

## ***Workshops for all ages: November 30 – December 21***

- The year's theme: Faithful Believers
- The month's theme: "Believers Around the World: Christmas"
- Unit Concept: All around the world, we have brothers and sisters in Christ sharing the news of Jesus' birth. With passports in hand, children travel around the world to Mexico, Sweden, and Ukraine. In their travels, they learn that the message of Jesus' birth and salvation is the same but celebrated differently through meaningful cultural experiences.

The children will re-enact a Mexican Posada dramatization, a Ukrainian Christmas Eve dinner, and create candles of "light" in Sweden. The children will learn that our cultural diversities are united through the Good News of Jesus' birth. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we serve one God.

Special Enhancements: In advance of the unit start date, each child will receive a "Passport Booklet" which the teacher stamps upon entrance to each "country."

### ***All Ages Activities***

#### **– Date: November 30**

- Workshop title: Candle Making
- One sentence description of theme: Jesus was born to bring the world together in love to make us brothers and sister in Christ.
- Short description of the workshop goals/ what the children will do: As "traveling believers," children enter Sweden and experience a faith "check-in" to affirm their beliefs. They learn about Sweden's days of darkness followed by discovering how St. Lucia, a courageous Christian girl, brought light into the darkness. They learn that Jesus is the light of the world and can bring light to dark times in their lives. Children make candles of light using a medium called wax art crystals. As they gather around an Advent wreath, children learn that Jesus asks them to be the light of the world by sharing the Good News to others.
- Workshop type: Art
- Location: Artisan Market
- Teacher(s): Sandy Finney

#### **– Date: December 7**

- Workshop title: Re-enacting a Las Posadas Celebration
- One sentence description of theme: Jesus was born to bring the world together in love to make us brothers and sister in Christ.
- Short description of the workshop goals/ what the children will do: As "traveling believers", children enter Mexico where they will learn that for nine nights before Christmas, Mexican believers celebrate Las Posadas. Las Posadas is a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for an inn (posada) in Bethlehem. Through a knocking activity, children learn how it feels to be turned away and told you can't come in. