

Los Altos United Methodist Church

Children's Ministries

January 2010 Family News

At LAUMC we are called to teach our children to: Know God's love for them, and grow in faith through understanding Jesus Christ in a safe, loving and joyful environment.

The Bible lessons in class each Sunday offer simple stories that help our children grow in faith. In January our preschool children will focus on the ministry of Jesus as a young boy. Our 1st-5th graders will discover more about the Jewish traditions that Jesus grew up with and how the Old Testament scriptures helped Jesus teach others about God. Our 6th and 7th graders will be moving to the Garden room on January 10th as our 8th graders begin their Confirmation Journey in the Youth Room at 9:30am. It is blessing to have an amazing hour with your children.

Remember our library is full of great books for children and adults to check out! Stop by on Sunday mornings. Read on to learn about some important upcoming events. I look forward to seeing you at church!

In faith,
 Lisa Conway
 Director of Children's Ministries, (650) 948-1083 x153

Sunday School January Classroom Highlights

BUILDING A HEART OF FAITH PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Join us in the Children's Center Building for 9:30am and 11:15am Sunday School— Teachers will offer examples of Jesus' ministry that helped and healed others. Our teachers lovingly reinforce the stories by offering crafts, stories and prayer time, and the chance to make new friends in faith! Signing with Teacher Creag at 9:40am in Room 4 is a big hit!

1st – 5th GRADE FAITH QUEST- Our rotation classes bring Bible stories to life with hands-on learning. Join us for art, cooking, film making, games and more as we have fun learning about Jewish customs to better understand the life of Jesus.

FAITH QUEST JANUARY 2010 ROTATION SCHEDULE

January 3	Sunday Morning Live Room 9	Good News Network Room 7	Elation Station Creekside	Creation Station Room 6	Mary and Martha Children's Center
January 10	Mary and Martha Children's Center	Sunday Morning Live Room 9	Good News Network Room 7	Elation Station Creekside	Creation Station Room 6
January 17	Creation Station Room 6	Mary and Martha Children's Center	Sunday Morning Live Room 9	Good News Network Room 7	Elation Station Creekside
January 24	Elation Station Creekside	Creation Station Room 6	Mary and Martha Children's Center	Sunday Morning Live Room 9	Good News Network Room 7
January 31	Good News Network Room 7	Elation Station Creekside	Creation Station Room 6	Mary and Martha Children's Center	Sunday Morning Live Room 9

LIVE BIG – Faith in Action – 6th/7th grades

will meet in the Garden Room at 9:30am beginning January 10th

Beginning January 10th our 6th and 7th grade class will continue the great adventure of learning and living out their Faith in Action, with games, snacks, and activities, cooking, and more! Come discover more from the stories of Jesus' visit to the Temple, his Baptism, and his teachings in the Synagogue! Join us for this amazing hour of Sunday School in the Garden Room.

8th Grade Confirmation Class meets January 10th in the Youth Room at 9:30am

Our 8th Grade Sunday School class becomes our Confirmation Class exploring what it means to become a member of this church. Confirmation is a time when you traditionally make a decision about joining the church, but this program is for everyone, regardless of whether you are planning to join the church. Each 8th grader will be invited, but not pressured to join. The class will confirm who you are as a person, and that you are a valued part of God's creation. This message is for everyone!

Parents are invited to attend the first class from 9:30-10:30am on Sunday, January 10. If you have questions, please contact Cindy Golden (650-948-1083 x123 or cindygolden@laumc.org).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AT A GLANCE – MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Saturday, January 23
Sunday, February 7
Sunday, February 21
Sunday, March 1

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Dinner "Fiesta" *"We love our teachers!!"*
1st Grade Communion Lesson and Participation
Creekside Kids – Special Event for 1st-5th Graders at 9:30am
Kindergarten Communion Lesson and Participation

SAVE THE DATE!!!

June 14th – 18th – Vacation Bible School!!!

Don't miss these amazing speakers:

1/20 Wednesday evening

Dr. Shapiro View Flyer "What Boys Need" 7:00pm -8:30pm

In Creekside http://childrenscenterpreschool.org/downloads/frc_boys.pdf

2/24 Wednesday evening

Simone Marean "Raising Confident Girls" – 7:00pm – 8:30pm

In Creekside – more information to follow when available

3/25 Thursday evening

Ken Ginsburg "Helping our Kids Thrive" 7:00pm

Gunn High School, Spangenberg Theater

Faith Development for Parents:

Consider a Bible Study Class with childcare provided!

Disciple Bible Class with Pastor Mark Bollwinkel on the 1st & 3rd Mondays 9:00-11:30am, Garden Room; Class starts February 1

Have you ever wanted to study the Bible but were afraid that it would take too much time, be too academic or way too confusing? All are welcome to join Mark Bollwinkel for a special Disciple class beginning in January 2010. For more information go to our website at www.laumc.org, or give me a call.

Wednesday Night at the Movies with Pastor Mark

Wednesday nights 7:00pm, Creekside, January 6 through February 10

Pastor Mark's movie class is here again! All are welcome. See a selected movie (TBA) at your local movie theater each week and then come to class prepared for discussion and exploration of the themes with pastor Mark. No registration needed. Contact Patricia Parfett for more information at patriciaparfett@laumc.org

Faith for Families:

As noted in "Parent Link" from Children's Ministries magazine:

"Almost two-thirds (64%) of parents said they've grown more religious since having children, in a recent *Parents* magazine poll. More than half (57%) said they attend worship more than once per week. And 90% said they regularly talk with their children "about God or a higher power." When parents were asked about the challenges of raising spiritual kids, their top two answers were society's lack of support for religious values (33%), and busy schedules (24%)".

We are grateful that you are part of our faith community here at LAUMC, and welcome the opportunity to partner with you to raise your children in faith. Here are a few ideas to extend Sunday School lessons at home and help your children build their faith:

- Read the take home booklet or page together and ask how the lesson might relate to something going on in your child's life right now.
- Take time at home to assure your children that Jesus is always with you! In age appropriate ways, talk about the times you've felt closest to God.

- **Offer prayer time every day before meals and ask the children to offer prayers too!**
- **Take turns reading out of your family Bible and talk about what the passage means to you.**

FAMILY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

As part of a national volunteer day of service honoring Martin Luther King, we are offering a community service opportunity on Monday, January 18, the day we celebrate MLK's birthday. Sacred Heart Community Service Agency of San Jose, which is dedicated to eradicating poverty and providing services from basic needs to education, needs volunteers to staff one of their newer programs. "La Mesa Verde" provides low income families the opportunity to grow their own produce through the installation of raised bed gardens. On MLK day, they are asking for up to 200 volunteers to clear yard space and install raised bed gardens in 60-70 homes in the San Jose area.

All volunteers will be trained on that Monday and won't need to have any experience with raised bed gardens. This project would be great for people that like to garden as well as amateur carpenters. Sacred Heart can find a place for anyone willing to work!

If you are interested in volunteering for the MLK Day of Service, please sign up with Sacred Heart's Volunteer Office Coordinator Terri West at 408-278-2171 or terriw@sacredheartcs.org. To learn more about Sacred Heart's mission, see their website [http:// www.shcstheheart.org/about/index.html](http://www.shcstheheart.org/about/index.html)