

LOGOS

Parent Handbook
2007-2008
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you this day in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Bind them as a sign upon your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

LOGOS (log'os) n. [gr.] literally means "the Word"

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. John 1:1

Purpose of LOGOS:

- To build, deepen and strengthen in young people a personal faith relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Personal Savior.
- To create an arena where serving and caring for others is intentionally taught and practiced.
- To facilitate the growth of intergenerational relationships that bonds the entire congregation into a growing community of faith.
- To bring renewal and strength to the total ministry of the church.
- To develop the kind of Christians who are able and willing to communicate their faith and to assume personal responsibility in assisting in the building of God's kingdom on earth.

What is the LOGOS Program?

LOGOS is a means of providing in-depth and well-rounded Christian nurture for children of the church and community. It is not a substitute for or a replacement of standard programs other Christian education/nurture programs of the church. It is another area of Christian nurture that strongly enhances the total Christian education program of the church.

LOGOS is a disciplined, structured program of midweek Christian education that emphasizes relationships in both its design and its teaching.

LOGOS enables the church to offer its young people the positive aspect of a retreat on a weekly basis. Young people enjoy Christian fellowship through sharing a meal together including creative recreation at the end, study of contemporary and Biblical values, and participation in worship.

LOGOS also provides an opportunity to explore ones identity in a Christian environment. The program is a valuable tool for family involvement and renewal as well, as parents and other members of the church are drawn into active participation by giving everyone the chance to share and serve others.

The LOGOS program is used in over 4,000 churches of more than two dozen different denominations in the United States and other countries.

The Four Parts of LOGOS

In the LOGOS program, there are four essential parts. These four parts combine to create the structure in which the theology and practice of Christian relationships can happen. The entire concept is based on Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." The four parts are:

Bible Study is the heart of the program. It is designed to be creative, relevant, and interactive. The goal of Bible study is to nurture our youth and children into intelligent, committed and Biblically informed discipleship.

Worship/Prayer The objective here is to develop respect for and practice of worship since worship is the basic form of Christian service and discipleship. The active participation of children and youth in worship benefits the entire congregation. Children will also participate in regular Sunday worship throughout the year.

Recreation and Play Fellowship, Fun and Games. The goal is to experience great fun at the expense of no one else. Crazy games, crafts and other things that hopefully everyone enjoys incorporated at the end of the dinner time. This will help foster the relationship between the table parents and the youth.

Breaking Bread Family Time This is the period in which all LOGOS participants are together. It gives an opportunity for all to experience being a part of the family of God. Dinner is served family style around tables led by Table Parents. During dinner, everyone is given the chance to share, to serve others, to use table manners and have fun together. The Table Parents are two or more adults in the life of our children who care about their lives and their journey in faith.

Schedule

5:00 -6:00	6:05 - 6:45	6:50 - 7:20	7:20
Children arrive and check in Dinner is served. Recreation and play after dinner.	Bible Study	Worship/ Worship Skills	Parents check out their children

Schedule during Lent (Feb 13th - March 12th)

5:00 -5:30	5:35 - 6:15	6:20 - 6:50	6:50
Children arrive and check in Dinner is served.	Bible Study	Recreation	Parents check out their children. LOGOS kids are encouraged to attend the Lenten service with their family as their worship component.

Registration:

- Registration is accomplished by filling out the LOGOS registration card and having the child and parent sign the discipline policy form.
- The **required attendance of a parent at a Parents' Meeting is very important**. If you cannot make the scheduled Parents' meeting, a meeting time must be scheduled with a Coordinator or the Director of Children's Ministry prior to the start of a semester. Due to the importance of these meetings, registrations will not be accepted if one of these meetings has not been attended.
- Full payment of the fees is due at registration. If preferred, a fall payment schedule can be arranged. Scholarships are available; please see the Director of Children's Ministry.
- **A parent must sign up six times per semester for some type of supporting participation in the program**. An opportunity to indicate preferences is provided at the Parents Meeting. There are many opportunities to help in a way that will be comfortable for you. *(See section on Volunteer Opportunities)*

Fees:

- Tuition is \$70 per child. (Fees include Bible Study materials, membership fee to National LOGOS Ministries, and weekly dinner).
- No child will be denied enrollment because of limited financial resources. Financial assistance or deferred payments will be arranged in cases of need. Each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. This will be confidential.
- Dinner Fees:
 - Volunteers during dinner hour/siblings in childcare - No Charge
 - Guests of LOGOS participants - \$3.00 / meal
- Provisions for participation in after-school activities: We believe LOGOS is as important as secular education, therefore we discourage children from being absent for any reason other than illness. However, children who are involved in school athletic programs or other extra-curricular activities at a particular season of the year and are unable to attend LOGOS at the regularly scheduled time, may make arrangements with a LOGOS Coordinator for continuing participation in the program. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Active participation by at least one parent/guardian of every child in the program is required. Part time service by a large number of people is essential to keep the many activities going. At least as important, however, is the "morale boosting" effect of the parent's/guardian's physical and visible support of the program from time to time. This is a vital element in the successful operation of the LOGOS program.

