



GRACE
KIDS

MINISTRIES

PARENT GUIDEBOOK

2025-26



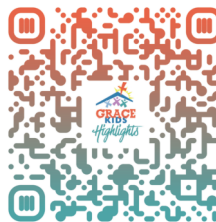
BRITTA MALY
GRACE KIDS DIRECTOR



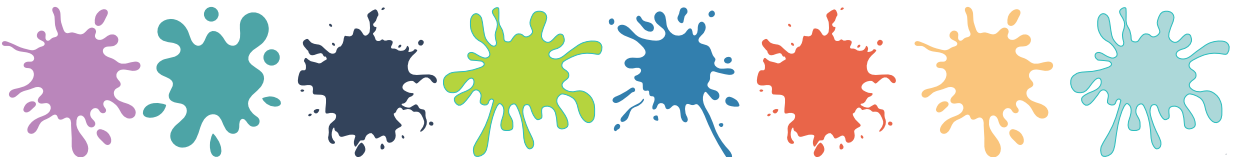
REGISTER FOR
GRACE KIDS
SUNDAY
SCHOOL



VICTORIA MATHISEN
GRACE KIDS ASSOCIATE



SUBSCRIBE TO
GRACE KIDS
HIGHLIGHTS
EMAIL LIST



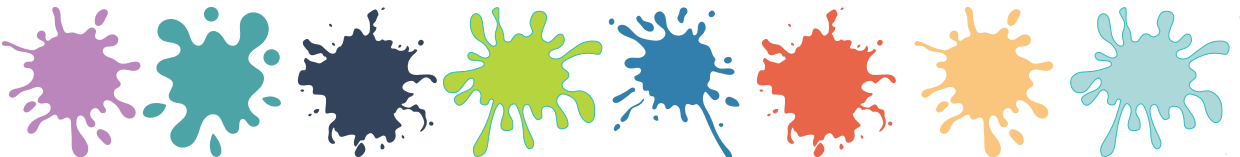
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Parents, Grandparents, Guardians, and Family Friends,

THANK YOU for inviting your kids to become a part of our community of grace! We are thrilled that you have chosen this family of God to be a partner in your child's faith journey.

Here at Community of Grace, we want kids to know that Jesus makes them a part of our family. Whoever they are, whatever gifts and challenges they bring, we see them as beloved children of God. Through our ministry, we seek to love kids as they are, to serve them with compassion and grace, and to teach them at their level what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

As a partner in your child's faith formation, we promise to uphold these values to the best of our ability, recognizing that we can only do it with a healthy dose of grace for ourselves and one another. We recognize that we can only do this work through the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit. In all things, we ask him to take the lead as we seek to lead kids into knowing, trusting, imitating, and speaking Jesus to our community and to the world. We hope you will find this booklet a helpful resource as we take this journey of grace together.



OUR MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

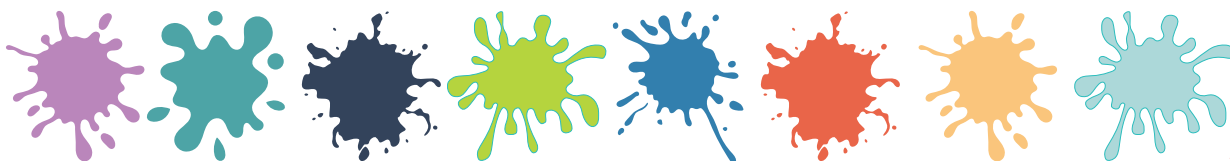
We are a Community of Disciples on a Mission of Grace. But what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus in different life stages? We believe discipleship looks like knowing Jesus, trusting Jesus, imitating Jesus, and speaking Jesus in our everyday lives. Everything we do in Grace Kids Ministries seeks to see, love, serve, and teach kids and their families to put those four verbs of discipleship into practice.

WHAT IS THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE?

One way we seek to see, love, serve, and teach kids is through our Sunday School program offered September—May. Each Sunday, loving teachers welcome kiddos from birth up to 5th grade into their classrooms during our 9am services. To start, families check-in their kids at the north end of the Commons. Nursery, Preschool, and Kindergarten students can then be brought directly to their classrooms. 1st-5th grade students join their families for opening worship and then will be gathered by their teachers around 9:15.

