

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MINISTRY - FALL 2024

Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Sunday School)

God Knows Me Inside Out

October 6 - November 24 from 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Psalm 139:13 says, *“You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something.”* (Message Bible)

This fall we are teaming up with *Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke, Virginia* where together, being church across the country, our elementary kids are exploring what it means that God knows us “Inside Out.” We are going to explore what it means to be angry, scared, disgusted, sad and joyful through a Biblical lens. God made us with big emotions and we are going to discover how they can all be used to worship and glorify God.

At Gustaf Adolf (GA), we will be walking alongside Abiding Presence Lutheran Church as we implement their Sunday morning faith formation program which follows a workshop model. This model allows kids to pick an age-appropriate workshop to engage in for the seven week session.

GA Workshop Model - adopted from Abiding Presence Lutheran Church:

What if we miss a Sunday during the session?

No problem! Our Sunday School workshops change topics about every 7 weeks to help students engage in a wide variety of Bible stories, workshop options, and themes throughout the school year. Your family can come all seven weeks in the session, or just once.

What does a “typical” Sunday morning look like?

On Sunday’s during our Faith Formation Hour, your kiddos will head directly to their workshop to check-in, receive a name tag, and open with an activity to help the group learn more about one another. There will be lots of people to help you find your way if you aren’t sure where to go.

After kids check in at their workshop, they will have a Bible lesson, which draws on the same Bible story for all the groups. Then, they will move into their workshop activity. Here they will engage in a hands-on way which could look like building the church with Legos, learning some football drills in the flag football workshop, or creating mosaic mirrors in the artistic minds workshop. Finally, each group will wrap up with a closing prayer. This prayer is the same each week with the hopes that the kids can memorize it and use it at home.

Where do the workshops take place?

We are planning for the majority of our workshops this session to be indoors with one outdoor option (weather permitting). We encourage kids to come dressed to engage in their workshop activity. Some groups will require tennis shoes. At Gustaf Adolf, we believe you can worship in your sneakers or your dress shoes. Coming dressed for Sunday School is a perfect way to be ready to worship, too!

What about kids with exceptional (special) needs?

If your child has exceptional needs, please be in touch with **Pastor Jaime Decker**. We seek to make our Sunday School workshops as inclusive as possible. Often, we have enough workshop leaders that we can have someone working one-on-one with a kiddo who might need a little bit of special attention. We have professionals in the

congregation who work with kids who are on hand to coach our workshop leaders. If your child wants to give Sunday School a try, we will work with you to make it a positive experience.

Who are the workshop leaders?

One of the amazing things about our Sunday School model is that the vast majority of our workshop leaders are 10th-12th grade high school students.

Our workshop choices draw on the passions and skills of the students teaching them. Why Legos? Because we have master builders who love building creations with Legos. Why flag football? Because we have football players on our GA Fellows team. Our workshop leaders are passionate and knowledgeable about what they are teaching. That means they *want* to be here and cannot wait to share what they know with the kids.

To be a workshop leader, 10th-12th graders must participate in our GA Fellows program. Through this stipend program, they receive training in working with kids, how to teach bible stories and opportunities for faith formation. We think having older youth model faith and involvement in the church to our elementary school kids is incredibly powerful. Throughout the workshop time, we have adults walking around to jump in to offer support as needed.