

Family Ministry means children, youth, adults, parents, guardians, or whoever is active in their faith life learning and growing together, and it also means that you could be one person or a family of eight or more! It means you could be an infant or 99! You are always welcome to come see what Family Ministry is all about!

Bethel Lutheran Church Family Ministry

Volunteer Application Process

How to Become Involved in Family Ministry:

All steps do not necessarily happen in this order! This is just a general guideline!

- **Express Interest**

You may have an interest, but are unsure where you can help. Some of the most unlikely people make the greatest volunteers with children and youth or adults. So, take the next step as you prayerfully consider Family Ministry.

- **Initial Contact With Church Staff**

This is an opportunity for us to briefly get to know each other and for us to hear your desire to be involved in Family ministry. We can give you a general overview of the ministry and arrange for you to visit and observe programs when possible.

- **Receive Family Ministry Material**

This packet gives you the basic information about different areas in our Family Ministry program, including a list of our yearly schedule and the philosophy behind each program.

- **Observe Programs**

While you are still in the process of completing the application packet, you are encouraged to observe our programs when possible. This is an important opportunity to get a feel for our ministry without having expectations or responsibilities. This also gives you a chance to meet the children, youth, or adults and other volunteers, and write down questions and thoughts about the program before meeting with our Family Ministry Director.

- **Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment**

We want you to take time to pray and think through this commitment as well as seek advice from your family, friends, church staff, and/or other volunteers about your commitment.

- **Complete the Application Packet**

This application packet was developed by our Parish Education Board and Family Ministry Director with care in order to obtain appropriate information to better serve you as a volunteer and for the protection of the children, youth, and adults of Bethel Lutheran church. All

information is kept confidential. We ask that our volunteers also sign and adhere to a general statement of faith affirmation. This form can be found in your volunteer packet.

- **“Interview” with Family Ministry Director**

This is an opportunity for you to share thoughts from your observations, share your own personal faith journey, and discuss in more detail your gifts and desires for working with the Family Ministry program. This may be an informal conversation or a meeting depending on your needs and desires. This may take place before your packet is completed.

- **Return Signed Application Forms**

Once you've decided that you want to make a commitment, please complete and sign the *Statement of Faith, Background Check, and Volunteer Data Entry* forms. These will be processed by the Family Ministry Director.

- **Begin Ministry**

Your starting date will vary depending on your involvement and desire. As a building ministry we begin in the fall with training and visioning meetings in August and September for our Education hour and Wednesday programs. Other ministry training and visioning varies among the different areas. Boards and committees meet the first Tuesday of each month. You are always welcome to attend.

- **Participate in Checking-In Gathering**

After a short period of time, you will have a chance to meet with our Family Ministry Director in person or by phone to evaluate your feelings and perceptions of your involvement. Throughout the year we will continue to informally evaluate your ministry involvement in order to adjust your role to better fit your style, personality, and strengths.

Family Ministry
Data Entry Form
Volunteer Processing
Bethel Lutheran Church

"Our mission is to partner with families to reach and teach them in such a way that they have the greatest opportunity to become fully developed followers of Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up"

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Home Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Occupation: _____

Hobbies/Interests: _____

Are you a member of Bethel Lutheran Church? Yes No

Have you experienced baptism? Yes No

How would you characterize your present spiritual condition?

Strong Average Struggling Weak

Further instruction:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. We ask all of our volunteers to sign a statement of affirmation of faith. Please read the following page. If you have no reservations about affirming those tenants of faith, please sign at the bottom and return it to the Family Ministry Office along with a completed background check form, and the Data Entry Form.

Bethel Family Ministry Statement of Faith

As a Family Ministry Team, we recognize and bless those who have been called to the ministry of leading, teaching, and guiding.

Bethel Lutheran Church Family Ministry feels it is a joy-filled privilege to teach the Word of God, sharing the stories of faith, and giving witness to God's faithfulness in our lives.

As a Family Ministry staff person or Family Ministry volunteer of Bethel Lutheran church we affirm the following:

That God is the creator and source of all. God has created us and all that exists, and we, through Christ, are children of God.

That through the faith in Jesus Christ, we are saved. Because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and bodily resurrection. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the presence of Jesus Christ among us. Through Him God loves us, empowers us and lives in us. The Spirit gives gifts to all believers. We believe in all the gifts of the Spirit and encourage their use.

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. Through it, God reveals Himself to us. The entire Bible is God-breathed and God-inspired. The Old and New Testaments are the norm and guide upon which we base our faith.

We affirm and identify with the confessions of the Lutheran Church. We affirm the centrality of grace alone, faith alone, and Word alone.

We believe in and practice the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. We believe that through the waters of Baptism, God comes to us to adopt us as His children. Through Baptism, God gives the gift of new life. We affirm the baptism of infants.

We believe that through the Lord's Supper, God comes to love us and forgive us. It is a meal of renewal. Jesus is really present in the meal.

With your help and committed service to the Lord, we are here to provide a loving environment where families can experience the love of Jesus. We will strive to create a fun, safe, and stimulating place for children, youth, and adults to discover God's purpose for their life!

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Congratulations, you made it through this packet! We realize it seems like a lot of information, but through this process you will learn valuable information to make your transition into the Family Ministry program much easier. We hope you will continue on and complete the application. Again, if you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Bonnie Stauffer @ 892-4231 or by e-mail @ blcfamily@comcast.net.