

The St. Thomas Christian Formation program seeks to create an environment where both young and old may develop and enrich their faith through education and encounter Jesus Christ in a way that will change us for life.



Our children are the church of today. The ways we choose to welcome them determine whether they will grow up with a sense of God's presence in their lives.

Author Gertrud Mueller Nelson has said, "Children are living in the Kingdom of God today. Will we follow them in, or will we chase them out?"

At St. Thomas, we understand that our children have real, undiluted experiences of the divine, and that those experiences happen with or without the help of parents and teachers. We do our best to listen to their stories and offer our children a lens—the Gospel of Christ—through which they can learn to make sense of the relationship with God that they are already enjoying.

Read about our philosophy of children's formation in more detail on our website: www.stthomasmedina.org, under "Children."



If you have any questions about our programs, would like to help out, or would like to receive emails about upcoming events for children, please contact:

The Rev. Karen Haig
Priest Associate, 425-454-9541
karen@stthomasmedina.org



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Children @ st. thomas



2011-
2012



Children in the Eucharist



Participation in our weekly liturgy is primary faith formation. Children as young as 3rd grade are invited to become acolytes or lectors. Email

Jan Wang at jan@thewangfamily.us for more information on acolytes. To become a lector, email the **Rev. Karen Haig** at karen@stthomasmedina.org.

St. Thomas Choristers

Our choral program for young singers consists of two choirs: **Junior Choristers** (grades 1-2) and **Senior Choristers** (grades 3+). Singers increase their reading ability and learn to sing in parts in a supportive atmosphere that encourages creativity and personal development. Both groups sing at the 10:15 Eucharist once a month. There are no auditions for either group, and singers are invited to participate regardless of singing ability. The Junior and Senior Choristers are directed by **Marion Anderson**; you can reach him at anderson_marion@yahoo.com.



Childcare

Children are always welcome in church, even when they're having a hard day. But we also provide a childcare program during the 10:15 service and on some special occasions. Childcare Coordinator **Danielle Brzusek** welcomes all children in this group who are sturdy on their feet up through the age of three. Parents are occasionally asked to offer additional help. You can email Danielle at danibrz23@gmail.com.



Sunday School

Sunday school takes place most Sundays at 10:15 am during the first part of the Eucharist. The children break into three groups: Preschool (pre-K/K), Primary (grades 1-2), and Intermediate (grades 3-5). We use the Living the Good News curriculum. Children then come into church

around the time of the Peace. Email the Rev. **Karen Haig** at karen@stthomasmedina.org to get onto the Sunday school email list.



Kids' Club

This youth group for the younger set is open to kids in grades 3-5. We meet monthly after the 10:15 service for food, community-building fun, and creative service projects. See the Kids' Club brochure for more details.

Vacation Bible Camp

Each July, we set aside a week of mornings to engage our children deeply in faith formation and fun community building. In 2011, 90 children from ten different congregations participated in our Vacation Bible Camp. Our next camp will be held July 23-27, 2012.



Seasonal Events



Occasionally, we get families of young kids together for fellowship. This year, expect a Halloween party, and also "Welcome to the Table," a three-hour "mini-Vacation Bible Camp" in which parents and kids can learn about Holy Eucharist together.

Camp Huston

Our diocesan retreat center in the Cascades offers a camp experience for kids as young as 1st grade. Learn more at the Camp Huston website: www.huston.org.