WHY THE 10:15 PICK-UP TIME?

We end Sunday School a little later than our services to provide more time for a quality faith formation and relationship building experience in our classrooms. The extra time also allows parents to connect with other adults in their church family.

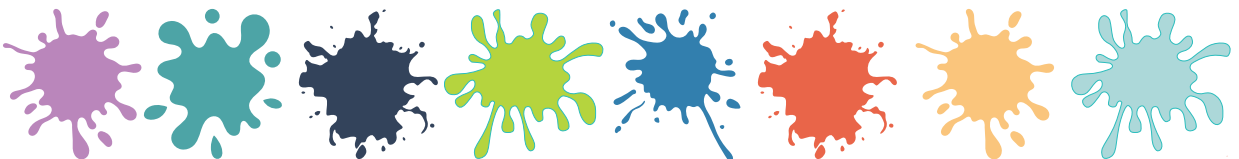


WHAT DOES "GRACE KIDS IN WORSHIP" MEAN?

Research shows that children who see their parents or guardians practicing their faith have a higher chance of maintaining faith into adulthood. That's why, usually on the First Sunday of the month (see calendar), kids in Preschool and up join us for the full worship service. This is also why we want our elementary students to experience the first part of our worship services every week.

When children join us in worship, we are giving them a sense of belonging in the greater church community. They see and experience communal faith elements such as worship, Baptism, Communion, and the preaching of the Word. We know having kids in "big church" can be a challenge for families, especially with very young or highly active children. Our community welcomes the "joyful noises" children create. We also offer these resources for families:

- Nursery care for ages 0-3 years is available every Sunday.
- Activity bags are available at worship venue entrances.
- A Children's Message is usually included on Grace Kids in Worship Sundays.
- Our Family Room is available with a livestream of the service for families who need more wiggle room. The sermons in all services are always the same.

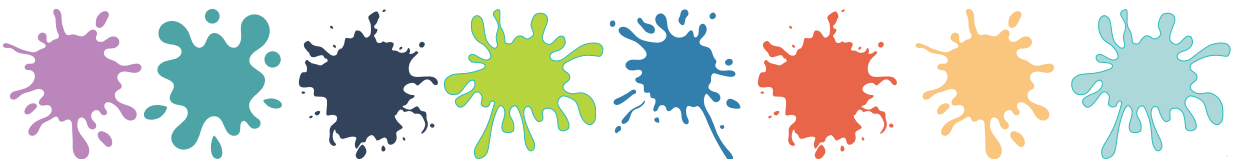


ROCK JAR REWARDS

We know that kids are at a developmental stage where external motivation is more effective than internal motivation. To help kids build spiritual practices such as community, giving, Scripture, and witness, our Sunday School classes earn points each week toward a "Rock Jar Party," where they enjoy extra special treats. It takes about 150-200 rocks to fill a jar. Kids can earn rocks for the "Rock Jar" by doing things like:

- Attending Sunday School
- Attending a "Kids in Worship" Sunday (when applicable)
- Bringing their Bible to Sunday School
- Reciting the Monthly Memory Verse to their teacher
- Bringing an offering to Sunday School (All money collected goes toward supporting our Mission of Hope sponsor child.)
- Bringing a friend to Sunday School

Our hope is that you as parents/guardians will partner with us in encouraging kids to make these practices a regular part of their week. That said, we are "Community of Grace," not "Community of Guilt." That means things like providing Bibles to use in class if kids forget to bring one or helping them when they miss a word of the memory verse. And, when a Rock Jar Reward is earned, ALL students are welcome to partake in the treats! (That's grace!)



