

**Children's Music Ministry  
Parent Information Sheet 2011/2012**

*FEAST Food, Education, Adoration, and Singing Together at Trinity!*

	Learning for Children	Music for Children/ Youth	Learning for Adults	Music for Adults	Worship
<b>4:30</b>	<b>Godly Play</b> in Room 122 from 4:30-5:00 Preschool/ Elementary Students	<b>Musikers in the Making (ages 3, 4, and K)</b> in 218/220 from 4:30-5:00			
<b>5:00</b>	Dinner begins in Hyson Hall at 5:00 and is served until 6:30				
<b>5:30</b>		<b>Cherub Choir (Grades 1/2)</b> in 218/220 from 5:30-6:15  <b>Generingers (Grade 3 through adult)</b> in the Bell Room from 5:30-6:15			
<b>6:30</b>	<b>Godly Play</b> in Room 122 from 6:30-7:30 Preschool/ Elementary Students	<b>Joyful Choristers (Grades 3-6)</b> in 218/220 from 6:30-7:15  <b>LifeSong Singers (Grades 7-12)</b> from 6:30-7:15	Various classes and small groups meet from 6:30-7:30. Check the schedule posted in the hallway outside Hyson Hall	<b>Daybreak</b> (8:30 worship service vocal ensemble) from 6:30-7:45 in Music A - 232 or the sanctuary	
<b>7:30</b>					Special Midweek Worship Services in the Sanctuary during the seasons of Advent and Lent

## Philosophy - The role of music and children in the church

Music is a gift from God. In the church, the gift of music is a means of

- worshipping God
- learning about God
- building and strengthening faith
- expressing faith
- serving God
- expressing emotions (joy, sadness, etc.)
- building relationships

If music is a gift from God, then God deserves our absolute best when we offer that gift back to God. Our "absolute best" includes working toward developing a thorough understanding of music, including how to read it, how to produce it, and how to enjoy it. Therefore, the gift of music in the church is also about

- music education

At Trinity, we are fortunate to be able to offer a graded music ministry for children and youth ages 3 through 18. Each music experience/choir focuses on one or more of the uses mentioned above.

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### Musikers in the Making

**Purpose:** To provide a strong, positive foundation for more formal choral music instruction in later years. Musikers is hopefully the first step on a path to music literacy, serving God through worship leadership in choirs, and a lifetime of joy through and with music.

**For Children:** Ages 3, 4, and Kindergarten

**Meets:** Wednesdays, 4:30-5:00 and Tuesdays from 12:30-1:00 in 218/220

**Teacher:** Andrea Baxter

**Class Size:** 15 students and parents

**What will we use music to accomplish?** learning about God, music education, expressing and communicating emotions, building relationships

#### Goal (Students):

- Children will be exposed to a variety of music through listening, singing, moving, and playing instruments.
- Children will discover the difference between whisper, talking, singing, and shouting voices and will begin to be able to identify the difference and produce each successfully.
- Children will learn stories and songs about Jesus (year 1), God (year 2), and God, My Family and Me (year 3).
- Children will discover the joy of singing and moving together.

#### Expectations (Parents):

- Be present (both in body and Spirit) through full participation with your child, serving as a model.
- Be accepting of all musical responses from children in the class. Also, be aware that some children this age refrain from active engagement but are still absorbing information.
- Purchase a Musikers packet for \$25 to play in the car, use at home, etc. Please let me know if the cost is a hardship or will prohibit your involvement. Please make checks payable to *Trinity Lutheran Church* and indicate "Musikers in the Making" in the memo field.
- Enjoy music at home during the week as a means of reinforcing songs and movements.

## **Cherub Choir**

**Purpose:** To provide a strong, positive first choral music experience that serves as a musical/spiritual foundation to build upon in later years. The focus of this choir is on helping children to use their own unique singing voices to produce melodies to create a beautiful choral sound, and to begin to understand the language of music.

