

Fall 2020 Sunday School plan for Children and Youth at Messiah Lutheran Church

The Children's and Youth ministry staff are all in agreement that the following plan is the best way to offer face to face Sunday School for those who would like to attend, while taking necessary precautions to keep kids, adult volunteers, and Messiah staff safe. At the same time, Children's virtual Sunday School @Home will continue to be offered with lesson material that parallels the lesson topic being led in class. Youth will offer live online options for connecting students from home to the face to face class.

Families are asked to care for each other by monitoring for symptoms and adhering to the following guidelines. Family members should not come to Sunday School or church if any of the following apply. The child or family members:

- Are sick or have been sick in the past 10 days. Symptoms to watch for: fever (100°F or higher), cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, fatigue, congestion/runny nose, nausea/diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell.
- Have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19. These children must follow all isolation and quarantine guidelines from the local health authority or their physician. In this situation, please notify the church office.
- Have a household member who is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or who is awaiting their own test results. In this situation, please notify the church office.
- Have traveled internationally or on a cruise in the past 14 days. These children must follow current CDC self-quarantine recommendations.

If a child becomes sick during Sunday School, parents will be asked to take them home along with any siblings. A child should be symptom free for a full 72 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to Sunday School assuming COVID-19 has been ruled out.

General policies

This plan allows for one teacher per room reflecting volunteer willingness to serve in a live classroom at this time. For child safety purposes, we have several options: continue asking for two teachers willing to serve in a live classroom setting for each class; have a teacher in the classroom with a second volunteer in the hallway throughout the class; or leave the doors open during class. Having the doors open is better for air circulation, however this also allows sound to travel into the hallways. Baby gates would be needed for the pre-school doors to contain little escape artists. Having a volunteer outside would serve to fill the need for temperature checks before class, and for cleaning tables after class. It would also fill the need for the children's classes where there are no bathrooms. Ideally, we would have a volunteer who could step in to take on the teaching role if, for any reason, the assigned teacher is not able to teach. Each ministry leader will work out what is best for each class based on age of the children and volunteer commitments.

Due to fire code, preschool and younger children cannot meet upstairs. They are not capable of exiting safely down stairwells when the elevators are disabled during a fire emergency. We are not overlapping students from Sunday School into the Lambs' classrooms. This is because the Lamb's school is required by state licensing guidelines to close for sanitization procedures following any cases of COVID from Sunday School. Having no overlap of classrooms also helps mitigate the risk of students coming to Sunday School who are exposed to many other children attending over 50 other public/private and home school settings during the school week. This plan keeps the classrooms smaller and more self-

contained. For all these same reasons, the nursery will not be open at this time. Parents are encouraged to make use of the cry room and hallway monitors to worship with their little ones during services, and to keep infants and toddlers with them in their Bible Study classes.

1. An adult volunteer or classroom parent will take the temperature of every student, as well as the adult(s) dropping them off, before the student enters the room. Each child will receive a sticker after their temperature is taken so it does not have to be taken again on the same Sunday morning when going from the Sanctuary to Sunday School or Sunday School to the Sanctuary.
2. 8 Total thermometers needed:
 Youth ministry needs 3
 Children's ministry needs 5
3. Masks are required in the classroom for **ALL** adult volunteers and for all students first grade and older. This parallels most school classroom settings. Face shields are optional but encouraged for children in Kindergarten or preschool.
4. Each classroom will be equipped with a box of gloves for the volunteer taking temps, disposable child-sized masks for children who forget, regular masks for youth who forget, and disinfecting wipes or disinfectant spray and paper towels for cleaning tables and chairs.
5. Ministry staff will instruct the classroom volunteers on how to accurately use contactless thermometers, as each model has slightly different procedures.
6. An adult volunteer or classroom parent will wipe down the tables and chairs with disinfectant wipes or disinfectant spray and paper towels after each class is dismissed. This allows the teacher to continue to focus on wrapping up the lesson and saying goodbye to the children as their parents come to pick them up. For youth classrooms, the volunteer may be another adult or a student.

The spaces used for Sunday School, including the classrooms, the hallways, and both upstairs and downstairs bathrooms must be cleaned and disinfected each week after Sunday School. Sunday is the church's highest use day of the week. The Lambs' school has cleaning scheduled every Monday-Friday evening following each day of school. Although Sunday School is not sharing Lambs' classrooms, both groups share hallways and bathrooms. The hallways near the donut areas especially need cleaning and disinfecting after every Sunday to be ready for Monday morning. The church cleaning schedule is currently set for completing all downstairs rooms on Sunday night, and all upstairs rooms on Monday night.

