

Children, Youth and Family

UPDATED! Handbook 2018 - 2019



LAKE NOKOMIS LUTHERAN CHURCH

5011 31st Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55417

www.lakenokomischurch.org

612-729-2323

We are God's people being transformed by the Holy Spirit to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world in word and action.

WELCOME STATEMENT

Who We Are

The congregation of Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church (LNL) affirms that "All are welcome in this place." We celebrate the words of the apostle Paul: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Here are the words of invitation we use to welcome people to the table of the Lord: "*The Risen Christ has invited us to this table. Whoever you are, however you feel, for whatever reasons you are here, come to the feast. Whatever your condition, whatever questions you have, wherever you are on your spiritual journey: know that our host is the one who has given his life for the world, the one who was raised to new life, and the one who invites us to come to the table.*"

We are a community whose members differ in age, ethnicity, social status, and vocation. Our journeys in life often look very different on the surface. But we believe that God's love changes everything--for everybody. Our faith tradition is based on a life-transforming story that is both ancient and timely. It is a story of a powerful and patient God who has boundless love for all people in the world. It is a story of Jesus Christ changing lives. It is a story that brings comfort and strength to all people today.

We believe all people share the worth that comes from being loved and forgiven children of God. We want it to be known that we welcome all people--regardless of race, age, culture, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family status, marital status, gender identity, physical or cognitive ability, or economic condition--into the life-transforming story of Jesus Christ at this congregation.

STAFF CONTACTS

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:00am Worship
9:00am Coffee & Fellowship
9:15am Education (3-year-old – Adult)
10:30am Worship
11:30am Coffee & Fellowship

Wednesdays

5:15pm Simple Dinner (optional for families)
6:00pm Kids Choirs & Drumming,
 Salt & Light, Faith Club
7:00pm Adult Choir, Confirmation,
 The Deep End

New This Year: We're offering dinner on Wednesdays from 5:30-6pm for a nominal fee to make it easier for families to transition from work/school to church on Wednesdays. Indicate your interest when you fill out your Registration Form for children and youth.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: BIRTH TO 6TH GRADE

BAPTISM

In Matthew 28 Jesus says, "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." In this gift of God's grace, by water and God's Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world! As they bring their children to receive the gift of baptism, parents and guardians are entrusted to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer. Baptismal sponsors promise to nurture children in the Christian faith and help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church.

To help baptismal sponsors and parents fulfill the promises made at baptism, children receive a Faith Chest to mark this milestone. Each Faith Chest includes a baptismal candle and shell, a small towel embroidered with the child's name and date of baptism, *Luther's Small Catechism*, and *Living the Promises of Baptism: 101 Ideas for Parents*. This book is filled with concrete ideas for celebrating the gifts of baptism in daily living. Meals, bedtime, play, seasons, milestones, transitions, and many other occasions become opportunities for practicing faith in the home.

Parents wishing to have their children baptized should contact Pastor Drew Flathmann.

WORSHIP & NURSERY

We love to be all together in worship! Children can be taught to pray, stand and sit with others during worship, listen to music and learn songs, come forward during the Time for Children, and receive a blessing during Holy Communion. Rainbow bags filled with quiet activities are available for young worshippers and are located next to the side doors to the sanctuary. **New This Year:** We'll have dancing scarves and shaker eggs that children can use during songs. A wiggle space is available in the narthex so small children can play quietly with parents and guardians by their side, making it possible for families to still be all together in worship! At any time during worship, children can be brought to our nursery, which is staffed during 10:30am worship. If you use the nursery, we encourage you to volunteer as well, so that you and others can benefit from this ministry! To volunteer in the nursery, call Deb Denison at 612-721-3296.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children ages 3 through grade 6 meet on Sundays from 9:15-10:15am in the education wing. Preschool – kindergarten children learn the classic bible stories, while 1st – 6th graders follow the scripture readings that are used in worship on Sunday mornings.

HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

It is a tradition at Lake Nokomis Lutheran to provide Holy Communion instruction for 5th graders during the season of Lent. Whether they are already receiving communion or not, this is an important faith milestone and time of learning as we celebrate the gifts of grace and forgiveness. Instruction takes place on Sunday mornings during Lent, includes a Saturday Holy Communion Retreat, and culminates with the 5th grade class celebrating the sacrament together at the 7pm worship service on Maundy Thursday. Our 4th and 6th grade families help set up and serve a celebration meal.

MAKING MUSIC

Optional *Simple Dinners* on Wednesdays are 5:30-6pm, and *Good News Choir and Spirit Drums* for 1st-6th graders is from 6-7pm. **New This Year:** we're doing shorter sessions so you can sign up for what works for your family.

- Session 4: Rehearsals on 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6; making music on 2/9 (Over 80's Party), and 2/10 at 10:30am.
- Session 5: Rehearsals on 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6; making music on 3/10 at 10:30am.
- Session 6: Rehearsals on 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/10; making music on 4/14 at 10:30am.
- Session 7: Rehearsals on 4/24, 5/1, 5/8; making music on 5/12 at 10:30am.

Sunday School Schedule and Lessons are on page 4.

- 7-12th grade youth follow the same Sunday schedule as elementary children.
- We may add intergenerational events during the year, so please watch for announcements about any changes.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE AND LESSONS

DATE	PRESCHOOL - KINDERGARTEN	1 ST – 6 TH GRADE
9/9	God's Work, Our Hands Sunday	Service Projects in the Nokomis Room
9/16	Creation: <i>Genesis 1:1-2:4a</i>	Peter's Faith: <i>Mark 8:27-38</i>
9/23	Noah's Ark: <i>Genesis 6-9</i>	Who is the Greatest?: <i>Mark 9:38-50</i>
9/30	Abram's Call: <i>Genesis 12:1-9</i>	Share God's Love: <i>Mark 9:38-50</i>
10/7	Abraham & Sarah's Visitors: <i>Genesis 17:17, 15-16; 18:1-15; 21:1-7</i>	Adam and Eve: <i>Genesis 2:4-25</i>
10/14	Isaac's Blessings: <i>Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40</i>	A Rich Man's Questions: <i>Mark 10:17-31</i>
10/21	Free from Slavery: <i>Exodus 5:1-6:13</i>	James and John: <i>Mark 10:35-45</i>
10/28	The Red Sea: <i>Exodus 14:1-30</i>	Bartimaeus Sees: <i>Mark 10:46-52</i>
11/4	The Ten Commandments: <i>Exodus 20:1-17</i>	A Message from God: <i>Deuteronomy 6:1-9</i>
11/11	The Battle of Jericho: <i>Joshua 6:1-20</i>	The Widow's Offering: <i>Mark 12:38-44</i>
11/18	All Ages Event	In the Nokomis Room (undercroft)
11/25	David & Goliath: <i>1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50</i>	Christ the King: <i>John 18:33-37</i>
12/2	Jonah and the Big Fish: <i>Jonah 1-4</i>	A Good Ruler: <i>Jeremiah 33:14-17</i>
12/9	Angels Visit: <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	Zechariah: <i>Luke 1:68-79</i>
12/16	Christmas Worship Rehearsal	In the Sanctuary
12/23	NO CLASS	
12/30	NO CLASS	
1/6	Jesus is Born: <i>Luke 2:1-20</i>	Wise Men: <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>
1/13	Wise Men: <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	Jesus' Baptism: <i>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</i>
1/20	Jesus' Baptism: <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	Wedding at Cana: <i>John 2:1-11</i>
1/27	The Disciples: <i>Matthew 4:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1-4</i>	Jesus Goes to Nazareth: <i>Luke 4:14-30</i>
2/3	The Lord's Prayer: <i>Matthew 6:5-15</i>	Jeremiah: <i>Jeremiah 1:4-10</i>
2/10	Woman at the Well: <i>John 4:5-42</i>	The Disciples: <i>Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3</i>
2/17	A Storm: <i>Matthew 8:23-27</i>	The Beatitudes: <i>Luke 6:17-26</i>
2/24	The Centurion's Servant: <i>Matthew 8:5-13</i>	Joseph Feeds His Family: <i>Genesis 45:3-11, 15</i>
3/3	Jesus Blesses the Children: <i>Mark 10:13-16</i>	The Transfiguration: <i>Luke 9:28-36</i>
3/10	Jesus Heals Two Blind Men: <i>Matthew 20:29-34</i>	Tempted: <i>Luke 4:1-13</i>
3/17	The Sower: <i>Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</i>	God's Promises to Abram: <i>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</i>
3/24	The Wedding Banquet: <i>Matthew 22:1-14</i>	Parable of the Fig Tree: <i>Luke 13:1-9</i>
3/31	Jesus Feeds 5,000: <i>John 6:1-14</i>	The Prodigal Son: <i>Luke 15:1-3, 11-32</i>
4/7	The Greatest Commandment: <i>Matthew 22:34-46</i>	Mary Anoints Jesus: <i>John 12:1-8</i>
4/14	Holy Week: <i>Matthew 21:1-11; 26:17-30</i>	Holy Week: <i>Luke 19:28-40, 22:14-23:46</i>
4/21	NO CLASS – Easter (Luke 24:1-12)	NO CLASS – Easter (Luke 24:1-12)
4/28	The Empty Tomb: <i>Matthew 28:1-10</i>	Doubting Thomas: <i>John 20:19-31</i>
5/5	Doubting Thomas: <i>John 20:19-31</i>	Saul to Paul: <i>Acts 9:1-20</i>
5/12	The Holy Spirit: <i>Acts 2:1-21, 36-42</i>	Peter and Tabitha: <i>Acts 9:36-43</i>
5/19	All Ages Event	In the Nokomis Room (undercroft)

