

Formation Committee Report 2023

In 2022 – 2023, the Formation Committee focused on bringing the young people of our congregation together in meaningful, spiritual and hands-on way. With 11 – 12 kids between Kindergarten and Grade 10, it was a challenge to plan a “Sunday School” type of time for them. It was decided to plan a hands-on low key multi-grade setting following the same themes as the Sunday morning Worship services. The group was lead by members of the Formation Committee with help from parents and other congregation members.

Having Erika join our meetings in the new year helped us to bring our ideas together and come up with a plan that was meaningful and connected to each Sunday morning worship theme. She was interested in becoming involved with the kids as much as she could.

We started off the Lenten season with a Shrove Tuesday dinner which was well received by the congregation.

We started the year with the theme of Loving your Neighbor as Yourself. The kids created a snow sculpture in the front of the church building, sculpting the word LOVE. On Mothers Day, the group planted seeds and flowers in pots and presented them to all the women of the congregation.

AMC Picnic Sunday was planned on June 11th at the Altona Park. The day started with an informal worship service of sharing and singing, potluck lunch and then swimming at the Altona Aquatic Centre. This seemed to be well received by all.

Teen Study Bibles and Peace Table story bibles were presented to the kids in September.

In October we used the Stories that Shape Us theme with the younger members of the group. Congregational members helped with sharing an Old Testament story with the kids and then joined in a craft and snack time.

The youth (grades 9-11) spent 4 Sundays exploring the topic of Faith and the Bible with Erika. Great conversations were started, with this group possibly moving into conversations centered around Baptism.

The Advent season theme of How will we know lended itself well to planning each Sunday in Advent around the 5 senses (smell, taste, touch, sight, sound). Each Sunday the group participated in a hands-on activity helping them to understand how they will know that Jesus is coming.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the kids baked peppernuts with Marlene Plett (smell & taste), created ornaments and decorated the Christmas tree in the church entrance (touch) for the 2nd Sunday, made candles to adorn the sanctuary (sight/light) for the 3rd Sunday, and shared the sound of bells (sound)during the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Thank you to Crystal Kehler for your time as the church librarian.

The committee spent time culling the library shelves of outdated books. These books were donated to the MCC Depot in Plum Coulee to be shredded for packing material. We welcomed Julia Thiessen as our new librarian.

On behalf of the AMC Formation Committee,
Sandra Klassen, Andrea Hildebrand, Margruite Krahn