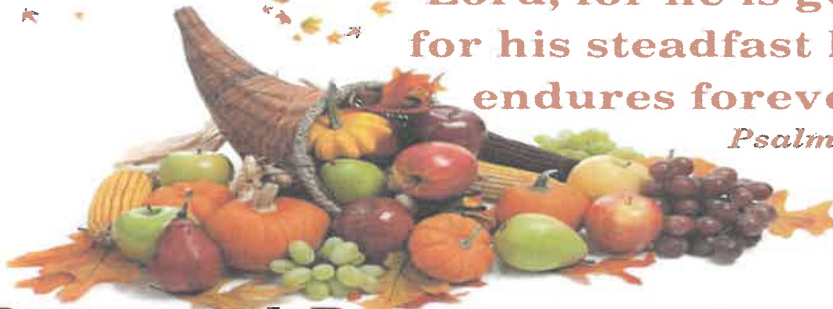


Faith Matters

November 2023

"O give thanks to the
Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love
endures forever..."

Psalm 107:1



Pastors' Page

Two Wings Are Necessary for a Plane to Fly, So Also in Christian Witness

Reflections from

Pastor Paul Knudson

Our Lord gave us the Great Commission "Go therefore and make disciples..." and the Great Commandment "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself," the two wings of our witness. We at FLC major in giving focus to both wings of the airplane. Without apology we bear witness to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of all. We also seek to identify the many ways God's children are hurting and respond to basic needs like food, clothing, and much more.

Sadly, today it appears that many who identify as Christians are embarrassed by the audacity of what we know as the Great Commission. It is as if all religious expressions are simply ways we seek to show ourselves as having spiritual inclinations. Others should be free and honored in their dismissal of even the notion that there is a Creator and Redeemer of all. So also, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and any other major religion need to be viewed as offering simply other paths



to being spiritual, with or without God necessarily fitting into the picture.

Because this is so contradictory to all of Scripture as we find it in the Bible, we at Faith and the Augustana District within Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ will not go there. For us, Jesus Christ is the "way, the truth, and the life." This is not a doctrine to be believed. It is the truth that has been revealed. We proudly confess "Jesus as Lord to the glory of God the Father." Father, Son, and Holy Spirit give us life in all its fullness now and for all eternity. This is Good News for all that we must share.

To be sure, we know that this does not belittle the significance of feeding

Continued on page 2



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LIVE TV BROADCAST
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**PRE-RECORDED
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SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
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THURSDAYS 10 P.M.
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RADIO BROADCAST
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Pastor's Page continued from pg. 1

the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting the imprisoned. These needs are ever so real, the other wing of the airplane that is our witness. This is not so much a command as an invitation by our Lord and Savior to join him in meeting basic needs of his children and creation itself. What follows lifts up one of those needs.

In November, our focus turns to the basic need for food. **This is the month that we hold an annual Hunger Appeal. We set a minimum goal of raising \$5,000 for both global and local hunger needs. In these challenging times we pray that we will join together and go far beyond our basic goal.**

Following our past practice, we will direct 55% of what is raised to international mission partners and 45% to our local needs addressed through Common Cup Ministries. We are very confident that the partnerships we work through will continue to steward

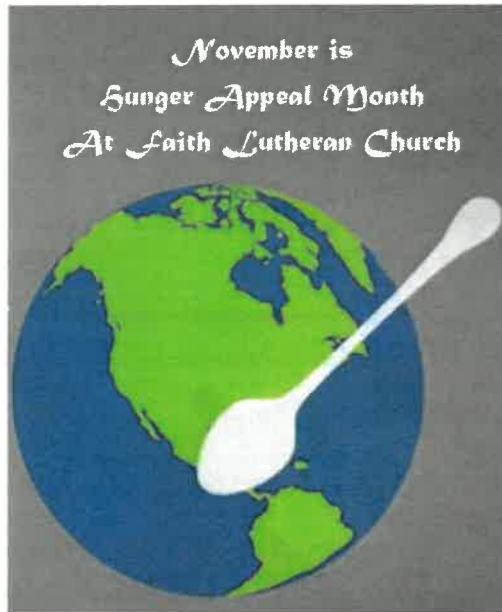
wisely all that we give to meeting this basic need of feeding God's hungry children of all ages.

One international partner we support in this way is Friends of Madagascar Mission. They in turn direct the funds they receive to feed inmates in prisons within which they are working also to bear witness to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of all. It is hard for us

to imagine that in prisons there, families are expected to provide food for their incarcerated family member. You can imagine that this does not meet the need. Our Lord calls us to visit the imprisoned and, in this case, feed them. Your generosity is a powerful witness to the love of Jesus Christ for the basic need of food.

Gifts can be given at any time in November using the Hunger Appeal envelope or through your Thanksgiving offering.

Thank you for loving your neighbors in need.



Operation Christmas Child Packing Events

The packing deadline for this ministry comes soon in order to get these gifts into the hands of children in time for Christmas. There is an intergenerational packing event on Sunday, November 5, immediately following worship. Pizza will be served before packing begins. On Thursday, November 9, the seniors' potluck attendees will be packing also. If you are packing on your own, please bring completed boxes to Faith **before November 9**. Donations of items to

pack should be turned in **before November 5**. Cash donations to help cover shipping costs will be helpful also. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

Christmas Giving Tree

This year, the Congregational Life Team is partnering with Chap Ministries to provide local senior citizens with a gift requested by them. Please watch for the trees later this month and purchase a gift to help those in need!



Common Cup Ministry Diaper Drive

In November, Faith Lutheran collects diapers for Common Cup Ministries. These diapers are given to families in need. Currently the greatest need is for sizes 4, 5, 6, and pull-ups. Donations can be left in the church office.

Seniors Scene

by Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

Once Jesus said that if we do something good and merciful for someone in His name we are doing it to and for Him. That's powerful! Whenever our minds are turned to the horrible cross on which Jesus died to free us from sin and condemnation, we are bound to ask, "What can I do for Jesus? How can I let Jesus know how thankful I am for His amazing and saving love?" I can't repay Him. But I can thank Him with all kinds of ways to serve others in His holy name.

At our **November 9 Seniors' Potluck** meeting we have one of those opportunities through the packing of "Operation Christmas Child" boxes. We stuff those boxes with all kinds of things that excite children. We take advantage of that excitement to introduce the children to the Christmas child, Jesus. Samaritan's Purse offers those children classes and meetings to learn of Jesus' love for them. Then we pray God will draw them to Himself and hold them for all eternity. We are privileged to share this activity with our sister congregation, St. Matthew's in Fernando.

You and I can do this for Jesus. We can buy specific items to bring to the **November 9 SENIORS' POTLUCK** meeting, where we'll have our usual potluck dinner at 12:00 noon, share a devotion and do the box packing. All the while our minds are thinking of the Christ child, Jesus, the original Christmas Child. Just take a look at the picture of last year's activity. The faces exude joy; the joy of serving our Savior, similar to the faces you will see in the video we'll see at our October meeting, a preview of our November fun.

ALSO, if walking around the tables to gather items for the boxes is difficult for you, we will also have **bandage rolling** available again. That too is a mission of mercy for people around the world.

See the lists and folders laid out in the entrance areas of the church which help you know what to buy (and what NOT to buy) for those boxes. For instance, toothbrushes are good, but for some reason toothpaste is not allowed. Another big thing you can do, if you are a Thrivent member, is secure a Thrivent gift card to be used to buy box items. Let us know if you need help with that.

Otherwise, remember **SENIORS' POTLUCK**, on **Thursday, November 9, 12:00 noon**. Don't miss it, and bring your friends.



Faith Lutheran Church Women Annual Meeting

On Sunday, November 12, you (all women of Faith) are invited to the Faith Center, immediately following the 10:10 services. There you will . . .

- ⇒ Enjoy a light lunch and the fellowship of other women at Faith.
- ⇒ Vote on how disperse funds for 2023.
- ⇒ Assemble a small, upcycled Christmas decoration.



FLCW Christmas Luncheon

The 2023 FLCW Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, December 9. If you would like information on how you can decorate and host a table, please call Carreen Pierson at 320-587-5602 or 507-236-0316 to request a table as soon as possible. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

STUMP THE PASTOR

Q: Is it always wrong to lie?

