



September 2, 2007

Dear Parents,

The school year is just around the corner and that means that our Sunday Morning Education program (SME) will resume on September 9th. We will begin this year within the classrooms instead of as a large group. Please see the Chart below for your child's class information:

Grade	Teachers	Curriculum	Location
2 year olds		Witness	E-3
3 year olds	Amy Meadowcroft & Kris Sloman		E-2
4 year olds	Julia Cooper & Judy Joseph		E-11
Kindergarten	Angie Metz, Sherry Mitchell, Maraget Tyson		E-8
1 st – 6 th Grade	Allan Dickson Brenda Dozer Randy Ehm Lorrie Houze Sylvia Saenger	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Fellowship Hall
7 th Grade	Meg Ehm & Michelle Nunalee	Here We Stand	Trailer
8 th Grade	The Lee's coordinating	Confirmation	Trailer

We are still in need of assistance with our 1st through 6th graders and co-teachers for our 2 year olds. On the attached registration form there is an opportunity to sign up to volunteer. Please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts with our SME program.

The following is an overview of the curriculums we will be using this year.

Witness: The Witness Curriculum bases its teachings on the following principles:

A witness is someone who KNOWS the Word; GROWS in Faith, and SHOWS Service.

To witness is to respond to God's gifts of Word, faith, and service:

We share the *Word*. The story of God's salvation through Jesus engages us in choices, judgments, and priorities that are shaped by the good news. We express *faith*. We are equipped to be members of God's family as we worship, pray, praise, and practice behaviors and attitudes that identify us as disciples. We live *service*. God's never-ending love energizes us to act in love for others.

Additionally each week a Faith Trait is highlighted through a Biblical character. The Faith Traits are:

- Generosity, kindness, humility, compassion, empathy, respect, and thankfulness, which flow out of the gift of love.
- Cooperation, loyalty, obedience, boldness, and reverence, which are born in trust.

- Responsibility, self-discipline, perseverance, forgiveness, justice, and wisdom, which come with courage.
- Harmony, stewardship, patience, peace, and joy, which shine forth from hope.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a program of Christian faith formation for children aged 3 through to 12 years, where they can experience and form an authentic relationship with God.

The Catechesis is grounded in scriptural and liturgical study framed by Maria Montessori's principles and philosophy of education. This allows children to hear the Gospel through the use of sensorially rich materials. The children are free to work with these materials that present essential proclamations of the Christian message.

The adult's task is to prepare the sacred space for the children, called 'the atrium', so that they can respond to this holy relationship, first proclaimed to them through Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The atrium is a place of community and worship rather than a classroom for academic study. It is a place to be with and enjoy God, listen to the Word, and to pray. It is designed to reflect the beauty of creation and God's abiding love.

The vision for this faith formation began in 1954 with Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and Scripture scholar and member of the Vatican Commission for Jewish - Christian Relations, and her colleague, Professor Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori educator, and associate of Maria Montessori.

Dr. Cavalletti found in working with children that whatever their culture, they have particular age-related vital religious needs and that they respond in similar ways to the most essential elements of the Christian message.

Children desire to draw near to God but need the sensitive guidance of the adult as well as the inner guidance of the Holy Spirit to nurture this relationship.

Today the Catechesis can be found in many liturgical traditions (Lutheran, Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist) as well as in schools throughout the world.

Here We Stand

The Here We Stand curriculum will be incorporated in the Sunday Morning Education program this year by studying the Old Testament portion of the curriculum. The Wednesday night program will be studying the New Testament. Material covered on Sunday morning will include topics not covered on Wednesday night due to time constraints and will be looking deeper into the Old Testament. The Here We Stand curriculum engages the youth in a fun and active way of learning.

Please feel free to contact any of the pastors or myself if you have any questions. Thank you for sharing your children with us this year.

Growing In Christ Together,
Brenda Dozer



2007-2008 Parent Covenant

Contract for Continuing Partnership in the Christian Education of my Child.

I would like to have my children continue their faith growth at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church during the 2006 -2007 school year.

First name _____ Middle name _____ Last name _____ Grade _____ (Fall)

Age _____ Birth date _____ **Baptismal Date** _____

Parents' Names: _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Home Phone number _____ Work Phone Number _____

School Child Attends: _____ Siblings: Y/N ____ Age(s) _____

Emergency Contact Person/Phone number: _____

Physical, dietary or other special needs: _____

And....understanding that the more involved I am in my children's' faith growth-the greater their interest and participation, I/ we would like to: (circle all that apply)

Puppeteer

Storytelling

Special Projects

Character portrayal

Outreach Coordinator

Classroom Assistant _____ Class

Classroom Teacher _____ Class

Substitute Teacher _____ Class

Sunday School Superintendent

Play piano or guitar

Sharing your own personal faith story

Other talents: _____

Thank you for sharing your child with us! We commit to working with your family to help your child discover the faith that God has given them. Please feel free to contact Brenda Dozer, the Pastors or your child's teacher to share ways in which we may better serve your family's faith formation needs.

Understanding that the Christian Education of my child is a partnership between me and the church we will strive to review the materials discussed in class each week and make every effort to regularly attend Sunday Morning Education:

(Parent Signature)

(Parent Signature)

The Sunday Morning Teachers respectfully request your prompt arrival for picking up your child by 10:55am to allow them to attend worship.