

Dear Faith family,

August 2017

I hope this summer has been a sweet time of rest and renewal for you. In just a few weeks, it will be time for sharpening those No 2 pencils and dusting off the backpacks, of colorful leaves and cooler breezes... and maybe a few last s'mores over the bonfire as we head into fall. Here's what's coming your way in the world of children's ministry at Faith Covenant.

Club 45 (and 5th grade transition)

After a lot of prayer, discussion, and listening to wise counsel from the Directors of Children and Youth Ministries from the Northwest Conference of our denomination, Brad, Nick, and I are making a shift in Children's and Youth ministries. Together, we decided that 5th grade students will go back under the umbrella of our FaithKids Ministry. Nick will continue doing a wonderful job leading and guiding 6th -12th grade students. The counsel we received is that it is best and wisest for our ministry to reflect the breakdown of the elementary schools around us. We feel that this will be a better fit and placement for our kids and youth as we recognize how they develop as they grow and mature, as well as the unique things they are experiencing in their daily lives. We still want a special environment for our kids as they navigate those tween years and transition from children to youth ministry. With that in mind, we are creating "Club 45" for our 4th and 5th graders. On Sunday mornings, they'll have their own unique space and content with their specific needs in mind. We'll also look for opportunities during the year for Club 45 to play and serve together. We're excited to be able to love our 4th and 5th graders as they grow as disciples of Jesus.

FaithKids Sunday Programs

It's been really fun this summer watching our youth helpers own and lead teaching our summer Sundays, and we look forward to some of those faces being a part of our year. And now we're preparing to get back into our regular Sunday rhythm. There will be nursery only over the Labor Day holiday weekend. FaithKids Sundays kickoff on Sunday, September 10th, during the worship service. Our Sunday mornings are a way we grow our kids, building little disciples of Jesus. After good feedback from kids, parents, and volunteers, we'll continue using our Bible Studies for Life curriculum. Check out the latest, which also have a few age shifts to better reflect the developmental ages of our kids:

- **Birth thru 2s** Their worship experience begins in the nursery at the start of the service on the left side of the nursery space. Our nursery is a safe and nurturing place for our youngest to spend time.
- **3s and 4s** This year, parents of 3s and 4s have the option to start their kids in the nursery on the right side of the nursery space, or kids may stay in the Worship Service with for initial singing and be dismissed from the service to their programming. The 3s and 4s formal lesson will begin after kids are dismissed from the service to allow for this (free play prior to that for kids who start in the 3s/4s room).
- **5s, Kindergarten, and 1st grade**
2nd and 3rd grade
Club 45 (4th and 5th grade)

For all of these ages, the worship experience begins in the Worship Service. After a time of singing and worship with the larger Faith family, they will be dismissed from the service to their FaithKids programs. Starting in September, our volunteers will meet kids in the worship center rather than the in the lobby.

Kids in Worship

Kids are always welcome to be in the worship service with their families. On Kickoff Sunday, look for new kids-in-worship bags by the FaithKids Welcome Desk. We'll also continue to look for ways to have our kids be a part of our Sunday Worship Services. This will include our FaithKids Christmas Program in December!

Wednesday FaithKids Care

FaithKids Care (birth thru grade 5) will be offered for all adult programs on Wednesday nights. While parents and caregivers explore our Wednesday grow opportunities, our FaithKids Care will have a short spiritual lesson with a guided game or activity to help grow them as disciples, snack, and free play/time to work on homework/read. The devotional time is rooted in Scripture and engages kids to grow to be like Jesus as they grow character by God's design. The fall will explore respect, stewardship, and perseverance. The evening will also have plenty of space for fun, activities, and the opportunity to “do life” with our kids. Everyone is invited to our Kickoff Worship Night (kids, too!) on Sept 13th, with our regular programs and FaithKids Care available starting September 20th.

The City

We will be simplifying our FaithKids presence on the City. So, look for an invitation to be added to a single FaithKids families group (rather than breaking things down into ages or days which have to be changed every year). If you have not joined the City yet, please take a few moment to do so. It will be the primary way we look to communicate events, resources, and prayer requests this fall.

Stepping Stones, 3rd Grade Bibles, Parents, Prayer, and more...

We have many wonderful things coming this year as we seek to grow disciples of Jesus among our youngest worshippers. Look for more details throughout the fall on the City. We'll be bringing back our **Stepping Stones Class**—a class kids take once with your parent or caregiver to teach them the basics of the church (salvation, baptism, communion, etc). The first will be coming up on November 12th from 1-3pm. We will **present Bibles to our 3rd graders** during the Worship Service in November as well. Look for some **parents/caregiver** resources and options coming during the school year. Faith Covenant will be participating in **Operation Christmas Child** again. We'll continue to explore some new “**GO**” **opportunities** for our FaithKids as well. We also will be looking for ways that we can **pray** for and with our kids and the world as we lean into Jesus together. I am excited to see what God does in the lives of our children as we gather, grow, and go together. If you have questions about the coming year, don't hesitate to let me know.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.~ Romans 15:13

in His grace,



Vicki Newendorp

P.S. Some of you have asked what happened to the World Vision Twin Cities 6K for Water originally on our summer calendar. World Vision decided to move the event to coincide with the Global 6K for water next spring. So, look for it in our spring calendar!