up from the classroom assigned to them. Please see map on back page. Students in grades 6-8 will participate in our new 412 Student Ministries program, which meets in the youth room downstairs. Preschoolers & elementary students can be picked up in the Martin Luther School rooms. Please pick up your child promptly so the teachers can get cleaned up in time to attend the 10:45 am worship service.

Sunday School Supplies

Each student is asked to bring a pencil box, 2 sharpened pencils, a box of crayons and a pair of scissors to use during Sunday School. These items will be cleaned & kept at church for only your child to use. Please label everything. We are also asking each student to bring a box of tissues and a container of disinfectant wipes. Hand sanitizer is also needed.

Sunday School Offerings

An offering will be taken each week which will go toward our mission projects. Occasionally families will be asked to bring in an item, such as school supplies or hygiene products to make kits to send abroad. Preschool and Elementary students will take offering during their opening. Please watch for notes coming home with your child about where our offerings will be going.

Attendance & Registration

Zion sees Sunday School as a very important component of a child's development in the Christian faith. We feel it is important that each student, along with parents, make every effort to be consistent in the attendance of Sunday School. There are only 35 Sundays when we are able to have class. If you think about it, that's only 35 hours your child is learning about God in our building! We hope to see you every Sunday!

Parents need to complete registration forms for Sunday School online for Confirmation and King's Kids. The link can be found on Zion's webpage, www.zionbismarck.org. It is very important for us to have emergency contact and allergy information for each child. Registration forms are available in the church office. Please note that your child's name is not on our list until we have a registration form.

Presentation of Bibles

Each Rally Sunday, all students entering third grade in Sunday School will be presented with an ESV Bible at the 10:45 am worship service. If you are unable to attend the service, your Bible may be picked up in the church office. These Bibles will be used in the classrooms, so students are encouraged to bring them each week. All new students in grades 3-8 will also be given a Bible.

Family Christmas Event

Our Family Christmas Event is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16th at 5:30 pm. A meal will be served with events to follow.

Curriculum

Age 3-Grade 3

Our classes will be using Curriculum from Concordia Publishing House. This curriculum focuses on a Bible lesson and memory verse each week and has supplementary craft, game, mission and snack ideas. Preschool & school age students will meet in the south classroom for the Opening.

Discipline Policy

To ensure a safe environment, students are expected to follow the Behavior guidelines. Children and youth are expected to be considerate and courteous to all adult leaders and peers. We treat other people, all physical property and ourselves appropriately and respectfully. Abusive or foul language or actions will not be tolerated. Zion Lutheran Church seeks to keep children and youth fully interested and involved in activities, but from time to time a child's behavior can disrupt the Sunday School lesson. At such times, the following steps will be taken:

1. Student will first be given 2 verbal warning by the teacher. The student will be redirected to the activity.
2. Teacher may try moving the seating arrangements, sitting or standing next to the child, or switching activities to improve the problem.
3. If the behavior does not change, action may be taken to have an adult supervise the child outside of the class activity.
4. Continued behavior will be brought to the Sunday School Superintendent's attention and parents will be called to figure out a better plan.
5. If the behavior continues after the parent has been contacted, the parent will be asked to stay in the classroom during class time.

*Please let us know if behavior modifications are made at home or school. We will use whatever system is best for the child.

Safety Plan

All teachers and adult volunteers will be given an emergency manual. This includes policies and procedures for natural and man-made disasters, emergency phone numbers and contact information, maps of how to safely evacuate the building, and the locations of fire extinguishers. Posters of escape routes will also be hung in the education wing, church basement and sanctuary. We will do our best to ensure the safety of your children! If the fire alarm happens to go off during SS hours, classes will walk to the parking lot across the street to the east.

COVID Precautions

- * If Bismarck Public Schools (as a whole) is closed on a Friday, will not have Sunday School that Sunday in person. If BPS is closed on a Wednesday due to COVID, we will not have confirmation

or King's Kids in person. Online options will be available.

- * We are considering taking temperatures prior to classes with a no-touch thermometer.
- * Wash hands prior to class.
- * Each family bring disinfectant wipes, extra tissues, personal hand sanitizers.
- * Masks optional
- * Social distancing will be practiced. Classrooms will be in more open spaces and spread out.
- * Online platform with Google Classroom for when we can't be together in person.
- * Seats & desks/tables sanitized before and after classes.
- * Common areas are cleaned more often
- * We are asking parents and students to come straight to the classroom and not loiter in other parts of the building. This will cut down on extra spaces to clean after classes.

Please stay home if:

- * You are sick or have a fever of 100.4 or higher.
- * Have a pending COVID Test.
- * You or a family member have tested positive for COVID in the last 14 days.

Christian Behavior Expectations

Zion practices an open door policy. Parents and grandparents are always welcome to join us in the classrooms! In fact, we would appreciate your help!

