



LEFC KIDS

PARENT GUIDE

A parent's resource for knowing
all about Kids Ministry at LEFC!



Ellie Smith

Pre-K - Room B22

Notes: Dairy Allergy
Mom Cell: 555-555-5555



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Welcome to Kids Ministry!

We absolutely love and value kids here at LEFC! Our ministry with kids has been intentionally designed to partner with you as parents, helping kids to know, love, and follow Jesus!

Children are a vital part of our church family. We consider it a privilege to serve God by partnering with parents on this discipleship journey.

We want your children to have great experiences here learning God's Word, building relationships with friends and Shepherds, and learning to know, love and follow Jesus with all their heart, mind, soul and strength!

There's nothing better than investing in children and seeing God at work in their hearts and minds as they develop an unshakable, personal, everyday faith and hope in God.

Our Kids Ministry Staff Team

We love kids! And we want your children to feel at home, valued, and loved as part of our church family! We love getting to serve together to invest in children's lives. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.



Julia Brown
Minister to Children
brown@lefc.net



Lizz Cagno
Assistant Director of Children's Ministry
lizz.cagno@lefc.net



Amanda Ranck
Elementary Coordinator
ranck@lefc.net



Erin Martin
Nursery Coordinator
erin.martin@lefc.net



Kaitlyn Hawbaker
Preschool Coordinator
kaitlyn.hawbaker@lefc.net

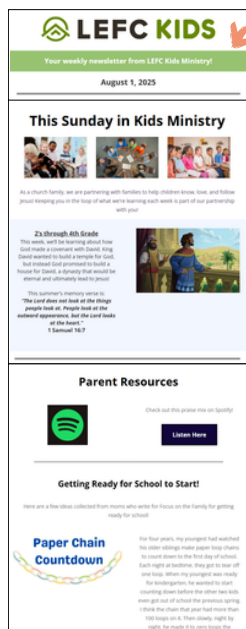


Brianna Kauffman
Administrative Assistant
kauffman@lefc.net

What is the discipleship journey we keep talking about?

“Apprenticeship [or discipleship] to Jesus—that is following Jesus—is a whole-life process of being with Jesus for the purpose of becoming like him and carrying on his work in the world. It’s a lifelong journey in which we gradually learn to say and do the kinds of things Jesus said and did as we apprentice under him in every facet of our lives,” (John Mark Comer in *Practicing the Way*).

Communication in Kids Ministry



- Weekly Friday Kids Ministry Newsletter! This includes weekly info regarding what the kids are learning in the narrative of Scripture, Bible verses they are learning, the Global partner of the week, Parent Resources and more!
- Website -- lefc.net/kids
- Church-wide weekly Wednesday Update email
- Church Bulletin [occasional]
- Electronic Posters in the hallways on Sundays
- Take-home papers from your child’s classes [occasional]

We would love to connect with you in person! Whether you want more information or have ideas and feedback, let us know what works best for someone on our staff team to connect with you!

Every Child Matters. Tell Us About Yours!

As we get to know you and your family, we want to keep lines of communication open! Scan the QR code below to access a short form and opportunity for you to share about your child to help us as we invest in all the children!



The Heart of Our Ministry

The mission of LEFC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We do this by sharing Christ in our relational worlds and pouring into the lives of others. We seek to be people who love God, love people, live truth, and proclaim Jesus.

In our ministry with kids here at LEFC, we have the same mission and we say it like this: ***We are partnering with families to help kids know, love, and follow Jesus!***



Kids Ministry Values

1. God's Word

We value children understanding the Bible as one unified story—God's plan of redemption through Jesus.

2. Spiritual Formation

We value giving children opportunities to encounter who God is and to practice the rhythms of faith that help them know and follow Him.

3. Relationships & Active Learning

We value meaningful relationships and engaging, hands-on learning experiences as essential to how children grow and learn.

4. Church Family

We value children as a vital part of the body of Christ. Our ministry is not separate—it thrives within the life of our church family.

5. Safety

We value creating an environment where every child is safe, cared for, and known—both physically and emotionally.

6. Oikos

We value equipping children and families to live out and share the gospel in their everyday lives—where they live, learn, and play—locally and globally. Included in this, we value families and kids developing supportive and prayerful relationships with our global partner families.

7. Teamwork

We value each person serving in Kids Ministry, recognizing that God uses their unique gifts to build His kingdom as we serve together.

8. Partnership with Parents

We value partnering with parents and families as we walk alongside families in the discipleship of their children.

Who Is Investing In Our Children?



