



## Family Faith Formation Ministry & Milestones

For each age and stage of your child's life, we welcome them (and you!) into the life of our congregation to learn and grow in faith in age-appropriate and meaningful ways.

Age	Faith Statement	Our Hopes for Your Child	Faith Milestones & Family Connections
<b>Baptism</b>	God makes promises to me through baptism.	Children and families are welcomed by the church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In celebration of your child's baptism, we give you a wooden faith chest to hold all of the baptism mementos &amp; faith-filled memories as your child grows in faith.</li> <li>As a part of the baptism service, we'll connect you with a congregational sponsor. This is someone from the Bethlehem family who takes part in the service and will pray for your child.</li> </ul>
<b>One Year Old</b>		Children & families invited to practice faith at home with the gift of a story Bible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Around the time of your child's baptismal anniversary, a <i>Frolic First Bible</i> is given as a baptismal birthday gift by a pastor or staff member along with a personal visit. We invite families to light their baptism candle to remember this special day.</li> <li>You will be invited to join Sparks, our brief, bi-monthly gathering for littles and their grown-up in our nursery on Sunday mornings.</li> </ul>
<b>Two Years Old</b>	God wants me to sing, play, and worship with God's people.	Children feel more comfortable participating in worship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kids are invited to join Anna or Pastor Jacie for a <i>Welcome to Worship</i> milestone class in the sanctuary with their grown-up.</li> <li>Each child receives their own <i>My Church</i> booklet to help them explore our sanctuary and get curious about worship.</li> </ul>
<b>Preschool</b>	I am a beloved child of God and an important part of the Bethlehem family.	Children feel loved and are welcomed into official programming (LIGHT & NightLIGHT)	<p>God's Little Lambs: A Welcome Ritual (<i>September</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three-year-olds &amp; those who are new to LIGHT &amp; NightLIGHT will be given a small lamb as a tangible reminder that they are a beloved child of God and one of God's own flock. It's also their official welcome to our LIGHT &amp; NightLIGHT.</li> </ul>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	God has rules that help us care for ourselves and others.	Children know that God wants the best for us and for all people.	<p>Spark Story Bible Recognition (<i>Fall</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Kindergarteners receive their story Bible and a blessing during worship. We give a bookmark with stories to explore in their new Bible.</li> </ul> <p>Ten Commandments Class (<i>Winter</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along with a grown-up, kids are invited to play with Matchbox cars and create rules of the road. Together, we discover why rules are important and understand, in an age-appropriate way, why God gave them to us.</li> </ul>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	I can talk to God. I can listen to God, too.	Children learn that prayer is a way to connect with God and with ourselves.	<p>Prayer Class (<i>Winter - Year 1</i>) &amp; Faith 5 Class (<i>Winter - Year 2</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kids and parents learn about prayer and create a prayer practice as a family.</li> <li>Kids &amp; parents gather to learn the Faith 5, an easy way of practicing faith and devotions in your daily life as a family.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>3rd &amp; 4th Grade</b></p>	<p>I am a part of God's big story, and I am invited into a relationship with God.</p>	<p>Children learn that the Bible is a tool to help them explore God's story. Children are ready to learn, along with their peers, what communion means for us.</p>	<p>Deep Blue Bible Class (<i>October - Attend either year</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In preparation for attending camp and starting Torchlight in 5th Grade, we host an hour-long Bible class for 3rd &amp; 4th graders and their grown-up to learn about the history of the Bible, why it's important to us, and practice using it together. We will host it once per year and invite families to attend together once.</li> </ul> <p>Communion Retreat (<i>Lent</i>) &amp; Recognition (<i>Palm Sunday</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4th graders and their grown-ups gather to learn what communion means, bake communion bread to be used on Palm Sunday, and paint their own chalice.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5th &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p>	<p>God speaks to me through the Bible. God invites my questions, doubts, and curiosities!</p>	<p>Children will start to ask the big questions of faith, and wonder about things they've already learned in a deeper way.</p>	<p>Youth attend Torchlight, which meets exclusively on Wednesdays. Each grade group is paired with a small group leader who will form a relationship with them over the year.</p> <p><u>Brave Conversations w/ a Trusted Adult</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1: 1) Mental Health &amp; Suicide, 2) Technology, Phones, &amp; Boundaries</li> <li>Year 2: 1) Healthy Relationships &amp; Sexuality 2) Racism &amp; Anti-Racism</li> </ul>
<p><b>7th &amp; 8th Grade</b></p>	<p>Together, God and I are figuring out how we relate to each other.</p>	<p>Youth will understand that they have choices about their faith and how they practice it and develop a relationship with a mentor.</p>	<p>Confirmation Classes &amp; Blessing in Worship (<i>Fall</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth formally begin their Confirmation experience in 7th grade and ends in the spring of their 9th grade year. Confirmation ends in the spring of 9th grade as they are invited to confirm their faith publicly.</li> <li>Each grade group is paired with small group leader who will form a relationship with them over the year.</li> </ul> <p><u>Brave Conversations w/ a Trusted Adult (<i>Winter</i>)</u></p> <p>The same conversations (<i>see above</i>) are offered every two years, and youth can attend with an adult when they're ready.</p>
<p><b>9th Grade</b></p>	<p>I publicly claim God's promises to me.</p>	<p>Youth are invited to make a commitment to keeping their confirmation promises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation Class with Pr. Jay</li> <li>Confirmation Service (<i>First Sunday in May</i>)</li> <li>Welcome to H.S. youth group (<i>Fall</i>)</li> <li>Teens Encounter Christ Retreat (<i>Fall</i>)</li> <li>Youth Gathering or Trip (<i>Summer</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>10th, 11th, &amp; 12th Grade</b></p>	<p>I am a leader with God-given gifts to share within and beyond my community of faith.</p>	<p>Youth will understand that they have the power to change the church and the world by using the talents and gifts they have in a way that pleases God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10th-12th: Keys of Responsibility Milestone for New Drivers (<i>Spring</i>)</li> <li>12th: Blessing of Graduating Seniors &amp; Reception (<i>May</i>)</li> <li>Teens Encounter Christ Team Leadership (<i>Oct., Jan., Apr., or July</i>)</li> <li>Youth Gathering or Trip (<i>Summer</i>)</li> </ul>