YOUTH MINISTRY: 7TH - 12TH GRADE

CONFIRMATION

Vision and Goals

Confirmation is a time to uncover the mystery of God's promises and presence in our lives. It is a time to affirm the promises made in baptism and say YES to the God who first said yes to us. Our goal is that every student will:

- Know that faith is a journey lived in a community experiencing fellowship, service, worship, and prayer, while entering into one another's joy and suffering
- Experience scripture as a living example of God's ongoing and faithful promises
- Experience Jesus as a friend and model of a faithful life
- Experience the Holy Spirit as the very real and mysterious presence of God at work in the world
- Think about their gifts and talents and how they can be used to love and serve others

The Learning Experience & Expectations

Confirmation takes place on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. 7th-8th graders study Luther's Small Catechism, while 9th-10th graders focus on Faith Statements, discovering their gifts, mentoring, baptismal promises, and the Faith-in-Action Project. Wednesday evenings will also include fellowship and service events.

The commitment to join a community comes with expectations that will encourage conversation and accountability:

- Actively participate in worship and education on Sundays and Wednesdays
- Complete 15 Worship Reflections each year.
- Serve our church and community
- Participate in a mentor program in 9th grade
- Complete an individual Faith Statement or Project and work as a class on a Faith-in-Action Project
- Have a Faith Conversation with Erica Larson or Pastor Drew Flathmann

We understand that families have commitments outside of this faith community and we want to support you in all aspects of your faith and daily life. At the same time, we ask that confirmation youth be here regularly on Sundays and Wednesdays because confirmation is a not only a family and congregational commitment but a commitment to a group!

Ministry and Service Opportunities

Living a life of faith includes the call to love and serve our neighbor. Possibilities for service and ministry in our church, community, and world include:

- Serving on Sunday mornings as a greeter, usher, reader, nursery attendant, or coffee fellowship host
- Participation in Salt & Light or sharing musical gifts in other ways
- Service projects, ongoing ministries, and mission trips offered through our church
- Unpaid school, community or neighborhood projects

Mentors

In 9th grade, students choose a confirmation mentor – an adult member of the congregation who models a healthy faith life. It's an opportunity to build a relationship, talk about faith and life, and receive guidance and encouragement while working on the Faith Statement. Wednesday night leaders cannot be mentors, nor can parents mentor their own children. We can suggest possible mentors for students who do not know who to ask. Students and mentors meet 5 times.

