

Faith Formation Sunday Morning Classes--2019-2020 + Third CRC

Dear Families and Friends of Third,

We are excited to share with you all of the faith formation classes that we will be offering on Sundays after our morning worship service! We are grateful to the teachers and mentors who are taking the time to invest in our children and youth and we hope that your family will take advantage of these wonderful Faith Formation opportunities! Please pray with us for a wonderful ministry season of learning more about Jesus and following Him! What follows are class descriptions for each grade level, where they will be held, and who will be teaching. **Please note that our classes will begin at 10:45 am and will end at 11:30 am.**

1st and 2nd Grade

Will meet in the ***Preschool Room*** with rotating teachers Karen Cleveland, Katie Sytsma, and Rebecca Larson. They are excited to help our 1st and 2nd graders **Wonder** about the big Story of the Bible, particularly **Wonder** about God's amazing Plan, God's Daring Mission, Jesus' Amazing Power, Jesus' Loving Care, Jesus' Incredible Love, and the Holy Spirit's Life-Changing Power! Students will hear a Story from the Bible, and **Wonder** what it would be like to be in that story, to have that experience. But we don't just want to hear stories about what Happened, but about what is happening, so the students and teachers will wonder together about their role in God's Story today and everyday!

3rd and 4th Grade

Will meet in the ***Classroom downstairs*** with teachers Amy Meints, Marie Fox and Laura Osborne to **Marvel** together! The curriculum this year will help them to **Marvel** at God's Love, God's Mercy, The Holy Spirit's Power, the Holy Spirit's Work, God's New Beginnings, and God's Protection! The focus of the **Marvel** curriculum is really God's Character and what we can learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit through the stories from the Bible. The kids will hear a Bible story, and **Marvel** with their teacher about what we learn about God's Character, and how that story shapes the way we live today. God's Mercy, Love, Power and Protection is offered to us today just like it was during Bible times!

5th and 6th Grade

Will meet in the ***GEMS Room downstairs*** with Peggy Link, Tom Nanninga and Brad Meints. Together, they will **Dive** deeper into stories from the Bible and learn more of the theological application to our lives. They will ask questions together like "What is being a Christian All about?", "What's with all the rules?", "Can't we just get along?" "Who's Number 1", "Does what I do make a difference?", and "What do I say when I pray?".

Faith Formation Sunday Morning Classes--2019-2020 + Third CRC

At this age, students start **Diving** deeper into answering some of the questions about faith and the ramifications it has on our lives today. The curriculum addresses some of the questions that a typical middle school student would have about Bible Stories and implications on our life! Students in this Class get a devotional book to take home written by our Youth Pastor Bryan Keeley. 3 devotions per week to compliment what they talked about in class on Sunday!

7th and 8th Grade

Will meet in the **Youth Room downstairs** with Lon Pschigoda. Together, they will work through a curriculum called "52 great Bible Studies for Youth" which will cover topics such as, Decisions, Forgiveness, Gossip, the Kingdom of Heaven, Money and Lifestyle choices, Philippians, Relationships, Self-Image, Service, Stress and Words of Faith. Lon is excited to work with your young people and explore the Bible and Life with our Youth! This class is more discussion oriented and engaging with topics that 7th and 8th graders are curious about as they learn more about God's love, and our role in God's big story!

9th- 12th Grade

This year we are trying something NEW with our High School students. Much like the January Intergen Classes we are going to invite ALL of the High Schoolers into one classroom with Adults (in the **Walnut Room**) to learn about the **Heidelberg Catechism** together! We have learned the value of Mentoring relationships over the past number of years, and research has proven that intergenerational relationships and learning is a key to faith formation in young people, so our hope and goal is that Parents, Mentors and any other interested Adults join us for this exciting new experiment in Faith Formation! It is our hope and prayer that by sharing life experiences that we can all grow to better understand our God and the World we live in.

Our **Mentoring** program has been extremely successful, and we look forward to another great year for our students and mentors! Research shows the importance of mentoring for faith development in young people. For the past seven years we have had a mentor for every one of our high school students! About once a month, we will break from the Intergen Class for our Mentors and Students to meet one-on-one. The curriculum provided to the mentors and Students is be based on the Catechism as well, so we would like to encourage mentors to come to the intergen class if they are able to also be engaged with the material.