

**2023-2024 Volunteers:**

**Sunday School:**

Pre-K/Kindergarten: Addie Swanson, Brooklynn Pizzi

First/Second Grade: Kim Richert, Kandice Wheeler

Third/Fourth Grade: Chad Svacina

Fifth/Sixth Grade: Raena DePerry

**Wednesday School:**

Pre-K to Grade 3: Stephanie Forrest, Kaylee Melby

Grades 4-6: Erin Weiss

Faith Markers: Becca Soltis

Sunday Music/Opening: Savannah Briese

Wednesday Music/Opening: Amanda Swanson, By

Faith musicians

Piano: Kathy Beito

Craft Preparation: Kerry and Mya Schlueter

Substitute Teachers: Dan Briese, Becca Soltis, Ashley

Gilles

Director of Children, Youth and Family:

Amanda Swanson



**CROSS LUTHERAN**  
— CHURCH —

# Children's Ministry

## 2023-2024

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14*

<b>2023-2024 Events for Families</b>	
September 17, 2023	Sunday School Kick-Off 1015a Blessing of the Backpacks (during worship and during large group opening)
September 20, 2023	Wednesday School Kick-Off 545p Grade 7 and 8 Confirmation 6p Youth and Screen Time Presentation/Panel Discussion (for youth AND parents)
September 23, 2023	Oktoberfest at Roberts Park 12p-4p (live music, food, bounce house)
September 24, 2023	Toddler Story Time 1030a-11a
October 8, 2023	Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up Event (Following Sunday School and a quick lunch)
October (TBD)	Snake Discovery
October 28, 2023	Trunk or Treat 2p-3p (Community Event)
November 19, 2023	Painting Party (open for everyone) 1130a-130p (Lunch served, registration required)
November 19, 2023	Service Project: Birthday Bags in honor of Jesus's birthday (donations needed) (During Sunday School hour)
December 3, 2023 December 6, 2023	Advent Party (during the Sunday and Wednesday School hours)
December 10, 2023	Toddler Story Time 1030a-11a
December 17, 2023	Christmas Play (Community Event)
January 5, 2024	Family Movie Night 6p-8p (Registration required)
January 21, 2024	Sledding at the Roberts Park Building 2p-4p
February 11, 2024	Swimming at The Centre (Registration required)

February 25, 2024	First Communion Instruction Class with Pastor John
March 3, 2024	Service Project: Cards for our homebound or care center members (during Sunday and Wednesday School hours)
March 3, 2024	First Communion: Chalice
March 10, 2024	First Communion: Bread Baking
March 13 and March 17, 2024	First Communion: Worship services
March 30, 2024	Easter Egg Hunt 10a-11a (Community Event)
April	Feed My Starving Children (ages 5 and up, registration required)
May 15, 2024	Faith Milestone: Faith is Like a Seed
May 19, 2024	Faith Milestone: Faith is Like a Seed
May 19, 2024	Annual End of Year Picnic

<b>Faith Milestones 2023-2024</b>	
Pre-K and Grade 5 Students	Bibles given (during the large group opening time)
4K and K	Prayer Buddies (learning about prayer)
Grades 1 and 2	Prayer Pillows
Everyone welcome	First Communion Instruction
Everyone	Friendship with Jesus
Everyone	What it Means to be Lutheran
Everyone	Memory Work (recite on May 19 <sup>th</sup> during worship, if child wants to)

### **Memory Work**

The goal is for children to memorize the below items throughout the year (at home and at Sunday School) and then they will recite them at the end of the year as a group (not forced!).

### **Pre-K/Kindergarten Prayer:**

Dearest Jesus, be my Light, shine upon my way,  
As I work and as I play, lead me day by day. Amen.

### **First and Second Grade Prayer:**

Growing Every Day Like You

Jesus, help my eyes to see all the good You send to me. Jesus, help my ears to hear call for help from far and near. Jesus, help my feet to go in the way that You will show. Jesus, help my hands to do all things loving, kind and true. Jesus, may I helpful be, growing every day like Thee. Amen.

### **Third Grade Bible Verse:**

Matthew 22:37-39

He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

### **Third Grade**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

### **Fourth Grade**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Amen.

### **Fifth Grade**

The Ten Commandments

(From Lutheran Handbook, which is used in confirmation class)

You shall have no other Gods.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Honor your father and mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

men.

### **Sixth Grade**

The books of the Bible (new and Old Testament.)

## **Faith Milestones at Cross Lutheran**

Milestone Ministry is a youth-centered program, although we are working towards making this program intergenerational and open for anyone. This program is designed to commemorate and encourage the development of our youth's Christian faith. Each year of their life; from birth to 18, we will support their faith with age-appropriate material.

The purpose of Faith Markers is to celebrate, nurture and grow the faith of our youth. We will inspire, trust, love and responsibly connect the generations. We will achieve this by:

- Proclaiming God's word
- Offering faith-sharing opportunities and exciting family experiences
- Celebrate our youth as a church family as the children grow

\*An invitation will be sent home with your child prior to the event. There will also be an email invitation.

During Baptism, children begin their relationship with our Lord. They receive a blanket made by our Women's Group and are welcomed into our church family.

Some of the Faith Markers/Milestones include:

- 4 y/o: Prayer Buddy (stuffed animal)
- Receiving prayer pillows in kindergarten
- Bibles given out to all 4-year-olds and sixth grade students
- Hosting the "Money Matters" class presented by Thrivent Financial where children (and adults!) learn what it means to spend, save and share
- Offering First Communion instruction to any child (or adult!) in the spring
- We offer Pre-Confirmation classes for youth in grades 4-8, but this is also open to adults
- Confirmation with a focus on the Catechism and the sacraments for youth in 9th grade or adults
- Baccalaureate Sunday for our high school seniors

- Learning about and memorizing the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer
- Learning about what it means to have a friendship with God, what it means to be Lutheran and about how Faith is Like a Seed

As leaders of the Children, Youth and Family Program at Cross, we feel that it is important to prepare the children for the coming years in confirmation. Learning and memorizing the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments, gives the children a solid foundation for the additional information that will be taught in their sixth, seventh and eighth grade years at confirmation.

-Amanda Swanson, Director of Children, Youth and Family and the Children, Youth and Family Team

## **Intergenerational Events**

(Information taken from Gen-On Ministries) Most churches are multi-generational. With intentionality, a church can become intergenerational, transforming to a new way of being the church—growing disciples, and impacting the world for Jesus Christ in the way, we believe, God intended. This transformation brings about a sense of belonging for all, to be in relationship as equal parts of the body of Christ—the intergenerational church. As generations mutually invest in one another, relationships deepen, transforming the church from doing intergenerational programming to thriving as an intergenerational community. Christ-centered community draws us all closer to God.

To achieve this, we will offer various events throughout the year to encourage all generations to interact with each other. If you were part of the Generosity Project last year, you will remember how engaging, exciting, and fun those events were! They brought us together and helped us to get to know each other on a deeper and more meaningful level.