

Children's Ministry

November 20 – Hat & Mitten Tree
November 29 – 6:30 CMC Committee Mtg
December 4 – “First” Food Shelf Sunday
December 18 – Sunday School Christmas Program 9:00 & 10:30 Worship Services

Children's Ministry Meeting

Please join us on Tuesday, November 29, at 6:30 pm for our next Children's Ministry Committee Meeting. The agenda includes finalization of the Sunday School Christmas Program, review of existing programs, selection of service projects and discussion of any additional matters as raised by those in attendance.

Teenage Volunteer Opportunity

We are in need of Sunday School Class Assistants. Confirmation students can meet their required hours of service by helping in a Sunday school class. It is NOT necessary to commit to every Sunday. Please contact Deb Nelson, Children's Ministry Director, to obtain a volunteer application form.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Share the love of Jesus as you share your loving hands and heart. We need adult and/or teen volunteer help in the Nursery. (Confirmands get service hour credit.) Volunteers do NOT change diapers! Volunteers assist the lead caregiver by playing with the children. If you like, you could read to one of our little ones. For further information, please contact Deb Nelson, Children's Ministry Director, or Sue Lemon, Nursery Coordinator.

It is true...ask and ye shall receive!
Thank you for your donations of **yarn** in response to our request in the last issue of The Steppingstone.

Wednesday FaithWeaver Friends

NEW! We have added a four-year-old/ kindergarten rotation! This group begins the hour in the Kindergarten Classroom. Please contact the church office to register as pre-registration is required. Sunday School students are welcome, as the Wednesday program does NOT duplicate our Sunday program.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Christmas program will take place on Sunday, December 18 during the 9:00 and 10:30 worship services. Children will participate with their Sunday school class during their usual class time. Children in second grade through sixth grade may request a reading or acting part by returning the form that was sent home Sunday, October 30, Sunday, November 6, or Wednesday, November 9. Return the form to your child's Sunday school teacher or to the Children's Ministry office by Wednesday, November 16.

First Food Shelf Sunday

November 6 will be our next “First Food Shelf Sunday.” Please donate non-perishables to help our Sunday school meet our ongoing goal to donate more food this year than was donated last year. We are barely ahead of last year after the decrease in donations over the summer and in September. Please continue to place your non-perishable donations in the grocery cart by the front door. Sunday School thanks you for your donations.

January – August 2004 = 1214 pounds
January – August 2005 = 1339 pounds
September 2004 = 213 pounds
September 2005 = 115 pounds
October 2004 = 108 pounds
October 2005 = 115 pounds

Our prayers and condolences go to Brenda Drimmel on the death of her father, Robert Grayes; to the family of Esther Molitor who passed away on October 30th; and to Lori Larson on the death of her brother.

Thank you for all the cards, prayers and support after the death of my mother.

Sincerely,
Ruth Wilm

LIBRARY FUNDRAISER BOOK SALE

St. Stephen's library will be having the annual Christmas book sale on Sunday, November 27th - Wednesday, November 30th - and Sunday, December 4th. Stop by the narthex and browse the great selection of books for all ages. A generous portion of the book sales is for the library to use. In addition, all the books on display are donated by Augsburg Fortress to the library. Get an early start on your Christmas shopping!

Adult Forum

November 6 – December 18
“Surprised by Suffering” video and study guide by R.C. Sproul – led by Rolf Iverson. A continuation of last year's discussion on “common objections to Christianity”, namely, how does a loving God allow suffering?

Don't forget – Operation Christmas Child gift shoeboxes need to be dropped off by Nov. 20th – Contact Cindy Scott (651-426-3721) with any questions.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

This Sunday, November 13th, we will be receiving pledges for 2006 as well as offerings at the altar. If you are able, please return your pledge card this Sunday. If you are not able, mail or return it to the church office by November 20th. In order to reach our stewardship goals for 2006, we need to also fulfill our commitments for 2005. Please check to see if you are current on your giving and, if you are able to give beyond your pledge, that would be helpful and appreciated.

YOUTH

Grades 10-12

Pier leadership training – first & third Sundays of each month at noon in the youth room. Lead adults – Fred Bartling and Lisa Woodruff.

Fall Confirmation Retreat at WAPO - November 18th-20th. Registration fees and permission slips are due on Friday, the 18th when you bring your confirmand. Please eat supper before you come.

Adult & TIM Team counselor orientation for the fall retreat is at 11:30 am on Sunday, Nov. 13th.

COOKIE TRAYS for sale in November through December 4th. Cookie trays will be delivered on Sunday, December 11th.

Cookie Tray Bake & Bundle – Saturday, December 10th, at 9 a.m.

The next Steppingstone will go out on November 22nd. Articles need to be turned in to the church office by Sun., November 20th.