

HAND IN HAND

Doing Children's Ministry Together at First Church of Lombard

September 2017

ON THE CALENDAR. . .

Sunday, September 3 9:30 a.m.
Special "Kids vs. Adults" Bible Olympics

All kids who are available for this Labor Day weekend service will be part of an "All Star" team that will take on a team of adults during the worship service!

Sunday, September 10 10:15 a.m.*
Rally Day! *Regular Sunday School resumes.*

**Friday, September 15 through
Sunday, September 17**
Family Retreat! *See article, below*

Friday, October 20 5:00 p.m.
Annual Fall Fest!
Costumes! Candy! Fun! Invite a friend!

** Regular worship service schedule resumes,
with worship starting at 10:15 a.m.*



A Note From Miss Val

Labor Day Weekend marks the official end of summer... which means it's time for another year of Sunday School to begin! The year kicks off on Rally Day (Sunday, September 10), with a return to the 10:15 a.m. worship service time. I am very excited to see everyone!

And what a year we have planned! This year, we return to the Spark Rotation curriculum for students in Preschool through 3rd grade, while the 4th and 5th graders continue a curriculum of their own! *See article on the reverse side for details about this month's Sunday School classes.*

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org.

Val Sutton
Educational Ministries Coordinator

PLEASE FILL OUT A 2017-2018 REGISTRATION FORM ASAP! THIS ONE FORM COVERS ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE FAMILY. FORMS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.



REGISTRATION CLOSES SOON!

FAMILY RETREAT!

Friday, September 15 – Sunday, September 17
Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center (Sawyer, MI)

There are just a few more spaces available for the FIRST CHURCH ANNUAL FAMILY RETREAT! This intergenerational "weekend away" is held at Tower Hill, less than two hours away in the Warren Dunes. Activities are provided for the whole family to enjoy!

The cost is \$90 per person* (\$60 for those age 5 and under; infants are free). Meals on Saturday and Sunday morning, lodging and all activities for Friday night through Sunday morning are included!

SPACE IS LIMITED! Please email vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org to register ASAP!

**Women's Fellowship generously subsidizes a portion of the full cost for each participant and provides for full and partial scholarships. Please contact Val Sutton at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org if you are in need of a scholarship.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

Spark Theme: Creation

Genesis 1-2

Sunday School for Preschoolers through 3rd graders will continue to use the Spark Curriculum this year. Each month, children will focus on a story from the Bible. Some weeks, they will remain in the classroom to learn and discuss with their dedicated Sunday School teachers, while other weeks they will "rotate" to different activities like crafts, cooking, science experiments, games, and more. *A separate curriculum is being used for 4th and 5th grade; see article at right.*



In September, children will look at the very first story in the Bible... the story of the Creation of the world. As you probably know, the Creation can be one of the most controversial stories in the Bible! Be aware that rather than focusing on the "how" of our world's origins, our Sunday Schoolers will look at what it means to call God our Creator. We look forward to being called to be creative... and to care for our world! We look forward to talking about all the wonderful things in our world, from animals to sunsets to friends! Families are encouraged to read along and explore the story at home using the Spark Story Bible. *If you don't have a copy of the Spark Story Bible in your home, please contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org so we can make sure every family has one copy!*

This month, children will remain in their "home" classrooms each Sunday rather than rotating to another location. This will give them a chance to get to know their teachers better. THANK YOU to Marypat Hradecky, Jenny Franz, and Rachel Reichert (teaching a combined Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st Grade class upstairs in the larger preschool classroom) as well as Sharon Cox and Brenda Oakson (teaching 2nd and 3rd Grade downstairs in Room 3).

Children through 3rd grade end each week's Sunday School with MUSIC, directed by Mr. U (Lawrence Underwood). Children lead the congregation in song every week, introducing a new song on the second Sunday of each month.

PLEASE NOTE:

Families begin in the Sanctuary for worship together at 10:15 a.m.; all students should be picked up by a parent or another responsible adult at 11:30 a.m. outside the Resource Room. If different arrangements need to be made on a given Sunday (including a need for a child meet a parent in a different location such as Coffee Hour or the Sanctuary), please contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org. Unless we hear from you, we cannot allow a child to leave on their own.

New Year, New Topic in 4th and 5th Grade!

Last year, we begin a new adventure with our oldest elementary students. Students spent one year learning all about the Bible. This year, we will be focused on learning about faith practices like prayer, worship, and more. Rather than "rotating," kids remain downstairs in Room 1 with Miss Val (Sutton) and Miss Liz (Stramaglia), but there will be lots of fun as we learn together!

4th and 5th graders will START each Sunday with music! Mr. U (Lawrence Underwood) will be teaching this group separate from the other children, focusing on percussion. 4th and 5th graders will head directly to the Resource Room when dismissed from worship, then will spend the latter part of the Sunday School hour in the classroom.

A GREAT END TO THIS YEAR'S BIBLE OLYMPICS

Congratulations to ALL who took part in Bible Olympics (First Church of Lombard's summer Sunday school program)! Both of teams of kids did a great job of exploring the life of David, and while the Orange Thunder took home the top prize, they only beat the Lumos Yellow Sand by a few points! And BOTH teams will come together to create an ALL STAR TEAM to take on a team of adults on Sunday, September 3! WE CAN DO IT!

Children from either team who didn't receive a prize for their participation should see Miss Val ASAP!

Thanks again to everyone who volunteered to help this summer with Bible Olympics!