GROWING IN GRACE
Overall Program Goals and Objectives and
Age Group Objectives
St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
3 year olds - 5th grade

OVERALL GOALS
• to offer a dynamic Christian Faith Formation program for all age groups that will encourage one another, foster fellowship and relationships and find ways to help others in need
• to equip children, youth, adults and families to understand God’s word, communicating at age-appropriate levels and including both Old & New Testaments
• to help all ages understand how to apply and communicate God’s word and truth in all areas of life

OBJECTIVES
• incorporate regular Bible study and Scripture memorization in a variety of learning styles throughout the Sunday School curriculum
• communicate goals and objectives to Sunday School teachers
• encourage all to learn God’s Word and apply it to our lives through service

AGE GROUP OBJECTIVES
At ages 3 and 4, children will be able:
- to recognize the Bible as the book from which we learn about God and Jesus
- to become familiar with selected Bible stories that will contribute to growing
- to associate a few selected Bible passages with his/her actions and conduct as well as expressions of joy and thanksgiving
- to recognize appropriate Bible pictures and become acquainted with meaningful Bible passages which relate to the child’s daily experiences
- to associate the Bible with worship activities (regular worship attendance)
- to pray in Jesus’ name
- to start to understand “giving” as a foundation of stewardship
- **to begin to understand and to lead “The Lord be with you… and also with you.”**

At age 5 (Kindergarten), children will also be able:
- to understand God’s loving plan for God’s people through the use of Bible stories
- to relate additional, meaningful Bible passages to his/her lifetime situations
- to understand “giving” as a foundation of stewardship
- **to recite the Lord’s Prayer from memory**

At age 6 (1st Grade), children will also be able:
- to begin to understand that baptism has made him/her a child of God
- to learn more of the Old Testament Stories
- to understand the saving purpose and love of God as revealed in the Bible stories about Jesus
- to understand that God speaks to us in the Bible
- to use dramatization to help the child identify him/herself with characters in the Bible
- to memorize and use a few brief selected Bible passages
- to identify names and significance of various parts of the church building
- to understand the structure of the Bible
- to understand more about stewardship
- **to recite John 3:16 from memory**

At age 7 (2nd Grade), children will also be able:
- to understand that Jesus is the Son of God and the purpose for which God sent him
- to understand that the term “Holy Spirit” refers to God at work in the world today
- to exhibit a strengthened faith in God through an expanded knowledge of God; the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit
- to use both Old and New Testament stories to give the child a sense of God’s power and greatness,
- to understand that some of the Psalms are expressions of praise to God
- to express thoughts about the Bible through words and art (drawing and painting)
- to begin to read brief, selected Bible passages with help
- to understand the terms adoration, confession, thanksgiving, intercession, and petition as elements of prayer
- to more fully understand stewardship
- **to recite Ephesians 2:8-9 from memory**
At age 8 (3rd Grade), children will also be able:
  - to understand that sin is going against God’s will and interferes our relationship with God
  - to understand the implications of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection
  - to demonstrate familiarity with the way material is arranged in the Bible
  - to prize his/her own copy of the Bible as a personal possession
  - to find things more readily in the Bible
  - to locate Bible passages and read a few simple verses from the Bible
  - to fully understand stewardship
  - **to recite the Books of the New Testament from memory**

At age 9 (4th Grade), children will also be able:
  - to grasp events of the life of Jesus in their chronological order
  - to begin to understand the church liturgy
  - to understand that the Holy Spirit works through the church
  - to understand how to use Bible “helps,” such as maps
  - to show some understanding of the Gospel record of Jesus
  - to initiate stewardship independently
  - **to recite the Books of the Old Testament from memory**

At age 10 (5th Grade), children will also be able:
  - to understand what God does through the means of grace
  - to know the meaning of “Christ” as used in relation to Jesus
  - to study the lives of some of the outstanding heroes of the Church
  - to develop more fully the sense of the Bible as a whole, including more study of the prophetic writings along the historical and narrative materials
  - to learn to use the Bible itself for study and investigation, with particular emphasis on people and specific facts
  - to have a better understanding of various books of the Bible
  - to fully understand and initiate stewardship
  - **to recite the 10 Commandments from memory**