

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School is organized and taught by volunteers and would not exist without these vital people. Volunteering for Sunday School offers the opportunity to shape the faith of our children. Parents, grandparents, and others interested in our children are welcome to make any contribution they are comfortable making.

Opportunities include:

- Sunday School teacher or substitute teacher
- Classroom helper
- Music helper
- Service project helper (Fall and/or Spring projects)
- Christmas program coordinator
- Christmas program helper (props & scenery, decorating church, costumes, etc.)
- Special projects / activities

Please contact the Sunday School Coordinator or Church Secretary to volunteer your time and talent. Thank you!

Check our website, www.stluke-slinger.org, under "What We Do" & "Christian Formation"

Questions to the Sunday School Coordinator: sundayschool@stluke-slinger.org



Sunday School Handbook

**St Luke Lutheran Church
Slinger, Wisconsin**

262-644-6003

www.stluke-slinger.org

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Welcome to St Luke Lutheran Sunday School! We hope this handbook will be useful to you during your time in Sunday School.

OVERVIEW

The purpose of Sunday School is to provide our children with a basic background of the Bible so they may experience God's love to the fullest. Sunday School will also help children understand and enjoy attending church services with their families.

Younger children begin with the Bible stories. As they get older, they will learn how to apply those Bible stories to their own lives. We hope parents will make every effort to bring their children to Sunday School and Worship services as regularly as possible. This will foster a sense of community here at St Luke and help with the continuity of the lessons.

Sunday School is offered to children beginning in September following their 3rd birthday (we ask that children are independent in toileting and able to be separated from their parents, unless a parent will be staying with the child). Parents are always welcome to stay for Sunday School.

There is no cost to families, and families do not need to be a member of St. Luke to participate in Sunday School. Children transition from Sunday School to Confirmation classes after 5th grade.

Sunday School meets every Sunday from 9:15 – 10:15 during the school year. It begins the Sunday after Rally Day in September, and ends the Sunday before Memorial Day in May. There is no Sunday School on the 2 Sundays after Christmas, on Palm Sunday or on Easter.

Parents are invited to participate in the Adult Bible Study, which meets at the same time. Nursery service is available.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

FAITH FORMATION MILESTONE RECOGNITION

We recognize and celebrate with our children the milestones in their faith formation through our Christian Education program.

- Beginning Sunday School – 3-4 year olds receive a story Bible during worship service, in September
- Beginning Bible study – 3rd graders receive a youth study Bible during worship service, in September
- First Communion – 5th graders receive and decorate a goblet, and celebrate their first communion
- Transition to Confirmation – graduating 5th graders receive a certificate and *The Lutheran Handbook*, in May

THE BIBLE

Faith formation happens through Sunday School, regular worship, and at home. The point of it all is that the children know God's love for them. The Christian Education Team and Pastor select curriculums each year that support our Christian Education philosophy. Each week, the children learn Bible lessons and talk about their faith and how to use these lessons in their lives. Take-home materials help parents to continue this discussion at home.

FELLOWSHIP & PRAYER

Active participation in Sunday School helps build a child's relationship with Jesus and with faith-bearing adults, and fosters a sense of belonging to our church family. Through our time together, and the prayers we offer, we grow in God's grace.

To that end, families are encouraged to pray with their children, either using the Lord's Prayer or a simple process of thanking God for the good things in our lives.

WORSHIP

Families are encouraged to worship with their children at regular worship services offered at St Luke because we believe that in worship, we are sent as Christ's hands and feet in the world. Children's sermons are offered on Sunday mornings at both services. Children's Bulletins are available from the ushers. The nursery is open to infants and young children at the Sunday morning 10:30 service during the school year.

SERVICE PROJECTS / WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday School children put their faith into action through participation in service projects.

A Sunday School offering will be collected each Sunday. Envelopes are available for the children's offerings. Older children are encouraged to take it upon themselves to give a portion of what they receive (e.g., allowance, gift money) to the church.