The people who lovingly and prayerfully invest in children here are called Shepherds. Our ministry with kids is powered by an amazing team of people who love Jesus, love kids, and have Pennsylvania background checks and clearances.

Safety & Security

Upon registering, parents/caregivers receive security tags for both parent and child. The Kids Ministry classroom area is a secure area. We also have trained security personnel monitoring our Kids Ministry classroom areas.



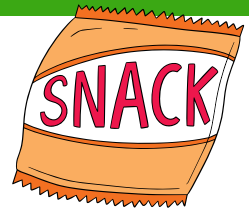
How We Contact Parents If Needed



If we need you to come check on your child, we will contact you by cell phone, usually by text message. This is the most efficient way to contact parents, no matter where they are in the building. So if your child is in Kids Ministry on Sunday, you'll just want to have your phone handy throughout the morning.

Allergies

We want to be very attentive to any allergies your child may have. Please make sure to include any allergy information for your child on their registration form or inform a member of our KidMin Staff or Family Welcome Team. Your child's allergy will be noted on their name tag.



Support for Special Needs



If your child has special needs or disabilities, we have a form for you to complete that helps us understand your child and his or her needs better. Whether your child would benefit from certain accommodations or having a one-to-one buddy, this form is a great start for us getting to know you and your child. Scan the QR code to access the form. You can hand the completed form in at the KidMin Welcome Desk on a Sunday morning, or you can give it to any member of our KidMin Staff. Then someone from our staff will be in touch with you.

Sunday Mornings

Children are seen, heard, and valued here at LEFC! Sunday morning classes with children are intentionally designed to be a safe place for children to actively learn and explore God's Word, and where children are loved and inspired by Shepherds who model what it's like to have a personal, everyday relationship with Jesus!

Nurseries

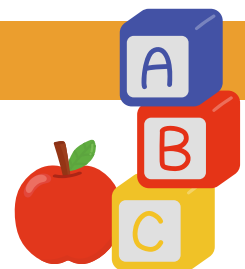
We have several nurseries for various developmental stages, from infants (at least 2 months old) up until 2 years of age. In our 1-year-old nurseries we focus on biblical themes using board books, conversation, songs, and prayer that is focused on a simple theme for each month.



- **My morning at church cards:** these are provided at parent drop off for you to indicate specific notes for your child's Shepherd [caregiver] regarding feeding, sleeping and other details.
- **Promotion in our nurseries:** our Nursery Coordinator will contact you when your child will be moving to the next nursery, or you may complete a "move up request" at the Welcome Desk and our Nursery Coordinator will follow up with you.
- **What to bring:** disposable diapers, bottle or sippy cup with your child's name on it, and a complete change of clothes. We provide cheerios to kiddos who are able to eat them. As an alternative, you are welcome to pack a specific snack for your children; we just ask that you communicate with your child's Shepherd about your child's specific snack. If they have a comfort item of some sort, that's good to bring, too!
- **Nursing Mom's Room:** Currently across from the Infant nursery, this room is a dedicated space for nursing moms that includes comfy chairs, a changing table, and access to the services via livestream.

2- and 3-year-olds

- **Bible, prayer & relationships:** we use a Christ-centered, Bible-based and developmentally appropriate curriculum which gives our very young children a strong foundation for beginning their journey of knowing, loving and following Jesus!
- **One service, two services, or both:** every Sunday we orient lessons around one Bible story, taught at both services. However, different games, activities, and crafts are used at each service to mix it up and make learning fun!



- **Memory verses:** children in this age group have memory verses to learn for each unit. The memory verse is listed each week in our Friday newsletter.
- **Songs & movement:** music, worship, and movement are provided during each class time.
- **Promotion:** once children are in a two's class or a three's class, they move or are promoted just one time a year. Our promotion is typically the Sunday after Labor Day weekend in the fall of each year.
- **What to bring:** a complete change of clothes. Optional: a labeled sippy cup. We provide Veggie Straws as a snack. As an alternative, you are welcome to pack a specific snack for your children; we just ask that you communicate with your child's Shepherd about your child's specific snack.

