



GRACE KIDS

MINISTRIES

PARENT GUIDEBOOK

2026-27



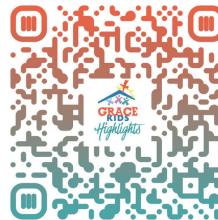
BRITTA MALY
GRACE KIDS DIRECTOR



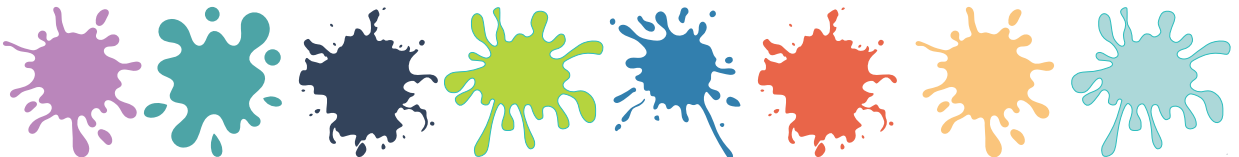
REGISTER FOR
GRACE KIDS
SUNDAY
SCHOOL



VICTORIA MATHISEN
GRACE KIDS ASSOCIATE



SUBSCRIBE TO
GRACE KIDS
HIGHLIGHTS
EMAIL LIST



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

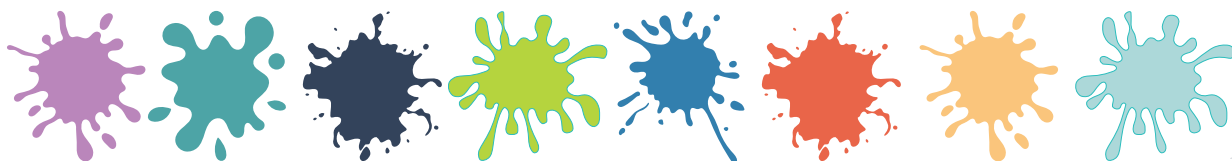
Parents, Grandparents, Guardians, and Family Friends,

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 know we can only do this work through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In all things, we ask him to take the lead as we seek to disciple 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.

In Christ,
Britta Maly & Victoria Mathisen



OUR MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

We are a Community of Disciples on a Mission of Grace. We believe discipleship looks like knowing Jesus, trusting Jesus, imitating Jesus, and speaking Jesus in our everyday lives. We call those our formational values. From that place of formation, we can live out our missional values to see, love, serve, and teach kids and their families the way Jesus does.

WHAT IS THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE?

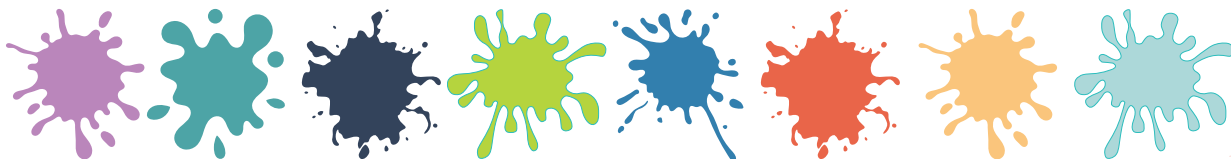
One way we live this out is through our Sunday School program, offered September—May. Each Sunday, loving teachers welcome kids from birth up to 5th grade into their classrooms during our 9am services. To start, families



check-in their kids at the north end of the Commons. Nursery, Preschool, and Kindergarten students can then be brought directly to their classrooms. After checking in, 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 to provide more time for a quality faith formation experience in our classrooms. This also allows parents to connect more with their church family.

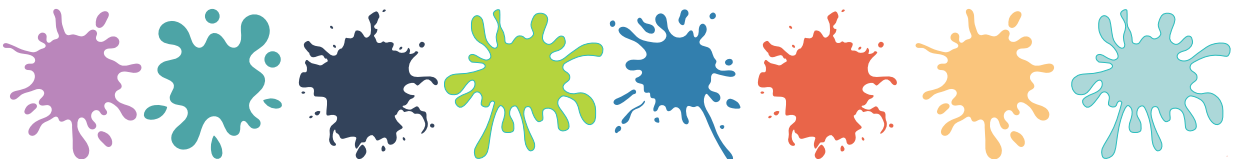


WHAT DOES "GRACE KIDS IN WORSHIP" MEAN?

