

A Message From Fr. David

Dear friends in Christ,

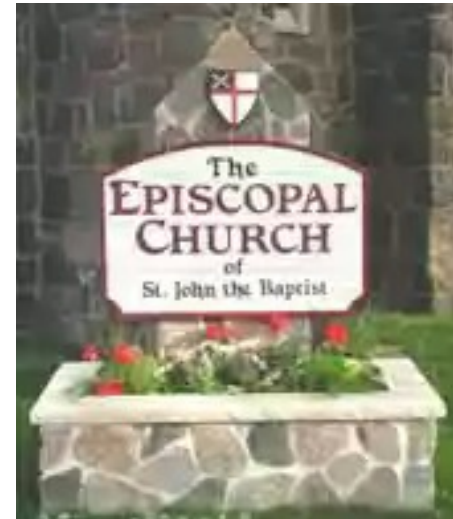
Church school is ready to begin for 2011-12. It is an exciting time! Maybe not unlike the start of a sports season when expectations are high, and dreams of championships abound. We may not be thinking of championships, but we dream of children and youth being led on a journey that will feed them, and lead them on a path that brings them into a rich relationship with Christ. Of course there are many hurdles, but I believe children and youth are hungry, they have a spirituality and they want to be "spiritual". And they look to us, their families and their church, to help them live out that spirituality, and make sense of their worlds.

Ours is a parish that has made promises to each other, chief of which is to support all baptized people in their lives in Christ. The Church School is one important part of that promise being lived out. I would encourage every member of the parish to consider how he or she might be involved in the life of our children and youth. You don't have to teach, and yet there are so many other ways to be part of the life of this community.

Peace,
Fr David

The Rev'd David Klutterman
The Episcopal Church of St John the Baptist
330 McClellan St
Wausau, WI 54403
715.845.6947

The Episcopal Church of St John the Baptist



SUNDAY SCHOOL HANDBOOK 2011 – 2012

The Episcopal Church of St John the Baptist

Sunday School Handbook 2011 – 2012

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Winter 2012 (planning due later)

January

- 1 In Church Day
- 8 Epiphany
- 15 OT Stories
- 22 OT Stories
- 29 OT Stories

February

- 5 In Church Day
- 12 OT Stories
- 19 OT Stories
- 22 **Ash Wednesday**
- 26 Lent 1

March

- 4 In Church Day
- 11 Lent 3
- 18 Lent 4
- 25 No Church School (Spring Break)

April

- 1 In Church Day (Spring Break)
- 8 Easter
- 15 OT Stories
- 22 OT Stories
- 29 OT Stories

May

- 6 In Church Day
- 13 Mothers Day
- 20 Final Wrap Up Day (Picnic)
- 27 No Church School (Memorial Weekend)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sunday School Classes take place in the classrooms above Fr. David's office. If we have the numbers we will explore having the older students in the upper meeting room. Classes will have a 5 – 10 minute gathering activity together before any groups divide. We will group the children in ways that allow them to learn as well as have fun. Children will be brought back into the service when it is time for communion.

Fall 2011

September

- 18 You and the Church (Sunday School Banner)
- 25 The Church Mass (Handbook - Whats and Whys?)

October

- 2 In Church Day (no additional activity)
- 9 Shiny Coins (What belongs to God and Caesar)
- 16 The Great Commandment (Love God and Neighbor)
- 23 Making our Faith Real (The hypocrite)
- 30 Trim Your Lamps (Be Ready for the coming)

November

- 6 In Church Day (Activity Planned after Church)
- 13 Those Who Have Get (more given to those who have)
- 20 New Beginnings – Thanksgiving (Cornucopia)
- 27 Thanksgiving (Wreaths & Books – A1 – Hope)

December

- 4 In Church Day (Pageant Rehearsal – A2 – Love)
- 11 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (A3 – Joy)
- 18 Christmas pageant Rehearsal (A4 – Peace)
- 24 Christmas Eve Pageant – 5:00pm
- 25 Christmas Day Service – 10:00am in Chapel

Christian Education Mission Statement

Christian Education for Children at St John the Baptist Episcopal Church is dedicated to being a ministry that invites the children of God to become joyful learners.

OUR VISION

We will help to provide an environment in which God's children (of all ages) can grow in faith, through learning, serving and loving each other and the world as God loves us. We hope to encourage all to become lifelong seekers of the way of Christ.

We will teach and invite questions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, as well as the history and traditions of the Episcopal Church in ways that are developmentally appropriate.

We will offer support for Parents as they fulfill their calling to nurture their children in the faith of the church and to fulfill the promises made at baptism and confirmation..

We will reach out to new families with a welcoming spirit.

Parents and Christian Education

Promises made at Holy Baptism

Question: Will you be responsible for seeing that these children are brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Answer: We will, with God's help.

Question: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Answer: We will, with God's help.

