

Westminster Sunday School

Parents Guide for 2009-2010



“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Matthew 13:31-32

We believe

Passing on the Christian faith from one generation to the next is the heart of the life and work of the church. This fundamental task requires more than teaching bible stories, creeds or doctrines. Passing on our faith to our children involves the work of the Holy Spirit who gives birth to trust and have confidence in the creative, redeeming and renewing power of God.

Westminster is committed to enable this journey of learning to every infant, child, youth, adult, and elder in our congregation. Throughout the program year, we will focus on the milestones of faith of all ages and stages in our life. Milestones help us connect the events of our lives with God’s biblical stories in a way that helps us realize God is traveling with us.



Sunday Mornings at Westminster

We meet

Sunday school classes meet during the 11 am service. Families are invited to begin worship together. Children will be invited to join the pastor for “Time with Children.” After this time together, the pastor will dismiss them to their Sunday School classes which end at 12:15 pm.

Nursery & Toddlers

Little Lambs Room in Butzer Building

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Every Sunday our childcare providers welcome and tend infants and toddlers in the Little Lambs room in the Butzer building. Parents are welcome to visit this room before our worship services to meet with our childcare people.

This year we are delighted to announce Autumn Corcoran is our Storyteller for this class. Autumn, a mother and a high school teacher will come to this class each Sunday with a story and a special activity from her bag.

Pre-school Class: 3 to 5 year olds

Pooh Corner room in Butzer Building

Chris & Debby LaMendola are our much loved teachers of this class. After Time with Children in worship, our preschoolers will leave with Mr. Chris & Miss Debbie. Because children in this age group need the stability of one classroom and the same teacher each week, they are not part of the Workshop Rotation classes.

Parents are asked to meet their children after the 11 am service. To find their classroom, come to the nursery school building, turn left past the double door and follow on, around the corner to Room B4.



Ella VanWart and Chris LaMendola

What is Workshop Rotation? 1st through 5th grader classes

Each month these classes explore one Bible story in a different workshop. Classes rotate each Sunday through one of our multi-media workshops. There is an easel in the Holmes Room with the monthly schedule of the classes and the workshops.

On the first Sunday of the month, all the classes begin in Parish Hall at 11 am and then join the congregation for communion.

Our workshops



Creation Station is our art workshops located in the Youth or ENERGY Room. In this workshop, children explore the Bible stories through painting, sculpture and other art media.

Hollywood is our video workshop located in the Heritage Room. In this workshop, classes experience the monthly bible story through films.

PC Oasis is our workshop that meets in the computer lab between the Youth and Heritage rooms. This workshop features Bible story programs and games.

The **Apostles' Playhouse** is the name of our drama, cooking & games workshop. Classes use drama, games & even cooking to explore the monthly Bible story. This workshop sometimes is located on the stage of Parish Hall and sometimes in the kitchen.



Middler Class 6th & 7th graders

Middler students are ready to focus and explore the chronology of the bible, biblical themes and church history. Veteran teachers Dave Carstensen and Bert Kelley are experienced with working with this age group. This year our middlers have a new classroom, the first room on the balcony over the Parish Hall. Take stairs past Parish Hall or the elevator to the 3rd floor and it's the first room on the balcony.

Confirmation Class 8th graders

The confirmation class is open to 8th graders and any 9th graders who couldn't attend last year's class. Confirmation teachers Gwen Ito, Mark Aquino and Debbie Katz lead the class in

library in the Butzer building Sundays from 9:45 to 10:45 am. The confirmation class will share the middle classroom on the 3rd floor over the Parish Hall. Take stairs past Parish Hall or the elevator to the 3rd floor and it's the first room on the balcony.

During their journey, confirmands will lead worship, work on mission projects and get to know their sponsors. Confirmation Sunday is May 9, 2010.



1st row: Carter Dale, Aurora LaMendola, Joanna Bardak, Mimi Alford

2nd row: John Holland, Alexandra Holland, Nathan Kowalski, Russell Braun, Patrick Blair, Lucas Walsh

Senior Highs' Dialog Diner

9th through 12 graders

Have you ever wondered why you could smell the aroma of bacon on arriving at Westminster on Sunday mornings? Each Sunday, senior high students meet in the Youth Room for breakfast and conversation.

For more information about Dialog Diner and our youth programs, please contact Becca Ballard at 884-9437, ext. 311 or rballard@westminster-bflo.org.