



January 2010

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
Manitowoc, Wisconsin**

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“Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

~Proverbs 22:6

From Pastor Kolonich...

Did you realize that as parents you are the #1 influence on your children? It is not their pastor. It is not their teachers. It's not their friends. Your children are watching **YOU**. They watch every step you take and they want to be just like you. As parents we have a very important job that we don't want to take lightly.

How is it that we train our children? We train our children by modeling. We model the behavior that we would like to see. If we want our child to eat all their vegetables, well we better be ready to eat them all ourselves! If we want our children's relationship with Jesus to be a priority in their lives, then they need to see that Jesus is a priority in **YOUR** life! This means that as parents we have a huge task on our hands!

Sunday School is one way that the church can help you as you raise your children. However the learning that happens in Sunday School should not stop on Sunday. Sunday School should be a launching pad for the rest of your week as you continue the spiritual training of your children.

You are reading the first edition of our new Sunday School Monthly Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is most importantly to give you information, ideas and important spiritual points to talk about with your children. It is my hope and prayer that the ministry that begins in the Sunday School classrooms at continues in your home. If it does not continue in the home, then their learning on Sunday morning is in jeopardy. I pray that this newsletter can give you some ideas and encouragement to do so.

FAITH BUZZ AT HOME—Sunday School Continues

Since this is a new quarter, it also means you have a NEW object to guide your activity in the home. Every week, your child will come home with a new card. On this card it summarizes the lesson that they learned in class and it gives you some fun ways to use your NEW object to help reinforce the concepts that the child is learning at home. Keep these objects someplace safe so that each week you can come back to the object and continue to use it to reinforce the lessons at home.

PowerSource



Ask God:

1. To strengthen you to show God's trustworthiness daily.
2. To assure your children that God is a trustworthy friend.
3. To show your family his trustworthiness and goodness in the New Year ahead.

Parenting Insights

These age-level insights from *Children's Ministry Magazine* show how children's view of God develops as they grow.

Ages 2 to 4

Preschoolers identify God as having a human form and characteristics. These traits most likely resemble those seen in significant adults in kids' lives.

Ages 5 to 8

Fear of the unknown prompts kids to want to believe in a God who's all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere all the time. Their understanding of God's love and tenderness depends on how adults express these qualities.

Ages 9 to 12

Older children's perception of God can range from a legendary superhero to a living, spiritual being. Kids often picture God the same way they view their own fathers.

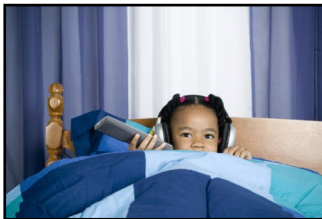
OpenTheBook

**"Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength."
Isaiah 40:31**

Trusting strengthens us by removing the need to question or worry. Knowing that our perfect God has everything under control allows us to step confidently forward in faith.

Teachable Moments

1. **Trust-Building Games**—With younger children, play a rousing game of Peek-a-Boo and sing familiar songs. With kids of all ages, laugh often and give lots of reassuring hugs.
2. **Trust Walk**—Make some blindfolds, and have family members take turns leading one another blindly around. First, have the guide hold his or her partner's elbow but say nothing during the walk. Next, have the guide shout instructions from far away. Then discuss what makes trusting easy or difficult.



3. **Do the Impossible**—Put a bunch of Hershey's Kisses on a table. Tell family members they can eat as many as they want but can't use their hands to unwrap them. (This is nearly impossible!) Then read aloud Matthew 19:26. Ask: "What things can God do that are impossible for us to do? How can we trust God in the New Year ahead?" End by sharing some candy.



"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are ON THE ROAD, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT

Proverbs 3:5 says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding." Explore the concept of trust by asking children these questions:

1. What does the word *trust* mean to you? How trusting are you?
2. How trustworthy are you? What are some important things that people have entrusted you with?
3. When have you broken a trust or promise—or when has someone broken a trust or promise to you?
4. Why is trusting God sometimes difficult? How does trusting in God make you strong?

Family Experience: In God We Trust

Use these insightful experiences from Group's Hands-On Bible to explore how we can trust God to get us out of tight spots.