Question: Will you do all in your power to support these children in their life in Christ?

Answer: We will, with God's help.

Promises made at Confirmation

Remembering back to our own confirmations, in which we made a public declaration of our faith, we promised to:

- Live among God's people
- Hear God's Word and share together in the Eucharist.
- Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- Serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus
- Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Snack:



Bring in snacks for that day's Sunday school. (Juice, cookie). This can help kids who maybe had to run out to get to school. We also know that hospitality is something we all should learn.

Special Events:



Christmas Pageant: assist with rehearsals
Our Church Night: coordinate special activities for children.

Bulletin Board:



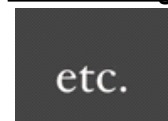
Be creative! We want a different board based on the seasons theme. We have areas in the rooms and areas in Memorial Hall. If not a bulletin board, maybe a sign?

Photography:



We want to capture what's happening in the lives of our children during Sunday school. If you would like to help with this or if you have an old digital camera that could be used by the kids during activities, let us know.

Other Things:



If there is something you feel you can offer, we would like to talk with you. All gifts are blessed.

So How Do You Volunteer?

Its as easy as we can make it!

- 1) Sign your name: to a Volunteer Sheet in the Church office. Signify the volunteer activity that interests you. Also let us know how best to contact you.

OR

- 2) Contact: Dale Burgess (dalehb@charter.net)
Fr. David (klutterman@aol.com)
St Johns Office (715) 845.6947

Sunday School Volunteer Opportunities

Who should volunteer?

In Matthew – Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

In Deuteronomy is written – Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—

So who should volunteer? Everyone! This does not mean that the Sanctuary should be empty on Sunday morning, but we can all find ways, in many areas, to contribute to the education of our children. Here is a list of some of the things that need volunteers.

Teacher:



This can be a 1 - 3 week commitment where you could develop the lessons from the outline we have or teach a lesson that has been designed. We are in need of people in each of our two classes. Talk to a friend and take on the teaching of all or part of a themed lesson. Teachers are actively supported by the Sunday School Coordinator and Committee.

Storyteller:



This can be a one time or ongoing commitment. We strive to begin each week with a large group gathering activity to include all Sunday schoolers. A reading of a pertinent story, a puppet show, teach a game or teach a song. These activities bring all the kids together and create a better sense of St Johns as our children's family.

Childcare:



Volunteer in the nursery during the 10am services. I am hoping we can have enough people to allow everyone a chance to do it a little. We need one person for sure so we can count on it and our families or visitors can feel comfortable about having someone to help out with watching our littlest ones.

Faith and Family Builder

You want a great relationship with your kids? You want openness, honesty, caring and sharing in your family? You want to raise a child who is a strong, thoughtful, empathetic, positive and healthy adult in the world some day? Keep your family communicating every day, and grow in your understanding of yourself and God.

Choose the same time each day at a time and in a place that allows you to be together. Put down the newspaper or homework, set the cell phone on silent and gather in a room of your choice. Then take turns going through these five simple steps:

1. **SHARE** highs and lows of the day (*not to advise- just to listen in love!*) asking questions such as “When were you the happiest today?” and “When were you the saddest?”
2. **READ** and highlight a verse of Scripture in your Bible (Resources from Sunday School could be helpful here!)
3. **TALK** about how the verse relates to your highs and lows.
4. **PRAY** for your highs and lows, for your family, and for the world (not fancy, “real” talk with God...remembering to listen).
5. **BLESS** one another (you can make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads or use the traditional “forehead, navel, shoulder/shoulder” crossing) and say, “As we ... (start our day, go to sleep, etc..) may we be blessed in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit” or create your own blessing.

The Lord's Prayer

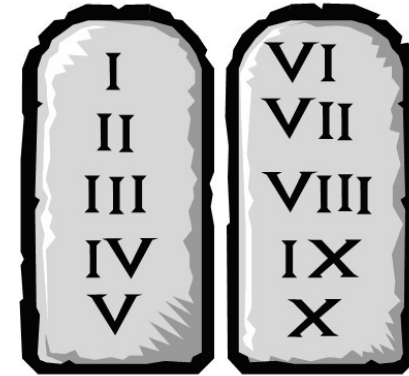
This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. It is a prayer that is part of every service. Make it a part of your family's daily prayer as well.



Our Father who art in heaven.
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Ten Commandments (for Kids)

Here is a simplified version of the 10 commandments. Designed to be easier for young children to understand, they can help you and your children start to look at how God wants us to behave.



The Ten Commandments

1. **Have no other gods.**
2. **Have no idols.**
3. **Honor God's name.**
4. **Honor the Sabbath day.**
5. **Honor your parents.**
6. **Do not murder.**
7. **Do not commit adultery.**
8. **Do not steal.**
9. **Do not tell lies about other people.**
10. **Do not want your neighbor's things.**