Pre-K Through 4th Grade



- **Bible, prayer & relationships:** we use a Christ-centered, chronological, and theologically rich curriculum called the Gospel Project that goes through the entire narrative of scripture over a span of 3 years. Our Coordinators customize and supplement the lessons to fit our ministry. The lessons are designed to teach the Bible, promote relationships, and provide hands-on opportunities for kids to process, practice, interact with, and internalize God's word and encounter God personally.
- **One service, two services, or both:** every Sunday we orient lessons around one Bible story, taught at both services. However, different games, activities, and crafts are used at each service to mix it up and making learning fun!
- **Memory Verses:** children in this age group have memory verses that go with the lessons [about every 3-4 weeks they have a new verse to work on memorizing]. The verses are listed in the Friday newsletter each week.
- **Large Group Story:** during the first service, children in K-4th Grade have a large group story time to engage with the Bible story of the day.
- **Kids Worship & World Mobilization Moments:** during the second service, children in Prek-4th Grade have a large group time for Kids Worship and World Mobilization Moments each Sunday! This is a time where we teach, encourage, and model for our children a heart for worship and what that looks like for kids!

- **Promotion:** children move to the next class/grade typically the Sunday after Labor Day weekend in the fall of each year.
- **What to bring:** when children are in 1st through 4th Grade, we especially encourage children to bring their Bibles with them to church. If your child does not have a Bible, let us know and we are happy to provide one. We provide Veggie Straws as a snack for our Pre-K through 4th Graders. As an alternative, you are welcome to pack a nut-free snack for your child. We ask that you communicate with your child's Shepherd regarding your child's specific snack.

Hands & Feet Ministry

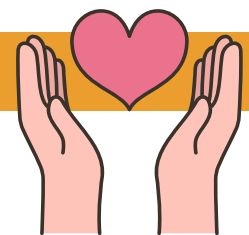
We love kids at LEFC! And we want every child to feel welcome, valued and accepted as part of our church family. Our Hands and Feet Ministry is intentionally designed to come alongside children who benefit from support and encouragement from a one-to-one buddy. If you are wondering about having a buddy for your child, will you let us know? Just scan the QR code below to fill out the form. You can hand the completed form in at the KidMin Welcome Desk on a Sunday morning, or you can give it to any member of our KidMin Staff. Then someone from our staff will be in touch with you.



Michelle Bennett serves as our Hands and Feet Ministry Team Leader, as part of Kids Ministry. Her role is to get to know the kids who have a hands and feet buddy, and to support and equip those who serve as a buddy in this ministry. We are deeply grateful for Michelle's heart, experience, and education with children who have various special needs/disabilities.

Children's Offering

We know from Scripture that giving of our resources is part of our worship of God. We include "children's offering" as a part of our ministry with children because learning to give generously, out of faith in God's provision and a cheerful heart, is part of being a follower of Jesus.



Here are several Scriptures you can read together with your children to talk about giving generously: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Acts 20:35, 1 Corinthians 16:2, and James 2:16.

The children's offering box is located on the wall just after the Kids Ministry Lounge as you walk into our Kids Ministry hallway. We designate children's offering proceeds to support LEFC's global partners and other special projects. We communicate the offering designation in our Kids Ministry Newsletter [emailed weekly on Friday mornings].

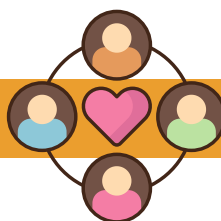
Global Partner of the Month



As a Kids Ministry, we have adopted 12 global partner families that we pray for, care for and support. All the global partners and their pictures are available in our Global Partner booklet. Each month during the year [September through June], we have a “global partner of the month” that we pray for in Kids Ministry on Sunday mornings. We invite you to join us during the week at home to pray for our global partner of the month! The global partner of the month is posted weekly in our Friday e-news and highlighted on the electronic posters in the hallways on Sunday mornings.

Note: You can pick up a copy of our Kids Ministry Global Partner booklet at the resource table in the Kids Ministry lounge!

Oikos Connection



Oikos is what we call the circle of people with whom we work, live and play, and with whom we share the hope of Jesus. Do you have your one person or one family you and your family are praying for to know the hope of the gospel message? We have several ministry events throughout the year that are great opportunities to prayerfully invite friends and family in your oikos. Here's a few of the events:

- **Family Christmas Event [first Friday in December]
- **Sundays when Created to Praise leads our worship services
- Christmas Eve services
- Every Sunday morning in Kids Ministry friends and family are welcome!



**See page 17 for more details



Parent Information

Parent Resources

The best ideas are borrowed! It's fun to share resources! Watch our Friday Newsletter for articles, book recommendations, cliff notes from favorite parent resources, ideas on ways to celebrate holidays at home, and more! Stop by our Parent Resource Table in the Kids Ministry Lounge for ideas and info to take with you. Also check out our parent page on our website, <https://www.lefc.net/kidminparents>



How To Get Involved in Kids Ministry

As followers of Jesus, we are called to ministry!

