

9th Grade Christikon Trip 2026

June 20 – June 28

What is Christikon? Christikon is a ministry of Lutheran congregations that is based in an outdoor setting in the mountains of southern Montana which offers experiences grounded in and shaped by the gospel of Jesus Christ. For many years, Bethel's youth who have completed 9th grade have participated in the "Mountaineers" backpacking trip as a part of their preparation for confirmation.

Why Backpacking? Backpacking takes more energy and endurance than on-site camping, but it's well worth the extra effort. You spend your first and last nights at Christikon staying at main camp in either tents or cabins, but the rest of the time you are hiking through our mountain wilderness. Here you find a special life together: worship and Bible study are woven together with the exhilaration of high country camping. Two trained counselors join your group as guides and program leaders. Christikon provides you with backpacks, tents, cooking gear, and food. You supply your own sleeping bag, hiking boots, rain gear, and clothing.

Dates - Bethel youth will attend Christikon from June 20 - 28 (includes 2 travel days). We will leave Bethel VERY early on the 20th and return on the evening of the 28th.

Transportation/Itinerary – The on-site campers and the backpackers will be traveling to Christikon together in 12-passenger vans. We will leave very early on June 20 and drive to Billings, Montana where we will stay overnight at a church. The next day we will enjoy a nice breakfast in downtown Billings and then go to Natural Bridge Nature Area. From there we make the final stretch up to camp. On the way home we will spend the night at a church in Bismarck, North Dakota and then return to Bethel the next evening (June 28.) When we are staying at churches we will be sleeping on the floor with our camping pads.

Adult Leaders – We will need a few adult leaders (the number will depend on how many students have signed up) to join us at Christikon. Some adults will accompany the students on trail, and some will stay at camp in the Visitor Center. All adults will need to drive vans. Those going on trail need to be physically able to spend a week backpacking (please talk to me about what that entails). Bethel requires driving background checks on all adult chaperones.

Cost Breakdown:

Registration	\$ 520/person	
Transportation	\$ 100	
Food (4 group meals)	\$ 40	
Chaperone fee	\$ 150	
Total	\$ 810/person	(Total due to Bethel)

In addition, you also will need enough money for 3 lunches and 1 breakfast.

* \$150 non-refundable deposit is due with registration.

** Scholarship money is available.

Fundraising - is a great way to alleviate the financial burden of trips and is a great way for youth to connect with one another before we leave on our journey. Here are the 4 planned fundraisers. If there are other fundraisers that families are interested in planning (with significant parental leadership) please contact Kristi.

- Ongoing Script Sales
- Spring Plant Sales - Sale in Feb/March with delivery and shifts on May 7-9
- Easter Egg Fundraiser (Spring orders with shifts on April 1 and 4)
- Garage Sale (May 16)

Script – To sign up for Script go to www.raiseright.com Bethel's code is: 59888b7f12926

Registration. Bethel's registration deadline for Christikon is **March 15 to ensure a spot.** After March 15th there may be room, but it is not guaranteed. Please register asap so we can plan for transportation. If you are interested in this trip, you must have your registration form along with a \$150 non-refundable deposit to the church office by this date.

In the case of cancellation after April 1, you will be responsible for any costs we cannot get back from Christikon etc. Please make checks payable to Bethel Lutheran Church.

Payment Schedule:

March 15 - \$150 Deposit due with registration
May 1- \$300 is due (minus any fundraisers)
June 1 – Final payment due

Meetings, Packing Lists and Forms:

There will be an online form for you to complete. This will include a signed medical form indicating you are in good health and have seen a doctor for a well visit or sports physical in the last 2 years. If you have NOT been to a doctor recently, please consider making an appointment before summer hits. If you are getting a sports physical this fall, please ask for a copy of the physical. This goes for student participants and adult leaders.

As we get closer to summer, you will be given a detailed packing list. A few weeks before we go there will be a meeting for all participants and parents to go over a detailed itinerary and more details. Camp provides tents, bags and other gear. You will need to bring good hiking boots, a sleeping bag, and a sleeping pad.

Questions? Call or email Kristi Larson:

[651.230.6057 \(call or text\)](tel:651.230.6057)
youth@bethelnorthfield.org

Fundraisers:

Script – Ongoing

www.raiseright.com

Sign Up (create an account)

Bethel's Code: 59888B7F12926

Easter Egg Fundraiser-

- **February – Thrivent Grant is applied (Thrivent member needed!)**
- **Early March – flyers go out and registration opens**
- **March 31 – Orders DUE (this is at the end of spring break!)**
- **Wednesday, April 1 – Baskets made at church**
- **Saturday, April 4 (evening) – “Bunnies” hide baskets/eggs**

Plant Sales

- **Mid-February order packets go out – Sales open Feb. 21**
- **March 31 online plant sales close (this is during Spring Break)**
- **May 7-9 plant sale “weekend”**

Garage Sale Saturday May 16 (afternoon)

