

Children's Ministry report 2014

Background note: I have just taken the position of Director of Children's Ministry about 6 weeks ago, so I will report out on memory of what was done during the year 2014 as a participant parent. I will also give you a bit of info of how our program has changed a bit since I took the position and some hopeful plans for the future year 2015.

Year 2014 highlights:

- Sunday School convened each Sunday from late September to mid May, from 9:10-9:50ish each Sunday. One room Sunday School curriculum was used as a resource to teach to several different age groups from 3-12 in one class room.
- There are about 20 children ranging in many different ages served by the Children's ministry program through Sunday School, children sermon, pageants and other various community building activities coordinated throughout the year.
- The children's sermon continues to be a highlight of the children of the church and time for them to feel part of the worship community as well as connect to Pastor Greg and other leaders in the church.
- Vacation Bible School was a smashing success this summer with 16 participants in attendance ranging from preschool to 7th grade including children from Uni Chu as well as children from the community. The ELCA "Catch the Buzz" curriculum was used based on the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The children made coin collection jars to send money to the ELCA malaria campaign. The money will finish being collected on October 19th and be donated with specific amount on Oct 26th. We have definitely gathered more than \$100.
- Pumpkin carving community building event was done in October and a Christmas pageant of the children was coordinated and presented in December.
- A series of communion classes were given to the children in place of 4-5 Sunday school sessions during the year. They were very well attended and culminated in the children attending Holy Thursday Agape Meal Service and sharing out their experiences about the communion classes, sharing bread they had made and communion glasses they had decorated to share in the service.
- Nursery care is provided during the worship hour.

Recent highlights:

- After a robust discussion, Sunday School was moved to Sunday mornings 9:30-10am for ages 3-12.
- A weekly Faith Formation letter is sent out every Sunday sharing bible readings, activities and prayers that can be done from home for those

families who have difficulty making the Sunday School classes, providing parents with tools to help their children in their faith formation, even if they can't make Sunday School regularly.

- Every 5th Sunday school class is a review class for all the children who can make it to review what they have been learning in Sunday School either from home or from Sunday School attendance.
- Bibles for all the Uni Chu children will be presented as gifts from the Church to them on Oct 26th.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Gonzalez
Current Director of Children's Ministry
University Church