

## Parent's Support

**Parenting Group**—A Sunday morning group will begin on September 27 and meet in the Conference Room from 9:30-10:20am. Discussion topics will deal with parenting issues such as feeding, potty training, finding child care, spiritual nurture of children and discipline. Discussion will be led by Ruth Phelps and Diane Shallue. This is designed for parents with children from birth—grade 6.

**B-5 Gatherings**—There is a brunch for parents and kids about three times a year with free child care following so that parents can run some errands. Usually a picnic is held in August in a local park.

**HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH**—is a curriculum created at the U of M and will be taught by Ruth Phelps, a certified instructor. These series of six –two hour classes will be taught on Saturday mornings beginning on January. Registration is required for this course. Fee: \$20 per household.

## Congregational Support

### Worship Support

- Quiet bags with books and small toys are provided at the entrances to the Sanctuary.
- A children's message is provided each Sunday.
- A nursery is provided for children who have short attention spans and may need a break from the worship space. See the Nursery Guidelines for more detailed information.
- Older children are provided with an activity bulletin based on the gospel for the day.
- All children are invited to the altar for a blessing.
- Children who have had Communion Instruction are invited to share in Holy Communion.



**SPLASH**—At Baptism, children are enrolled in the SPLASH program which is a series of mailings related to the spiritual, physical and emotional growth of a child. They continue until the child turns three years of age.

**Toddler Sunday School**—beginning in fall 2009, a Toddler Sunday School with an emphasis on stories, sensory activities and play will be offered during the Education Hour in the Nursery.

**Godly Play**—is a faith formation program for children ages 4 through grade one which focuses on using objects to tell Bible stories, response time with paint and clay, and creating sacred space for children to experience God and the community gathered in God's name.

**Communion Instruction**—Children can receive communion when the parents feel they are ready. Communion Instruction of two sessions is provided for children ages 4-7 and their parents in February during on Sunday mornings. Instruction is taught by Diane Shallue and Pastor Craig Shirley.

Questions? Contact Diane Shallue at [dianes@ulch.org](mailto:dianes@ulch.org) or 612-331-5988 ext 19



University Lutheran  
Church of Hope

*Ministry to  
Families with  
Young Children*



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## ***Beginning with Baptism***

Baptism is the beginning of a life long journey of faith for your child. Those who wish their child baptized need to make an appointment with Pastor Shirley. Baptisms are usually part of a worship service as it signifies entrance into the community of Christ.

In the service of Holy Baptism, parents and sponsors make these promises:

- To live with your child among God's faithful people
- To bring the child to the word of God and the holy supper

- To teach the child the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments
- To place in the child's hands the holy scriptures and nurture them in faith and prayer

The goal of all this in the words of the Baptismal Liturgy is "so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made and work for justice and peace."

Parents promise to help their children grow in the Christian faith and life.



## ***Baptismal Recognition Sunday*** **January 10, 2010**

**Those baptized in the past year will be blessed and recognized on the Sunday of the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus. A white rose and an appropriate Bible will be given to the child or parents during the worship service. Children, parents and sponsors are asked to be at worship that day to receive the blessing and gift from the congregation .**

## ***Bringing Small Children to Worship***

We value children in worship. Just as we teach our children how to talk and eat with the family, we also need to help them learn how to worship. The primary way we do this is by taking our children to church.

### **Suggestions for parents:**

- Sit where your child is able to see and hear. At the front or on an aisle, children are able to watch the pastor, acolytes and choir.
- Help your child attend to the service by pointing out the lighting of candles, the taking of the offering, or the blessing of the bread and wine during Communion.
- Bring a small bag of special quiet toys or books for your child to use during worship. A baby bible is especially appropriate.

- After worship allow your children to explore the worship space and give them the names of the various objects such as the cross, the stained glass windows, the baptismal font, the candles, the organ, etc.
- Emphasize what you child can do. Even small children can sit and stand with the congregation or fold hands. As your child grows, help him or her learn to share the peace, hold a hymnal or place an offering in the basket. Even three year olds can memorize the Lord's prayer or the Apostles Creed to say during worship.

Keep in mind that children are individuals. Every child needs to be guided to participate in worship in unique ways. What works well or is possible with one child may not be appropriate for another. Try to keep worship experiences happy rather than stressful or forced. Allow your child to leave the service if they need a break. Using the nursery might be helpful.

## ***Library Resources***

- **Children's Board Books**—We have a bin of heavy duty board books of Bible stories and prayers in the Library that can be checked out.
- **Bibles for children**—On the bottom shelf in the first adult section is a variety of Bibles that can also be checked out to be used at home.
- **Resources for parents**—In the family section there are books on talking to your child about difficult issues and other books about spiritual nurture.
- **DVDs and Videos**—We have a collection of religious oriented resources to be checked out including the hilarious Veggie Tales.