

BAY VIEW

LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA



Milestone Ministries

Milestone Ministries



Passing on the Christian faith from generation to generation is at the heart of the life and work of the church.

Every moment in life is an opportunity to claim God's redeeming and renewing work in the world and in our lives. To recognize people in all situations, to bless them, to be a physical sign, a gift to them, to weave our stories with God's story is the vocation of a Christian.

Milestone Ministries bring an awareness of the presence of God not only to children but families and individuals of all generations through a vital partnership between home and congregation. Milestones bring God's presence into the home and the rituals of daily life into the congregation.

Milestone Ministries provides a way for congregations, households and individuals to participate in a way of life that marks special moments as "God moments", and honors them as part of the journey of faith.

The intentional celebration of life's milestones will give us a

greater ability to pass on faith by placing the child in the center to see God's redeeming work at play through home, congregation, community, culture and creation.

We frequently assume that Sunday school and confirmation class are the primary means of fulfilling the mission of the church to teach and pass on faith. Milestone Ministry is a form of Christian education that subtly and gently involves parents, caregivers and other caring adults with the Christian education of children and youth and engages them in their own adult faith formation. Parents and caregivers are motivated by the delight they experience in seeing their children receive recognition; the blessings they receive in the form of prayers and love offered from the congregation, the receipt of gifts as a visible and physical reminder of the milestone moment and a resource for equipping them to be effective nurturers of faith in their own homes; and connections made with other families and wise elders who form a community of support.

Children, youth and their families are supported in their lives of faith through identified milestones in their lives.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged through enrichment events to grow in their own faith and are equipped to be teachers of faith in their own homes.

The goal of the Christian Life is not the completion of a congregational program. Instead using a Milestone Ministries program will be a life and faith that leads us from congregational program events to significant moments in life's journey to a way of life that encounters God's love and extends God's love in Christ anytime and anywhere.

Bay View's Milestone Ministry Events



Baptism

*Therefore go and make
disciples of all Nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.*

-Matthew 28:19

Baptism is the sacrament of grace that marks our entry into the community of faith, the body of Christ and the church. At the baptism of infants and children, parents and sponsors make a promise to raise the children in the faith. This begins the faith journey that Milestone Ministry will guide and nurture.

Age

Traditionally, we baptize infants and children. However, baptism happens at all ages!!

Event

Parents meet with the Pastor to set a date for their child's baptism, and to receive specific instructions about the baptism of their child. The Pastor will also help parents determine appropriate Sponsors (or God Parents), and identify what their rolls should be. Pastor will provide families with an overview of Milestone Ministries here at Bay View which shows how the church supports parents in their baptismal promises.

Blessing

The service of Holy Baptism brings the child and the family together at the font for the baptismal blessing. At Bay View Lutheran Church, we do public baptisms during worship. The specific date is set with the Pastor in advance.

Gift

The child and the family receive a baptismal candle which is lit on baptismal anniversaries, a certificate for the family to keep, a certificate for the sponsors, a “Baby’s First Bible” and a fleece tie blanket.

Date

During worship service as decided between the Pastor and family.



Baptismal Birthday

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

Baptismal Birthday is a way to mark the significance of baptism each year. On the first Baptismal Birthday, we list the child's name in the bulletin and in the prayers during worship. This is our special way of honoring your child. We hope that you will light the baptismal candle and celebrate with your child at home each year. Additionally, children will receive Baptismal Birthday cards from the congregation until they enter Sunday school.

Age

We celebrate Baptismal Birthday's each year until child enters Sunday school.

Event & Gift

The child's name is printed in the bulletin and said during the prayers during worship on the first anniversary of the baptism, while a "Birthday" card will come each year to the child.

Date

The celebration of the anniversary will vary depending on the child's date of baptism.



Walking Wet

You are the light of the world; let your light shine that they may see your good works and glorify your father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Walking Wet is a way to remember, recognize and support those who were baptized during the previous year. We celebrate your new life in Christ and ask to renew your baptismal covenant. We, the congregation, will renew our promise to support and equip you to use your gifts to follow Christ in daily life.

Age

Anyone that was baptized within the year prior.

Event

Those baptized and their families will come forward for a special blessing and to renew their Baptismal Promises during a worship service. Families should bring their baptism candles which will be lit in remembrance of your baptism.

Gift

Parents are gifted with a Faith Building book for families with toddlers.



Entering Sunday School

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

ENTERING SUNDAY SCHOOL is an exciting time for young children. At Bay View Lutheran Church, we welcome children who are three years old to begin this part of their faith journey. This is a time where children begin making friendships by learning, playing and praying together.

Age

Three years old or when they enter Sunday school.

Event

A family event during the Sunday school hour will take place annually to share Bible stories, and provide parents resources and examples of how faith formation can happen in the home.

Blessing

Children and their families will come forward for a special prayer, blessing and recognition during a worship service. Parents will place the Holy Scriptures in their child's hands as promised at baptism.

Gift

A Spark Story Bible

Date

The family event and worship service will happen yearly on Rally Day.



Learning to Pray

He was praying in a certain place and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord teach us to pray." He said to them, "when you pray, say: Our Father, who art in Heaven..."
-Luke 11:1-4

Learning to Pray is an important way children grow in their faith and relationship with Christ. Children learn prayer through example and practice at home and at church. By teaching about prayer when a child is young, it is hoped the child will gain a tool which will guide them throughout life. In addition to talking about prayer, the children will learn to recite the Lord's Prayer.