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 attend full services 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 during both service hours.
- 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.



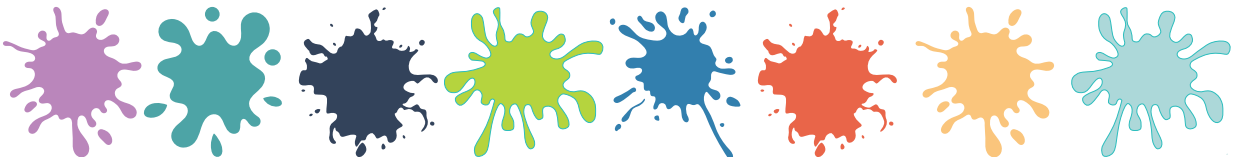
ROCK JAR REWARDS

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, and Scripture, our Sunday School classes earn points each week toward a "Rock Jar Party," where they enjoy extra special treats. 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 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
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

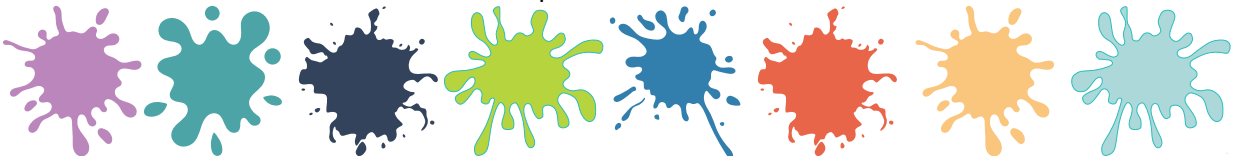
**3RD & 4TH GRADE
WILL STUDY
THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS**

**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 the gift of a storybook:

- 1st & 2nd Graders will receive "The Lord's Prayer for All God's Children"
- 3rd & 4th Graders will receive "The Ten Commandments for All God's Children"
- 5th Graders will receive "The Apostles' Creed for All God's Children."

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

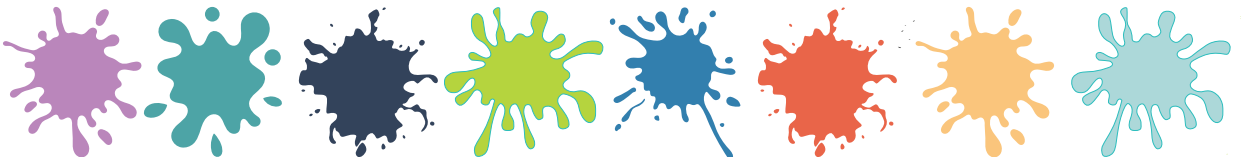


THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is
in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. You must not have any other god but me.
2. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind.
3. You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
4. Remember to observe the sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You must not murder.
7. You must not commit adultery.
8. You must not steal.
9. You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.
10. You must not covet.

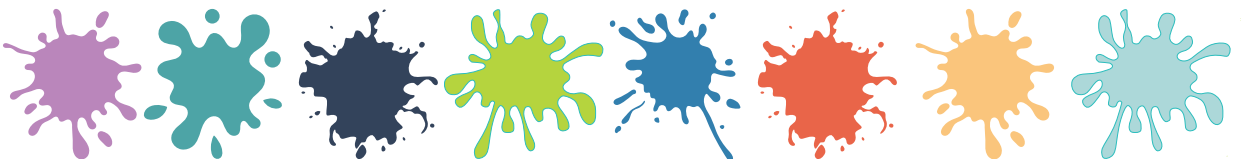


THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, He rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES

All verses are taken from the New Living Translation, which is the version kids receive from CGLC and is used in the classrooms.

SEPTEMBER

"YES, I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. THOSE WHO REMAIN IN ME, AND I IN THEM, WILL PRODUCE MUCH FRUIT. FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING." (JOHN 15:5).



OCTOBER

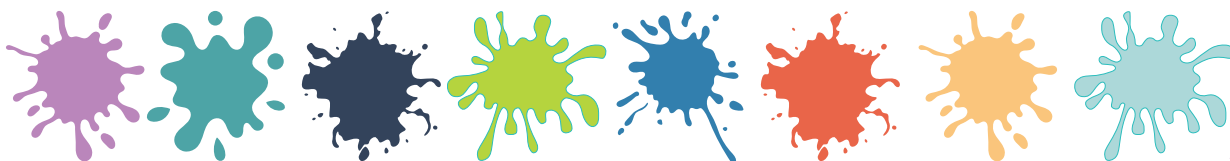
"THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO GET ANGRY AND FILLED WITH UNFAILING LOVE" (PSALM 103:8).

NOVEMBER

"THE LORD IS THE EVERLASTING GOD, THE CREATOR OF ALL THE EARTH. HE NEVER GROWS WEAK OR WEARY. NO ONE CAN MEASURE THE DEPTHS OF HIS UNDERSTANDING" (ISAIAH 40:28).

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 3:16)



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES

JANUARY

"JESUS REPLIED, 'YOU MUST LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, ALL YOUR SOUL, AND ALL YOUR MIND.'"
(MATTHEW 22:37)

FEBRUARY

"FOR THE WORD OF THE LORD HOLDS TRUE, AND WE CAN TRUST EVERYTHING HE DOES." (PSALM 33:4)

MARCH

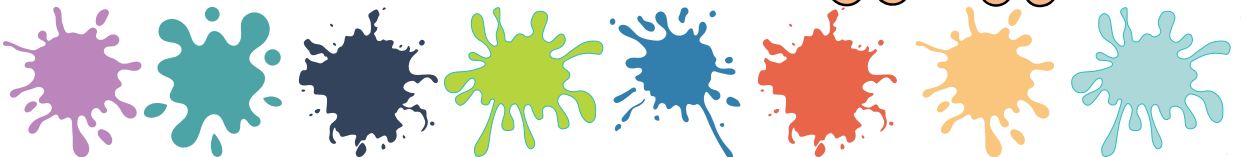
"WE KNOW WHAT REAL LOVE IS BECAUSE JESUS GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR US." (1 JOHN 3:16)

APRIL

"THIS MEANS THAT ANYONE WHO BELONGS TO CHRIST HAS BECOME A NEW PERSON. THE OLD LIFE IS GONE; A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN!"
(2 CORINTHIANS 5:17).

MAY

"BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER." (EPHESIANS 6:10).



SPECIAL EVENTS



FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Thursday, September 24

Join us for a free meal and family fun, including bounce houses, yard games, and free facepainting! This is a great way to kick off the school

year and get to know other families in our church and school communities.

BIBLES FOR KIDS

Sunday, October 4, All Services

On this special Grace Kids in Worship Sunday, we partner with parents to celebrate the baptismal promise to put the Word of God

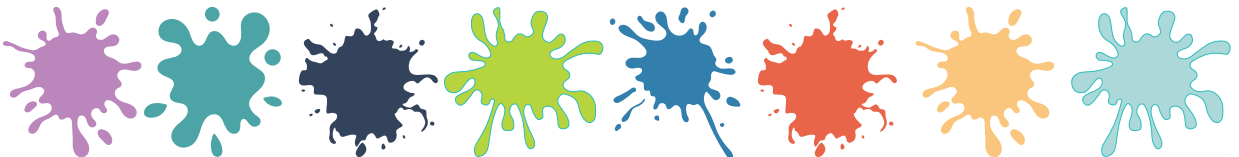


directly into their child(ren)'s hands. All kids in 1st grade and above who have not yet received a Bible from their church family are welcome to participate. Register on Church Center.

HYPE NIGHT

Friday, November 13, 5:30-9pm | 3rd-5th graders

Hype Night is a great time for 3rd-5th graders and their friends to enjoy pizza, ice cream, big group games, and so much more! Registration opens on Church Center on September 24th.



SPECIAL EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 13, All Services

The Christmas Program is back this year! We look forward to this multi-generational service of worship and storytelling. Participation is optional, but all students will learn simple program parts during Sunday School beginning in October. Subscribe to our weekly Grace Kids Highlights emails to receive more details!

