

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Dear 4th-6th grade students and parents,

I'm so excited! I can hardly contain how much I am looking forward to spending time with your child this fall! We are going to find fun and engaging ways for your child to see themselves in God's story. Our classes this year will focus on our worship service in a creative way. One, that I hope will spark a curiosity within your child that continues to grow long after our time together has concluded. Although the realities of COVID-19 required that we make significant changes to our program, one thing remains the same -- our commitment to growing in our transformational relationship with Jesus Christ.

We will be having an online informational Zoom meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will provide detailed information for our educational ministries for students grades kindergarten-9th grade. We are encouraging students and parents to attend this virtual meeting to hear about the specific details relating to their classes. The meeting link will be sent out via our Wednesday Night Education Remind group. If you aren't a member of that group already, please join by sending a text to 81010 with the message @k6c9gd. Or, send an email to church@wadenaimmanuel.org to receive an email with the link prior to the meeting.

With the safety of our children in mind, we have created a hybrid model for our elementary students. This means that your child will alternate weeks in the building with other grade levels to limit the number of young people in our building on a Wednesday evening. Starting Wednesday, September 23 all 4th-6th grade students will meet me for class in a new location! We hope you will join us on September 9 to learn all the details.

Each class will begin with a brief welcome, scripture reading and liturgy exploration. Before class ends, the students will be given a prompt to help them think about liturgy from a different perspective. This prompt is their guide for their assigned art project that they are encouraged to work on during the weeks that they are not physically in the building.

Teenagers already know about creative energy and when students craft their own stories, they learn to feel what it feels like to be themselves to narrate their lives with meaning and purpose. Using art to nurture creativity is effective because it creates us with the sacred spirit of life. The goal of the art project is to help kids bring liturgy to life through their own experiences and embrace their creativity to create a piece of art that reflects THEIR thoughts about the weekly prompt regarding that week's liturgy lesson.

At the beginning of the year, thanks in part to a Thrivent grant received, students will be given a box of art supplies to use at their discretion throughout the year. Their projects are not limited to the items in the box, and can be used to supplement and inspire. Students will be encouraged to explore a variety of art forms to bring worship into life including, but not limited to drawings, 3D artwork, watercolor art, writing poetry, designing clay structures, putting their thoughts to words in a creative or musical way, writing a story or even creating a piece of graffiti. The artwork must be their own design and should include a brief explanation of their arts relationship to liturgy if not readily obvious.

The highlight of the experience will be celebrating their creativity through a festive intergenerational reception at the end of the educational year to affirm and show how our liturgy is viewed through the eyes of young people.

As we know, all too well, this plan is subject to change. If Covid19 numbers should rise and WDC schools transition to full-time distance learning, so shall we. We would still meet according to the schedule - just via Zoom instead of in-person.

In addition to our education offerings, we will continue to observe our milestone celebrations. **There will be a Milestone Sunday Sundaes Party at Tapley Park on September 13th at 3 pm.** We will celebrate the beginning of a new school year with a back to school blessing for all our young people going back to school this fall and we will give Bibles to our 3-year-olds and 3rd graders. We will continue our celebration with Sundaes cones and time for physically distanced fellowship at the park. If your family would prefer a contactless celebration, please let Pastor Megan know. She would be happy to deliver your milestone items to your home and offer a physically distanced blessing.

I hope you will join us for our Zoom session on Wednesday, Sept 9. And, of course please reach out if you have any questions or would like more information about our plans for this education season! I look forward to seeing your child in class this year!

Blessings,

*Called and United through the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
our mission is to proclaim and respond to God's presence among us*

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR: ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

***Highlighted areas, marked 4th–6th graders, reflect the in-person education. The alternate weeks are dedicated to the in-person educational time for the K–3rd graders, as well as the time dedicated for 4th–6th graders to work on their art projects at home.*

- September 9 Orientation (with parents and students) via ZOOM
16 K–3rd graders
23 4–6th graders – #1, What is Worship?
30 K–3rd graders
- October 7 4–6th graders – #2, Communion
14 NO CLASS – MEA Conference Weekend
21 NO CLASS – Zoom Time Available if want to discuss art projects
28 K–3rd graders
- November 4 4–6th graders – #3, The Bible/Scripture
11 K–3rd graders
18 4–6th graders – #4, The Sermon
25 THANKSGIVING WORSHIP @ 6:30pm NO CLASS
- December 2 K–3rd graders
9 4–6th graders – #5, The Apostles Creed
16 K–3rd graders
23 CHRISTMAS BREAK – NO CLASS
30 CHRISTMAS BREAK – NO CLASS
- January 6 4–6th graders – #6, Prayers
13 K–3rd graders
20 4–6th graders – #7, Sharing the Peace
27 NO CONFIRMATION – ANNUAL MEETING
- February 3 K–3rd graders
10 4–6th graders – #8, The Offering
17 ASH WEDNESDAY
24 Lent – worship with your family
- March 3 Lent – worship with your family
10 Lent – worship with your family
17 Lent – worship with your family
24 Lent – worship with your family
31 HOLY WEEK – NO CLASS
- April 7 K–3rd graders
14 4–6th graders – #9, Music as Worship
21 K–3rd graders
28 4–6th graders – #10, Celebrating Our Year/Closure

May TBD Art Show to culminate the Visual Representation of Worship project