In Scripture we see it explained like this: Every Christian is created for ministry [Ephesians 2:10], saved for ministry [2 Timothy 1:9], commanded to minister [Matthew 20:26-28], to be prepared for ministry [Ephesians 4:11-12], needed for ministry [1 Corinthians 12:27], accountable for ministry, and will be rewarded according to his or her ministry [Colossians 3:23-24].

In Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Church*, he puts it like this: "Every believer isn't a pastor, but every believer is called into ministry. God calls all believers to minister to the world and to the church. Service in the body isn't optional for Christians. In God's army, there are no volunteers—He's drafted all of us into service."

We are passionate about people using their gifts, experiences and love for the Lord in ministry with kids. Some people love teaching, while some people love connecting and talking with kids more than preparing and teaching. Some people love holding babies and caring for little ones in our nurseries while some people prefer to be with adults and welcome parents and families as part of our Welcome Team! Some people enjoy being behind the scenes and preparing supplies while others are energized by serving and/or leading on teams and events.

Let's have a conversation about the opportunity that is the best match for you! Scan the QR code and fill out the form to express interest in serving in Kids Ministry. Then someone from our team will be in touch with you.



July and August Sundays



Each year we are blessed to have Shepherds who commit to teaching, investing in, and caring for children in all our classes from September through June. During July and August, we ask parents to partner with us on Sunday mornings to invest in the children while our year-round Shepherds have some time to recharge and refresh.

We structure our July and August Sundays to make it extra fun [and easy] for parents to be a part of our ministry with kids. This is a great way for parents to get to know the kids in their child's classes and to show support for all our Shepherds. Information about our July and August Sundays, including how to sign up and go through our clearance process typically begins in February each year. We share this info in our Friday Newsletter and in all other communication with families.

Wellness Guidelines

As a way of caring for one another within the body of Christ, we want to prevent sharing germs and illnesses whenever possible. Our Wellness Guidelines chart is designed to be a helpful guide for families on this topic.

When to Stay Home From Church							
FEVER	COUGH	VOMITING	DIARRHEA	RASH	HEAD LICE	EYE INFECTION	HOSPITAL STAY AND/OR ER VISIT
Temperature of 100 or higher	Persistent coughing, that interrupts learning for student and peers.	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching, and/or crusty drainage from eye	Hospital stay and/or ER visit
I AM READY TO GO BACK TO CHURCH WHEN I AM...							
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication i.e. Tylenol, Motrin	Cough is controlled with water, or limited cough drops.	Free from vomiting for at least 2 solid meals, and no vomiting for 24 hours	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours	Free from rash, itching or fever. - I have been evaluated by my medical provider if needed	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home	Evaluated by my medical provider	Released by medical provider

Evacuation Procedures



In the event of an Emergency, your children will be evacuated by the Kids Ministry Staff and Shepherds immediately. Parents will not be permitted to go into the Kids Ministry hallways for their own safety. After we have evacuated the building and have properly accounted for everyone, the Shepherds and helpers will assist you in collecting your children outside.



Children/Kids: we use the words children and kids interchangeably to describe our ministry with our youngest people in our church family, infants 2 months old through 4th graders!

KidMin: this is the abbreviation that is used when referencing LEFC's Kids Ministry

Shepherd: this is what we call the people who lovingly invest in children's lives in our classes.

Hands and Feet Buddy: a person who is part of our Hands and Feet ministry, who serves specifically with one child to provide support and encouragement to make Sundays great.

Junior Shepherd: this is what we call those who serve, helping Shepherds and investing in kids' lives, who are under 18 years of age.

Junior Shepherd Mentors: this is what we call the people who serve by leading our VIP for Junior Shepherds [which is a time for understanding the vision, getting info and training and praying together for the ministry].

Hallway Support: people who serve specifically to support our Shepherds as they serve.

Kids Ministry Welcome Desk: this is where you can register your child[ren] for attending Kids Ministry! Our welcome team will assist you in finding your child's class and knowing how to sign in [after you have registered] each week.

Kids Ministry Lounge area: this is the area you see when you walk into our Kids Ministry area that has couches and a fun kid-friendly world map on the wall!

Parent Resource Table: a table set up with resources for parents and families in the Kids Ministry Lounge.

Oikos: this is what we call the circle of people with whom we work, live and play, and with whom we share the hope of the gospel. We are not talking about yogurt here.

Global partner: this is what we call our missionaries or those who serve vocationally, sharing the gospel in other cultures.

