

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Sunday School – We are enjoying the classrooms in the North Wing this year. We still need to add a few things and warm it up a bit, but overall we are very happy to be in our new home. We have a wonderful group of teachers again this year. Please take the time to thank them for all of the time and love they give our children: Sherry Owens, Laura Owens, Evvie Schwartz, Lara Roseto, Lizzie Williams, Heather MacDonald, Shannon Walsh, Lori Walsh, Susan Groff, Andre Dangin, Anna Kitzmiller, Kathy Dangin, Tim Schwartz, Glenn Wolfgang, Ann Wolfgang, and Jean Wolf.

We use a variety of curriculum including Gospel Light, Hands On Bible, Witness, and Here We Stand. We are using previous years' curriculum as much as possible in order to keep expenses down. We also try to use a curriculum that best fits the needs of both the students and the teachers, hence the variety.

Please consider teaching or assisting with a class. You do not need to know your bible because, in fact, you learn the lesson each week as you prepare and teach. We are always looking for teachers and now would be a good time to sit in a few classes to get a feel for the rhythm of the lessons each week. We try to have teams of teachers in order to accommodate flexible schedules. If you feel called to serve Christ by spending time with His children, please let me know. It is a truly rewarding experience!

Confirmation – We have six new seventh graders in confirmation this year. I am going over Luther's Small Catechism with them using the Here We Stand Curriculum. We have ten eighth grade confirmation students. They have been studying the essentials of Lutheranism with Pastor Ray and Kathy Dangin, including the components of the bible, the church and a worship service; and the history of the church and Martin Luther. We meet twice a month with a family day on the first Sunday of the month. Family Day features a potluck meal in addition to special presentations from the eighth graders.

Adult Education – We have a new class this year called Troublesome Bible Passages. This is an interesting discussion on passages which are difficult to understand and put into practice. It includes topics such as: Why did God choose Abel and not Cain? Are our lives predetermined? What is the sin that can never be forgiven? How much faith is enough? Where is the Kingdom of God? What is the Antichrist? Thanks to Jean Wolf for leading this class. We also continue to offer the weekly Sermon Exchange, thanks to the leadership and guidance of Glenn and Ann Wolfgang.

In addition to Sunday classes, we also offer Digging Under the Text on Wednesday evenings with Pastor Ray. This class covers the way the Bible has come to be and how it has shaped our faith. It is an eye-opening and fascinating class.

Other Highlights - 5th Annual Bible Bowl, preparing a meal for Safe Nights, flipping flapjacks on Shrove Tuesday, the Easter Egg Hunt, ten eighth-grade confirmands affirming their Baptism on Pentecost Sunday, 32 Boxes prepared by our 5th – 8th graders for Operation Christmas Child, Christmas caroling and the History of Hymns Christmas Program.

In July the African Savannah came to our church during the week of our Baobab Blast Vacation Bible School. There were 98 youth and adult volunteers bringing the word of God to life for our children. The kids had plenty of opportunities to cool off and “run wild”.

It has been another wonderful and full year for our children, young and old. I am blessed to work with so many of Christ’s disciples who are dedicated to spreading the word of God. I am in awe of their love and energy. As I pray each day for the Holy Spirit to guide us, I have only to look in a classroom each week to see that He is always there, to the end of the age, just as He said He would be.

Vicki Williams