SENIOR HIGH

The faith formation journey continues in senior high! 9-12th grade youth gather for CLASH (Christ Loves All Senior High) from 9:15-10:15am on Sundays and The Deep End on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30pm. Both CLASH and The Deep End include relationship building, topical conversation, bible study, service projects and fellowship events. Our youth experience a transition during their 9th grade year. They are still on their confirmation journey, but join with the senior high youth for most of their learning experiences, which helps them build relationships with our older youth and participate in deeper conversations about faith and life. CLASH and The Deep End follow the same Sunday and Wednesday schedule as Confirmation.

MAKING MUSIC

Salt & Light is for 7-12th graders interested in music, drama, words, art and a variety of spiritual practices. Led by Jodi Gustafson, Salt & Light rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6pm, and will follow the same schedule as Kids' music, including an optional Simple Dinner (see page 3).

This is a general schedule for each week:

Sundays:

- 8:00am Worship
- 9:15am 7th-8th grade Confirmation with Linda Ojeda
9th-12th grade Confirmation/CLASH, Family Room
- 10:30am Worship

Choose the worship time that works best for your family

Wednesdays:

- 5:30pm Simple Dinner
- 6:00pm Salt & Light
- 7:00pm Gathering and worship for 7-12th grade
- 7:20-8:30pm Confirmation and The Deep End

Wednesday Schedule

September:

9/19 Confirmation Orientation for families
9/26 Youth Group Kick-off

October:

10/3 Confirmation & The Deep End
10/10 Confirmation & The Deep End
10/17 MEA – No programming
10/24 Confirmation & The Deep End
10/31 Halloween – No programming

November:

11/7 Confirmation & The Deep End
9th Grade Mentor Orientation
11/14 Thanksgiving Potluck
11/21 Thanksgiving Eve Worship, 7:00pm
11/28 Confirmation & The Deep End

December:

12/5 Confirmation & The Deep End
12/12 Confirmation & The Deep End
12/19 Service Project Night with Confirmation Mentors
12/26 No programming: Christmas Break

January:

1/2 No programming: Christmas Break
1/9 Confirmation & The Deep End

1/16 Confirmation & The Deep End
1/23 Confirmation & The Deep End
1/30 Confirmation & The Deep End

February

2/6 Confirmation & The Deep End
2/13 Confirmation & The Deep End
2/20 Confirmation & The Deep End
2/27 Service & Fellowship Night

March

3/6 Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00pm
3/13-4/10
Lenten Worship, 7:00pm
7-12th Youth Group, 7:30-8:30pm

April

4/18 Maundy Thursday Worship, 7:00pm
4/19 Good Friday Worship, 7:00pm
4/24 Confirmation & The Deep End
9th Grade Mentor Meeting

May:

5/1 Confirmation & The Deep End
5/8 Confirmation & The Deep End
5/15 End of the year party!
5/22 9th Grade Faith-In-Action Planning

Important dates for 10th graders

TBD Final Mentor Meeting
October Faith Conversations with Erica Larson or Pastor Drew Flathmann *Signup sheets on their office doors*
10/27 Confirmation Brunch and Rehearsal at 9:00am
10/28 Affirmation of Baptism Service (Confirmation) at 10:30am

FAMILY MINISTRY, SUMMER EXPERIENCES, ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

We believe that faith formation happens primarily in families. At Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, we see our role as one of partnering with families in fulfilling the promises made at baptism. We are all on this journey together!

Some ways to partner in ministry...

- Make Sunday School, Confirmation, CLASH, and The Deep End a family priority.
- Worship together at LNL as a family, and pray together at home. Put *Faith 5, Luther's Small Catechism, and Living the Promises of Baptism: 101 Ideas for Parents* to good use!
- Participate in the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service at LNL.
- Find a good fit for your gifts and passions. In what ways can you contribute to our community? In addition to our ministries with children and youth, there are many opportunities throughout the congregation to be involved in meaningful ways! Check out our Welcome Brochure, found on our website and Welcome Table in the church narthex.

MISSION AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Each summer, our 9-12th grade grads become the hands and feet of Christ during our mission/service trip. These experiences include prayer, worship, devotions, working alongside others in communities throughout the country, and experiencing God in profound and life changing ways. The 2019 trip to Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in Montana is June 20-29. Info and prep meetings are on February 10, March 10, April 14 and May 19 at 11:45am; and, June 9, 10:45am.

For a meaningful experience for the entire family, we encourage your participation in Families Moving Forward, the shelter program of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. We'll provide shelter and hospitality to families experiencing homelessness from August 4-11, 2019. It takes over 50 volunteers set up and take down sleeping and activity spaces, prepare and serve dinners, coordinate activities for adults and kids, and serve as overnight hosts. Look for more information in January!

WILDERNESS CANOE BASE

All ages can stay at Wilderness Canoe Base for **Island Camp**, where you'll have options such as day trips paddling canoes, a night out on trail, rock climbing, swimming, campfires, worship, crafts, hiking and more. It's a great option for families, and you can come for all or part of the week. A traditional **Canoe Trip** takes you out on trail to paddle and portage, swim, fish, sleep in tents, cook over a campfire, and experience life in the BWCA. 6th-12th grade grads and adults can participate in a Canoe Trip, with some exceptions for younger children. In 2019, the Canoe Trip is July 7-12, and Island Camp is July 7-12 (you can stay all or part of the week for Island Camp.)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

3-year-old through 5th grade grads enjoy five days of worship, Bible stories, games, snacks, crafts and adventure; and 6th-12th grade grads and adults serve as leaders! VBS is July 14-18, 2019.

LAKE WAPOGASSET LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP

We encourage Bible camp for ALL because it helps our youth grow in their faith, and creates a tight knit community. Camp includes Bible studies, worship, campfires, swimming, games, cabin activities, arts & crafts, and so much more!

You'll hear more about it in January, but you can add it to your calendar now:

2019 WAPO DATES: *Seeds Camp (1st-3rd grade grads), July 26-28*
 Youth (4th-8th grade grads) & Senior High (9th-12th grade grads), July 28-August 2
 Wapo One Day (1st-4th grade grads), July 31

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Faith & Life Conversations

Adults gather on Sundays from 9:15-10:15am in the Bethel Room for topical conversations and Bible studies that are relevant for living out our faith in daily life. It's always okay to sneak in late or duck out early if you have children in Sunday school...we want your participation and your voice!

Christ & Culture in Film

What's your story? How can films help us tell God's story and our own? We gather monthly to view a movie on a large screen, followed by discussion. Movies this year include *Coco*, *Wonder Woman*, *The Darkest Hour*, *Dunkirk*, *Won't You Be My Neighbor*, and *Amour*. For more information, contact Glen Wheeler at 612-724-2655. Check the blue bulletin board in the church narthex for the full schedule. Come once to check out your favorite film or join us every month!

The Faith Club

This group, for both men and women, meets on Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the church library and is ideal for those with children in music groups. If you are interested please contact Allan Hetland at 651-636-2027 or bighet42@gmail.com.

Animate Faith

Bringing together leading voices such as Nadia Bolz-Weber and Brian McLaren, this course explores central topics of Christianity through video, journaling and provocative questions. If you are interested in this or a similar study, contact Erica Larson at 612-729-2323 or elarson@lakenokomis.org.

Other Future Possibilities

We have short-term Bible and book studies for Lent and at other times during the year. And other possibilities are endless! A parent group, a mom's group, men's groups, Yogadevotion, Theology on Tap...what's your interest? Talk to Director of Faith Formation Erica Larson about new possibilities or joining an existing group!

MAKING MUSIC

Adult Choir meets on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm and sings in worship roughly three times a month. If you sing in the shower or the car, you're qualified! This is a great option for parents/guardians of 7-12th grade youth because it meets at the same time!

Handbell Choir has several short sessions throughout the year, rehearses at 9:00am on Sundays, and plays roughly once a month.

If you can't make regular rehearsals, but still want to make music, there's a place for you, too! We'll have several short-term opportunities through the year, and there's always room for soloists and instrumentalists. Just let us know you're interested and we'll find a place and time that works for you! Talk to Music Director Jodi Gustafson to get involved.

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church (LNL)

Safety and Behavior Philosophy and Strategy for Children and Youth

We believe that faith formation happens primarily in families and that the church's role is to provide resources and support for families and create an environment where spiritually maturing young people:

- Are nurtured and accepted for *who* they are and *whose* they are
- Hear clearly and often that they are loved by God and saved by God's grace
- Discover and celebrate their God-given gifts
- Feel welcomed and loved in an environment that is physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe and comfortable.

Basic Expectations and Safety Precautions:

1. Children and youth must have written permission for involvement in church sponsored programs. In most cases, our Registration and Medical Forms will serve this purpose. Children utilizing the nursery should be checked in by a primary caregiver and remain in the nursery until they are checked out by that caregiver.
2. All children 3rd grade and younger should be dropped off and picked up in their Sunday School classroom by a primary caregiver. Primary caregivers of older children should talk to their child's teacher about drop off and pick up arrangements. All children and youth will remain with their class/group when participating in church programs.
3. Volunteers can teach or work with children and youth after they have been an active participant or member of LNL for six months. To help ensure the safety of children and youth, all adults who work with them will agree to our Safe Place Policy and Procedures and receive a background check every three years.
4. First Aid Kits are located in the education closet, church office work room, and narthex coat room.
5. In case of fire alarm, teachers and students will take the closest exit door out of the building and cross the street to get away from the building.
6. In case of tornado, teachers and students should go to the lower level Nokomis Room (undercroft).

We encourage the use of the following strategy for classroom management and behavior. It begins with creating a welcoming and nurturing environment for all. It also includes a covenant among leaders, primary caregivers, children and youth. Finally, it is a progression of actions that are effective in dealing with behavior situations that may arise.

- 1. Welcome:** Leaders will call children by name, and create a joyful and loving environment where each child has an opportunity to learn about God's love, ask questions, and share their individual thoughts. Leaders will pray, plan and prepare carefully, build relationships, respect and accept each child, affirm positive behavior, and include multiple learning styles. Children and youth should be aware that their behavior and actions affect others. Everyone is a child of God and part of the body of Christ, so children and youth can help others feel safe, welcome, and important.
- 2. Behavior Corrections:** Leaders will handle corrections with care, concern, and love and will not publicly embarrass children or youth. If a child is struggling with their behavior, leaders will ask the youth to participate, emphasizing our desire for them to be a part of what is going on. Sometimes giving youth a job can help them feel that they are contributing in a positive manner. If disruptive behavior continues, the leader will issue a verbal warning.
- 3. Private discussion:** If unwanted behavior continues, the leader will have a one-on-one conversation about the behavior. Sometimes, children are having a tough day, and the best thing that we can do is ask what's going on and listen. If possible, this can happen immediately, but sometimes the leader will need to wait until after the group is finished before a private discussion. Leaders will try to avoid verbal confrontation in front of the group.
- 4. Removal:** This becomes necessary when all constructive attempts to change the behavior within the group are exhausted. If there are two leaders in a group, one will take the child for a short walk in the hallway. If there is only one leader, our Sunday School Coordinators or an available staff member will be called on to help or, the primary caregiver will be summoned to take the child/youth out.
- 5. Primary caregiver involvement:** This occurs when the situation goes beyond other means of addressing behavior issues. If disruptive or hurtful behavior continues, a private meeting with the primary caregiver will take place.
- 6. Caregiver comes to the group:** If the behavior continues, the primary caregiver will be asked to sit in and participate in the group.
- 7. Permanent removal from the group:** If a situation goes beyond our ability to handle, or a child is creating an environment that is physically, emotionally, or spiritually unsafe for others, the child/youth's caregiver will be contacted and the child/youth will be asked to leave and not come back until they are ready to make a fresh start.
- 8. Follow up:** No matter at which stage the behavior ended, we will go beyond the moment. We will affirm the child/youth's ability or desire to change behavior, acknowledge positive behavior and changes, and emphasize the importance of their involvement in the group.

Once again, we want every child to feel welcomed and loved in an environment that is physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe, comfortable, and free from put-downs, and we will work together to achieve this objective!