EASTER EGGSPEERIENCE

Saturday, March 20, 9-11:30am

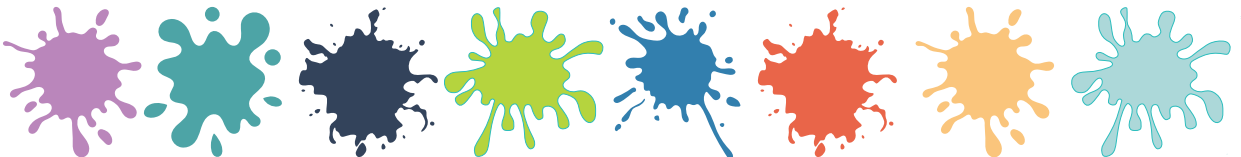
Come and experience the power of Jesus' death and resurrection through a morning of kid-friendly interactive storytelling, carnival games, facepainting, and an egg hunt. Invite friends and family to join you! There are also many ways to serve, whether it's volunteering at the event, decorating, or filling eggs with candy.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 28-July 1, 9am-12pm | Preschool - 5th Grade

Join us in summer 2027 for an unforgettable adventure as kids meet King David, experience life in ancient Jerusalem at the height of his kingdom, and hear about God's heart for them today.



GRACE KIDS CALENDAR 2026-27

This list is not exhaustive. To register for Grace Kids events, check out communityofgrace.church/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. 13: KICK-OFF SUNDAY

SEPT. 24: FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT

OCT. 4: BIBLES FOR KIDS (KIDS IN WORSHIP)

NOV. 2: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)

NOV. 13 HYPE NIGHT (3RD-5TH GRADERS)

NOV. 29: KIDS IN WORSHIP (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

DEC. 7: SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

DEC. 13: CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (ALL SERVICES)

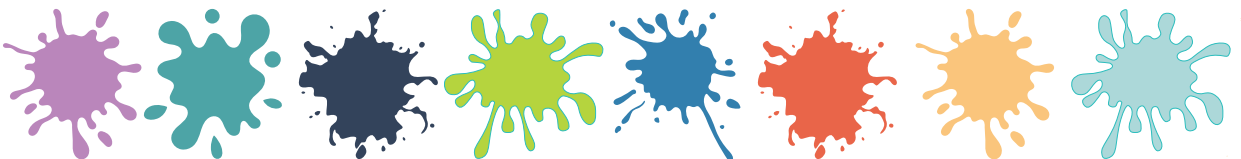
DEC. 20: SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

DEC. 23: CHRISTMAS JAMMIE JAM (6PM)

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

DEC. 27: KIDS IN WORSHIP (CHRISTMAS BREAK)

JAN. 3: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)



GRACE KIDS CALENDAR 2025-26

FEB. 7: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)

MARCH 1: SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATIONS OPEN

MARCH 7: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)

MARCH 14: COMMUNION CLASS (AFTER SERVICES)

MARCH 20: EASTER EGGSPERIENCE

MARCH 21: PALM PARTY/SUNDAY SCHOOL

MARCH 25: MAUNDY THURSDAY/FIRST COMMUNION

MARCH 28: EASTER SUNDAY/KIDS IN WORSHIP

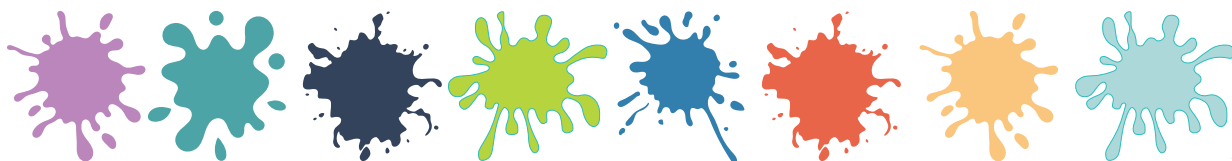
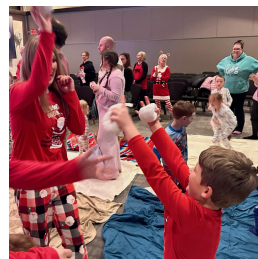
APRIL 4: SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

APRIL TBD: POSSIBLE RETREAT⁴⁶ AT CAMP SHAMINEAU

MAY 2: KIDS IN WORSHIP (FIRST SUNDAY)

MAY 23: LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

JUNE 28-JULY 1: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





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.