Catechism Connections



Alongside our regular week-to-week curriculum, each elementary class does a year-long study of foundational faith topics. The topics of this in-house curriculum are largely based on Martin Luther's Small Catechism. For classes with multiple grade levels, the topics rotate each year. During this program year:

**1ST & 2ND GRADE
WILL STUDY
PRAYER & DEVOTIONS**

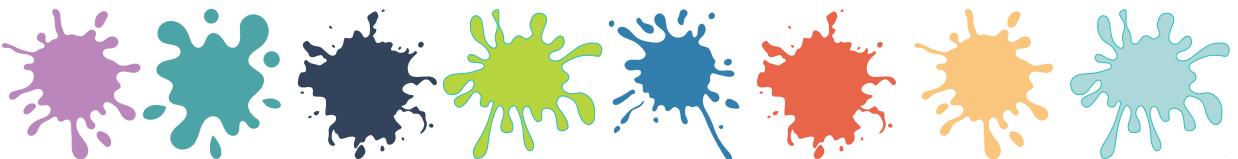
**3RD & 4TH GRADE
WILL STUDY
BIBLE BASICS**

**5TH GRADE
WILL STUDY
THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Each of these topical studies are designed to help kids grow closer to Jesus by exploring and building on spiritual habits such as prayer, Sabbath, Scripture, community, and witness. As part of their study, each student will receive a gift:

- 1st & 2nd Graders will receive a daily devotional book for kids.
- 3rd & 4th Graders will receive a Bible (New Living Translation) and/or a Bible Basics book for kids.
- 5th graders will receive a copy of an Apostles' Creed storybook for families.

A letter with more details for parents is included in each book.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES

All verses are taken from the New Living Translation, which is the version 3rd graders receive from CGLC.

SEPTEMBER

"IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR GOOD DEEDS SHINE OUT FOR ALL TO SEE, SO THAT EVERYONE WILL PRAISE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER."

MATTHEW 5:16

OCTOBER

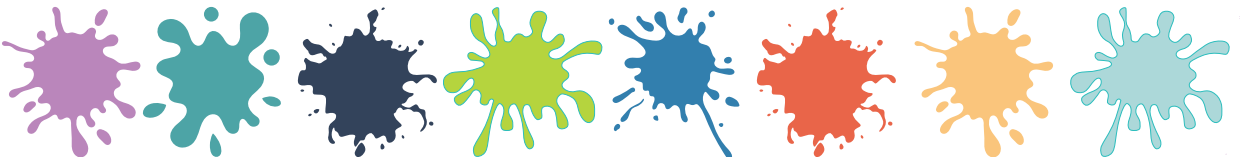
"IF GOD CARES SO WONDERFULLY FOR WILDFLOWERS THAT ARE HERE TODAY AND THROWN INTO THE FIRE TOMORROW, HE WILL CERTAINLY CARE FOR YOU." MATTHEW 6:30

NOVEMBER

"DO TO OTHERS WHATEVER YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO DO TO YOU. THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF ALL THAT IS TAUGHT IN THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS." MATTHEW 7:12

DECEMBER

"FOR THIS IS HOW GOD LOVED THE WORLD: HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE." JOHN 3:1



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES

JANUARY

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART; DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. SEEK HIS WILL IN ALL YOU DO, AND HE WILL SHOW YOU WHICH PATH TO TAKE." PROVERBS 3:5-6

FEBRUARY

"BUT JESUS REPLIED, 'MY FATHER IS ALWAYS WORKING, AND SO AM I.'" JOHN 5:17.

MARCH

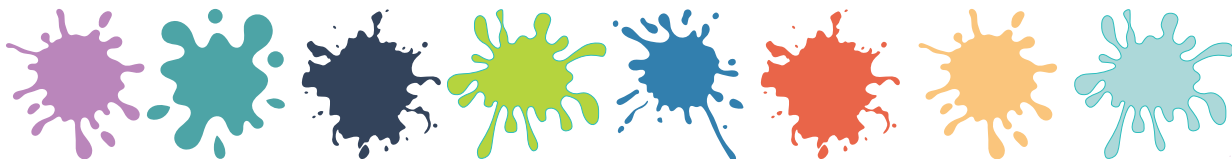
"GOD SHOWED HOW MUCH HE LOVED US BY SENDING HIS ONE AND ONLY SON INTO THE WORLD SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH HIM." 1 JOHN 4:9

APRIL

"AND BE SURE OF THIS: I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE." MATTHEW 28:20

MAY

"TOGETHER, WE ARE HIS HOUSE, BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS. AND THE CORNERSTONE IS CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF." EPHESIANS 2:20



GRACE KIDS CALENDAR 2025-26

This list is not exhaustive. To register for Grace Kids events, check out gracepeople.church/connect/kids, or download the Church Center app and search for Community of Grace. You can also subscribe to our weekly Grace Kids Highlights email for more information!

