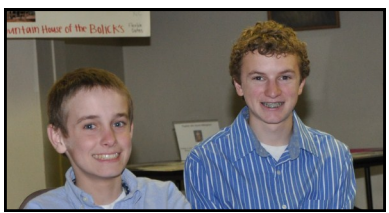




Christian Learning Guide

Fall 2011

Sunday School kicks off September 11!



We've all heard what an exciting adventure the Christian life is supposed to be... abundant, purpose-driven, and passionate. Where can you find the "MORE" you have been looking for and go deeper in faith?

You can begin your adventure this week, at 10 am, September 11, by joining the Rally Day kickoff in the Fellowship Hall, directly beneath the main sanctuary.

When we gather, we will all enjoy a delicious continental breakfast, you will meet the teachers, and you will discover what is being offered on Sunday mornings.

Children will study the timeless stories of Scripture in an exciting way that holds their interest. Not only will they have fun but they

will also grow in faith as they fall more deeply in love with Jesus.

Youth will consider the complexities of being a teenager while learning to apply solid Christian principles to key life decisions.

Adults will find a safe, non-judgmental space where men and women can form Christian community and grow in faith.

So this is your invitation. Come! Show up! Continue the grand adventure of being a disciple of Jesus. Find the "MORE" you have been looking for! Watch how Jesus transforms your life into something of significance beyond your wildest imaginings.

Connecting Faith + Life

Would you like to be added to our weekly email update, "FaithLife"?

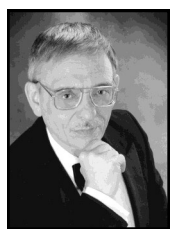
You'll catch all the upcoming events for that week and enjoy a brief inspirational message from one of our pastors.

FaithLife — sign up by visiting our website, stjohms-salisbury.org (click eStJohns), or call the church office.



Fall Concert Series

In addition to the many learning opportunities listed in this publication, you may be interested in our **Fall Concert Series**.



Organist Andre Lash, Sunday, September 25, 3 pm in the main sanctuary. Dr. Lash is instructor of organ at the UNC-G School of Music.

St John's Men's Chorus presents its annual Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 11, 4 pm Main Sanctuary

The choirs of St John's present "Lessons and Carols," Sunday, December 18, 11 am in the Main Sanctuary



Fall Ministry Guide
St John's Lutheran Church
200 W Innes Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

Visit us at www.stjohms-salisbury.org

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Children's classes

Splash! Christian learning begins with Splash! A CD every year and a monthly letter promotes faith formation for infants from birth through age 3. Splash! connects churches to families for support and encouragement and provides fun and easy ideas for bringing faith into your child's everyday life. Contact Pastor Jan.



Nursery — a nursery is staffed Sunday mornings from 8:30 am to noon. During the Sunday School hour the nursery is welcome to all infants to age 3. Children ages 4 and older are invited to Rotational Sunday School described below. The nursery is located in Room 224 (upper level, next to adult classrooms).

Elementary School — After viewing the tremendous enthusiasm and response to Vacation Bible School, Sunday School 2011-12 will follow the same rotational format of teaching Bible stories through art, skills and games, computer lab, creative drama, music, science, video, and cooking. We are looking forward to a wonderful Sunday School year and to your family being part of learning about God.

Students age 3 through 5th grade will begin in room 104, just off the playground (first level). Follow the signs. Please note that on September 11 (Rally Day) all students will begin in the fellowship hall.

Youth classes

Middle School (6th through 8th grades) —
teachers: Preston Mitchell, Judy Klusman, Room 115.

Middle-school students are reaching a point in their lives where connecting the dots of all they are learning becomes increasingly important. This year, the Middle School class will explore bringing a big-picture perspective of scripture to their lives. Although this is not a series on world views, it will give them a basis for their Christian worldview. Learning God's story will help them gain understanding and answers along their faith journey.

High School — teacher: Melanie Kirchin

This year, high-school students will explore Biblical stories of faith through the *Growing in Christ* curriculum. This intelligent, somewhat random, highly engaging series produced for a post-modern audience is not only centered in scripture but also has an on-line component that connects events happening in the world around them with the topic of the lesson. The High School class meets in the youth room in the lower level of the main sanctuary.



Wednesdays! at St John's

Wednesdays! at St John's is a time for families to gather during the fall and spring for fellowship, learning, and great food. There's something for all ages!

Let's start out with ... **Weekday Church School!**

There can hardly be a better way to spend an afternoon than with Weekday Church School! Art, music, and learning programs are scheduled for age 3 through grade 5. We begin at 4:00 and end at 5:30. For more information contact directors Kathy Rusher, krusher@carolina.rr.com or Marie Shehan, marieshehan@bellsouth.net.



Wednesdays! meals begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with an excellent buffet dinner that's unbelievably priced. It's the best deal in town! No reservations are necessary, although price breaks are given for those who purchase a season pass. Contact the church office. Meals are served September 14-November 16 and January 11-the end of Lent. The monthly menu can be accessed through our website, stjohns-salisbury.org.

Wednesdays! programming begins at 6:15 and wraps up by 7 with a variety of learning opportunities for adults. During the season of Lent, the meal is followed by worship in the sanctuary. Fall programs include:

September 15 — kick off

Alpha Course, Room 215/217

Life Keys: Discover Who You Are, Room 211/213

Beth Moore Bible Study for Women on the Book of Esther, Room 218

"Stuck in a Rut" Bible Study for Women, Room 210

October 15 — Roger Hull's "The Cathedral" series begins

November 16 — final Wednesdays! meal and program for the fall.

We'll resume January 11.

More than Money Matters. The free program runs September 29-October 27 in the Center. The class provides biblically centered advice and tools for sound money management and financial planning. Call Joanna Smith at St. John's Child Development Center to sign up, 704-636-6756.

Bible Studies for Adults

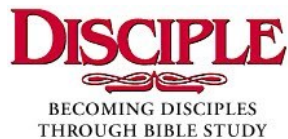
The Alpha Course. Many folks continue to wrestle with some of the very basic questions of faith: What is the point of life? What happens when we die? Is forgiveness possible? What relevance does Jesus have for our lives today? What happens after death?

The Alpha Course gives you the chance to ask those questions ... and then provides thought-provoking responses in a relaxed, non-threatening, low-key, fun way. Seriously. No question is too simple or too hostile. None! Alpha meets for 10 weeks each Wednesday, beginning September 14. We'll begin with dinner in the library. For more information contact Camille or Steve Butner, cbutner@carolina.rr.com.



Life Keys: Discover Who You Are. Have you ever asked yourself: Why did God make me the person I am? Or, what is God's purpose for me now? Or, why am I like this and they're like that? Or, I wish I could do that but how do I get the courage? All of us have asked these questions at some time, maybe even this morning. We all want to feel significant and in step with God.

This September 14 we will begin an 8 week study called "Life Keys: Discover Who You Are," addressing those life questions that constantly reach out for attention. A free will offering will be accepted to cover some of the material costs. Contact Mark Ritchie for more information, mritchie1@carolina.rr.com.



Disciple Bible Study. The Disciple Bible Study is a perfect complement for those who have completed The Alpha Course and are ready for the next step. As one of the most highly-respected series in the church today, Disciple studies are limited to 12 people. Disciple 1 is led by Pastor Rhodes. Disciple 2 is led by Pastor Jan.

Disciple 1 begins September 6 and continues Tuesdays from noon to 2 pm in room 218. Disciple 2 also begins September 6, meeting on Tuesdays, noon to 2 pm, in the library.

Weekly Word Bible Study. Participants study the upcoming lessons for Sunday worship as defined by the Lutheran lectionary. Roger Hull is the facilitator, providing helpful hints and background material. Participants are always full of their own insight, twists, and studied observations. They meet on Wednesdays from noon to 1:00 in the library. Contact Roger for more information, rogerhull@ctc.net.

Adult classes

There are eight adult classes meeting this fall covering a variety of topics and issues of faith. Most the adult classes meet in the upper level of the educational building near the church offices.

Brooks, Peeler, Fisher-Cox Class meets in the St John's Library. This fall Pastor Clarence Derrick will be teaching a class on "The Seven Letters to Seven Churches" in Revelations 2 and 3.

Genesis Class meets in rooms 211-213. This class is studying the book of Ephesians, with a discussion-based curriculum written by Josh Hunt. Each lesson consists of 20 or so questions that gets us talking (not that it takes much to get us talking)! The group will choose another book of the Bible to study once this series is complete.

Miller Class meets in room 218 and is led by Dr. Gary Freeze. The class will continue its study in the Augsburg series. These studies cover a wide range of biblical books and themes each year. It is a comprehensive and continuous study of scripture to inform your Christian faith and discipleship in daily life.

Sojourners Class meets in room 216. This class explores spiritual truths from multiple traditions searching for ways to apply life-affirming principles to everyday interactions with humankind. It offers a safe venue for the examination of one's individual faith in a loving and accepting atmosphere. Kick-off is September 25, with a presentation on "Disintegration," by Eugene Robinson.

Martin Luther Class meets in rooms 215-217. This class will continue its study on the Book of Acts, led by Richard Soderberg.

Discovery Class meets in room 214. This is a welcoming Sunday school class facilitated by Steve Butner and others. Our Curriculum varies. This year, we will be using a Purpose-Driven Group Resource. Come be transformed with us as we begin connecting, growing, developing, sharing and surrendering our lives to Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

New Young Adult Sunday School Class meets in room 210 next to the prayer room. This exciting new class is for young adults around ages 20 to 35. It explores God's purpose for our lives using the curriculum *Doing Life Together*. If you're a young adult and not in a Sunday School class, please, come join us as we grow closer to God and God's family. Tim Kafitz is facilitator.

Inquirers' Class meets in rooms 211-213. This is a class designed for those who want to learn more about St John's and the Lutheran church. Although open to all, the class is particularly geared to those seeking membership at St John's. **Oct. 2 through Nov 6**, led by Pastors Rhodes and Jan.



New member brunch

The Journey: Confirmation



Confirmation is offered for 7th and 8th grade students on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The purpose is three-fold:

1. to prepare early teens to live in the world as disciples
2. provide the tools for students to claim Jesus as Lord and Savior
3. guide students along a path of faith formation.

Confirmation students meet on the first and third Sundays of each month (September through May, 5:30-7:30 pm) for dinner, and creative faith sharing. Over the course of two years the students focus on the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism. A series of overnight retreats, a weekend retreat Feb. 3-5 at Lutheridge on Holy Baptism and a week-long camp at Lutheridge round out the program.

For more information, please contact Pastor Rhodes at rhodes@stjohns-salisbury.org.

First Communion



Holy Communion is a reminder of the last meal shared by Jesus and his disciples before Jesus died and a physical means of experiencing God's grace through which the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation come to us.

St John's invites children* to participate in a series of First Communion classes so that they can better understand and enjoy the richness of the sacrament. An introductory class will be held on Wednesday, January 18, followed by three weeks of in-home study and a 1st Communion Family Day on Saturday morning, February 4. 1st Communion Sunday is February 12.

Sign up begins January 1 . For more information visit our website (click "life passages") or contact Pastor Jan, jan@stjohns-salisbury.org.

** Normally 5th grade students are involved in 1st communion instruction at St John's; but parents who feel their child is ready to receive the sacrament are welcome to register for the class after consulting with one of our pastors.*

Youth League

We offer an outstanding program for middle and high school students that builds life-long friendships, wrestles with key questions of faith/life, reaches out in love to our neighbor, and invites teens into a grace-filled relationship with Jesus Christ.

For Middle School Students

In addition to Confirmation (see page 4), there's **Middle School League**. Youth Group time for middle school students alternates Sundays with Confirmation. 6th, 7th and 8th graders meet for high-energy games, group building, and servant projects. League begins on the 1st and 3rd Sundays with dinner at 5:30. We'll wrap things up at 7:30pm.

Barnabas Connection. Our Barnabas program reaches out to no more than 12 at-risk youth at Knox Middle School by connecting them to community artists and other adult mentors from St John's. The weekly program (Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 pm) shares the gospel through the words, art, and actions of the leaders. Students try their hand at some advanced artwork, including pottery, stained glass and mosaics.

For High School Students

Senior High League. At the core of our Senior High program is League, which meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. during the school year.

2012 ELCA Youth Gathering. The highlight of our summer youth ministry program is the Senior High Mission Trip. This year, high school students will be invited to participate in the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 18-22, 2012. The theme is **Citizens with the Saints** and the event will include Bible study, service work, worship, focused study areas, experiential learning, special events, dances and tours. Registration begins October 9. Visit www.elca.org and search for 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering or talk with the pastors for more info.

Bishop's School is a weeklong learning experience for high school seniors (those who are either entering or have completed the 12th grade) offered every year in mid-June at Southern Seminary. It is a unique opportunity for young people who are seeking to explore their faith at a depth level to study, discuss, explore, engage, and serve with distinguished scholars and peers through classes, small groups, cross-cultured encounters, and service projects. For more information please contact Pastor Jan.

The St. John's Orchestral Ensemble. This new music ministry will begin at 6:15 pm Wednesday, September 14, in the Youth Music Room to prepare hymn accompaniment and instrumental enhancements for worship. Any instrumental voice is welcomed to join. A certain level of confidence and ability to read music is very helpful. *Rob Durocher and Aleksandr Witt, directors*