A: Yes, but it may not always be the worst thing to do. How does that work?

The Bible makes it clear that God's laws are absolute. They have no shades of meaning or varying levels of requirement. To try to find a place where I can disobey a law and still be righteous in God's eyes is futile. Since any kind of lie violates the commandment "You shall not bear false witness," it means that it is always wrong to lie.

There are situations in life, however, where we face a choice between the lesser of two evils. A haunting example is people who sheltered Jews from Nazi persecutors during World War II. If they lied about hiding Jews in their homes in order to spare their lives, the lie is definitely the lesser of the possible evils in that situation. It was not self-serving, but done entirely for the sake of the neighbor. There are many less significant dilemmas, right down to the "little white lie" intended to spare someone's feelings when the blunt truth would only hurt him or her.

Nevertheless, a lie is still a lie, so the solution is not to try to define carefully what constitutes a "righteous" lie, but rather to flee to the cross, confess our sins and cling to God's promise to forgive us for Jesus' sake. Then, raised up again to new life in Christ, God sends us back into the world to keep striving to love our neighbors as He first loves us, even if such love requires us to take on the guilt of committing the lesser evil.

We are free to do so (though not innocent!) because "for our sake, God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God." For our sake, Jesus took on, not the lesser, but the greater evil, suffering an entirely unjust death so that you and I might be spared from the condemnation we deserve. Forgiven, freed and declared righteous for Jesus' sake, we can emulate (though never match) his self-giving love in our love for our neighbors.



Stewardship

You may have heard the disconcerting claim attributed to the World Economic Forum that, in the future, "you will own nothing and you will be happy."

It seems quite unlikely that both halves of that prediction will be fulfilled at the same time.

In terms of theology, however, that future has long-since arrived. The basis of Christian stewardship is the conviction that we do not actually *own* anything. The surest sign of that is that we are born with nothing and we leave it all behind when we die.

What we call our possessions are actually loaned to us by God for the duration of our lives. Our call, then, is to be good stewards, managing what God entrusts to our care (not only material goods, but our whole lives) as faithfully as we can, to meet our own needs, to serve God's kingdom and to help our neighbors. The good news is that to view and manage what we have in light of God's generous giving really will make us happy!

Phase II Building Committee (P2BC)

The P2BC continues to work with our architects to refine and finalize a proposal for Phase II of Faith's long-term building project. The plan should be ready to present and discuss with the congregation in January or February of 2024. Watch for times to view and respond when the initial plan is complete.





Digging DEEPER

“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

Digging Deeper sessions are held between services on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. A variety of topics are offered throughout the year. Continue to watch *Faith Matters* and Sunday bulletin announcements for the current opportunities and locations.

Digging Deeper—Starting Sunday, October 29

1. The Digging Deeper Variety Pack: Rather than a typical multi-week series, these four sessions include four entirely separate topics; meeting in the Faith Center.



October 29 ~ Martin Luther In Reformation Art

The Protestant Reformation through Martin Luther not only sparked a movement of church reform but also inspired an influx of art and music that followed. Unlike the ideas of John Calvin, music and art were sacred to Luther, second only to the Word of God. This one-time class held on Reformation Sunday will look at pieces of artwork surrounding the likeness of Martin Luther, but most importantly, the inspiration that followed Luther's ideas of how art can display and strengthen us by grace, through faith, in God's Word alone.

November 5 ~ Stories of the Saints: While Lutherans do not view sainthood in the traditional sense, the stories of the Church's saints are fascinating and inspiring.

November 12 ~ The Mission Outreach of Faith Lutheran: Explore some of the ministries beyond our own doors that Faith Lutheran supports locally and around the world.

November 19 ~ Pastor Dave's Excellent (Sabbatical) Adventure

2. Getting Ready to Hear Mark's Witness

In the new church year, the Gospel readings will mostly come from Mark. This four-week class will examine key features and characteristics of his Gospel account as background for hearing his powerful testimony to “the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” (Mark 1:1)

3. Leading Worship synopsis: How Does Worship Happen?

From the typical Sunday morning to an intricate festival day, have you ever wondered what goes into preparing a worship service? Meet in the office conference room for this four-week course **beginning on November 12**, and look at the art of planning and leading worship. We will follow along with recorded education sessions though St. Paul Lutheran Seminary followed by discussion on the following topics.