**For Children:** 1st/2nd Grade

**Meets:** Wednesdays, 5:30-6:15 in 218/220

**Director:** Andrea Baxter

**Accompanist:** Sue Sheppard

**What will we use music to accomplish?** worshiping God, learning about God, music education, expressing emotions, building relationships, building faith

### **Goals:**

- Children will learn to use their singing voices freely in a safe environment.
- Children will learn musical concepts such as melodic direction, musical form, and reading basic rhythms.
- Children will learn about the church year, including seasons and festivals.
- Children will begin to understand some parts of worship and the choir's role as worship leader.

## **Joyful Choristers**

**Purpose:** To provide a strong, positive and challenging choral music experience that includes the development of music reading skills and part-singing, and a broad understanding of the choir's role as servants.

**For Children:** 3rd through 6th Grade

**Meets:** Wednesdays, 6:30-7:15 in 218/220

**Director:** Andrea Baxter

**Accompanist:** Sue Sheppard

**What will we use music to accomplish?** serving God, worshiping God, learning about God, music education, expressing emotions, building relationships, building faith, expressing faith

### **Goals:**

- Children will learn to use their singing voices independently, developing the ability to listen/adjust while singing.
- Children will learn to read music, developing a more in-depth understanding of melody and rhythm.
- Children will learn to lead a group of people in prayer.
- Children will understand what it means to serve God through leading in worship, singing for people who are homebound or in nursing homes, etc.
- Children will build relationships with each other and with God through a trip (even years) and participation in a musical (odd years).
- Children will learn a hymn-of-the-month, building a repertoire of diverse (old, new, multicultural, stylistically diverse) songs of faith.

## Generingers

**Purpose:** To provide an instrumental experience that allows for further development of music reading skills, teamwork, and musicality. Generingers is the only musical experience at Trinity that allows children/adults to work toward the creation of music together.

**For Children:** 3rd Grade through Adult

**Meets:** Wednesdays, 5:30-6:15 in the Bell Room

**Director:** Tracy Calvaresi

**What will we use music to accomplish?** worshipping God, music education, building relationships, building faith

### Goals:

- Children/Adults will learn to use proper handbell technique.
- Children/Adults will learn/develop the ability to read rhythms and notes.
- Children/Adults will build intergenerational relationships allowing for a unique spiritual growth opportunity.

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## Worship Participation - The Details

When the children are scheduled to sing in worship, please have them in the Choir Room (Room 218/220) ½ hour before the start of worship (arrive at 8:00 a.m. when scheduled for 8:30 worship, arrive at 9:15 a.m. when scheduled for 9:45 worship). This brief rehearsal time is a chance to refresh the children's memories, to warm-up voices, and to prepare for worship (get bulletins, find hymns, etc.).

Dress for all groups when singing in worship is black on the bottom, white on the top.

**Cherub Choir:** After rehearsing, children will meet parents in the lobby at about 5 minutes prior to the start of worship. Children will sit with their families (please try to sit near the front). If you are asked to help out when the children sing in worship, please

- be at the pre-worship rehearsal to assist, if needed
- encourage children to use the bathroom before worship
- help walk the children downstairs

**Joyful Choristers:** children will sit together as a choir in worship.

## Joyful Choristers - It's a trip year!

This year, Joyful Choristers will travel to participate in a choir festival with Michael Bedford, nationally known composer, clinician, and director, in Silver Spring, MD. Our trip will take place over the last weekend in February. We will leave on Friday evening, 2/24. The festival will take place on Sunday afternoon, so Saturday will be an opportunity for us to see some of the sites in Washington DC! More information will follow.

## Communication

Reminders about Sunday worship participation and important information will be sent via email. I sometimes also distribute information or place sign up sheets outside the choir room.

## A Final Note

"Participation in a children's choir is the most important component of a child's Christian education." *Helen Kemp World-Renown Composer and Director of Children's Choirs*

Helen can say this because she knows that participation in a children's choir means that children not only learn about God and grow in faith, but they *practice* their faith as well. Children practice their faith by serving God through worship leadership. And besides...music and songs of the faith will stay with children for a lifetime!