

## Sunday School Annual Report 2018

The main goals of our Sunday School program this year have continued to be to introduce and familiarize our children with church ritual and tradition, to teach them Bible stories, and to invite our children to ask and discuss their questions about God and the Bible. Our Sunday School children have become very open about asking questions about any topic about God or the Bible that comes up, which I am always happy to discuss with them. I believe that this creates an environment where they feel safe to learn, wonder and grow.

In Sunday School each week, we have continued to focus on reading a Bible story that is related to the lectionary reading for that week. We have also continued with talking about how the characters in the story might be feeling. This helps the children to connect to the stories in order to better remember them and learn from them. The children who are readers love to take turns reading parts of the story, which again makes them feel more connected and gives them a sense of agency during our lessons.

I continue to incorporate church ritual into the Sunday School program. Each week we talk about which church season we are in and what it means, incorporating the colours of the season into our setup. We light a candle each week that reminds us that God is with us during our Sunday School time, and incorporate an advent wreath during the season of Advent. We now have three smaller candles that we light each week as well, which remind us of the 3 persons of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

When we pray at the end of our Sunday School time, I ask the children for their suggestions of topics we can ask God or thank God about (related to the story and discussion we have shared) before we pray responsively as a group. This gives the children a way to connect the ideas they have learned to their lives, and to take part concretely in the prayer time, even if they are not comfortable praying aloud on their own.

Our Christmas presentation this year was a montage of drawings of the Christmas story created by the Sunday School children who attended during Advent, accompanied by recordings of their voices either reading part of the Christmas story or telling about the feelings of the characters. The children were proud of their work on this presentation and I believe that it successfully shared with the congregation the type of learning that we have been doing this year.

I would like to thank all of the parents for their support as well as Angie, who often teaches Sunday School (about once a month) when I am busy or away. Her availability has been extremely helpful for me.

As Sunday School coordinator I feel thankful to continue to have the opportunity to learn and grow in my understanding of God and of the Bible along with our children. I look forward to continuing in 2019.

Respectfully submitted on Jan 10, 2019.

Alaina Benoit,  
Sunday School Coordinator 2018.