Age

First grade

Event

A family prayer event is offered during the Sunday school hour to learn more about prayer at home and at church. We use a prayer glove and other resources to teach children about prayer. These resources then become a valuable tool for the family at home.

Blessing

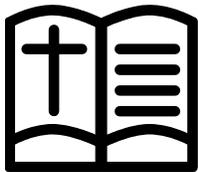
Children and their families will come forward for a special prayer, blessing, and recognition during Sunday worship.

Gift

We provide each child with a book of prayers, and a “Prayer Glove”.

Date

The class and worship blessing are offered in February each year.

**Bible Adventures**

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Bible Adventures is a direct response to the promises made at baptism to place the Holy Scriptures in our children’s hands. This milestone is based on the understanding that the Bible is an essential source of comfort and guidance for individuals and the larger church.

Age

3rd Grade

Event

Following the receipt of their study Bibles, children will participate in a 3 week study that will introduce the Bible to our children. We will explore the treasures that are in the Bible and also learn how to read, understand, study and pray the Bible. Families are encouraged to attend this study together with their children.

Blessing

Children and their families will come forward during a worship service for a special prayer, blessing and have the Holy Scriptures placed in their hands by their parents as promised at their baptism.

Gift

Students will receive a Spark Bible.

Date

The worship blessing and class will be offered in October each year.



Serving in Worship

I rejoice with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Psalm 122:1

Serving in Worship is a way for older children to help lead worship and understand what goes into making worship happen. This is often an exciting process for older children as they may not have been part of a worship service except as a participant. “Going behind the scenes” is a wonderful way for children to feel helpful and closer to God during worship.

Age

5th grade

Event

Children will attend a class led by Pastor that includes acolyte training. This class will take time to teach children about liturgy and the church year, and gives an overview of why we do what we do during worship.

Blessing

Children will come forward for a special prayer, blessing, and recognition during Sunday worship, marking the start of their acolyte service.

Gift

A cross and a book on the meaning of liturgy, worship and the church year will be given.

Date

The class and worship blessing will be offered in November each year.



First Holy Communion

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes...

1 Corinthians 11:26

First Communion is a renewing and refreshing milestone in the life of a Christian individual. It is a central part of our worship and faith life. Through Communion we are strengthened for service by God's abiding love, receive God's forgiveness and share in the abundance of living in a family of faith. We welcome all people to the Lord's Table.

Age

2nd grade (or when family feels child is ready)

Event

Children and their parents attend a 2 week First Communion class. During this class children receive instruction about communion and prepare to receive the Sacrament. Additionally during this class time students will make communion bread that will be served to the entire congregation during communion.

Blessing

Children and their families will come forward for a special prayer, blessing and recognition during Sunday worship. Students will receive their First Communion together with their families.

Gift

Children will receive a certificate and a pin recognizing their First Communion.

Date

The class will be offered during Lent each year. Students will receive their first Holy Communion on Palm Sunday.



Confirmation and Affirmation of Baptism

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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19

Confirmation is a central part of our heritage of faith formation. Students participate in a 3 year program here at Bay View that provides an engaging, stimulating and faith forming education for

our students beginning in 6th grade. The goal of confirmation is to not only provide instruction in our Lutheran Faith but also to provide students with opportunities for service to others and prepare them to become members who participate fully in the life of our Christian community, its worship and ministries.

Affirmation of Baptism is the rite we observe at the completion of confirmation instruction. It is the opportunity for youth to profess their personal faith, and is the marking of early adulthood in the church. While this rite completes their formal instruction it is not an end but a beginning to a new part of their faith journey.

Age

Typically youth are confirmed in 8th grade.

Classes and Events

Parents and youth attend an orientation meeting in early September and commit themselves to a three year program. The program includes classes which are held most Wednesday evenings, various service and fellowship events, sermon notes, Confirmation Camp, and continuing to actively serve during worship.

Blessings

Youth will be recognized during a worship service that they completely prepare and fully participate in. The Rite of Affirmation of Baptism will be celebrated during this service. This service takes place every May.

Gift

New Confirmands will receive a certificate, a wooden cross made by a member of their congregation and a devotional book to guide them as they continue on their faith journey.

Date

Affirmation of Baptism service is in May.



High School Graduation

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Graduation from high school marks life as an independent adult, and it is a time when young people move forward in making their own life decisions. We want to mark this joyful and difficult transition for parents and youth by helping them give thanks to one another and remind them that they are never alone.

Event

Students will enjoy a reception where members of the congregation can speak with, congratulate and show their support of these youth. A light breakfast will be served. Students, family and friends can enjoy a slideshow of the young people's faith journey so far.

Blessing

Graduates and their families will come forward for a special prayer, blessing and recognition during worship.

Gift

Each student will receive a hand tied quilt made by the quilters of Bay View. This quilt will provide warmth and remind them of their church home and their relationship with Christ.

Date

Senior Recognition service is held the first weekend in June.

Milestone Ministry Yearly Events

Backpack Blessing- August

Entering Sunday School- September

Teacher Recognition/Installation- October

Welcome to Confirmation Fall

Bible Adventures: Fall

Walking Wet: Baptism of our Lord Sunday-January

Learning to Pray: February

First Communion Class: March/April

First Holy Communion: Palm Sunday

Affirmation of Baptism: May

Senior Recognition: June

Milestone Ministries developed by The Youth and Family Institute
Arranged for Bay View Lutheran Church
By Donna Van Ramshorst , Director of Faith Formation

