

2009 Christian Education Report

Christian Education Committee

Christian Education Coordinator: Maggie Andrade 2009 school year
Richard I. 2010 school year
Sunday School Superintendent: Maggie A.
Confirmation Class Supervisor: Pastor Kraft
Youth Group Advisor:
Adult Studies Director: Muriel S.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year is 48 children between the ages of 3 and 17. Classes are divided into the following groups:

Pre-K thru K (ages 3-5, 9 students)

Primary (grades 1-2, 10 students)

Middle Elementary (grades 3-4, 7 students)

Upper Grades (grades 5-6, 10 students)

Junior High (grades 7-8, 6 students)

High School (grades 9-12, 5 students)

The High School class is currently using the lectionary based "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum. After Communion, students are invited to gather in the Meeting Room for class to discuss the readings in service and their application to daily life. The class continues 15 minutes after service (approximate class time: 10:40-11:10). A continuing issue has been consistent student attendance to church as well as to the High School class.

The rest of the Sunday School classes are using the "Growing In Christ" curriculum from Concordia. Students learn about important bible stories and their relevance to present day situations. Students also receive a "take home" page for further discussion and learning at home.

In the Sunday School Milestone Program this past June, students presented different parts of the Lutheran faith based on our "Grow to Go and Go to Grow" theme. The classes learned about:

Pre K-K: the Lutheran Church

Grades 1-2: the story of Jesus

Grades 3-4: the Apostles Creed

Grades 5-6: the 10 Commandments

Grades 7-8: the Sacraments

High School: introduced parts of the liturgy

Each class then learned how to apply their practice to their own lives.

Students created several related visual aids for display in the Narthex as well as during their presentation.

Sunday School Students were also involved in many service projects throughout the year. They raised money to buy chickens through the ELCA Barnyard Project and monetary donations were made to "The Tommy Fund" for childhood cancer. Students also collected money and non-perishable food items to benefit the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and the Light on the Hill Food Pantry for "Souper Bowl" Sunday, and created Christmas cards and tree ornaments for the sick and shut-in as well as valentines. Coins brought in by students to celebrate their birthdays were donated to the Connecticut Food Bank.

In September, an Intergenerational Rally Day Program combined with the annual church picnic focused on the theme of "My Word: The Bible For Everyone" and was presented by the Sunday School teaching team. The program included an opening activity in which participants filled out slips of cardstock with their favorite Bible story, character or Bible verse. These were attached together to form a Bible chain for display in Fellowship Hall. Labels were also filled out with ideas of things we can do to help Christ dwell within us or tell others about Christ and are also displayed on a large paper cross in Fellowship Hall. Seven volunteers participated in a "Dwell in You" relay where each item represented a reminder of Christ in our everyday lives. There was a brief presentation on Martin Luther and the Lutheran Seal followed by our closing prayer.

This school year, students have also participated in selected church services through greeting and reading lessons. On December 20th, our Christmas program was postponed until Jan.3 due to inclement weather. The program, "Tell Me a Story" displayed some Christmas legends from other countries but it all comes down to John 3:16. That is what Christmas is really all about!

To keep up with current technology and make the church more "green," a Sunday School website with current info, yearly calendar and links of interest has been developed to cut down on paper use. Sunday School

families also receive reminders or program changes via e-mail. Find out more at www.htlctrumbull.org/sundayschool.html

Confirmation Class

Please see Pastor Kraft's Confirmation Report

Youth and Teen Groups

The Christian Youth Fellowship (grades 6-8) and Christian Teen Fellowship (grades 9-12) were originally formed to give the children and friends of our congregation an opportunity for Christian fellowship and fun through activities and prayer. Due to the lack of volunteers to lead these groups, and a decline in youth and teen participation, they are currently non-existent. Attempts were made to have our students connect with other Christian youth/teens in the community through several activities. These were met with no participation as student schedules are already hectic. We are working on getting a Youth Group Supervisor to oversee parent run activities perhaps every quarter. **If interested in participating in any way please contact Christian Education Coordinator - Maggie Andrade.**

Adult Bible Study

There were several Bible classes available to parishioners and friends this past year. Pastor Kraft ran a successful several week introductory Bible class using "The Book of Faith" program from Augsburg.

Two other Bible classes overseen by Muriel and Carl studied "The Book of Luke" at 5:30 or 7:30 pm Wednesday classes.

All are encouraged to expand their Bible knowledge and understanding, and to learn about the application of God's Word in our lives through available adult Bible classes.

As always, thanks go out to Pastor Kraft and to the wonderful, dedicated staff of teachers, parents, and friends for their time, support and patience in providing instruction and leadership to our children.

Christian Education Coordinator – Maggie Andrade