

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Family Education Handbook

2013-2014



Dear Parents,

September 2013

Welcome to the Christian Education Hour here at Emanuel Lutheran church! Our goal is walk alongside your family to help your children grow deep in the faith and celebrate their Baptismal Identity.

When your children were baptized, you as parents made specific promises to help them grow in the Christian faith and life. You promised to:

- Live with them among God's faithful people,
- Bring them to the Word of God and Holy Supper,
- Teach them the Lord's Prayer, The Apostles' Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- Place in their hands the Holy Scriptures,
- And nurture them in the faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, and care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

The church community also made promises--promises to support your children and pray for them in their life in Christ. One of the greatest ways Emanuel Lutheran can carry out this promise is through education, prayer partners and witness of Christ's love that your children will receive in the Family Education Hour.

We want to make this a great year for your child. The volunteers and staff involved in the Family Education Hour are your partners in preparing your children for a life of God's love.

Your staff in ministry,

Ann L. Horrmann, DCE

Melissa Krech, Christian Education Chair

About Family (Christian) Education Hour

When is "Sunday School"?

"Sunday School" is offered from 9:15am-10:15am on Sunday mornings. This is between our early and late service. It begins the Sunday after Labor Day and goes until the Sunday before Memorial Day. Please use the attached calendar for details.

What ages attend?

Children may start at age of 18 months for the toddler class. The toddler class is composed of toddlers and parents. Please feel free to inquire about this program. Otherwise, children may start at the age of 3 (if they are bathroom trained). If they have winter birthdays (September-December), they may start classes in January and then repeat their "3 year old" year the following fall

Where does it take place?

During the Christian Education Hour, the children are assigned to small groups and classrooms inside of their age/grade appropriate group. Every Sunday, your child will meet in their classroom. Here your child will check in with their teachers, take attendance, and grab a name tag. They will join together with the rest of the classes for a large group opening, and then return to their classrooms for the remainder of the hour. Parents should always pick up their children from their classrooms.

What curriculum do you use?

The preschool through 6th grade, all use Hands-On curriculum from Group Publishing. Our Junior and Senior High use a special faith-based curriculum that identifies and addresses current topics that they face on a day to day basis. Hands-On engages the children in activities, games, stories and more that reinforce and teach the lesson each week. Don't forget to check out that sheet that comes home every week with the lesson information on it!

What about music?

Preschool uses and sings all the time. Everyone will be share their songs 4 times with the congregation during worship (see attached schedule). Music time will take place during the opening. The children will learn a new song each month. All interested children who want to sing more often, are encouraged to join their age-appropriate children's choir. See the Music Ministry brochure for more information.

How do I make the morning go smoothly for my children?

Children should be dropped off by his/her parent and picked up. Please be sure that your child is well rested, had a healthy breakfast and had a bathroom break. All children are assigned to a specific room with a team of teachers/leaders. Everyone wears name tags. If you bring a friend, please fill out a name tag with the teacher/leader. For safety, please do not ask your children to meet you anywhere after class, or have older siblings pick up younger siblings. Parents are encouraged to stay with their younger children if separation is a problem. Join us anytime!

How can I help?

Volunteers are vital for the success of the Christian Education hour. All of our volunteer opportunities are listed on your child's registration form. Please take a moment to review our volunteer opportunities and let us know where you would like to partner with us.

Additional Things Parents Should Know

Hands On Bibles

We use Group Publishing's Hands-On Bibles as our main resource for the Family Education Hour. Parents are encouraged to read with their child the story of the week. If you are interested in purchasing an additional Bible please let Melissa Krech or Ann Horrmann know.

Getting Messy

Children sometimes go home rather messy after a morning here at Emanuel or Vacation Bible School. Here's why...

- Messy children are releasing stress
- Messy children are learning about their physical world
- Messy children are learning to share equipment and supplies
- Messy children are exploring their creative side
- Messy children are learning by touch and smell as well as sight
- Messy children are having fun

We do use washable markers and paints for the younger children and have special "paint" shirts for the classrooms, but accidents do happen! Please save "special" church clothing for holiday events and special Sundays in worship.

Separation Issues

Many of our children still have difficulty separating at 3 and 4 years old. The most successful way parents have helped ease this fear in the past is to stay with them for a few weeks. If by the

third or fourth week they still refuse to stay in the room without you, you can try again when your child feels ready.

If your child is crying when you leave, please discreetly check on them within 5-10 minutes. You can do this by stopping by the room and peeking through the glass window in the door. If your child is still crying, please stay with them. It's too hard for volunteers to teach the other children and we don't want your child to associate church with anxiety, sadness or separation. Also, keep in mind that some children may not be ready for the Family Education Hour, and are welcome to try again at a later time.

Committing to Memory

Memory All-Stars

It is our hope and desire for our children here at Emanuel to commit to memory quarterly verses and various items that we say in church weekly. Our teachers will be working with the children on the verses and we would love for you to help out at home too. Even committing these items to your own memory can help you on your faith journey and daily walk with Christ.

Toddler: Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep/Common Table Prayer

Preschool: Jesus Loves me

Kindergarten: The Lord's Prayer

1st Grade: Doxology, Names of the Disciples

2nd Grade: The Ten Commandments

3rd Grade: The Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed

4th Grade: The Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Books of the Bible

5th Grade: Apostles' Creed, Books of the Bible, Ten Commandments with Meaning

6th Grade: Apostles' Creed, Books of the Bible, Ten Commandments with Meaning, Nicene Creed

7th Grade: Apostles' Creed, Books of the Bible, Ten Commandments with Meaning, Nicene Creed, The Lord's Prayer with Meaning

8th Grade: Apostles' Creed with Meaning, Books of the Bible, Ten Commandments with Meaning, Nicene Creed, The Lord's Prayer with Meaning

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Behavior Guidelines for Family Education

1. The Importance of Guidelines

- a. To ensure the smooth operation of our teach time
- b. Children need structure

2. Our Basic Guidelines

- a. **Listen** - listen to what/when your teacher and others are speaking and sharing
- b. **Respect** - yourself, each other and this place (room, outside, sanctuary, etc)
- c. **Safe** - please walk in the building, use our materials and equipment properly, and do not put yourself or others in danger by words or actions
- d. **Positive** - arrive each week with a positive attitude and willingness to try, do and learn something new

3. Broken Guidelines

- a. **1st offense:** verbal warning
- b. **2nd offense:** time away from group
- c. **3rd offense:** time away from group and parents notified
- d. **4th offense:** time away from group, parents notified and meeting with pastor and teacher to develop an individual behavior plan