

# Faith Development Program Handbook

2009-2010



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## **Our Purpose and Mission...**

Is to support parents in their role as primary educators in the faith development of children. Our combined purpose is to pass on the faith to our children. This is in fulfillment of the baptismal promises.

## **Our Vision...**

Is for every child to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ and to know God's boundless love and grace.

## **Objectives...**

To provide instruction in the Christian Faith through:

The study of the Holy Scriptures,

The study of Lutheran Doctrine and

The development of relationships through a caring Christian Community.

.....

## **Faith Development Program Options**

Class sessions are Sunday mornings coinciding with worship times at: 9:00am and 10:30am. We offer classes for 3 year olds through 6th graders at each class session. Sessions on Sundays at 10:30am may have blended age classrooms. Sessions at 9:00am have the highest attendance, with each age and grade level in a separate classroom. If there are more than 15 students per grade, a second classroom will be added. Music programs are incorporated at all sessions.

## **Little Lambs Nursery**

Our Little Lambs Nursery is available for children under the age of three and not yet in our Faith Development Program Classes. The nursery is staffed with a Caregiver (a paid nursery attendant) at the 9:00am and 10:30 am services. Parents and other volunteers are asked to volunteer once per quarter to help with staffing needs.

## **Enrollment Opportunities**

Children need to be enrolled by a parent or guardian each year. We will not assume to know your age/class or preference of session. Class sizes are limited to 15 students, and while we will always have space available, it may not be at the session you prefer. Please enroll early to avoid disappointment. Formal enrollment dates for the 2010-2011 year will be May 2nd and May 16th. Enrollment takes place in the Crossways, 8:30am - 11:30am. After these scheduled dates enrollments will be taken in the Christian Education Office. Enrollment will continue throughout the year, whenever you decide to join us!

## **Class Placement**

Your children are placed in classes at the session time that you requested at the time of enrollment, unless you are notified differently. In January of each year session changes will be considered if openings in the class sessions exist.

## **Cost of Faith Development Program Classes**

A \$20.00 per child (\$50.00 per family maximum) per year fee is charged. This fee helps defray curriculum expenses which are otherwise supported by the congregation's giving. Scholarships are available if needed. **After 8-15-09**  
**Registration fees will be \$25.00 per child & \$60.00 per family.**

## **Curriculum**

The Faith development classes use Augsburg Fortress' Witness curriculum. The curriculum equips children to learn from the Bible and to live the good news. Each lesson is based on a Bible story, which is shared across age levels. The curriculum cycles every two years. During the 2009-2010 calendar year we will continue to use the series entitled "Learn from the Bible to Live the Good News".

## **Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes are distributed in classrooms to each child. We believe everything we have is a gift from a loving, generous and gracious God, who blesses us to be a blessing to others. Use this opportunity as a teaching tool to pass on an "attitude of gratitude." The amount given is not as important as the habit of giving from what we have. Where a child receives an allowance, this is a chance to teach tithing (10%) as a discipline. The children's weekly contributions are a part of the congregation's giving and are designated as benevolence.

## **Our Faith Development Program Staff**

The goal is to have a single teacher teaching every week for the entire year. This allows teachers and students time to get to know one another. Teachers and students offer love, care and support for one another while sharing God's love and grace.

Team Teaching is another option. Two teachers are responsible for the class and rotate teaching responsibilities allowing some flexibility in terms of teacher illness or planned absence.

Youth and adult assistants support teaching teams and offer children added attention care and support.

## **Faith Development Covenant to be a Safe Haven**

We, the members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, affirm our commitment to be a safe haven for children. A program is being developed to help ensure the safety of those most vulnerable. We ask God to help us in this journey of learning and caring for children. It will assist Holy Cross Lutheran Church in attempting to provide a safe and secure environment for those who participate in our programs and use our facility.

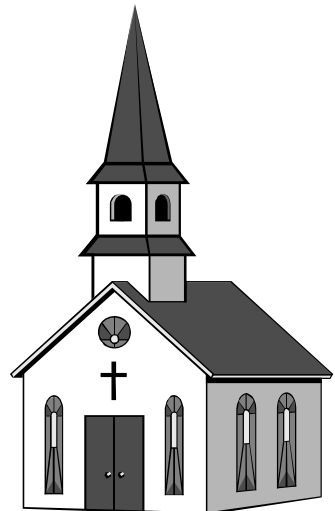
## Faith Development Children in Worship

The goal is to pass on the good news of Jesus to our children and nurture their faith both during worship and at home. One way to reach this goal is to have families participate in worship together. Families should take the opportunity to attend worship together on any Sunday. You may choose to make a two hour commitment where your child(ren) attend Faith Development and then share worship with you. You may also choose a week(s) where you attend worship together and not attend Faith Development.

Home is viewed as the primary place for teaching and nurturing faith. The partnership between family and congregation will simply strengthen and offer options and flexibility for your family to worship together.

