

## Lord of Life Sunday School Program

### Sunday School Goals

- To bring the good news of Jesus Christ to all children.
- To support and develop staff and parents so we can sustain our high caliber programs into the future.
- To have substantial parent involvement and excellent communication.
- To create a program where the children feel valued and have fun so they can't wait to come back each week.
- To continue to grow our enrollment by encouraging opportunities to bring others into the program.
- To provide education of the bible through learning expectations per grade level.
- To provide children with lasting adult and child friendships grounded in good Christian beliefs.
- To provide a balanced approach to learning through:
  - Classroom study/activities
  - Music
  - Outreach/service to others
  - Fellowship Opportunities
  - Worship service opportunities

### Registration Forms

A Registration Form must be completed for each child each year. This will ensure all information is accurate. These forms share important information such as emergency contacts and allergy information. A master copy of all forms is kept with the Sunday School Coordinators and a copy will also be kept in each classroom for teachers to reference.

### The Calendar

Sunday School takes place from the weekend after Labor Day to the weekend before Memorial Day. Days off usually coincide with the Kenosha Unified School District's schedule. Class time is from 9:15AM to 10:15AM, between services during the Education Hour. Parents/guardians are always welcome to visit a classroom or partake in the Adult Education sessions during this same time.

A calendar for the entire year will be handed out at the parent meeting on Rally day, the first day of Sunday School. This calendar communicates all activities and days off for the year.

### Program Activities Weekly

Typically the following activities will take place on a Sunday morning in the classrooms

- ❖ Start at 9:15
- ❖ Attendance
- ❖ Offering
- ❖ Music – every other week except near Christmas Program
- ❖ Lessons/activities
- ❖ End at 10:15 (children I grades Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade must be picked up)

### Special Activities

Six times all students will join together during the Sunday school hour. Parents are always welcome to join on these days. Activities include:

- ❖ Baptism remembrance
- ❖ Update on Annual Mission project
- ❖ Other activities involving acts of service and practice for in church activities

Examples of acts of service may be cleaning the inside of the church, cleaning up and planting outside the church, and visiting the nursing home (parents must pick up and drop off their child at the nursing home).

Each class will get an opportunity to service in church; we call this 'Church Participation' on the calendar. It is a way of introducing basic activities that take place during a church service that members can partake in to serve the congregation. It is important for the children to view themselves as important members of the body of Christ. Church participation includes:

- ❖ Greeting
- ❖ Handing out bulletins
- ❖ Taking the offering
- ❖ Bringing up the communion bread and wine
- ❖ And serving during the fellowship time after the service  
(Parents are asked to help provide the snack and juice which will be served)

Twice a year the entire Sunday School will partake in a special church service. The first is the Christmas Program; this is a special service in early December. If your child will be participating in the program, it is asked that they attend the 1-3 additional practices which will take place on a Friday evening or Saturday morning. The second is Recognition Sunday; all children are asked to participate in the 10:30 service on this day. All aspects of the service will be presented by the children; including presenting their benchmarks as a class, singing, reading scripture, reading prayers, ushering, greeting, assisting with communion, etc.

### Curriculum

A classroom style of learning is used. Based on their age/grade, children are assigned to a certain room and a specific set of teachers for the entire school year.

The curriculum is through Augsburg Fortress. Specific bible stories are selected for each classroom. The grouping of stories are linked in some way with the Benchmark for that class. The strategic selection of stories was done to allow for a variety with minimal repeating over the seven years of Sunday school.

Teachers use a team approach as more than one teacher is assigned to a classroom.

Third Graders will have the opportunity to partake in an 8 week Walk Through the Bible. This session is designed for parents to participate with their child. At the end of the eight weeks, each child will be presented with a bible during a church service, typically the 10:30 service on the 8<sup>th</sup> week of class.

### Benchmarks

Benchmarks are put in place to give children the opportunity to learn specific Christian foundations.

Benchmarks, if memorized and presented to teachers in the classroom, on an individual basis, will result in an award for each child who accomplishes this. Benchmarks will be presented at the end of the year as a class during a church service to show the congregation what the students have been learning.

Benchmarks are as follows:

- ❖ Pre-K: Songs – Jesus Loves Me & This Little Light of Mine

- ❖ K: The Lord's Prayer
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup>: Bible Verses – John 3:16, Matthew 28:19-20
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup>: Books of the Bible – old testament
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup>: Books of the Bible – new testament
- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup>: The 10 Commandments
- ❖ 5<sup>th</sup>: The Apostle's Creed

### Communication

The Sunday School Coordinators realize that communication is very important and that everyone does not communicate the same way. However, as the Coordinator position is a volunteer position, venues that reach a lot of people at the same time will be used for communication. Please pay attention to the following to stay in tune as to what is going on:

- ❖ Annual Calendar
- ❖ Article in Lifelines monthly
- ❖ Weekly bulletin announcements (as needed)
- ❖ A wipe board at the top of the stairs identifying what is happening the current week and the following week
- ❖ Communication Board downstairs at the east end of the hallway
- ❖ E-mail sent out to parents/guardians (also posted on Communication Board)

Parents are always welcomed and encouraged to call or e-mail a Sunday School Coordinator or Teacher with any questions or concerns. A roster will be distributed with contact information at the beginning of each school year.

### Volunteer Opportunities

It takes a lot of manpower to run a Sunday School program. There are many opportunities with different commitment levels to take advantage of. Some of these opportunities include:

- ❖ Snack Team - a small team is needed to prepare snacks for the children on 3 different occasions during the school year
- ❖ Baptism Remembrances – an individual(s) is needed to prepare the baptism remembrances which are handed at six different occasions during the year.
- ❖ Card Ministry – A few people are needed to take charge of sending out birthday cards to the children throughout the year. Occasionally a special card will be requested for our teachers such as for celebrating a birth or encouragement during a difficult time.
- ❖ Craft Team – Three to four times during the year a special craft is made by all the children. Team members will assist the craft coordinator with preparing the materials ahead of time and be available day of to assist the children in doing their craft.
- ❖ Photographers – Individuals can take pictures of assigned activities and download their pictures to the AV computer for use by Coordinators. Pictures are used in the lifelines, on the bulletin boards and for an end of year slide show. You can help out once or on a variety of occasions.
- ❖ Christmas Program Team – a larger group of individuals is needed to divide into sub teams to help with the Christmas program. This group will start meeting in late October with the Christmas Program Coordinator. Most meetings are during the Sunday School Hour and during the three special practices on Friday evening and Saturday morning the week prior and week of the Christmas program.
- ❖ Video-ographer – an individual who has equipment is needed to video tape the Christmas program and to make DVDs for parents who wish to have one.