Session 1 – The Components of Lutheran Worship

Session 2 – Planning a Worship Service

Session 3 – Leading the Worship Service

Session 4 – Frequently Asked Questions



*Find more information and schedule updates
on our Website at Faithlc.com and Facebook Page!*





Happy November, Faith family!

This time of the year is one of my favorites in the liturgical church. I often refer to this time as “festival season.” With Sundays including Reformation, All Saints’, and Christ the King celebrations and observances, there is a rich foundation of music that we get to enjoy in such a short amount of time. I implore you to take advantage of these fulfilling worship services through the coming month. In addition to these great traditions of the Lutheran church, there is another that always satisfies my thirst for musical excellence. November has long been the month to host the Common Cup Ministries’ “Coming Together in Song” community concert. This year is extra special for me as I will be leading the mass choir. The three songs I have selected for this year’s concert are new and give a fresh sound to the past repertoire. Each piece showcases different aspects of the choral tradition; however, there is one that I am most excited about. *Ain’t No Grave Can Hold My Body Down* is a traditional spiritual arranged by the dynamic team of Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory. The spiritual style fits with the usual syncopated rhythms, southern language, soulful harmonies, and robust piano accompaniment. What sets this piece apart is the movement. You may be thinking, “Are not spirituals usually sung with some swaying or clapping?” and you are correct! Most spirituals involve a level of physicality, but none like this. *Ain’t No Grave...* is traditionally performed with ASL interpretation throughout the piece! This added level of expression helps to diversify the selection, but more importantly, it connects the story to human experience. We can all relate to the message of this piece in different ways. Each of us has been held down by our sin before and to sign the movement for ‘grave’ or ‘sinner’ helps connect to that feeling. This is a powerful piece to listen to and to watch. Faith Singers, the Community Youth Choir, as well as other Hutchinson musicians are hard at work learning all three of the mass choir selections for this year’s concert. I encourage you take note of the information below, so you don’t miss this wonderful fundraiser for Common Cup Ministries!

Common Cup Coming Together in Song Community Concert

Where: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Hutchinson

When: Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Who is performing: Faith Singers of Faith Lutheran Church, and Praise Choir of Christ the King Lutheran Church, joined by Hutchinson community members, singing individual songs, and singing as a mass choir.



Soli deo Gloria
Austin



Please pray for these students
confirmed in their Faith
on Sunday, October 29, 2023

Trinity Alderink
Mara Bruhn
Adasyn Conn
Wyatt Drahos
Julianne Frank
Myles Harlander
Owen Johnson
Alexandra Kottke

Adler Nelson
Luke Ostlie
Leigha Pauesick
Avari Piehl
Lyla Selle
Howie Smith
Tessa Strei
Leighton Wagner

Introducing the Greenhouse Collective

Over the last year, as the Faith Lutheran Internship Project has been developing, you've probably heard a lot of different terms and names for things. There's Greenhouse, and Ansgar, and YASP, and so on. It's confusing!

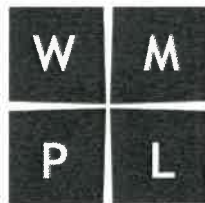
The name Greenhouse was initially used to describe Faith's internship program, but then faded a bit in the background in favor of FLIP (Faith Lutheran Internship Program). Ansgar is the name of the house the interns live in. And YASP is more of a nickname for our young adult night that meets at Ansgar. Because of this, we were about to eliminate the Greenhouse name until an exciting development came up.

Introducing the Greenhouse Collective!

The Greenhouse Collective is an intentional partnership that FLIP is a part of. It's an umbrella term for a group of like-minded collaborators in young adult discipleship. At Mount Carmel Bible Camp this summer, Pastor Dave had the opportunity to sit with several other young adult initiatives to scheme ways we could more intentionally work together and cheer one another on. The result is the Greenhouse Collective, which is made up of:



Mount Carmel
Bible Camp



World Mission
Prayer League
Discipleship
House



The Awaken
Project



trinity
SAN PEDRO

Trinity Lutheran
in San Pedro, CA



Canadian
Lutheran Bible
Institute

And, of course, Faith's Internship Project. These programs are all committed to two things:

1. Cultivating young adult leaders
2. Doing so in intentional residential community

It's been fun to share resources, help promote one another, pray for one another, and connect our communities together. Recently, our interns got to hang out with The Awaken Project community and some of the WMPL Discipleship House community. We are doing some really exciting things, and it's awesome knowing we are not doing it alone!