At registration, and other parts of the year, parents will sign up for some area of service. Some areas of service include:

Table Parent	Childcare Help	Comforter
Cooks	Kitchen Servers	Decorating
Pick up Groceries	Check-In Person	Check Out Person
Set-up Persons	Clean-up Persons	Take-down Persons

Other ways you can help:

1. Assist on your child's regular attendance in the program and at Sunday morning worship service.
2. Assist your child in preparation of the weekly LOGOS Bible lessons.
3. Support the program with a financial donation. A program of this extent requires a large financial commitment. Fees help offset the program, but as the program grows we will need to purchase additional tables, kitchen supplies, replace items that are worn or broke. Extra funds in our account would help us be able to continue this quality ministry.
4. Fulfill your commitment in your assigned areas of the LOGOS ministry. By giving of your time, you render a vital service to our children.
5. Arrange for prompt payment of LOGOS program fees.
6. Encourage and participate in daily Bible reading and prayer.
7. When your child is scheduled to participate in worship. It is important that you help your child fulfill his or her commitment by getting them to church on time.
8. Stress the importance of courtesy and good behavior at church. Emphasis on these matters at home will make a big impact once they are at LOGOS .

ONLY ONE RULE OF LOGOS

I am a child of God.

You are a child of God.

We will treat each other as children of God with love and respect.

The one rule of LOGOS is that everyone treats everyone else as a child of God. As a child of God, each person is of infinite worth and deserves to be treated with respect, kindness, patience, and all other aspects of love. Built into this rule is the goal that each young person understand that he or she is really of value and that each young person learns, sometimes over and over again, to treat all other people this same way.

It would be nice if everyone came to LOGOS understanding and acting out this rule, but that is not reality. It is also not reality that we can simply post this rule on the wall and expect everyone to immediately comprehend it and live by it. The understanding of one's self and of others that is encompassed by this rule takes lots of time and practice to develop...but that is what LOGOS is all about!

Discipline Procedures:

The sequence of steps to be followed in handling disciplinary problems is:

1. The leader attempts to handle the situation in a positive way, without embarrassing the child involved.
2. If the behavior is disruptive and continues, the child is sent to discuss it with the adult Comforter or one of the LOGOS Directors.
3. If there is a continuing problem that has not been resolved, a LOGOS Director will call the parents of the child involved to discuss the situation.

4. If the problem persists, a conference will be scheduled with the child, parents and other parties concerned.

No child is ever dismissed from the LOGOS program. We value every child and want each one to feel welcome at church.

Guests:

Guests are always welcome. A Director should be informed by the Monday prior to a visitor being brought to LOGOS. The visitor must bring a completed "LOGOS Guest Permission Form" with them and a fee of \$3.00 to cover the cost of the meal. Visitors are expected to stay with the student who brings them throughout the entire program scheduled for that evening. Interested guests are encouraged to enroll in the LOGOS program after visiting two times.

Calendar and Themes

September

- 19 Kick-Off Night
- 26

October

- 3
- 10
- 17 **NO LOGOS - LEADERS MEETING**
- 24
- 31 NO LOGOS

November

- 7 Invite A Grandparent or Veteran
- 14
- 21 NO LOGOS
- 28

December

- 5
- 12
- 19 **NO LOGOS - PARENT'S MEETING**
- 26 NO LOGOS

January

- 2 NO LOGOS Leaders Mtg (Kitchen Crew/Bible Study Leaders)
- 9
- 16 Invite a Teacher Night
- 23 NO LOGOS (School Conferences)
- 30

February

- 6 NO LOGOS - Ash Wednesday
- 13
- 20
- 27

March

- 5
- 12
- 19 NO LOGOS - Holy Week
- 26

April

- 2
- 9
- 16 5th Grade Graduation
- 23 Year End Celebration

Questions and Answers about LOGOS

My child has too much homework. What shall we do?

We usually make time for those things we count important - priorities need to be established. If you consider that you will be eating dinner, either at the church or at home, LOGOS times are not extravagant.

Can't we do away with dinner and save time, trouble and money?

To have only part of the program destroys the essence of its success. To eliminate any part of the program diminishes its importance and success. The value of LOGOS is not the activities offered, but a total program of growing relationships.

Can't this be on Sunday?

There is a real value in mid-week education. It teaches that religion is not separate from daily activities, but something to be practiced all week long. Attendance on weekdays, specifically Wednesday, is much easier for several reasons. Sunday, for many, has become a day of recreation and many families do not have their children every weekend because of shared custody.

I work. How can I fulfill my requirement for parental participation?

There are a variety of opportunities for parental participation in LOGOS which will be discussed at the Parents Meeting. If none of these suit your work schedule, another family member or friend of the family is able to take your place. Please speak with one of the Coordinators for other possibilities.

Does every child have to be in the Worship component?

Yes, this is the child's way of experiencing ways to worship to our Lord. Worship isn't about us; it's about showing God their love and honoring Him for who He is.

Can my neighbor, who belongs to another church, join?

The program is open to all children in the community. However, we request each child's participation in services at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church when LOGOS kids are scheduled to participate.

Can my child come to only one part of the program?

Children and youth are not allowed to attend only parts of the program. The value of the LOGOS program is not the activities offered but a total program of growing relationships through a variety of activities. It is a balanced approach and understanding to Christian discipleship.

How important is it for my child to attend a weekend service?

VERY! We feel the Sunday (or Saturday) services are central to your child's spiritual growth.