



Dear Parents,

This is the time when families prepare for a new school year. It is also the time when we prepare for the beginning of our church school year. The Children's Ministries Committee has thoughtfully prepared a year long curriculum that will serve as a guide for the children's faith journey.

Sunday, September 18th is Celebration Sunday when the children will move into their new classrooms for the 2011-2012 Faith Footsteps Church School year. On that Sunday only, we ask that you sign your child into Church School in the Social Hall before the beginning of worship. The children and teachers will process into worship during children's time. On all other Sundays, we will follow our *Keeping God's Children Safe* guidelines for signing children in and out of Church School (Social Hall for signing in and classroom for signing out).

The Crib and Toddler Room is now located in room 232 just outside the Social Hall. The child's development will be considered as we place them in the infant and toddler groupings. The 3 and 4 year olds will be our preschool group. The children who will be five by October 1st will be in our pre-kindergarten/ kindergarten classroom. All other children will be in classes according to their grade in school. Please look for the classroom assignment charts posted throughout the church for help in locating your child's room.

Enclosed, you will find a registration form which should be completed and returned to the Church Office by September 11th. We ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering your time in some way to our Church School so that we may continue to provide a quality program to all of our children. St. Lucas United Church of Christ policies require that we have two "*Keeping God's Children Safe*" certified adults present with each class of children. There are KGCS seminars scheduled for Sundays during the fall at 9 a.m. Watch the bulletin for dates. In order to abide by these policies and eliminate the possibility of canceling a Sunday class, we ask that you volunteer your time as a crib/toddler room teacher, classroom shepherd or a rotation leader. The time commitment required for these opportunities to serve varies by age group. Crib and toddler room volunteers offer their services once a month at any of the worship times. Shepherds for preschool through fifth grade groups form a team of leaders (2-4 people) who create their own schedule for volunteering from September through May. Rotation team members volunteer to lead a rotation lesson for a three to four week period.

Bible Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, September 11th. All children in second and sixth grades will receive a Bible from the congregation. If you are a parent of a child who is in either of these two grades, please make sure you complete a Bible Inscription form and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, September 4th. The forms will be located in the Welcome Center and on the St. Lucas website.

On Sunday, September 11th, parents of children birth through fifth grade are asked to join Children's Ministries for a Faith Footsteps Parent Meeting. This is a very important time for all parents as we gather to discuss the changes and expectations for the upcoming church school year. The children will have a movie during the meeting time which will allow all parents to attend.

We look forward to an exciting time of learning, fun and spiritual growth for everyone involved in our Faith Footsteps Church School during 2011-2012.

Walking together in Faith Footsteps,

Michele L. Ottinger
Coordinator of Children's Ministries