



St. James Louisa

Family Newsletter

August 2023

Our Commitment: Walk in love with God



We hope you have had a wonderful summer and are ready for the new school year. And we cannot wait to see your smiling faces back at St. James for Sunday school!

The following is a letter from Debbie Wesley, Director of Children & Youth Activities. We will also mail a hard copy of the letter to be sure all families have a chance to read it.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

(Hebrews 10:25)

Dear Parents,

I am excited to write to you about a schedule change coming to the Sunday school program at St. James. Beginning in September, we will continue to offer Sunday school every week starting at 9:45 a.m.; however, the children and teachers will remain in the classroom for the entirety of the 10 a.m. service on every Sunday, **EXCEPT** on the last Sunday of the month, when we will bring the children up during announcement time for a children's homily and to share the Eucharist with their church family. This schedule change will allow us more time

for instruction in scripture, sacraments, and prayer, as well as interactive activities, crafts, and music to reinforce our spiritual lessons.

Our dedicated team of teachers is committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and stimulating environment for your children, and we hope that you will make the commitment to entrust a portion of their faith formation to us every week. As parents ourselves, we recognize the powerful influences, both positive and negative, that your child encounters throughout their week and hope that their experiences at St. James reflect the love of Christ and reinforce the prayers, Bible stories, and faith lessons they learn at home.

The Bible verse from Hebrews - “Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it”—is often quoted to encourage parents to bring their children to church and/or to teach their children faith lessons at home. There is some validity to this claim. It is likely that at some point in your childhood, someone introduced you to God, or took you to church to learn about God, creating a lasting impression that you wish to replicate in the life of your child. One hour may be a very small portion of your child’s week, but it can be a very important one where they learn that they are both beloved children of God and beloved members of a church family.

As the new school year begins, we hope you will make church and Sunday school attendance a priority for your family, and to celebrate the fall Sunday school season, we would like to invite you to an ice cream social in the parish hall on Sunday, Aug. 20, after the 10:00 a.m. service. We look forward to seeing you and your children at St. James!

Blessings,

Debbie Wesley

Director of Children and Youth Activities

St. James Episcopal Church Louisa

Sunday Sundaes on August 20

Join us in the Parish Hall after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, August 20, to celebrate the end of summer vacation and the resumption of Sunday School with ice cream sundaes!!

