

Children's Ministry at University Lutheran 2015 Annual Report

Through Children's Ministry we try to impart the faith to the children and youth of the church. We also try to build community and inclusion of children in worship as well as in the church community. We impart the faith to our children mostly through weekly Sunday School sessions, as well as children's sermons at church.

Church year from 1 Oct 2014 to 30 Sept 2015

We have built community and participation of Children in Church through activities this year such as:

Children's Program

- Sunday School - every Sunday before worship from mid September to end of May. (9:30-10am on Sundays and 5:00-5:30pm during Lent)
- All Saints Day/Día de los Muertos Craft activities and special Children's Sermon.
- All inclusive Christmas Pageant: a simple all participatory pageant in which children and all the church put on costumes and are directed through a simple no practice pageant with lots of props, dress up and singing, bringing the Christmas story to life for kids.
- Holy Week activity booklets and Easter activity booklets and crayons to link children to the happenings of Holy Week and Easter.
- Easter Egg hunt for kids.

Vacation Bible School

- Summer of 2015 from August 3rd-6th from 8:30-12:30.
- Attendance of about 12 kids -- 2 from church and the rest coming from the surrounding community.
- Bible story based curriculum: Splash into God's Word. 10 bibles distributed to the children of the community putting God's Word into children's hands.

Youth Program

- Youth summer bird house project in July to create and paint about 4-5 bird houses (3 youth attended)
 - Raffle of Bird Houses between Bethel Church and University Church raised \$310 to benefit Habitat for Humanity.
- **The WORD, Pizza and Prayer:**
 - Runs September through December 2015 meeting twice a month.
 - Co-effort between youth of First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto and University Lutheran.
 - Attendance of about 3 of University Lutheran's youth and 7 of First Lutheran's Youth.
 - Led by Nicole Hannilan as youth bible study leader.
 - Using *Re-form* curriculum that brings Old Testament and New Testament stories alive for today's youth.
 - Ages range from 10-14years old.
- From this youth bible study group, a co-youth confirmation group between First Lutheran and University Lutheran, is hoped to be formed starting January or February 2016.

- Melissa Gonzalez

Director of Children's Ministry