Pray for the Greenhouse Collective, and read more about them by finding their websites here



Support Groups Meeting This Month



FACe (cancer) Support Group: Meeting on Nov. 9, and 30, at 9:30 a.m. in the Faith Center.
Caregiver Support Group: Meeting on November 30 at 4 p.m. in the office conference room.
Anyone interested in either of these support groups should contact Pr. Paulus, Marsha Schmit, or Jeff Amundson by calling 320-587-2093.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Thanksgiving Worship Service Opportunities

Thanksgiving Eve: Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 23 at 10 a.m.

(Church offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.)

Thanksgiving offerings go toward the November Hunger Appeal.



Thanksgiving Eve Dessert & Pie Social

You are invited to stay after worship for a Dessert & Pie Social in the Faith Center on Thanksgiving Eve, after the 6:30 p.m. worship service.

If your gift is baking and you would be able to bring a pie or dessert, please sign-up. Come for worship, stay for coffee, a treat, and fellowship!

Advent Worship Services Opportunities

Advent Services will be on Wednesday evenings from November 29 - December 22 at 6:30 p.m. each evening. Don't miss these wonderful services that help us to prepare for our coming Savior.



Soup and Chili Supper

The Faith Lutheran Soup and Chili Supper will be held on Wednesday, November 29 from 5-6 p.m. in the Faith Center.

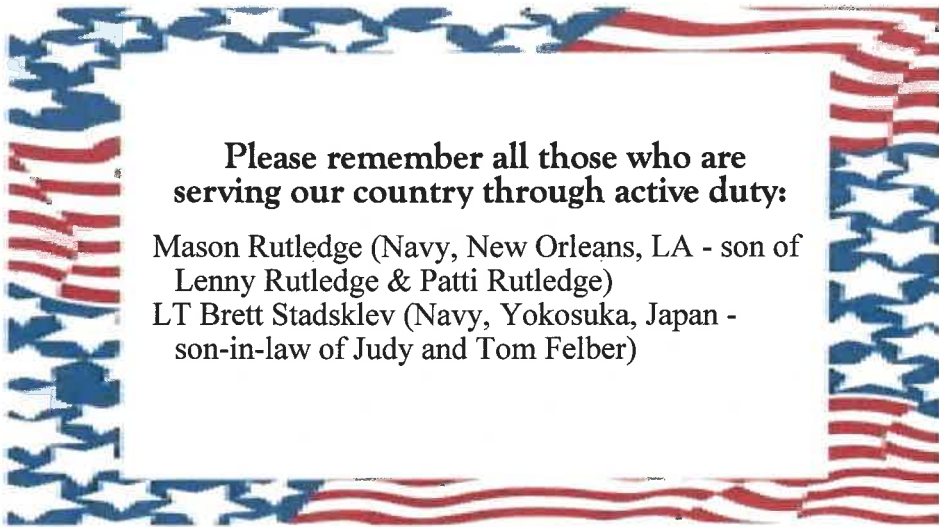
Congregational members are invited to make their favorite soup or chili to share. If baking is more your passion, you can also bring a dessert or bread to compliment the meal.

We do ask that you sign-up in advance to communicate what goodies you are bringing so the staff can plan the rest of the meal accordingly.

Find more information and schedule updates on our Website at Faithlc.com and Facebook Page!



