



August 22, 2023

Hello Families,

I hope the summer has treated you well, and you are looking forward to the rhythm of another school year. Sunday School will begin shortly, to which you are joyfully invited, and there are a few important dates to tell you about.

On **Sunday, September 17** we are having our Rally Day celebration. You can look forward to a bounce house and ice cream bar following 9 a.m. worship! That's also a great day to get your registration forms in for Sunday School.

Sunday, September 24 is the first official day of Sunday School classes, and it is the Bible Milestone lesson.

Our "Milestones" are important lessons throughout the year that touch on core elements of our faith tradition. They are built on four of the five promises we make in baptism and include:

"Live among God's Faithful People" - Baptism/Remembrance Milestone

"Place in their hands the Holy Scriptures" - Receiving a Bible Milestone

"Teach them the Lord's Prayer..." - Prayer Milestone

"... the Creed" - Apostle's Creed Milestone

"...and the 10 Commandments" - 10 Commandments Milestone

"Share in the Lord's Supper" - Communion Milestone

There are 6 Sundays throughout the year which these "Milestone" lessons will be taught at the Sunday school hour. The lessons are family based, so your presence at those classes as caregivers and primary faith-teachers of the home is very important. Additionally, there are elements of worship which the kids will have a chance to participate in and celebrate these faith milestones. See the enclosed schedule for a list of these important lesson dates.

Also, I want to tell you about our **refreshed curriculum and Sunday School lessons** this year! We are using the Augsburg Fortress curriculum called "Whirl." All ages will be together in one classroom to learn from each other and develop great relationships with their churchmates of every grade. Lessons every week will include a **video** to get into the theme of the lesson, **a game** to get everyone moving, **and a Bible story** from the Whirl Kids Story Bible.

And best of all, we are bringing back **music for every week of Sunday School!** The kids will engage with their faith by learning and listening to songs and hymns. Additionally, we are planned to have the kids share their music and sing in worship every **third Sunday of the month** throughout the school year.

Take a look at the schedule to see all the other fun and important dates. We are looking forward to seeing you on Rally Sunday! (**Rally Sunday is September 17: Worship at 9:00; Fun & Ice Cream from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**)

Worship Schedule beginning September 24th:

8:30 am Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (education and/or fellowship available for anyone not in Sunday School)

10:30 a.m. Worship

-Pastor Chris