

## Faith Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones are intentional times when parents and their children gather to be equipped to grow in faith together and to grow in faith habits that can be used at home. This is a ministry that supports Immanuel families to live out their faith in their homes. We begin by meeting with families preparing for their child's baptism we invite parents and child to gather for the following Stepping Stones (most include a 3-week parent and child series which culminates with a blessing before the congregation).

- Baptism
- Baptism Birthday Celebration
- My Church - 2 year olds
- Foundation for Faithful Parenting
- Stepping into Kindergarten
- 10 Commandments - 1st graders
- The Lord's Prayer - 2nd graders
- The Old Testament - 3rd graders
- The New Testament - 4th graders
- Communion Instruction - 5th graders
- The Apostle's Creed - 6th graders

## Summer Ministries

Summer ministry opportunities for children include:

- Vacation Bible School for preschool - grade 4
- Bible Camp at Camp Onomia
- Go Deep - service and fun for elementary aged children

Details are available each Spring.

## Children's Choirs

Children who enjoy singing are encouraged to sing in one of our children's choirs! These choirs help lead worship about once a month.

Wednesdays, September-May from 6:15-7:00 pm

Epiphany Choir: Kindergarten–2nd Grade  
Ascension Choir: 3rd-6th Grade

## Children's Ministry Volunteers

Children's Ministry is a significant part of Immanuel's overall ministry.

Volunteer opportunities are available for people of all ages and with varying amounts of commitment.

Contact:

Director of Children and Family Ministries  
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Called to care. Sent to serve.

# Children's Ministry



Jesus said,

“Let the children come to me, and do not stop them because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’ Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.”

Mark 10:14,16

Children grow most in their relationship with Jesus when that relationship is nurtured at home. Children’s Ministry at Immanuel seeks to help parents in this process by providing tools, resources and support along the way.

## Worship

Families are encouraged to worship with their children every week. Worshipping together is the best way for children to learn how to worship God, to understand the rhythms of the Church year, and to foster intergenerational relationships.

Each month we celebrate an Everybody Worship Sunday. We all gather for worship on these Sundays so that children who might not normally attend worship have the opportunity to do so.

**Rainbow Bags** are available inside the Sanctuary. These bags of quiet activities help young children through the more “adult” parts of worship and are available for use at any time.

**Children’s Story Bibles** are available throughout the sanctuary.

**Children’s bulletins** available in the Sanctuary each Sunday.

## Baptism

Baptism is God’s gift to each of us! We believe that God’s gift is available for even our youngest family members. Infants and children of any age are welcome at the front.

All families who are considering baptizing their infant will attend a Baptism orientation scheduled through the church office.

## Cradle Roll/Splash!

After the birth of an infant, the child and family will be placed on the Cradle Roll. Monthly, over a three-year period, parents will receive materials in the mail that give suggestions for, and support of, the early faith development of their child.

## Nursery Care

Nursery care is provided for children 3 - 36 months during the 9:15 and 10:45 am Sunday worship services and also during Wednesday evening activities.

Pagers are available to alert parents when extra care is needed.

A regular staff member and volunteers watch over the nursery. Parents of children who use the nursery are encouraged to volunteer to help care for children.

## Sunday School

Our Sunday School ministry is designed to recognize each individual learning style.

There are 2 Sunday School sessions each week: 9:15 and 10:45 a.m., September-May.

**Preschool and kindergarten** children meet in a classroom setting where they are encouraged to hear, see, touch, taste and smell stories from the Bible.

**1st-4th grade** students participate in the Workshop Rotation model of Sunday School. Each week students meet with their Gardener, a caring adult who shepherds their group to a workshop led by another adult. For 3 weeks students will explore one story from the Bible in three different ways, allowing students to experience the story in their best learning style.

**5th & 6th grade** students meet together with the same caring adults each week. This age group focuses on building relationships and encouraging learners to grow in a deeper relationship with Jesus.

## Holy Communion Instruction

Immanuel regularly offers Communion instruction to students during their 5th grade year as part of the Stepping Stones curriculum. We believe that students at this age are ready to begin to understand the significance of the sacrament of Holy Communion in their lives. However, some children express interest in participating in the Lord’s Supper at an earlier age and commune following instruction from Immanuel staff.

Contact: Minister of Faith Formation, Martin Rathjen