## Faith Development Drop off and Pick up Procedure

To maintain the safety of our children during FD a policy has been implemented that impacts the dropping off and picking up of your children. A parent, guardian or sibling over the age of 16 must deliver and pick up the child and sign the "Check In/ Check Out" sheet located in the Faith Development classroom. Children should not be unattended in their Faith Development classrooms. If someone other than a parent, guardian or sibling over 16 will be dropping off or picking up your child, you will need to complete A Note to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. This form is also located inside your child's classroom.



## Memory Work

Each year the children are encouraged to memorize a prayer, a Bible passage, the books of the Old or New Testament, part of Luther's Small Catechism or part of the worship liturgy. The children in partnership with their parents and teachers practice the memory work at home and in class. The children recite their memory work during the month of March in church. See the calendar for the weeks scheduled.

### 3 year olds - John 3:16 (NRSV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

### 4 year olds - Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you peace.

### Kindergarten - The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade - The Ten Commandments**

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. Speak God's name with respect.
3. Set aside a special day for God.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. Do not kill.
6. Be true to your husband and wife.
7. Do not steal.
8. Do not lie.
9. Do not want what others have.
10. Do not want another person's husband, wife or worker.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Words of Institution**

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all To drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Books of the New Testament**

Matthew	Ephesians	Hebrews
Mark	Philippians	James
Luke	Colossians	1 Peter
John	1 Thessalonians	2 Peter
Acts	2 Thessalonians	1 John
Romans	1 Timothy	2 John
1 Corinthians	2 Timothy	3 John
2 Corinthians	Titus	Jude
Galatians	Philemon	Revelation

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade - The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Luther's Morning Prayer**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all danger and harm. We ask you to preserve and keep us, this day also, from all sin and evil, that in all our thoughts, words, and deeds we may serve and please you. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us.  
Amen

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Psalm 23 (NRSV)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside still waters;  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for His name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and your staff they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,



## **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School is held for 3 year olds through 6th grade students during **June**. During the week students attend **Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 12:00 noon or Monday through Wednesday 5:30pm until 8:00pm**. Children participate in opening and closing large group times and travel with their small groups to participate in Bible stories, crafts, music, snacks and games. On Thursday night the children sing during VBS worship. Plan to attend a **Root Beer Float Social** that follows worship. VBS 2010 is scheduled for **June 21<sup>st</sup> - June 25<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Special Events**

### **Christmas Program**

Each year a Christmas program is presented with each age/grade taking part with singing. The Christmas program will be held this year on Sunday, December 13, 2009, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent. A program will be held during the church worship service for each Faith Development session. **Dates are subject to change.**

### **Camp Emphasis Sunday**

In February, the children come to church dressed in summer camp clothes, sing camp songs and have a campfire treat to promote summer camping ministries. Crossways offers camping opportunities for children currently in grades 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Family camp is another opportunity. We offer scholarships (\$50.00 for a full week and \$25.00 for a half week) to all children who attend our Crossways camps during the summer months. Flyers are available at Holy Cross, or you can go online at [www.crosswayscamps.org](http://www.crosswayscamps.org)

### **Good Friday Family Service**

A special non-traditional worship service is held on Good Friday morning for children and their families. A short, child-friendly service is offered to enable our children to better understand Good Friday and Holy Week. A Good Friday event is planned for families after the service where crafts, snacks, and games will continue to tell the Good Friday story.



### **Communion Guidelines**

It is our vision that communion is a time that children, and their parents should participate in together. The Christian Education Team asks that Faith Development teachers refrain from taking their classes into worship to receive communion and let the receiving of the sacraments stay as a shared family time.

### **Behavior Guidelines**

It is our goal to provide meaningful class time to every child enrolled in Faith Development. At times behavior issues do arise that require some intervention. In order to support the teachers and other children, the following guidelines have been implemented:

1. The child will be asked to quiet down and to stop misbehaving.
2. A Superintendent will be notified, and the child may be asked to leave the classroom.
3. The child may be brought into worship to sit with his/her parents.
4. Parents may be asked to attend Faith Development with their child.

## Ministry Opportunities

Faith Development Program ministries are cooperative in that they are led and carried out by volunteers. At this time, please consider where you can give of your time and talents. Prayerfully consider at least one of the following opportunities. For additional information, call Sue Christiaansen at 262- 251-2740.

### Faith Development Program

- Teacher (every week)
- Team Teacher (every other week)
- Substitute Teacher
- Music Leader
- Superintendent
- Registration Help
- Christmas Program Help

### Special Event Ministries

- Halloween Ministry
- Good Friday Ministry
- Christmas Ministry

### Little Lambs Nursery

- Shepherd (Caregiver)
- Cleaning

### Vacation Bible School

- Crew Leader
- Assistant Crew Leader
- Music Leader
- Craft Leader
- Snack Leader
- Game Leader
- Christian Education Team Member
- Other