



Nursery News

September 2019

"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!

Welcome! Welcome back!

Coming Together Sunday is September 8!

We return to our regular morning schedule of two services at 8:30 and 10:30 with Education Hour in between. The **NURSERY** is open from 8:15 until 11:30.

CHURCH SCHOOL happens during Education Hour and begins at 9:15. If you have Church School-aged children (age 3 and up) you should have received LOTS more information from our new Director of Children's Ministries, Sonja Dzieckowski. If not, please feel free to contact her at Sonja@wpc-mpls.org.

Because it's such a busy morning getting children settled and getting reacquainted with friends both old and new, **Family Matters** will **NOT** meet that morning. Our first gathering will be September 15 in the Bates Room. Instead, join us for our **FYC Mingle with Your Ministry Team** event. Our Early Childhood Team will be stationed near the Nursery. Please stop by and say hello!

The **ALL-CHURCH PICNIC** happens right after worship right here at Westminster! Join us for fellowship, food, and fun! RSVP and pay online at <https://www.westminsternpls.org/event/coming-together-sunday/>. **Volunteers** are still needed to set-up, host, serve, or clean-up. For more information or to volunteer, contact Sarah Brouwer, sbrouwer@wpc-mpls.org.

Wednesday Night Dinner & Activities

resume September 11. Join us for dinner, fellowship, choir, and activities beginning at 5:15. We look forward to seeing you and your family! You are invited to attend the Bluegrass Evening Prayer service too. Look for more information in the Westminster News and Sunday bulletins.

Moms Group begins 9/11

Moms, with children of *any* age, are welcome. Childcare is provided from 9:30am-noon and you are welcome to join us at any time during the morning. Come early, come late – just come!

- 9:00 WOW coffee & conversation
- 9:30 WOW Bible Study
- 10:30 Moms Group

This year we'll read selections from *This is Motherhood* by Jill Koziol and Lis Tenety. For more information or to RSVP, contact Marie so we know how many moms and kids to plan for.

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

Circle Time stories for September come from *God Loves Me, a Bible story program for young children*, published by CRC Publications. The primary goals of this program are to acquaint young children with the stories of Scripture and to help them experience a warm and nurturing place to learn about God. Each storybook retells a Bible story in simple language that young children can understand along with illustrations that help further tell the story. It also includes a prayer and provides suggestions for learning-through-play activities. This month, as we begin a new program year, we begin with the stories from the beginning of the Bible – The Creation Story from the book of Genesis. Note the "I wonder..." question that ends each story. Pose this question to your little one, ask some follow-up questions, and see where the conversation leads! End your conversation with the prayer provided.

- **9/8 - Blue and Green and Purple Too! The Story of God's Colorful World**
 - Genesis 1:1-19
 - *I wonder what parts of God's colorful world you love to look at?*
 - *Dear God, thank you for your wonderful, colorful world. It is so good! Amen.*
- **9/15 – It's a Noisy Place! The Story of the First Creatures**
 - Genesis 1:20-25
 - *I wonder which of God's creatures is your favorite?*
 - *Dear God, thank you for the fish and birds and animals that fill up your world. They are so good! Amen.*
- **9/22 – Adam and Eve – The Story of the First Man and Woman**
 - Genesis 1:26-32; 2:18-25
 - *I wonder if you know that our great God made you too?*
 - *Dear God, thank you for making each baby, each child, each grown-up in your wonderful world. Amen.*
- **9/29 – Take Good Care of My World! The Story of Adam & Eve in the Garden**
 - Genesis 1:28; 2:18-20
 - *I wonder if you want to help take care of God's world too?*
 - *Dear God, thank you for giving us such a wonderful world. We want to take good care of everything in it. Amen.*



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.*

This month's book is *Skin Again*, written by Bell Hooks and illustrated by Chris Raschka. It celebrates all that makes us unique and different and offers new ways to talk about race and identity, emphasizing what's most important is who we are on the inside.

FAMILY MATTERS – A Parent Fellowship Group

Family Matters is a place of welcome and connection for Westminster parents with children of all ages, providing both support and information about parenting in a faith-based setting. We resume meeting September 15 in the Bates Room. Please join us!

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.

This fall in Family Matters (see above) we will spend some time discussing excerpts from *God's Big Table – Nurturing Children in a Diverse World* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell, retired Professor of Pastoral Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary. This book "uses the imagery of the table as a metaphor for the ways our churches engage differences and diversity through a biblical background of welcoming all God's children." This month's "Check Out the Check-In Window Book" (see above) can serve as a way to begin discussing the ideas of differences (and of sameness), race, identity and more, even with children as young as yours, the littlest among us! Davis and Keyser, authors of *Becoming the Parent You Want to Be – A Sourcebook of Strategies for the First Five Years*, have an entire chapter devoted to these ideas. Chapter 26 is titled *Preparing Children to Live in a Richly Diverse World*. Here are just a few questions they pose: *What are some of the stereotypes I learned as a child about groups that I belonged to? About other groups? How was I hurt by these stereotypes? What opportunities does my family have to see and interact with people who are different from us?*

I think it's important to begin the conversation – and visit it again and again and yet again – now. It is what God asks of us.

Blessings! Here's to the journey!

HAPPY September BIRTHDAY!!

9-4-16 – Elise (3) * 9-15-16 – Holden (2) * 9-27-15 – Silas (4) * 9-30-16 – Felix (3) * 9-30-16 – Freya (3)