MUSIC

Hymns, praise songs, and traditional and contemporary Christian music are taught as part of our weekly activities. Children will be invited to sing regularly in worship services.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children participate in an annual Christmas program, usually the 3rd Sunday of December (4th week of Advent), during the 10:30 worship service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Our goal is to provide a safe and orderly environment in which to learn and grow in God's love. It is in this spirit that we offer the following guidelines.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

Please ensure children arrive promptly by 9:15, as teachers have a full morning planned. For the younger children, the routine of greeting the teacher and classmates is an important step to prepare them for class. Our experience has shown that a quick and confident good bye at the classroom door is reassuring to the children.

Please pick your child up promptly at 10:15 am. Many teachers attend the 10:30 worship service with their families and need to straighten up the classroom before leaving.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All of our Sunday School teachers are volunteers. We ask that you explain to your children what is expected of them during Sunday School. It is one hour per week dedicated to learning about God and the Bible. This includes song and prayer. Children will be expected to show respect to their teachers, listen when others are talking and raise their hands when they wish to speak.

Our expectations and limits respect the age, developmental characteristics and abilities of the child. Children should respect authority and the rights and safety of themselves and others.

If a child has difficulty accepting appropriate limits in the classroom or misbehaves repeatedly, the teacher will talk with the Sunday School staff and the parents to discuss how to help the child. This team approach will help set consistent expectations.

ILLNESS

Please do not send your child to Sunday School if he/she is ill. Your child should be symptom free for at least 24 hours before coming to Sunday School.

FOOD / MEDICAL CONDITIONS / ALLERGIES

Children learn better and behave better when they have breakfast before coming to Sunday School. We ask that your child not eat breakfast during class.

Snacks are not usually offered during Sunday School, except for the 3-4 year old group, but may occasionally be served at the teacher's discretion (e.g., birthdays). Please be sure your child's teacher is aware of any food allergies and medical conditions. Please do not send food into the classroom without the teacher's permission. If you do send a birthday treat, avoid the most common food allergies such as nuts and coconut.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between the church, Sunday School, and parents is very important. We try to provide as much information as possible. Please try to stay current with what is happening at Sunday School. Ask your children **each** week what they learned. Take-home sheets are part of each lesson. Newsletters will be sent home with your child periodically. Check the St. Luke web site at www.stluke-slinger.org.

Grade Level Goals: Tools of Faith

The Christian Education Team and pastor of St Luke have developed age appropriate goals for learning “tools of faith”, which are integrated into weekly lessons. Learning these tools of faith will help children prepare for confirmation and to participate in worship as members of the congregation. Parents are the primary teachers of the tools of faith.

Pre-K (3 and 4 year olds)

- Learn **John 3:16**
- Learn a table prayer
- Learn the song “Jesus Loves Me”

Kindergarten

- Learn **Matthew 22:37-40** (The Greatest Commandment)
- Learn a bedtime prayer
- Learn a morning or daytime prayer

1st Grade

- Learn the Lord’s Prayer

2nd Grade

- Learn the 10 Commandments
- Learn the difference between the Old & New Testament

3rd Grade

- Learn the books of the Bible
- Learn the Seasons of the Church Year

4th Grade

- Learn the Apostle’s Creed
- Learn Psalm 23

5th Grade

- Learn the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer
- Learn the meaning of the Apostle’s Creed
- Learn the meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- Learn the meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Text for Tools of Faith – PreK (3 & 4 year olds)

Learn John 3:16

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

Learn a table prayer

We will learn:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest
And let these gifts to us be blest. Amen

Another option:

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you, God, for everything!

Learn the song “Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus Loves Me

Bradbury/Warner

Je - sus loves me, this, I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so;

Lit - tle ones to Him be long, they are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Je - sus loves me, Yes, Je - sus loves me,

Yes, Je - sus loves me, The Bi - ble tells me so.

Text for Tools of Faith – Kindergarten

Learn Matthew 22:37-40

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Learn a bedtime prayer

We will learn:

Now I lay me down to sleep.
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
May angels watch me through the night
And keep me in their blessed sight.

Another option (there are many!):

Dear God, I thank you every time I pray:
for keeping me safe through the day,
for blessing me with your love and care,
for teaching me to give and share.
Bless my friends and bless me, too,
in everything I say and do. Amen

Learn a daytime or morning prayer

We will learn:

God made the sun, and God made the trees.
God made the flowers, and God made the bees.
Thank you, God, for the sun and the trees.
For colorful flowers and buzzing bees.
For the sounds I hear and the sights I see.
But most of all, thank you for me!

