

# **SMLC KIDS**

**Handbook  
2023-2024**



*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."*

*- Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

*- Mark 19:14*



# Welcome to Children's Ministry!

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We're glad you're here! We want to partner with you and resource you to pass down the faith to your children. We hope that your kids experience the saving grace and love of Jesus every week at Children's Church, where they can learn, grow, and have fun.

## Our Approach

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Children's Ministry's mission is simply two things: Teaching Truth and Transforming Lives. We believe God's Word is true and relevant for our lives today. Each week at Children's Church, kids read and experience true stories from the Bible. They also learn how to apply these principles throughout the week, and allow the Holy Spirit to transform their lives.

Looking at Deuteronomy 6 (on inside cover) we see that God is calling parents to be the primary teachers to pass down the faith. In our culture today, many parents feel alone and ill-equipped, so that's why at SMLC we want partner with you. In Deuteronomy 6, God is not only addressing parents, but also the whole faith community to teach the next generation. This is why kids are given take-it-home flyers, so parents can have a conversation about the lesson on the way home or around the dinner table. This is also why we do family events, so that families can play together and strengthen their relationships.

## Curriculum - Simply Loved

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During Children' Church, we use a curriculum called "Simply Loved" by Group Publishing. We love this curriculum because it's Biblically-based, media-driven, and interactive. Kids will not only hear the Bible story, but will help act it out. This not only makes the lessons more engaging, but it helps the kids remember the story.



# NEW - Children's Church at 9:30

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We're moving back to Children's Church, where kids and families worship together - to sing the opening worship songs and engage in a time of confession. After the confession, the children will be dismissed to follow their teacher to their classroom.

Why are we doing this? We believe in children worshipping together with their families and the congregation. Not only does this provide quality family time, but kids get to participate in corporate worship with the whole church. They get to see adults model the faith, and when it's time to enter 6th grade, they're used to this kind of worship. And according to studies (Sticky Faith) the #1 indicator of life-long discipleship is whether they develop a habit of being in worship. We dismiss after the confession so they can receive teaching at their development level.

## NEW - Check-In Location

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Check-ins have been moved to the courtyard. Infants through age 2 can be brought to the nursery but all other kids once checked in, will go to the sanctuary with their families. As always, the kids will be given a printed name tag and parents will receive one with a code that matches their child's name tag. Hang onto this for pickup.

## NEW - Dismissal & Pickup

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### Dismissal

After the confession (about 15 minutes into the service) kids will be dismissed and will follow their teacher to their classroom.

### Pickup

Once service ends, you will pickup your kids in their classrooms (make sure you show the printed label with the code on it that you received at check in).

# NEW - Classes

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Some grades have many kids in them, and others have only a few, so we're adjusting the classes.

## **Nursery: Infants through Age 2**

Located in the nursery next to the Sanctuary

## **Preschool: Age 3 (and toilet trained) through Kindergarten**

Located in Preschool Room 1

Teacher: Alice Wilson

## **1st through 3rd Grade**

Located in Modular A2

Teacher: Beth Rudolph

## **4th through 5th Grade**

Located in Modular B1

Teachers: Morgan Smith and Seth Beilke

# NEW - Special Activities

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During some holiday weekends, we're going to do something different during Children's Church.

We're going to combine classes, and instead of doing the Simply Loved lesson, kids will play games and have a special lesson.

While kids can bring their friends any Sunday, these are geared for guests (after all, who doesn't want to eat candy at a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party in December!)

# Behavior

Children’s Church is a safe place that is welcoming, friendly, and allows kids to experience the love of Jesus. We expect children to participate, have fun, and treat everyone with respect. When a child is disruptive, it creates a distracted and unsafe environment. We have three steps to enforce discipline, so that all children can be ministered to:

## Step 1 - In-Class

When a child is disruptive or disrespectful, the teacher or shepherd will give them a warning. This is to let them know what they did was inappropriate, and to correct the behavior in the future. If the behavior persists more than once that day, the teacher will notify the parents.

## Step 2 - Parent / Buddy

If the issue persists after a couple weeks, and in-class mediation does not help, we move to step two. A parent is asked to attend Children’s Church with their child and be their “buddy”. The buddy will be the first contact to stop the disruptive behavior, and remove the child from the class if necessary.

## Step 3 - At-Home

One of the neat things about Simply Loved is that we have all the lessons available on a Google Drive. Rather than attending Children’s Church in the classroom, parents and children can do everything at home - sing the songs, watch the Bible Buddy video, and re-enact the Bible story. After a period of time, parents and Mike Edge can reevaluate if the child is ready to come back.