- **God Fills Our Needs**—Read aloud 1 Kings 17:8-16. Say: "The widow had only a little bit of flour and oil left. But she trusted God to fill her bigger needs. Let's see how a little bit of something can go a long way." Rinse out a 20-ounce plastic soda bottle, and fill it half full with warm tap water. Pour in a packet of fast-activating bread yeast. Carefully add 1/3 cup of sugar. Place your thumb over the bottle opening, and shake the bottle so the ingredients mix. Stretch the opening of a balloon over the bottle's top. Let it sit for 30 minutes. Then gather to see that the little bit of yeast made enough gas to fill the balloon. Say: "When times are tough, our faith might seem tiny. But God is big. He can fill all our needs!"
- **Stayin' Put**—Lay a playing card on top of a foam or paper cup, covering the opening. Place a penny on top of the card. Quickly pull the card from under the penny. Say: "The penny didn't follow the card. It stayed put and dropped in the cup." Read aloud Acts 16:16-40. Ask: "When have you been in a tight spot? If you were Paul and Silas, what would you have done?" Then have family members look closely at the penny. Point out the words "In God We Trust." Ask: "What happens when you trust God, even if you're unsure of what might happen? How can we encourage each other to trust God more?" Give each person a penny to keep during the coming week as a reminder to trust God.



Help Kids Trust Our Perfect God

With “Buzz,” your children are continuing to learn that God is perfect. He doesn’t sin, he doesn’t let us down, he doesn’t break his promises. In other words, God is completely trustworthy. We can trust God’s plans because in his perfect wisdom, he knows what’s best for us.

Trust is essential for children’s emotional, social, and spiritual development. Early experiences with parents and the church help shape children’s views of God. When kids feel safe and loved, they can trust that God loves them, too.

To help your children build their trust in other people and in God, offer them:

Trustworthy Relationships—Children need to learn to trust other adults. Expose kids to nurturing people, from grandparents to church nursery staff. Keep your promises.

Trustworthy Environments—Safe, engaging surroundings allow children to trust that they’re taken care of. But the most important environmental aspects aren’t things; they’re the people who offer kids consistency and comfort.

Trustworthy Faith—Talk openly with children about God and why we can trust him. Through your daily example as a Christian, you empower children to trust in a God who’s perfect and who loves them perfectly.



What’s happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- “Helicopter parents” who are over involved with their children’s lives face a growing backlash. Kids grow best when parents let go, experts say.
- The recession is slowing “hyper parenting.” One-third of parents say they’ve had to cut their children’s extracurricular activities—and most families admit they like the results.

(CBS News Poll)

What They Are Learning...

Pre-School:

- 1/10: “An Angel Talks to Mary” **Luke 1:26-38, 46-55**
- 1/17: “John the Baptist is Born” **Luke 1:39-45; 57-66**
- 1/24: “Jesus is Born” **Luke 2:1-20**
- 1/31: “Wise Men Worship Jesus” **Matthew 2:1-12**

Kindergarten:

- 1/10: “An Angel Talks to Mary & Joseph” **Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-24**
- 1/17 “The Shepherds Hear About Jesus” **Luke 2:8-20**
- 1/24: “Jesus is Born” **Luke 2:1-7**
- 1/31: “John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus” **Matthew 3:1-12**

1st & 2nd Grade

- 1/10: “Zechariah Prophesies about Jesus” **Luke 1:5-25; 57-80**
- 1/17: “An Angel Speaks to Mary & Joseph” **Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-24**
- 1/24: “Jesus is Born” **Luke 2:1-7**
- 1/31: “Angels Tell Shepherds of Jesus Birth” **Luke 2:8-20**

3rd & 4th Grade

- 1/10: “An Angel proclaims John the Baptist’s Birth in Jerusalem” **Luke 1:5-25**
- 1/17: “An Angel Proclaims Jesus’ Birth in Nazareth” **Luke 1:26-38**
- 1/24: “Jesus is Born in Bethlehem” **Luke 2:1-20**
- 1/31: “Jesus’ Parents Present Him in the Temple” **Luke 2:22-40**

5th & 6th Grade

- 1/10: “The Word Becomes Flesh” **Genesis 1:1-3; 26-27; John 1:1-5; 14**
- 1/17: “Jesus’ Birth is Foretold” **Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-38**
- 1/24: “Jesus is Born” **Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18-22**
- 1/31: “John Baptizes Jesus” **Isaiah 11:1-5; Matthew 3:13-17**

Quick Stats

- An estimated 13% of U.S. children walk or bike to school these days, compared to more than 50% of children 40 years ago. *(Science Daily)*
- A study shows that children burn about three times more calories playing some exercise-oriented video games than they do just sitting on the couch watching television. *(USA Today)*



January 2010

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
PARENT/ STUDENT Meeting— 9:10-9:25 AM						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Soup Dinner Fundraiser 11:45 am~						

UPCOMING DATE TO REMEMBER

Saturday, February 20—Valentine's Dance 6:30 pm~
With **ROCK THE FLOCK DJ!!!**

FUSION WORSHIP: SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 6:00 PM

Worship God in a more relaxed intimate atmosphere. *FUSION WORSHIP* is not like Sunday mornings. Come Check it out! Let your kids experience something new!
Learn more at: <http://www.redeermanty.com/home/fusion.html>

**Have any questions? Comments? Concerns?
Contact Pastor Kolonich at:**

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