Every child deserves a Christ-centered, nurturing, friendly, caring and safe environment while attending our Children's Ministry Programs.

Student Responsibilities

- Be prepared to have fun and learn
- Respect the adults and teachers in the room, Please keep hands out of MLS desks!
- Listen to teachers and follow directions
- Accept responsibility for your behavior
- Be kind, polite and cooperative
- Treat other people and property appropriately and respectfully. This includes any MLS desks or student property.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Attend Church & Sunday School on a regular basis
- Prepare and teach your assigned lessons
- Encourage children to participate and cooperate in activities
- Establish clear rules for safety
- Pray for the students you serve
- Lead discussions
- Help students stay on task
- Share your faith with students through words and actions
- Be courteous to students and parents at all times
- Discipline students as needed
- Be here early to greet students as they arrive
- Please make sure the room is clean when you leave

Background Checks for Volunteers

In order to provide a safe environment for your children, Zion has implemented a background check policy for all children/youth ministry volunteers. We will be using Protectmyministry.com. Volunteers will need to complete a form giving Zion permission to request background information. All information will be kept confidential.

Bringing Treats to Share

Zion welcomes and encourages parents to bring snacks to share. We do have some students with peanut allergies. Please avoid bringing snacks that contain peanuts or tree nuts.

Foods to avoid:

1. Any peanut and tree nut foods (peanut butter, cashews, almonds, etc.).
2. Any foods processed on equipment shared with peanuts or tree nuts.
3. Any foods without an ingredient list disclosed (example, if a snack is provided from multi-serving packaging, please include the ingredient list for that snack). Some single-serving snacks are safe, but the same product in a multi-pack is not safe.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all of our students safe. We have a list of safe snacks on our website: www.zionbismarck.org.

Vacation Bible School

Zion VBS dates TBA for 2021. VBS runs from 6:00-8:30 pm. Look for more information & registrations in Life & Growth in April.

Summer Camps

Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads summer camps for June/July 2021 TBA. Transportation is provided through Zion Lutheran Church for Kindercamp (Grades K-1), Discovery Camp (Grades 2-3), ND District Kids Camp (Grades 4-6), Encounter Camp (Grades 7-12). Other camps are available such as Horse Camp, Guitar Camp, etc. Please visit the website (www.shretreat.org) for more information. Zion's Board of youth pays half of the registration fee for members! Look for sign up sheets and photos outside the church office.

Family Confirmation

Zion's Confirmation program for students & parents meets Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm during the school year. We have a parent meeting the Wednesday after Labor Day and begin class the next Wednesday. Contact the church office or one of the pastors for more information, or pick up a copy of the Confirmation Handbook.

4:12 Student Ministries

(formerly Jr. High Sunday School)

Grades 6, 7 & 8 will be having Bible study in the youth room downstairs from 9:30-10:30 am on Sunday mornings, following a specific curriculum.

King's Kids

Wednesdays, September–April from 6:00–7:15 pm

King's Kids is a Children's Ministry program designed for ages four through fourth grade. We learn Bible stories, do crafts, games and activities and have a snack each time we meet. Parents and volunteers are always welcome to attend. Please consider joining us!

Y.I. Club

Where saving money is fun...and helps others learn about Jesus. You know it's important to teach children to give thanks for God's many blessings and use those blessings wisely to serve Him. Learning to understand the value of sharing, saving and spending money is a good place to start.

When you help your child save for the future through the LCEF Young Investors (Y.I.) Club, those dollars can also help someone else learn about Jesus. Through the Y.I. Club activities, newsletters and web pages, your child can learn valuable stewardship concepts while empowering ministry through LCEF.

With an investment of just \$25 to open the Y.I. Steward Account, your young investor becomes a Y.I. Club member with special fun activities that grow with three different age levels. **Zion's YI Booth will be set up each Sunday morning, in the south hallway from 9:20-9:45 am.**

Sunday School Locations 2020-2021

BASEMENT

Adult Bible Study
(Pastor Marcis)

YOUTH ROOM
4:12 Student Ministries
(Grades 6-8)

NORTH LAWN

PRESCHOOL
PLAYGROUND

NORTHWEST
LAWN

EDUCATION WING

Kristin's Office

Church Office

School Office

Principal's Office

(MLS 5th/6th Grade Classroom) Vicar's Office

(MLS Preschool)

Pastor Marcis

(MLS 4th Grade Classroom)

(MLS Pre-K Classroom)

Preschool SS Class

Conference Room

Open for Confirmation Records

(MLS 3rd Grade Classroom)
4th & 5th Grade SS

Boys Rest room
Mechanical
Girls Rest room

MLS PLAYGROUND

(MLS 1st Grade Classroom)
Kindergarten & 1st Grade SS

(MLS Kdg Classroom)

(MLS 2nd Grade Classroom)
2nd & 3rd Grade SS