



TRUTH Homeschool Outreach Handbook

St. John Lutheran Church
Fredonia, Wisconsin

Together we
Rely
Understand
Trust &
Honor God



Revised: 8/18/2024

Mission Statement

To grow families in our Lutheran faith as we enrich our homeschool education with learning opportunities and Christian encouragement and fellowship.

Vision

To impact the next generation for Christ. We are a Christ-centered Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod cooperative that provides a variety of educational and enrichment classes for homeschooling families of primary and secondary age children in a safe and loving environment.

Value Verses

- *Proverbs 22:6*: “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” *Lifetime habits are formed from training
- *Deuteronomy 6:5-9*: “... You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up...” (vs.8) *Training is a lifestyle not a curriculum. You teach your children how to love and live for God when you are living it out in daily life.
- *Isaiah 54:3*: “All your children will be taught of the Lord; and great will be the peace of your children.” *True peace comes from being taught by God and in His ways.
- *1 Timothy 4:12*: “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” *Students will be positive examples

We do require member families to be faithful members in good standing at a confessional LCMS church.

Overview

As homeschool parents, we feel that God has called and enabled us to homeschool our children. We feel that cooperatively we can provide enrichment opportunities that may not be possible on our own. We will meet, collaborate, and learn with other confessional Lutheran families.

TRUTH Homeschool Outreach will provide: supplemental learning through academically-enriching activities, opportunities for students to participate in group activities, opportunities for families to form bonds with other Lutheran homeschooling families, and a supportive space for homeschool families to share successes and navigate challenges.

Nursery space is provided for little siblings in TRUTH classes. Parents are encouraged to stay with nursery aged children unless other supervision arrangements are available. We are unable to accommodate additional young children our member families babysit.

Classes will be broken into age-appropriate groups that will meet separately at class times and will be capped at 12 per class, unless circumstances allow. 6-week sessions will occur 2-3 times a year, taking breaks for Advent, Lent, and Summer.

- Group 1** “Little Lutherans” ages 3-5
- Group 2** “Lutheran Learners” ages 6-8
- Group 3** “Lutheran Disciples” ages 9+

Statement of Faith and Beliefs

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and inerrant Word of God. We are members in good standing of Confessional Lutheran congregations, subscribing to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession (UAC) and the entirety of the Lutheran Confessions as found in the Book of Concord.

Interested Families

Parents interested in joining TRUTH must meet with delegate members. A play date may also be scheduled with prospective families.

Board information: TRUTHCoop@yahoo.com

Kolyssa Frisque*

Danelle Riederer

Michelle Russell

*At least one delegate will report to the Board of Education for St. John Lutheran.

Expectations for Participation

Parents will:

- be encouraged to serve at TRUTH classes in one of the following areas: lead teacher, co-teacher, class/teacher’s aide, nursery, floater or miscellaneous.
- remain on the church premises at all times unless a special accommodation has been made. Since we are a homeschool outreach and not a drop off educational program, a child may not participate in TRUTH unless his/her parent or guardian is on site. You must choose to sign up for TRUTH classes offered in order to participate in TRUTH Homeschool Outreach.
- understand that all classes offered are for enrichment purposes only. The classes offered may vary from term to term and are determined by the willingness of group members to lead. However, we may have people who volunteer their time and talents teaching classes who are not TRUTH members (examples, guitar teacher, art teacher, ballet teacher, etc.).
- communicate in a godly way via email, text or phone
- adhere to the illness policy
- maintain a faithful membership and regular attendance at a confessional Lutheran church
- arrive on time for Matins at 12:30
- respect and encourage all participants to adhere to all TRUTH Homeschool Outreach guidelines
- supervise all children in the group
- keep personal electronics on silent mode until the fellowship hour

- help clean up to leave the facility as nice (or nicer!) than when TRUTH Homeschool Outreach arrived
- not enter the Preschool/Childcare part of the St. John building. This part of the building is strictly off limits during business hours, unless special permission is given

Participants will:

- be polite, respectful, and attentive to each other and those in authority
- keep a positive attitude and encourage one another in words and actions
- come prepared for all classes
- be quiet in the hallways and always walk through the building
- always be supervised by a responsible adult when in any part of the building or church grounds
- dress modestly
- stay within the physical boundaries established
- not bring electronics unless requested by an instructor

General Schedule

Here is a general schedule of TRUTH on Thursday afternoons, as broken in to six-week sections:

12:30 pm	Matins/Hymn of the Month
1:00 pm	Group 1, Group 2, Group 3: Class
2:00 pm	Group 1, Group 2, Group 3: Class
3:00 pm	Fellowship, snack, playtime

Clean Up Policy

Please help clean up before you leave each week after TRUTH. Clean up includes wiping down tables, taking out any trash, sweeping, returning materials to their proper place, making sure bathrooms are decent, and turning lights off.

We want to respect where we meet so our goal is to look like we were never there!

Communication

TRUTH members will be placed on an e-mail loop, which will be our main means of communication. Members are responsible for reading their e-mails to learn important announcements related to TRUTH. If there is an emergency, a board member will send a text message to all parties. If you or your child will be absent due to an illness, please text the board.

Conflict Resolution Policy

Unfortunately, personality conflicts and misunderstandings can happen. It is important that we agree on how to deal with these situations when they arise.

Based on Matthew 18, if conflict arises, parents and teachers should seek to resolve the issue on their own. If either party is unsatisfied or a resolution: cannot be met, the parties then need to seek the assistance of the Board.

