

**Commission of Children's Nurture  
Congregational Report  
April 2008**

The Commission of Children's Nurture, which oversees all of the Children's Ministries for 3 year olds through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, would like to report the following information about what our ministry has been doing this past year and a little peek into what's coming up this year.

Cradle Roll, which is faithfully overseen by Margaret Niederhouse, is the first "educational" contact that we have with our youngest members. New parents are often looking for help in directing their infant's earliest religious training. They want to do something but don't know where to begin, especially before their child learns to talk. Materials are mailed out to each household on a periodic basis giving specific suggestions regarding the child's Christian growth; these materials emphasize the importance of the parents' own spiritual lives. This Program services children from birth through age two.

Sunday School, for 3 year olds through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, is under the guidance of our faithful Superintendent, Marla Blickhahn. Currently, Sunday School serves an average of 35 children. Attendance is still a concern, but seems to be improving. We need to help everyone understand that Sunday School and Youth Club are complimentary and the children need to attend both regularly. Sunday School offerings go to social ministry organizations that are recognized by the LCMS. Every three months, another organization is selected to receive the children's gifts. We are very grateful for all of the teachers and volunteers who are helping to make our Sunday School program a success. They all are doing an excellent job of sharing the message of Jesus to our younger generation and hopefully equipping them to continue in their relationship with Jesus as they enter the teen years. Marla has been working very hard at trying to implement more of a "team teaching" approach which would enable teachers to share the responsibilities of teaching a class.

This is exciting news...Youth Club just completed its 25<sup>th</sup> year!!!! We will be bringing this year to a close with a supper for the whole family followed by a carnival on April 30<sup>th</sup>. This celebration will continue on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> as we "officially" celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Youth Club centered worship services, a reception for everyone during Sunday School with refreshments, singing, and reminiscing and then a pot luck lunch and program. We are honored to have our former DCE, Paula Hoffman, join us to share in our rejoicing. Thanks to Youth Club Director, Amber Wortz and the Youth Club Board for their time and talents to make children want to come to Youth Club.

Wahoo! Vacation Bible School at ORL in July gave the children "A Wild Ride Through God's Word". A big THANK YOU to all the youth and adults who shared their love with the children at the "Avalanche Ranch". We are already "powering up" for this summer's VBS where kids will discover Jesus' miraculous power in a lab setting. We will be returning to the morning format this summer. After analyzing the last two years of evening VBS, we feel we reach more children during the morning timeframe. Please come join us. ORL will be oozing with exciting Bible adventures!

The Nursery, under the guidance of Jolyn Geuy, is open for business! Jolyn is doing a great job maintaining a safe and caring environment in the nursery. She is being assisted by Monte Cross who is making sure the nursery is staffed. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to care for our little ones.

Jennifer Beaird continues to be our "Shelf Elf" in the Media Center, keeping it well stocked and in very neat order. Yea, Jennifer!!!!

We had a wonderful Children's Christmas program again this year under the direction of Kendee Schroeder. The children put a tear in our eyes with a juBELLation as they rang out "We Three Kings" on their color coded bells. Thanks again to Kendee for sharing her time and talents. The traditional soup supper was hosted again by the Children's Nurture Board for all who attended the service.

As always, we look forward to next year with a goal of reaching out to the community and sharing all that our congregation has to offer.