World Mobilization: this is what we call cross-culture missions or world outreach.

Kids and Worship

Kids in our Worship Services



While we have Kids Ministry classes at both services, we want to clarify that your children are very welcome in our main services. If you attend an adult class and attend worship, you may opt to have your child attend the service with you rather than having them in a class. Children learn so much from being with us as parents, seeing us worship, listen, take communion, pray, and interact with the church family in our services. So prayerfully consider the best timing/season for involving your children and beginning the journey of teaching them how to be involved in our church's worship services.

"If children could be present for those marathon meetings with Jesus [both Matthew 14:15 and Mark 6:35 specify that the concern for food did not arise until after Jesus had been preaching all day], why shouldn't we include them for an hour or so of worship?" [Right from the Start, Morgenthaler, 185]

Kids Bulletins Available Every Week!

For those children who do come to the worship service, we have Kids Bulletins available for them to pick up as they walk into the service!



Family Worship Sundays

We have four Sundays each year that are specifically Family Worship Sundays:

- Memorial Day weekend
- 4th of July weekend
- Labor Day weekend
- the Sunday following Christmas

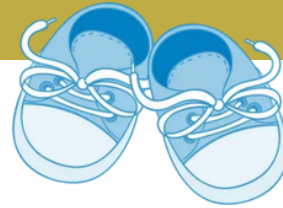


Family Worship Sundays are times when we intentionally invite families and children to worship together! This means that adult, youth, and children's classes are closed. We provide "Big Church Bags" to help children engage with and feel a part of our worship services.

Nurseries and 2-year-old classes are open on Family Worship Sundays.

Milestone Celebrations

Child Dedication



Several times a year, our church family sets aside time in our worship services for child dedications. As a church family, this is a time where we celebrate:

- Children being dedicated to the Lord, to love the Lord our God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind!
- Parents making a public commitment to invest in their children's lives by modeling a personal and growing relationship with Jesus and intentionally teaching their children to follow Jesus.
- Our church family making a public commitment to partner and support parents and families on this journey of discipling children!

Information about Child Dedications is communicated in the weekly bulletin and weekly church emails with details about signing up and attending a parent meeting with Pastor Tony prior to the dedication. Our church is so blessed by our pastor making this a very personal and special celebration.

Communion



We have put together a free, kid-friendly resource for talking about Communion with your child when they have questions! These workbooks have sections designed for parent-child interaction, sections designed to support and resource the parents in this discussion, and also some word games and puzzles for the kids.

You can find copies of this workbook on the Parent Resource Table in the Kids Ministry Lounge!

Baptism



Our church family celebrates baptisms after the second service, typically on the second Sunday of the month. We encourage you to stay and include your children in hearing the testimonies of how God is working in people's lives!

When your child has interest in taking the step of being baptized, you can:

- Pick up the resource for kids that we have specifically on Baptism [at the Kids Ministry welcome desk]
- After reading and discussing this book with your child, if they are ready to take the next step you can call the church office to schedule a time to meet with one of the pastors about getting baptized.

More Ministries for Kids

Created to Praise

For children in grades 2-6, we have an annual children's worship workshop called Created to Praise. This includes 4 Sunday morning rehearsals in the weeks leading up to Palm Sunday, followed by leading worship in the main service on Palm Sunday.

Registration times are communicated in all-church emails and in the Kids Ministry Friday Newsletter.



Family Christmas Night

Making family memories together and sharing the true meaning of Christmas with friends [think Oikos] is the purpose of this event. Our tradition is to have our family event on the first Friday night in December to kick off the advent season! Our family night is set up in stations to move through as a family based on your preferences and ages of your kids. Registration begins in late October.

Here are examples of some of the stations from previous years:

- decorate a mini gingerbread house [preassembled]
- build a manger to take home with you
- make an advent countdown calendar
- have your family photo taken
- grab a snack at our Christmas night café
- make a Christmas story bracelet
- Story Room [Christmas stories and fun]
- make a Christmas tree ornament to take home
- exploding snowball station
- games area



WBF Kids Ministry

This ministry is designed especially for preschoolers [infants 2 months and older through Pre-K] whose moms are attending WBF on Thursday mornings. WBF Kids is a fun and intentionally planned, developmentally appropriate, hands-on environment for our young children to learn God's Word!



Re:Charge Kids



This is our ministry designed especially for kids whose parents are involved in either Re:generation or ReEngage. Re:Charge Kids is a highly relational environment that includes theme-based Bible learning activities and game time. This is a ministry for infants 2 months and older through 4th graders.