SEPT. 7: KICK-OFF SUNDAY

SEPT. 25: FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT

OCT. 5: BIBLES FOR 3RD GRADERS (KIDS IN WORSHIP)

NOV. 2: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)

NOV. 30: KIDS IN WORSHIP (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

DEC. 7: SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

DEC. 23: CHRISTMAS JAMMIE JAM (6:00PM)

DEC. 24/25: KIDS IN WORSHIP (CHRISTMAS)

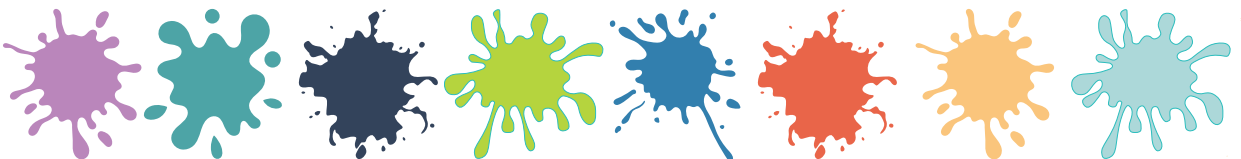
DEC. 28: KIDS IN WORSHIP (CHRISTMAS BREAK)

JAN. 4: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)

JAN 23: HYPE NIGHT (3RD- 5TH GRADERS)

FEB. 1: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)

MARCH 1: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)



GRACE KIDS CALENDAR 2025-26

MARCH 1: SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATIONS OPEN

MARCH 22: COMMUNION CLASS (AFTER SERVICES)

MARCH 28: EASTER EGGSPEERIENCE

MARCH 29: PALM PROCESSIONAL/SUNDAY SCHOOL

APRIL 2: MAUNDY THURSDAY/FIRST COMMUNION

APRIL 5: EASTER SUNDAY/KIDS IN WORSHIP

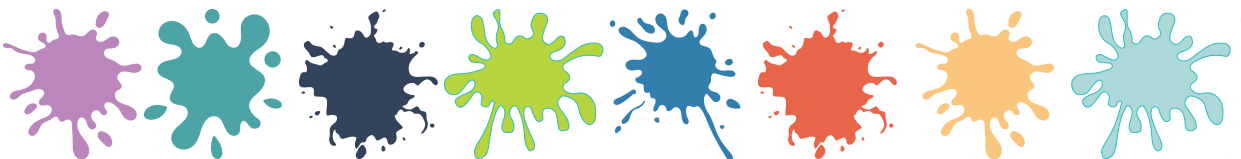
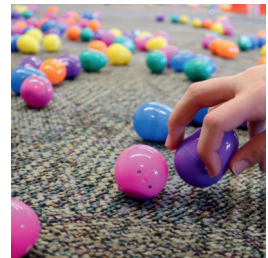
APRIL TBD: RETREAT 46 AT CAMP SHAMINEAU

MAY 3: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)

MAY 17: LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

JUNE 29-JULY 2: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ADDITIONAL SUMMER CAMP DATES AND DETAILS WILL BE SHARED LATER IN THE YEAR.





COMMUNITY OF GRACE EMBRACES THE UNDENIABLE TRUTH THAT GOD LOVES AND VALUES ALL PEOPLE - NO EXCEPTIONS. THIS TRUTH IS MANIFESTED CLEARLY IN THE PERSON OF JESUS, WHO MODELED UNCONDITIONAL, BOUNDLESS LOVE. THERE ARE NO OUTSIDERS TO JESUS' LOVE, NO US VERSUS THEM, ONLY PEOPLE GOD SEEKS TO INVITE INTO HIS FAMILY. THIS IS GRACE!

CONVICTED BY THIS HOLY PURPOSE AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE ARE ALIGNED TO FOUR MISSIONAL VALUES THAT DRIVE OUR ACTIONS AND DECISIONS AND FOUR FORMATIONAL VALUES THAT HELP US BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS. THIS IS OUR HOLY CALLING: TO FOLLOW JESUS AS A COMMUNITY OF HIS GRACE, AND TO HELP OTHERS KNOW JESUS THROUGH US.