Please Remember in Prayer



**Please remember all those who are
serving our country through active duty:**

Mason Rutledge (Navy, New Orleans, LA - son of
Lenny Rutledge & Patti Rutledge)
LT Brett Stadsklev (Navy, Yokosuka, Japan -
son-in-law of Judy and Tom Felber)



**Remember our Faith
members in nursing homes
and health care centers:**

Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com

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	320-587-2093	
Erika Smith, Nursery Attendant		

Cedar Crest - Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert

Cokato Nursing Home

Clara Betker

Harmony River

Ray Krueger
Phyllis Lamp
Jean Pittman
Rose Wagner

New Haven - Maple Plain

Ardell Novotny

Oaks

Phyllis Blum

Pines

Elaine Blade

The Gardens-Winsted

Alice Poshek

Woodstone

Dodie Fenske
Cyndy Ollrich

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OUR MISSION IS:
BUILDING FAITH
*"EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY,
FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST"*
EPHESIANS 4:12



TO LIVE OUT THAT MISSION, GOD CALLS US TO:
FOLLOW JESUS
ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL
INVITE ALL PEOPLE
TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH
HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Dates



Sunday School

Children will begin practicing for the Christmas program during the Faith Rocks time at Sunday School. Parents, keep an eye on your e-mails to see more details about songs and acting parts.

B23

Join other families with children birth—3 years old in the nursery for a teaching and small group time. We will meet on November 19 from 9:15 a.m.—9:50 a.m.

56er's

There will be no 56er's on November 22. Don't forget that any 5th and 6th grade students can join 56er's at any time of the year.

Great Start

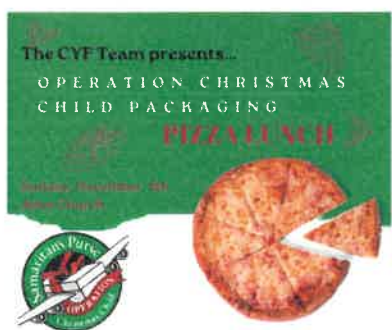
The next Great Starts are November 1 and December 6 from 7:45 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. We can still take a few more students. If you are interested in signing up your kindergarten - 5th grader, please contact Laura Stowman. We also rely on volunteers to help with breakfast, snack, crafts, games and walking with the rotation groups. If you are interested in helping, please contact Laura Stowman.

The Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team Presents

Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing event and pizza lunch on Sunday, November 5 after the 10:10 a.m. worship services.

The event is for all!

You can also drop off donations of school supplies, hygiene products, toys and new clothing for the boxes before that Sunday.



Powerhouse

Friday, November 17 from 7 p.m.—10 p.m.. For any 6th—8th grade student. Cost is \$5 to attend and students should register by November 10. There will be games, pizza, snacks and more games! Registration is online.

Confirmation

Mentor Meeting—Wednesday, November 29 for our current Confirmands.

FLY Night

Faith Lutheran Youth night continues for all high school students on Wednesdays from 7:00—9:30 p.m.

Ansgar Community (Young Adult Community)

This group of college and young adults meets on Sunday nights at 7 p.m. at the Ansgar House. Contact Kristen with any questions.

Questions?

If you have questions about programs for children birth through 6th grade, please contact Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministry.

If you have questions about programs for 7th grade through young adult, please contact Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministry.



Parent Huddle: Nurturing Gratitude in the Hearts of Children

In a world of growing entitlement, there is concern that children will be less grateful for what they have and more likely to want what is just out of reach and believe that they deserve it.

You can just picture it. In the next aisle over, you hear the screaming child having a tantrum, because she is being denied what she so desperately wants. You are glad it is not you in that moment. Your heart goes out to that parent and you say a little prayer for them.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, you are reminded of all the things you are thankful for and of the desire you have for your children to have gratitude in their heart. But how do we nurture that?

Point to God. Remind your child that everything we have, the trees, sun, house, careers, favorite snack and so much more, are all gifts from God.

Be an example. Let your words and actions of gratitude towards your child and spouse be a regular and natural part of your day. Include thanksgiving to God in your table prayer as a family everyday.

Careful how much your complain. Children learn a lot from their parents. They can learn gratitude from us, but also grumbling. Be aware of how often you complain and what you are complaining about.

Less is more. Help your children be grateful for what they have, and teach them the difference between want and need.

Learn to say no and stick to it. Putting limits on your children is good for them. Saying no helps them be thankful for the times you say yes.

Remember that giving thanks takes time and effort, but thankfully we have God the Holy Spirit to be working in our hearts every day pointing us to all the ways that God has worked in our lives and helping us to give thanks.

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministries

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministries