

WHAT IS THE MILESTONE MINISTRY?

Milestone ministry is a way for us to celebrate the promises made in baptism, provide learning opportunities for families, and recommit ourselves as a congregation to nurture one another as the body of Christ as we mark “milestones” in a person’s journey of faith. The first milestone is baptism—when we hear the words proclaimed to us “child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.” Throughout a child’s growing years, there are other times that we make a point to connect as a congregation and celebrate once again this identity as a child of God, a brother and sister in Christ.

Each milestone has two aspects: a learning event designed for children and their parents, and a worship celebration in which the congregation offers their prayers and a blessing at this time in the child’s life. In this way, we are assisting and encouraging families to pass on the faith.



Off to college with his Sr. Blanket made by the 9th grade youth.

Of course, milestones don’t only happen when we are young. Perhaps you can think of special moments in your life when it has been especially important to be surrounded by the body of Christ, and when you have been especially thankful for the support and love of the community. Milestone ministry is for everyone—for children, parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors—all of us together to remind one another that we are baptized. We are part of the body of Christ, fellow workers in the kingdom of God.

Milestone Ministries

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Mt. Zion Lutheran Church



CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Birth **Baptism**

A Faith Chest is given to each Baptized member. The faith chest is used to put all the “faith items” you receive throughout your life! Baptism cards, Candles, etc. may be placed in the chest for safe keeping.

3 year olds **Prayer Pillows**

Prayer pillows are introduced to aid parents in introducing their children to various prayers and the many ways to pray. [May]

4 year olds **Story Bibles**

Story Bibles are placed in the hands of your 4 year olds as they begin their Bible studies through Sunday school and Story time with their parents. [February]

Kindergarten **Backpack Blessing**

Kindergarten students getting ready for the next big event in their lives are invited to bring their backpacks to church where we bless the backpacks, the children, and their parents as they start this next 13 year journey in their lives. [August]

1st Grade **Blessing Bowls**

First graders and their parents are brought together to have conversations about how God has blessed us. These blessings take many forms and can be viewed in many ways. Each child (with their parent) then paints stones for their bowls that will remind them of the many ways to look for God’s blessings. [May]

4th grade **Bible Presentation**

Bibles are presented to the 4th Grade Students at the beginning of the school year. This is accompanied by Bible Late Night a fun event held at church. Students and parents also meet with the Pastor on three Wednesday nights. [October]

5th grade **1st Communion**

The 5th Grade students make keepsake communion cups to be used on their 1st Communion. Students and parents meet with the Pastor on three Wednesday nights. [April]

6th grade **Prayer Milestone**

Our 6th graders learned more about prayer in preparation for writing and leading the prayers during worship. [March]

7th grade **Toolboxes**

We, as a congregation, encourage our youth to do mission work as part of their Christian life. This tool box will remind them that they have the skills (tools) to help other people in all ways—physically and spiritually. [November]

9th grade **Confirmation Service**

The 9th Grade Students will be confirmed in faith in late spring. We invite grandparents, godparents, other relatives and friends to join us on this important day. [April/May]

10th grade **Driver’s license**

In January we honor our youth who either received their license or permit to drive throughout the past year. We offer a blessing and they receive a keychain to keep with them as a reminder that God is always with them. [January]

12th grade **Senior Blanket**

At the end of the school year, the graduating seniors receive a blanket (made by the 9th grade youth class) to take with them as they leave high school and move on with their lives. The blanket is to remind them of the warmth they feel as members of Mt. Zion and as a reminder of the love we have for our children! [June]

Post High-School Care-packages

We send out Pick-Me-Up packages out to our youth 18-22 [first 4 yrs post High School] in the beginning of December. We hope in this way to remind them of our and God’s continuing love and care. [December]