Some of the classrooms are shared space with other ministry groups. Cleaning schedules would have to be revised IF and WHEN outside groups are allowed to schedule shared space again. The above cleaning schedule implies that there should be no Monday afternoon/evening requests to use upstairs rooms, as they will not be clean until Tuesday. Don Johnson is attempting to consolidate the cleaning on Sunday night of all rooms used on Sunday morning, including classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms.

This plan implies that there should be no Friday or Saturday afternoon/evening requests to use ANY of the rooms being used for Sunday School unless the rooms are cleaned and disinfected before Sunday morning. Any ministry group or outside group using a room during the week should be submitting a cleaning plan for after each of their meetings/events. Of most concern is the Multi-Purpose room, the Yoga room, the Scout rooms, and the Braille room.

Room Plan

Children's and Youth Sunday School will primarily use the larger rooms upstairs, since more space allows greater distancing. There will not be any snacks for the time being.

High school: Couch room aka E213S/E240N. Elizabeth will rearrange couches, so they are all along the walls, to maximize physical distancing.

Confirmation: Room E241N

Middle school: Room E243N

1st and 2nd grade: Room E216S

3rd and 4th grade: Room E218S

These rooms were also used by Scout Troops in the past years. Tables will be spread out and children will be seated only at the ends of each 6 foot table ensuring recommended physical distancing while in the classroom. Teachers will not be seated at the tables with the children. Each room has a teacher's desk and will have a music stand/podium as needed. Assuming that once the tables/chairs are configured they can stay in place, then no fees are incurred for weekly set up and take down.

Kindergarten: Room E247N also used for yoga. Will purchase child sized chairs to place in a circle for lesson time. Need to decide between child height tables or lap desks depending on what will work best for this age group. Setting up and taking down tables each week incurs additional expense just as is done in the Gym for Sunday morning Bible Class.

*Lightweight, 4 foot, folding tables that can be left in the lower position are advertised from \$40 to \$90. The lower priced tables are out of stock in this area right now, so should be ordered ASAP to be received by September 13th. Estimate 8 tables X \$60 = \$480

*Lightweight, child sized folding chairs are advertised at \$10 to \$30. The lower priced chairs are in stock, so could be ordered now. Estimate: 25 chairs X \$10 = \$250

3 and 4 year olds: Room E114S which is one half of the downstairs multipurpose room. Front entrance door is closest to the storage closet and drink machine. The rolling divider will be set up across in the middle, providing two separate entrances. See folding table comment in Kindergarten section. Will purchase smaller chairs for this classroom. Potential to combine all preschool while numbers are low.

2 year olds: Room E116S which is one half of the downstairs multipurpose room. Back entrance door closer to the built-in cabinet. The rolling divider would need to be set up across in the middle, providing two separate entrances. Amy P. is looking into lightweight folding tables that can be left in the lower position. This would require purchasing smaller chairs as well.

* Setting up and taking down tables incurs additional expense just as is done in the Gym for Sunday morning Bible Class. Estimate 30 minutes for both sides of the MP room.

Bathroom Considerations

None of the children's classrooms have bathrooms or diaper changing areas within the rooms.

- Parents of **ALL** children should take them to the hall bathrooms and wash hands thoroughly both *before and after* Sunday School. Reminder signs will be posted at all classroom doors.
- Parents of children in diapers or pull up should change their child just before Sunday School. If a child has a soiled diaper during the SS hour, the classroom volunteer will text the parents to take the child to the bathroom for changing.
- For preschoolers who are potty-trained, preschool classroom volunteers will accompany the children from the MP room across the hall to the restroom in room E111S. The Sunday night cleaning schedule will include cleaning and disinfecting this bathroom on Sunday night.
- For the children in K-4th, classroom volunteers will walk children over to the hallway bathrooms and wait outside for them, just as we do during Vacation Bible School.

Teachers:

High School: Jodi Sorenson, Elizabeth Ledford, and Barb Coen with both live in person and live online options. Katy Moyer as hallway volunteer

Confirmation: Vicar Lee with TBD as hallway volunteer

Junior High: Mike Neumann with Adrienne McGregor as hallway volunteer

3rd and 4th: Chris Price with TBD as hallway volunteer

1st and 2nd: Steve Livingston with TBD as hallway volunteer

Kindergarten: TBD with TBD as hallway volunteer

3 and 4 year olds: Kari Beyer and possibly Sandra Murcott with TBD as hallway volunteer

2 year olds: Mary Hooper and Meredith Beber with TBD as hallway volunteer

Notes/Questions to Consider:

- Action plan for teacher absence in classrooms where only one person has volunteered
- What is the disinfecting process within our current cleaning contract?
- What would be different and included the sanitization process after a confirmed case?
- Action plan regarding cleaning/closure of rooms for confirmed cases
- Action plan for notification of families for confirmed cases within Sunday School