

## **Children's Ministry At Christ Church – It's All About Jesus And The Kids Please Join Us!!**

**Dear Parish Family,**

This is a letter of invitation welcoming you to be part of Children's Ministry for the coming year. Rally Day will be held Sunday, September 12, and our Fall Sunday School programs will begin the following Sunday, September 19. There are many ways, large and small, that you can be involved bringing our little ones to Christ. Jesus commands, "Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:5) He tells us we must be like the children to enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:2)

The best way to be like them, touched by their child like and pure faith, is to be with them and learn with them as you lead and are led. Included are opportunities open to you at Christ Church in order to support our children in their faith – a promise each of us makes every time a child is baptized.

We encourage all members of our parish to get to know our children and be blessed. You can commit to one Sunday a month, a semester, or all year. Sign up sheets will be available at Children's Ministry tables on Rally Day, or you can contact me at the church by phone, 736-3132, or email me at [halletah@cecsa.org](mailto:halletah@cecsa.org). You will be part of a team and will be supported by staff and volunteer leaders who have a passion for serving Christ through ministering to his children.

**Children's Chapel Leaders** - You may volunteer to be part of a **Children's Chapel Team** as a *Storyteller*, *Order of Worship Leader*, or *Shepherd*. Chapel Director Halleta Heinrich will support you along with a Gospel lectionary-based curriculum and many storybooks and a flannel board that help you tell the story. You will also be provided with an order of worship to follow. Music leadership will be provided to assist you, and other staff will be present to aid you each Sunday. Children's chapels currently take place from 10:15 – 10:45 AM on the second floor of the Family Ministry Center. Cherub chapel and choir is for three year olds through kindergarteners, and elementary chapel is for first through fifth graders.

**Sunday School Shepherds** – Sunday School Shepherds commit to teaching our children in age and grade level classes each Sunday in the fall through spring, building a close relationship with the children God has given them to shepherd. Lead shepherds are present in each age level to give guidance to their fellow shepherds.

*Good Shepherd Sunday School* is preschool Sunday School for 3 year olds through kindergarten and is based on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I.

First and second graders participate in Good Shepherd Sunday School based on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II. Good Shepherd Sunday School is Christ centered, Bible centered and child centered, tying our biblical faith with the traditions of liturgy and sacraments in a hands-on, child friendly way. Good Shepherd Sunday School Lead Shepherds are Cynthia Franklin, Carmen Lewenthal, and Halletha Heinrich.

Our third, fourth, and fifth graders are part of the *Village of God's Children* where the Bible is studied each week and supporting activities of art, drama, cooking, games, outreach, and field trips enrich the children's study of God's Word. Guest shepherds who lead these special enrichment activities will be needed throughout the year on a one-time basis to enhance Bible study. Grade level shepherds will be needed to guide third, fourth, and fifth graders in a small group Bible study for a semester or a nine-month commitment. The Gospel of John will be the topic of study this year for our village children. Village Lead Shepherds are Mary Ellen and Stephen Archer.

**Special Events Teams** – Special events all celebrate the life of Christ as we walk through the seasons of the church year. Events include *All Saints Celebration, Family Advent Event, Christmas Pageant, Epiphany Celebration, and the Easter Egg Hunt and Liturgy of Light*. These are all very creative events that are meaningful and fun parties in honor of Jesus! Other projects, which reach out into our community, are the SAMM Shelter Christmas Gift Project and Dinner hosted at Christ Church, and Vacation Bible School. Members of the Children's Ministry Committee help in coordination of these events.

**Love In Christ,**

Halletha Heinrich

Director of Children's Ministry

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The Children's Ministry Leadership Team:

Jennifer Rose - Chair

Cynthia Franklin – Sunday School/ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Mary Ellen Archer – Sunday School/Village of God's Children

Gretchen Duggan – Special Events

Caroline Schupbach - Outreach

Amy Case - VBS

Brooke Peacock - VBS

Sandy Lamprecht - Missions

Dennis Eberhardt – Youth Ministry Liaison

Renee Sethness - Playground

Susanna Kitayama - Photographer

Jean King - Exofficio (Past Chair)

Beth Kissling – Exofficio (past Chair)

P.S. We are seeking additional leaders and co-leaders to serve on our Leadership Team. Let me know if you feel called to lead in an area of Children's Ministry or have questions concerning any of these ministries.