

**Children's Chapel & Sunday School Newsletter**  
November 28, 2021: "The First Sunday of Advent"

Dear Families,

I would like to share some information about Children's Chapel and Sunday School at St. Michael's, and provide resources for those families not yet attending programming on Sunday morning.

***Information about the program:***

The program we are using is called **Spark: Activate Faith**. We are using the lectionary version of **Spark**, which means what we learn in Children's Chapel and Sunday School parallel the readings in worship that Sunday... usually. There are two tracts in the lectionary cycle, and the Spark program may use one track while the service may use the other, but the basic message will be similar. Another reason for occasional differences in scripture passages used is that the message may be better understood by children through a different reading.

***An overview of this past Sunday's lesson (November 28, 2021):***

Sunday was the beginning of the church year and also a new season: *The First Sunday of Advent*. The lesson used in Children's Chapel and Sunday School was the *First Lesson* which was read at worship. Jeremiah prophesied that God would appoint a future king who was a descendant of King David, a beloved former king of the Israelites. This scripture passage was an important one, as it held God's promise of freedom and independence, and offered hope for a better life for God's chosen people. The Family Activity Page offers shared activities which you and your family can use during the week that reinforce and extend learning and worship experiences.

***Highlights of what we did in Sunday School and Children's Chapel:***

- The central concept for the lesson is that we can have hope because God keeps His promises.
- Sang the theme song for the Spark program, "Spark My World". We are learning sign language for it, too!
- Sang "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands".
- Read Jeremiah 33: 14-17.
- Discussed God's promise (prophecy) to the Israelites.
- Shared about times of waiting and hoping.
- Identified the idea of hope in the Advent season and God's promise being fulfilled through sending Jesus to us.
- Created a "hope" refrigerator magnet.
- Introduced how the church celebrates this special season by using the color blue for the priest's stole and the altar/pulpit linens. Blue represents the Virgin Mary, hope and anticipation.
- Advent wreaths were sent home.

The link to the Family Activity page and the songs used on Sunday can be found in the box at the top of this email. I hope these resources support your family's growth in Christian faith and provide a connection until you and your family can again join us.

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or anything you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to touch base. I can be reached at [phyllis@lovelearnslove.org](mailto:phyllis@lovelearnslove.org) or please call me at St. Michael's at 419.531.1616.

Thank you for being a part of Children's Chapel and Sunday School at St. Michael's through this virtual connection. I am excited about learning and growing in faith together!

In Christian love,  
*Phyllis Detwiler*  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries