

St. Paul's Lutheran School

RELIGION CURRICULUM

Revised on 3/7/2017

Philosophy Statement

We believe as disciples of Jesus Christ that all believers are commissioned to teach the truth of His Gospel to all people. As a Confessional Lutheran church and school, St. Paul's connection to God's Word and focus on Christ's work are essential. God's Word, both Law and Gospel, is the heart and core of all teaching at our school.

Scripture teaches that all people are by nature dead in sin and eternally lost, without any ability to save themselves or to do anything that is pleasing in God's sight (Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:23). Against this humbling background, our Christian education brings the joy-inspiring scriptural truth of the Gospel. We teach that God's Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed all people from sin and won full salvation and eternal life for all (John 3:16, Romans 5:12-21). Each child will be taught that the Gospel, in Word and sacrament, is the means through which the Holy Spirit brings people to faith to enjoy all the blessings of salvation. Each child will also be taught that the Gospel is the only means through which the Holy Spirit preserves people in true faith. The Spirit also fills their hearts with love to make them able and willing to lead God-pleasing lives. The two main doctrines of Law and Gospel will not only be emphasized in the religion curriculum, but they will also be integrated in all areas of school life.

Guiding Principles of our Religion Curriculum

Through God's Word each individual child is brought to realize:

- The Sinfulness of man
 - was created in the image of God: perfect and holy.
 - became a sinner deserving eternal damnation.
 - in no way, can save himself.

- The Grace of God
 - God has established salvation for all.
 - God loves the undeserving sinner and wants all to be saved.
 - He accomplished man's salvation by sending His Son Jesus Christ to atone for man's sins.
 - By His obedient life and innocent death in man's stead, Christ redeemed the world from sin, death, and hell.
 - God makes this redemption man's own by the working of the Holy Spirit through the Means of Grace.
 - Man's life in his time of grace.
 - God preserves man by providing all he needs for body and life.
 - God protects man from all harm and danger.

- God causes all things to work together for the believer's good.
- The Response of a Christian
 - The Christian recognizes himself as a child of God.
 - The Christian matures in faith through the regular use of the Word and Sacrament.
 - The Christian gives his life gladly in service to Christ and to his church.
 - The Christian conforms his life to the law of God out of faith and love towards Christ.
 - The Christian turns daily to God in prayer.
 - The Christian witnesses for Christ in his daily life.

Course Introduction

The key component in St. Paul's religion curriculum is the Christ-Light series, which presents both Old and New Testament Bible stories. Each lesson has a key truth that is meaningfully discussed and applied to the children's lives. This comprehensive curriculum gives students a strongly rooted foundation in God's Word, equipping them to live as children of God.

Exit goals for graduation

Upon graduation and in accordance with their God-given abilities, St. Paul's students will...

1. Know they are redeemed children of God through Jesus Christ their Savior.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of Bible history accounts.
3. Understand the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism.
4. Know and be able to apply Scripture to daily living.
5. Demonstrate a Christ-like attitude in every aspect of his/her living.
6. Develop a habit of regular worship, Bible study, and personal devotions.
7. Be a good steward of his/her time, talents and treasures.
8. Develop a habit of showing Christian love and forgiveness in dealing with others.
9. See their church as a place of refuge and strength in times of blessing, trial, temptation and tragedy.
10. Rest and rejoice in the comfort of God's amazing grace that has shaped them during their time at St. Paul's.
11. Possess a strong desire to continue their spiritual growth during high school and beyond.
12. Continue the legacy of Christian education by enrolling their children in Christian schools.

Course Standards

It is our desire that through a Christ-centered education the students will...

- understand that, because of their sinful nature, they are in need of a Savior, "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (**Romans 3:23**).
- be comforted knowing that they have forgiveness through Christ, "*He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world*" (**1 John 2:2**).
- have a desire to share their faith with others, "*We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard*" (**Acts 4:20**).

- live a life of love for God and his Word, *“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”* (Ephesians 5: 1-2).
- see the blessings of supporting and participating in their Christian Church family, *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers”* (Galatians 6:10).
- understand the blessings and edification received through baptism, regular Sunday worship, and the Lord’s Supper, *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned”* (Mark 16:16), *“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...”* (Hebrews 10: 24-25), *“Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf”* (1 Corinthians 10: 16-17).

Grade Level Measurable Objectives

Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2

Spiritual Truths:

By the end of **Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2**, students will:

- Know that the Bible is God’s Word.
- Know that God created all things and made mankind the crown of His creation.
- Understand that sin came into the world through Adam and Eve.
- Understand that sin is any thought, word or action contrary to God’s will.
- Realize they are sinful from birth.
- Know that Jesus is the Son of God and through Him forgiveness and heaven is theirs.
- Know that heaven and hell are real places.
- Realize that faith is a gift from God.
- Understand God as their Creator, Savior and Lord.
- Understand that pleasing words and actions are a loving response for all that God has done for them.
- Learn that in the Old Testament, God tells us about the creation of the world, fall into sin, promise of a Savior during the lives and times of people who lived before Jesus.
- To learn that in the New Testament, God tells us about the birth, perfect life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus during the lives and times of Jesus’ ministry and the early Church.
- Commit to memory Bible verses, Christian hymns and songs of praise.

Spiritual Attitudes:

By the end of **Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2**, students will:

- Feel sorry for their sins.
- Treasure Jesus as their Savior.
- Value themselves as children of God who are loved and forgiven.
- In view of God’s mercy, be kind, patient and forgiving.
- Put trust in God to provide for all their needs.

- Recognize material blessings as gifts from God for which they shall be thankful and share with others.
- Enjoy prayer as a means of talking to God.
- Respond to God's love through joyful singing of spiritual songs.
- Desire to grow in faith and love through studying God's Word and attending church regularly.

Spiritual Habits:

By the end of **Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2**, students will:

- Grow in God's Word through daily devotions and Bible lessons.
- Forgive others as Christ has forgiven them.
- Pray regularly.
- Respond to God's goodness through songs of praise.
- Grow in their faith by regular church attendance with their family.
- Honor God by obeying parents and others in authority.
- Respond to God's love by sharing, working with and helping others.
- Tell others about Jesus.

Grades 3 and 4

Spiritual Truths:

By the end of **Grades 3 and 4**, students will:

- Know the Bible as God's inspired word without error.
- Know that God created the world in six, normal, natural, consecutive days.
- Understand that sin came into the world through Adam and Eve.
- Understand that sin is thoughts, words and actions contrary to God's will.
- Understand that humans are sinful from birth and need a Savior.
- Know Jesus is the Son of God and promised Messiah who paid for their sins and secured forgiveness and heaven for them.
- Know that faith is a gift from God given to us by the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel message found in the Bible and Baptism.
- Know that Jesus is the Son of God and promised Messiah and through Him forgiveness and heaven is theirs.
- Know that heaven and hell are real places.
- Understand God as their Creator, Preserver, Savior and Lord.
- Understand prayer as an act of worship and means of communication with God.
- Learn that in the Old Testament, God tells us about many people who lived before Jesus came and looked forward to the promised Savior.
- To learn that in the New Testament, God tells us many things about Jesus and the Christians who also lived at that time
- Know the two main teachings of the Bible----Law and Gospel.
- Commit to memory Bible verses, Christian hymns and songs of praise.
- Know the Great Commission and look to share the good news of Jesus with everyone they meet.

Spiritual Attitudes:

By the end of **Grades 3 and 4**, students will:

- Have a contrite heart in view of their sinfulness.
- Treasure Jesus as their Savior.

- Value themselves as redeemed and forgiven children of God.
- In view of God's mercy, be kind, patient and forgiving.
- Put trust in God to provide for all their needs.
- Recognize material blessings as gifts from God for which they can be thankful and share with others.
- Value prayer as a means of communication with God.
- Respond to God's love through joyful singing of spiritual songs.
- Desire to grow in faith and love through studying God's Word and attending church regularly.
- Desire to glorify God in all thoughts, words and actions.

Spiritual Habits:

By the end of **Grades 3 and 4**, students will:

- Grow in God's Word through daily devotions and Bible lessons.
- Confess sins to God and to others.
- Freely forgive others as Christ forgives them.
- Read the Bible by oneself and with others.
- Honor God by honoring parents, teachers and other children.
- Pray regularly.
- Look to share their faith with others.
- Respond to God's goodness through songs of praise.
- Grow in their faith by regular church attendance with their family.
- Honor God by doing their best on whatever task is put before them.

Grades 5 and 6

Spiritual Truths:

By the end of **Grades 5 and 6**, students will:

- Know that the Bible is God's Word without error as verbally inspired by God.
- Realize that sins are thoughts, words and actions contrary to God's will.
- Know that original sin has been passed on to humankind through Adam and Eve and that all people are born sinful and need a Savior.
- Know that Jesus is the Son of God and promised Messiah who was born, suffered, died, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and will return on the last day.
- Know that God, by His almighty power, created the universe in six, normal, natural, consecutive days and continues to use His almighty power to preserve and protect mankind and creation.
- Know that God created mankind with a soul as the crown of His creation.
- Realize that the Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to create faith and sanctify believers to live God-pleasing lives.
- Understand that the law reveals sinfulness and God's condemnation, while the gospel assures forgiveness through Jesus' perfect life and sacrificial death.
- Know that prayer is talking with God and can be used to praise and thank Him, confess sinfulness and petition for bodily and spiritually needs.
- Understand that public worship is an opportunity to be strengthened in Word and Sacrament in the midst of fellow believers.
- Understand that believers can serve God with their time, talents and treasures in a variety of ways.
- Through the study of Old Testament Bible accounts, see God's grace at work in the lives of His people.

- Through the study of New Testament Bible accounts, see God's plan of salvation fulfilled in Jesus and spread to others.
- Know the two main teachings of the Bible----Law and Gospel.
- Through the study of Luther's catechism, understand its six chief parts: The Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution.
- Commit to memory Bible verses, Christian hymns and songs of praise.
- Know that God wants us to share Jesus with others.

Spiritual Attitudes:

By the end of **Grades 5 and 6**, students will:

- Have a contrite heart in view of their sinfulness.
- Treasure Jesus as their Savior.
- Value themselves as redeemed and forgiven children of God.
- In view of God's mercy, be kind, patient and forgiving.
- Put trust in God to provide for all their needs.
- Recognize material blessings as gifts from God for which they can be thankful and share with others.
- Value prayer as a means of communication with God.
- Respond to God's love through joyful singing of spiritual songs.
- Desire to grow in faith and love through studying God's Word and attending church regularly.
- Desire to glorify God in all thoughts, words and actions.

Spiritual Habits:

By the end of **Grades 5 and 6**, students will:

- Grow in God's Word through daily devotions and Bible lessons.
- Confess sins to God and to others.
- Freely forgive others as Christ forgives them.
- Read the Bible by oneself and with others.
- Honor God by honoring parents, teachers and other children.
- Pray regularly.
- Look to share their faith with others.
- Respond to God's goodness through songs of praise.
- Grow in their faith by regular church attendance with their family.
- Honor God by doing their best on whatever task is put before them.

Grades 7 and 8

Spiritual Truths:

By the end of **Grades 7 and 8**, students will:

- Know that the Bible is God's Word which is errorless and verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Know the two main teachings of the Bible and what they mean for their daily lives---Law and Gospel.
- Understand that the chief purpose of the Bible is to lead all people to know and believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin.
- Know the true God is three in one, that is triune---Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Know that God the Father, by His almighty power, created the universe in six, normal, natural, consecutive days and continues to use His almighty power to preserve and protect mankind and creation.

- Know that God created mankind with a soul as the crown of His creation.
- Know that Jesus is the Son of God and promised Messiah who was born, suffered, died, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and will return on the last day.
- Realize that the Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to create faith and sanctify believers to live God-pleasing lives.
- Understand the difference between sins of commission and omission.
- Understand what original sin is and its impact on humankind.
- Know that prayer is talking with God and can be used to praise and thank Him, confess sinfulness and petition for bodily and spiritual needs.
- Understand that public worship is an opportunity to be strengthened in Word and Sacrament amongst the blessing of fellow believers.
- Understand that believers can serve God with their time, talents and treasures in a variety of ways within their homes, churches and community.
- Through the study of Old Testament Bible accounts, see God's grace at work in the lives of His people
- Through the study of New Testament Bible accounts, see God's plan of salvation fulfilled in Jesus and spread to others.
- Through the study of Luther's catechism, understand its six chief parts: The Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution.
- Commit to memory Bible verses, Christian hymns and songs of praise.
- Understand the difference between orthodox and heterodox Christian churches.
- Understand the difference between Christianity and other world religions.
- Understand God's Great Commission to share Jesus with others.

Spiritual Attitudes:

By the end of **Grades 7 and 8**, students will:

- Have a contrite heart in view of their sinfulness.
- Treasure Jesus as their Savior.
- Value themselves as redeemed and forgiven children of God.
- In view of God's mercy, be kind, patient and forgiving.
- Put trust in God to provide for all their needs.
- Recognize material blessings as gifts from God for which they can be thankful and share with others.
- Value prayer as an act of worship and means of communication with God.
- Respond to God's love through joyful singing of spiritual songs.
- Desire to grow in faith and love through studying God's Word and attending church regularly.
- Desire to glorify God in all thoughts, words and actions.

Spiritual Habits:

By the end of **Grades 7 and 8**, students will:

- Grow in God's Word through daily devotions and Bible lessons.
- Confess sins to God and to others.
- Freely forgive others as Christ forgives them.
- Read the Bible by oneself and with others.
- Apply God's Word to their daily lives.
- Honor God by honoring parents, teachers and peers.
- Pray regularly.

- Look to share their faith with others.
- Respond to God's goodness through songs of praise.
- Grow in their faith by regular church attendance with their family.
- Regularly partake of the Lord's Supper following their confirmation.
- Honor God by doing their best on whatever task is put before them.

Course of Study

Course of Study (Christ-Light as purchased through NPH)

Kind: NT & OT Lessons – Level I (Alternating OT and NT yearly)

Grade 1-2: NT & OT Lessons – Level II (Alternating OT and NT yearly)

Grade 3-4: NT & OT Lessons – Level IV (Alternating OT and NT yearly)

Grade 5-6: NT & OT Lessons – Level VI (Alternating OT and NT yearly)

Foundations of Faith Catechism Lessons

Grade 7-8: NT & Topical Christ Light (Alternating OT and NT yearly)

Confirmation Instruction Class with Pastor

Grade 7-8-Topical Christ Light Year:

- God's Answers to My Question;
- Who Am I?;
- How Can I Make God Pleasing Decisions;
- God's Gift of Sex;
- What About?;
- What Do I Say Lord?;
- Christian Life Planning

Assessments

Students in Grades K-8 shall be assessed in the following ways:

- Observations, reflections, journals, worksheets, written quizzes, oral quizzes, memory work, projects, written tests and exit cards