# Calendar: 2023-2024

Date	Bible Point	Lesson
August 6, 2023	God knows what we need	God Provides for Ruth (Ruth 1-4)
August 13, 2023	God knows what we need	God Answers Hannah’s Prayer (1 Samuel 1:1-2:11)
August 20, 2023	God knows what we need	God Speaks to Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-4:1)
August 27, 2023	God knows what we need	God Gives His People a King (1 Samuel 8-10:25)
September 3, 2023	Special Activity	
September 10, 2023	Jesus shows us how to live	Jesus Is Tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11)
September 17, 2023	Jesus shows us how to live	Jesus Washes His Friends’ Feet (John 13:1-20)
September 24, 2023	Jesus shows us how to live	Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray (Matthew 6:5-18)

# Calendar: 2023-2024

Date	Bible Point	Lesson
October 1, 2023	Jesus shows us how to live	The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
October 8, 2023	Special Activity	Sabbath
October 15, 2023	God helps us	Samuel Anoints David as King (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
October 22, 2023	God helps us	God Helps David Defeat Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
October 29, 2023	God helps us	Jonathan Helps David (1 Samuel 18:1-16; 20:1-42)
November 5, 2023	God helps us	Abigail Brings Peace (1 Samuel 25)
November 12, 2023	Christmas pageant rehearsal	Christmas Lesson 1
November 19, 2023	Christmas pageant rehearsal	Christmas Lesson 2
November 26, 2023	Christmas pageant rehearsal	Christmas Lesson 3
December 3, 2023	Christmas pageant rehearsal	Christmas Lesson 4
December 10, 2023	Christmas pageant rehearsal	Christmas Lesson 5
December 17, 2023	Christmas pageant rehearsal Performance at 2pm	Christmas Lesson 6
December 24, 2023	Special Activity	Happy Birthday Jesus
December 31, 2023	Special Activity	New year, new beginnings
January 7, 2024	Jesus cares about us	Jesus Helps a Roman Officer (Matthew 8:5-13)
January 14, 2024	Jesus cares about us	Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (John 9)
January 21, 2024	Jesus cares about us	Jesus Helps 10 Men With Leprosy (Luke 17:11-19)
January 28, 2024	Jesus cares about us	Jesus Feeds People (John 6:1-14)
February 4, 2024	God is great	God Makes Promises to David (2 Samuel 5:1-5; 7:8-29)
February 11, 2024	God is great	Solomon Asks for Wisdom (1 Kings 3:1-15)
February 18, 2024	God is great	Jehoshaphat Asks God for Help (2 Chronicles 17:1-6; 20:1-30)
February 25, 2024	God is great	Huldah Gives King Josiah a Message From God (2 Kings 22:1-23:23)

# Calendar: 2023-2024

Date	Bible Point	Lesson
March 3, 2024	God is powerful	God Shows He's the One True God (1 Kings 18:16-45)
March 10, 2024	Special Activity	Sports Camp theme preview
March 17, 2024	God is powerful	God Speaks to Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-18)
March 24, 2024	Jesus is good news!	People Celebrate Jesus (Let's celebrate Jesus is good news!) (Luke 19:28-40)
March 31, 2024	Jesus is good news!	Jesus Is Alive! (Resurrection) (Matthew 27:45-28:10)
April 7, 2024	God is powerful	Elisha Takes Over for Elijah (2 Kings 2:1-14)
April 14, 2024	God is powerful	God Heals Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-19)
April 21, 2024	Jesus surprises us	The Lost Son Returns Home (Luke 15:11-32)
April 28, 2024	Jesus surprises us	Jesus Challenges the Pharisees (Matthew 23:1-12, 23-26)
May 5, 2024	Jesus surprises us	Jesus Challenges the Pharisees (Matthew 22:34-40; 23:1-12, 23-26)
May 12, 2024	Jesus surprises us	Jesus Talks With a Rich Man (Matthew 19:16-30)
May 19, 2024	God is always with us	Jonah Disobeys God (Jonah 1-3)
May 26, 2024	Special Activity	Memorial Day
June 2, 2024	God is always with us	Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand Up for God (Daniel 3:1-30)
June 9, 2024	God is always with us	Daniel Keeps Praying to God (Daniel 6:1-28)
June 16, 2024	God is always with us	Esther's Courage Saves God's People (Esther 5-7)
June 23, 2024	God forgives us	Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1-2:20)
June 30, 2024	God forgives us	God's People Rebuild Jerusalem's Wall (Nehemiah 4:1-23; 6:1-15)
July 7, 2024	Special Activity	
July 14, 2024	Special Activity	
July 21, 2024	Special Activity	
July 28, 2024	Special Activity	





# STAY CONNECTED



[stmarkphx.org/kids](http://stmarkphx.org/kids)



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