Discipline and Standards Policy

- Parents should monitor their children’s behavior when needed. Appropriate disciplinary measures should be taken privately. Uncooperative or disruptive children will be removed from activities.
- Children should respect authorities as well as peers.
- For minor infractions, the child will be given a verbal warning, and a written note may be given to the parent.
- In cases of more serious disciplinary issues, the following should be considered standard procedure:
 - Child will be given a verbal warning by the instructor.
 - Parent meeting
 - If unacceptable behavior continues, the parents will be notified and the child may be taken to his/her parent for the rest of the day.
 - If this behavior continues in class, there will be a meeting scheduled between the parent(s), the teacher, and the board. the student may be dismissed from class and may be withdrawn from TRUTH Homeschool Outreach and no fees will be refunded. Any other participation in future sessions will be for a probationary period.
 - Parents need to be willing to allow the instructors to discipline their children according to the procedures outlined above and must be willing to abide by the instructor’s decision to dismiss their children from the class if the instructor deems it necessary.

Dress Code

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) – “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

- Clothing must be modest. Please do not wear spaghetti strap tops, halter tops, muscle shirts, or any short, tight fitting, or midriff shirts.
- Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times.
- Necklines must be modest, and any shorts, skirts or dresses must be closer to knee length. Shorts, leggings, or tights must be worn under any skirts or dresses. Leggings are acceptable as pants for girls up to age 8.
- Unusual attire associated with immoral or improper ideas or with an anti-Christian message should not be worn.

- If you aren't sure something is appropriate to wear, please don't wear it. Let's honor one another by being respectful in our dress.

Illness Policy

People with the following symptoms should not attend:

- Fever (within the last twenty-four hours)
- Severe cold symptoms
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea
- Eye drainage
- Virus or infection (known to be contagious)
- Rashes
- Head lice

Please be considerate of others regarding your child(ren) and illnesses.

Inclement Weather Policy

We will make determinations about closings due to weather conditions by 10:00 a.m. on TRUTH days. TRUTH participants will be placed in an e-mail loop which will be our main means of communication. Please check your e-mail by 10:00 a.m. on TRUTH days for any special notices about bad weather. If schools are closed due to snow, we will also cancel. Any emergency closure will be texted to members.

PDA (Public Displays of Affection)

All students will maintain a six-inch personal space boundary between oneself and members of the opposite gender.

Fellowship Opportunities

We aim to encourage weekly fellowship in worship. In addition, we may schedule Mom's Nights Out, Dad's Nights Out, Family Nights, and Servant Events to strengthen our relationships. We may have opening or closing year field trip events.

Registration Policy

The registration form given at registration needs to be signed before you are considered registered. Each class will have a fee just for the supplies needed during that class. We will try to keep the costs low so everyone can participate. There is no family "fee" but a donation would be greatly appreciated for using the church facilities. Registration is done on a first-come, first-served basis. Should TRUTH have to close registration due to size limitations, families may be put on the waiting list and invited to fill vacated spots at the discretion of the Board. We do

not want to have anyone excluded because of lack of finances. If you truly are not able to afford part or all of these fees, send a written request for a scholarship to the Board.

Refund Policy

No refunds for class fees since teachers will have bought supplies for their classes.

Waiver Form

It is required to have a release form on file for each family, signed by the parent, in order for them to be permitted to participate in TRUTH. Registration WILL NOT be accepted without a properly completed form. Thank you for your cooperation!

This waiver includes an area for a medical form on each child that must be completed to be on file (for allergies and medical information in the event of needing medical care...parents will be on the property and be contacted immediately but we still want this information).

Supply Cart

If you are able, to help maintain lower costs, please donate one of the items below so our teachers have enough supplies without having to purchase them out of their budget.

- √ Crayons
- √ Pencils
- √ Paper-construction, white typing, large construction
- √ Glue sticks and Elmer's Glue
- √ Clorox wipes
- √ Paper towels

Parent Agreement / Waiver Form

To register for and participate in the St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach all parents must understand and agree with the following:

I have read and agree to abide by the information in the St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach Handbook, including all of the Expectations for Participation. I also agree to adhere to all other Group Guidelines not explicitly stated in the St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach Handbook.

I understand that classes are supplemental to what is being taught in the home and are meant for enrichment purposes only. I understand that the St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach does not keep permanent records or assign grades.

I understand that St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach does not give legal protection or legal assistance. The St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach is not obligated to testify regarding my homeschool’s validity, authenticity, or effectiveness to legal authorities or in court.

I agree that my child(ren) will read, understand and abide by the Student Agreement below.

I understand and agree that anyone involved with the TRUTH Homeschool Outreach and St. John Church will at no time be responsible for mishaps, injuries, or accidents that may occur during the year. Furthermore, I understand that activities may include handling hazardous chemicals, biological substances, sharp objects, heat, etc. I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach and St. John Church, its representatives, teachers, volunteers, and members from any claims arising out of, or relating to, physical or other injury that may result while participating in St. John TRUTH sanctioned events.

Parents’ Signatures: _____ Date: _____

Names of Children Participating:	Any medical needs/allergies (or “N/A”)

Student Agreement

It is expected that parents will share the following with your child(ren) prior to classes. In order to register for and participate in St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach all students must understand, agree with, and adhere to the following:

I have read and agree to abide by the information in the St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach Handbook, specifically all of the Expectations for Participation. I also agree to adhere to all other Group Guidelines not explicitly stated in the St. John TRUTH Homeschool Outreach Handbook.

Our speech will model the Scripture Ephesians 4:29: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

I understand that if my behavior is addressed and I do not correct it, I will not be allowed to continue to participate in the TRUTH Homeschool Outreach.

Students' Signatures (one per line):
