



Nursery News

December 2017

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14



Greetings!

"Advent"

The season of Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of the Christ Child. Listed below are a few of the ways our church community moves through Advent toward Christmas Day.



This year the Advent Wreath-Making Workshop is combined with Cocoa and Carols. Join us in the Heller

Commons on December 3 following worship for fellowship, wreath-making, lunch and caroling. Questions? Contact Sheila Delaney, Events Manager, at sdelaney@wpc-mpls.org.

December 10 | Lessons & Carols in the Nursery | 9:15-9:45



Join us for a pint-sized version of Lessons and Carols – and holiday treats – led by Rev. Brennan Blue, Jim Tucker and Janice Teliczan.



December 10 | Advent Service of Lessons and Carols | 10:30am

The Christmas story is told through scripture readings and Christmas carols and features our children and youth choirs.



December 17 | Christmas Festival Sunday with identical services at 8:30am and 10:30am. NOTE: There is no FYC Education Hour this day.



December 24 | Christmas Eve Family Worship and Pageant | 4pm

Bring your entire family to see and hear the Christmas story as it is retold by the children and youth of Westminster. Children are always welcome in worship at Westminster and are *especially* welcome at this service celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. NOTE: The Nursery is *not* open during this service.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Sundays this year and Westminster will be open (as will the Nursery) with one service at 10:30 both days.

Should you have any suggestions, comments or concerns about the Nursery, Early Childhood or Family Ministries, please contact me at mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org.

Blessings on you and yours!

~ Marie

Coordinator of Early Childhood & Family Ministries



Circle Time

December's Circle Time stories come from *Wee Believe – God's Word for God's People: We Belong to God*, published by PC(USA). This curriculum builds foundations to help young children learn about God's love for them which helps prepare them for Church School.

- 12/3 – *An Angel Visits Mary* – Luke 1:26-38
- 12/10 – *An Angel Visits Joseph* – Matthew 1:18-25
- 12/17 – *Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem* – Luke 2:1-20
- 12/24 – *Jesus Is Born and the World Rejoices* – Luke 2:1-20
- 12/31 – *Mary and Joseph and Simeon and Anna Are Thankful for Jesus* – Luke 2:21-40

The stories this month tell the story of the birth of the Christ child, beginning with Mary finding out she is to have a baby. Next, Joseph learns Mary is going to have a baby. After waiting for some time in which they prepare for his birth, Jesus is born. And then the family and friends of Mary and Joseph learn of his birth and they rejoice and give thanks! At its center, this is the joyful story of the birth of a beloved child and a child of God. When we are baptized, we too are called children of God. What better time to talk with your children about their baptism into this church and into this community. What better time to tell them the stories associated with their arrivals into your families as your beloved children. Pull out those baby and toddler pictures! Pull out their birth or adoption announcements! Pull out the little socks and shoes and tiny clothes. Rejoice and give thanks for your little ones – and then rejoice and give thanks for God's gift to us – his son, Jesus Christ.



Check Out the Check-In Window Book. *It's an easy way to promote early literacy and provides a way to talk with your child about aspects of faith.*

The First Night, by B. G. Hennessy and paintings by Steve Johnson with Lou Fancher, tells us of the first few hours of Jesus's life and captures those first tender moments when a family welcomes a new child into their midst. Simply beautiful.



Make a Joyful Noise! - music & movement for the wee ones

with Brad Ollmann, Director of Early & Middle Childhood Music

December's song of the month is *"Go Tell It On the Mountain."*

FAMILY MATTERS – A Parent Fellowship Group

Family Matters is a place of welcome and connection for Westminster parents. Join us for fellowship, learning and support in the Bates Room during Education Hour.

PLEASE NOTE: We do not meet on December 17, 24 or 31.

The Parenting Journey...

The Parenting Journey is intended to give you something to consider and perhaps incorporate into your personal parenting journey. It is inspired by the book *Becoming the Parent You Want to Be* by Davis and Keyser.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are often rich with family rituals and traditions. Bill Doherty, author of *"The Intentional Family: Simple Rituals to Strengthen Family Ties"* and professor of Family Social Science at the U of M, defines a ritual as something which is repeated, coordinated and significant. Traditions or rituals, at their best, illustrate the importance of family, can create a family identity, build security and a sense of belonging, and may provide a time for generations to be together.

As you celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas with your family, consider the following questions:

- *If you had to pick the nicest tradition your family had while you were growing up, what would it be?*
- *What are the traditions you are creating or establishing for your children as they grow up?*

Davis and Keyser tell a story in their chapter titled "Working Toward a Balance of Needs" called "Memories happen now." They go on to say: *This is the only childhood our children ever have. The way we live now, the things we do as a family are the ground from which our children's awareness and expectations are being shaped. Periodically refocusing on what we truly value, and reminding ourselves that family life is not a race to the finish line, can inspire us to make the most of each moment.*

So, as we celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas, what memories will you be making with your children? Slow down and consider how to make the most of this time with your little ones and enjoy the blessings of the season.

Blessings! Merry Christmas!

Here's to the journey!

HAPPY December BIRTHDAY!!

12-2-16 – Sebastian (1) * 12-10-13 – Cullen (4) * 12-15-15 – Staton (2) * 12-24-13 – Gemma (4)