Text for Tools of Faith – 1st Grade

Learn the Lord's Prayer

Once your child has learned the Lord's Prayer, encourage him/her to say it with you in worship service.

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.

Source: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, 2006

Text for Tools of Faith – 2nd Grade

Learn the 10 Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods
2. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Source: *The Lutheran Handbook, 2005*

Learn the difference between the Old & New Testament

The Old Testament relates to the Hebrew people and their relationship with the Lord. Many of the books focus on laws that the Hebrews were given by people like Moses. Other books like Isaiah prophecy the coming of the Messiah.

The New Testament is about Jesus Christ. It gives us the teachings of Jesus, the story of His life, death, and resurrection, and letters from people like Paul who had teachings for the followers of Jesus.

Text for Tools of Faith – 3rd Grade

Learn the Books of the Bible

Old Testament

Pentateuch

- Genesis (JEH-neh-sihs)
- Exodus (EHK-suh-duhs)
- Leviticus (leh-VIH-tih-kuhs)
- Numbers (NUM-burz)
- Deuteronomy (doo-tuh-RAH-nuh-mee)

Historical Books

- Joshua (JAH-shoo-uh)
- Judges (JUH-juhzh)
- Ruth (rooth)
- 1 Samuel (SAM-yuhl)
- 2 Samuel (SAM-yuhl)
- 1 Kings (kingz)
- 2 Kings (kingz)
- 1 Chronicles (KRAH-nih-kulhz)
- 2 Chronicles (KRAH-nih-kulhz)
- Ezra (EHZ-ruh)
- Nehemiah (nee-uh-MY-uh)
- Esther (EH-stur)

Wisdom and Poetry Books

- Job (joeb)
- Psalms (salmz)
- Proverbs (PRAH-vurbz)
- Ecclesiastes (eh-klee-sih-AS-teez)
- Song of Solomon (SAW-luh-muhn)

Text for Tools of Faith – 3rd Grade (cont)

(Old Testament – continued)

Prophets

Isaiah ("eye"-ZAY-uh)
Jeremiah (jair-ruh-MY-uh)
Lamentations (lam-uhn-TAY-shunz)
Ezekiel (eh-ZEE-kee-uhl)
Daniel (DAN-yuhl)
Hosea ("hoe"-ZAY-uh)
Joel (jo'uhl)
Amos (AY-muhs)
Obadiah (oh-buh-DY-uh)
Jonah (JO-nuh)
Micah (MY-kuh)
Nahum (NAY-huhm)
Habakkuk (huh-BAK-uhk)
Zephaniah (zeh-fuh-NY-uh)
Haggai (HA-gy)
Zechariah (zeh-kuh-RY-uh)
Malachi (MA-luh-ky)

Biblical Pronunciation Guides:

<http://inogolo.com/guides/biblebooks>

<http://netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm>

New Testament

The Gospels and Acts

Matthew (MATH-yoo)
Mark (mark)
Luke (luke)
John (jahn)
Acts of the Apostles

The Letters of Paul

Romans (RO-muhnz)
1 Corinthians (kor-IHN-thee-uhnz)
2 Corinthians (kor-IHN-thee-uhnz)
Galatians (guh-LAY-shuhnz)
Ephesians (ee-FEE-shuhnz)
Philippians (fih-LIH-pee-uhnz)
Colossians (kuh-LAH-shuhnz)
1 Thessalonians (theh-suh-LO-nee-uhnz)
2 Thessalonians (theh-suh-LO-nee-uhnz)
1 Timothy (TIH-muh-thee)
2 Timothy (TIH-muh-thee)
Titus (TY-tuhs)
Philemon (fuh-LEE-muhn)

General Letters and Revelation

Hebrews (HEE-brooz)
James (jaymz)
1 Peter (PEE-tur)
2 Peter (PEE-tur)
1 John (jahn)
2 John (jahn)
3 John (jahn)
Jude (jood)
Revelation (reh-veh-LAY-shuhn)

Text for Tools of Faith – 3rd Grade (cont)

Learn the Seasons of the Church Year

Advent is a season of longing and anticipation, during which we prepare for the coming of Jesus. The church year begins with Advent, as life begins with birth, starting four Sundays before Christmas. The liturgical color for Advent is blue, which symbolizes waiting and hope.

