

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES PAMPHLET

## C HILDREN'S MINISTRY Y GRACE CHURCH

5300 France Avenue S., Edina, MN 55410 (612) 924-4270

*"Train up a child in the way he should go,  
even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

—Proverbs 22:6

**W**e welcome you and your children to Grace Church Edina. Children are important people at GCE and we are dedicated to partnering with you in the cultivation of spiritual growth of your children. Our mission in serving you is to provide the best possible care, comfort, guidance, and instruction in the Word of God for your children and their leaders. The Bible is our curriculum . . . printed materials and programs are our resources . . . and adult volunteers are our living examples demonstrating the love of God and life-changing principles to your child. Our goal is that children be loved, valued, and nurtured in their faith! At Grace Church Edina, we want only the best for our children!

### AGE-APPROPRIATE!

- **Nursery Ministries**—For the first two+ years of life, we focus on making a child's and parent's initial experience at church a positive and safe one! We want children to learn God's love at the earliest opportunity. We begin with lots of hugs for the babies and sharing simple Bible stories and songs about Jesus that toddlers enjoy!



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- **Early Childhood Ministries**—For ages two through five, our priority is for the young child to enjoy learning about God and His Bible! We introduce preschoolers to their heavenly Father through His Word, and encourage them to discover God's love in His creation. By the time a child is five years old, he will have learned the basic stories of creation, the Old Testament, and the life of Christ. Through a variety of Bible learning activities, children will learn the truth of God's Word at their level of comprehension.

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## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES PAMPHLET, continued

- **Grade-School Ministries**—Our goal for the elementary child, grades 1 through 6, is both to have fun and be spiritually challenged. Through a systematic study of the Word of God, children are encouraged to explore “what God says,” “what it means to me,” “and how it can be applied to my life.” In fact, by the sixth grade, children will have overviewed the entire Bible six times. We strive for a well-rounded ministry of instruction, evangelism, discipleship, Bible memory, outreach events, missions, worship, sports activities, music, special events, and ministry opportunities.

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**“We are committed to ministry with children, not baby-sitting!”**

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### FUN WITH A PURPOSE

- **Sunday school (Sunday, 9:50 A.M.)** is what we consider to be our foundational hour of Bible instruction for children. It is a time of exciting Bible stories and personal application of God’s Word to a child’s life. We hope ALL children will be active participants in the time of discovery! A loving, caring teacher will guide your child to learn the tremendous truths about the Bible, God’s Word.
- **Church time (Sunday, 8:30 and 11:15 A.M.)** is designed for children to express their faith through worship experiences, music instruction, and life situation case studies. God and the Bible are shown to be relevant for today’s child! The curriculum for preschoolers is correlated to the lesson introduced in Sunday school. For more information about children’s music, contact the music ministry office.



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**“The key to our children’s ministry is our volunteer workers!”**

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- **Awana (Wednesday, 6:45 P~M.)** stands for “Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed. Wednesday evening’s fun and ministry 15 games are definitely the highlight of every child’s week. Awana has three focuses: Bible Memory, outreach to friends, and of course, lots and lots of FUN! Come to the foyer of the gym to register for Awana.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES PAMPHLET, continued

- **Vacation Bible School** is our single largest yearly event for children. Over 800 children and adults laugh and play, learn and grow at Vacation Bible School. Each year we enjoy a new action-packed theme, such as “Asian Is Near,” “Treasure Island,” “The Wild West Show,” “Indiana Smith and the Pearl of Great Price,” and “Deep Space 5: The Regeneration.” Don’t miss the children’s ministry highlight of the year. Reserve the middle of July for the adventure of your life!
- **Special Holiday Programs**—camps, summer day camps, backyard clubs, seminars, family film night, and many other activities round out a ministry to children and their families! Do not be surprised if you see “Jellybean” and “Sweet Tart” the clown, “Uncle SAM.” (Sharing A Ministry), “Cubbie Bear,” or “Sparkle” greeting children on Saturdays and Sundays at Grace Church Edina. Clowns, puppets, mimes, and jugglers may show up on any weekend and often do so to encourage children to bring friends and grow in their faith. We are committed to strengthening today’s families through the Word of God shared creatively and through events designed to promote better family communications!
- **Sound exciting!?** Grace Church Edina children’s ministry is one of the most exciting places for children to be! We want children of Grace Church Edina not only to grow spiritually, but also to have fun being a child!

Children are a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3), a gift requiring loving care and guidance. Parents are the primary teachers of their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). We are here to help you grow a beautiful person by assisting you in cultivating spiritual growth in your child. We encourage you to review weekly take-home papers with your child. Together enjoy the Bible memory work, club projects, and resources available in the library.

We are committed to *ministry with children, not baby-sitting*. Our focus is never on child care, but rather on nurturing children, serving parents, and training leaders. The key to our children’s ministry is the volunteer staff who must reflect Christlikeness before the children. It requires over 800 workers each week to reach out to the boys and girls God has brought to us. As you become a regular attender of Grace Church Edina, please consider where you will be involved in the children’s ministry!