

Sunday School 2017

The Adult Sunday School

This past year the Lord blessed us with faithful teachers, interesting classes, and unique visitors. Bob Rogland taught a class on *Jesus' Kingdom Parables*. Craig Morse taught a class on Psalm 23 – *A Christian's Walk of Faith*. Dale Woodard taught a class entitled *Albrecht Dürer – Reformed before Reformed Was Cool*. Bob Case taught a class on the book of Ester, *Ester is not Yester - Politics Matters*. The Rev. Dr. Max Rogland, visiting Old Testament scholar, taught one of the Ester classes. In preparation for the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Reformation, Elder Hannula taught *Highlights of the German Reformation*.

Pastor Rayburn interviewed the Rev. John Rug about his ministry and the church in Chile. As part of the 500th anniversary celebration of the Protestant Reformation, Pastor Rayburn interviewed Dr. Hans Madueme, a native Nigerian with both M.D. and PhD degrees. Dr. Madueme has written and spoken widely on the historicity of Adam and Eve and the doctrine of original sin.

Pastor Rayburn taught the Foundations Class for those new to the church which covered the most fundamental teachings of our Christian Faith and introduced the distinctive elements of the Presbyterian tradition. Elder Hannula led us in a time of reflection and prayer for our brothers and sisters around the globe on the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Rev. Daniel Murphree led a class on racial reconciliation, *State of the (Dis)Union*.

Dawn Darby led a ladies' class reading and discussing Mindy Belz' book *They Say We Are Infidels*. Then the class read and discussed Elder Hannula's book, *Heralds of the Reformation: Thirty Biographies of Sheer Grace*.

Regina Kamke led a ladies' class studying the book of Luke. The group also read psalms and prayed together for our church and each other. The class then studied the book *Alive in the Spirit* by A.W. Tozer.

The Genesis 39 classes, one for men and one for women, met at the end of each month. Men's classes included personal testimonies, encouragement, parenting, fatherhood, marriage advice, and resolutions. Junior High boys had a special orientation. Women's classes included *Our Children in a Godless Culture*, *Building My Marriage*, and *Mindfulness* as well as a time of prayer. Gwen Westerlund, a professional counselor, presented part two of her weekend seminar, *Building Blocks of Emotional Health & Freedom*. The High School girls met with Wendy Tamminga.

For the English as a second language Sunday school class Andrew Milton taught *The Life of Jesus Christ: The Gospel of Mark*, an ESL Bible study by J. Wesley Eby. Next Kathy Lewis read aloud *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.

High School Sunday School

Pastor Nicoletti taught the high school class and continued his series on 1 & 2 Samuel. Then the class discussed a lecture by Dr. Anthony Bradley from Kings College. Pastor Nicoletti then began a year-long study of Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

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Children's Sunday School – Adam Skrivan

The Lord continued to bless the Children's Sunday School program in 2017 with dedicated Sunday School teachers and leaders. They work hard each week to proclaim the truth of the Gospel to our young children and they weekly demonstrate their commitment to the Lord's command in Proverbs 22:6 to "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Children's Sunday School Teachers & Leaders

2 year-olds, Dorothy Proctor & Denise Welch

3 year-olds, Sandra Chiou & Jane Lewellen

4 year-olds, Debbie Mellott & Kim St. John

Kindergarten, Janet Jack

1st and 2nd grade girls, Beth James & Becky Wilson

1st and 2nd grade boys, Max LeFebvre & Zach St. John

3rd and 4th grade girls, Constance Heermann

3rd and 4th grade boys, Phil Perkins

5th and 6th grade girls, Ruth Perkins

5th and 6th grade boys, Craig Jimmink & Jonathan Nichols

7th and 8th grade girls, Amber Garriott & Annika St. John

7th and 8th grade boys, Kirk McMillan & Jason Van Gilder

3 year-olds - Kindergarten Opening Exercises, Amy Lawty

1st – 4th grade Closing Exercises, Jennifer Sullivan & Abraham Sullivan

Memory work Miriam Shelden, Margot Kelly, Leanne Van Gilder, Ali Nichols & Tina LeFebvre

On Easter Sunday, the congregation enjoyed a time of fellowship and refreshments in DeSoto Hall during the Sunday School hour. Promotion Sunday was observed on June 4th, which included recognition of the memory work accomplishments of our children and thanksgivings for the hard work of our teachers. During August, the Sunday School program took a month-long break, and the Women of the Church provided refreshments for a time of fellowship in DeSoto Hall. The children did a wonderful job with the Christmas Program on December 17th under the leadership of Heidi Bone, who directed the program and the pageant. We gave thanks to the Lord for another year of learning.

After 9 years of faithful service to the Sunday School program, Hilary Kvale took a well-deserved retirement from her role as the Sunday School Coordinator. Much of how the Sunday School Program operates today, from the memory work reward program to the Junior High Electives is thanks to Hilary's leadership over the program. The entire Sunday School program owes a huge debt of gratitude to Hilary for her service to this ministry.

In 2018, please remember to pray for the ministry of the Children's Sunday School and to thank the Lord for using these servants to raise up another generation in the Lord's Word. For the teachers, please pray that they would be able to sustain the enthusiasm, energy, and gifts that the Lord has given them, and for the students that they will use this ministry to continue to grow in the Lord.