Christmas is a day *and* a season when we celebrate God’s coming among us as a human child: Jesus, Emmanuel (which means “God with us”). The liturgical color for Christmas is white, which reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world. Christmas lasts for 12 days from December 25th to January 5th.

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th when we remember the Three Wise Men’s visit to the Christ child. The color for Epiphany Day is white. During the time after Epiphany we hear stories about Jesus’ baptism and early ministry. The color for these Sundays is sometimes white and sometimes green. On the last Sunday we celebrate the Transfiguration. The color for this day is white, and we hear the story of Jesus shining brightly on the mountaintop.

Lent is a season when we turn toward God and think about how our lives need to change. This is also a time to remember our baptism, and how that gift gives us a new start every day! The color for Lent is purple, symbolizing repentance. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays) and ends on the Saturday before Easter Sunday.

The Three Days are the most important part of the Christian calendar because they mark Jesus’ last days, death, and resurrection. These days begin on Maundy Thursday evening and conclude on Easter evening. On

Maundy Thursday we hear the story of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples and his act of service and love in washing their feet. On *Good Friday* we hear of Jesus’ trial, crucifixion, death, and burial. On *Saturday*, at the nighttime *Easter Vigil*, we hear stories about the amazing things God has done for us. It is a night of light, Scripture readings, baptismal remembrance, and communion—the greatest night of the year for Christians. On *Easter Sunday* we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and our new lives in Christ. Easter falls on a different date each year—sometime between March 22 and April 25.

Easter is not just one day, but a whole season when we celebrate the resurrected Jesus. The season begins on Easter Sunday and lasts for 50 days (including Sundays). The color is white, symbolizing resurrection and joy. The Day of Pentecost falls on the 50th day of the season (*Pentecost* means 50th), when we honor the Holy Spirit and the Church’s mission in the world. This day uses the fiery color of red.

Time After Pentecost is the longest season in the church calendar, lasting almost half the year. Sometimes this is called “ordinary time” because there aren’t many special celebrations during these weeks. The liturgical color for the time after Pentecost is green, representing life and growth. Each week we hear a different story about Jesus’ ministry from one of the four Gospels.

Special Festivals are celebrated throughout the year. Some festivals occur the same time every year, such as Reformation Sunday (last Sunday in October) and All Saints Sunday (first Sunday in November). Others, like saints’ days, we might celebrate only when their day falls on a Sunday. The color for these days is either white or red.

Source: *The Lutheran Handbook, 2005*

Text for Tools of Faith – 4th Grade

Learn The Apostles' Creed

Once your child has learned the Apostles' Creed, encourage him/her to say it with you in worship service.

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

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

Source: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, 2006

Learn Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
The Lord makes me lie down
in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways
for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I shall 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,
and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Source: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, 2006

Text for Tools of Faith – 5th Grade

Learn the meaning of the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven.

With these words God wants to attract us, so that we believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father

Hallowed by thy name.

It is true that God's name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us.

Thy kingdom come.

In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

Give us this day our daily bread.

In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.

"Daily bread" means everything our bodies need such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright workers, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins or deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask nor have we earned it. Instead we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we sin daily and indeed earn only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and do good gladly to those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation.

It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

Deliver us from evil.

We ask in this prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil—affecting body or soul, property or reputation—and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

That I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to and heard by our Father in heaven, for God himself commanded us to pray like this and has promised to hear us. "Amen, amen" means "yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this."

Source: The Lutheran Handbook, 2005

Text for Tools of Faith – 5th Grade (cont.)

Learn the meaning of the Apostle’s Creed

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

What does this mean? I believe that God has created me together with all creatures. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. God does all this out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

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

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of

the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules in eternity. This is most certainly true.

**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.**

What does this mean? I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy, and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Learn the meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead it is water used according to God’s command and connected with God’s Word.

Learn the meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Source: The Lutheran Handbook, 2005

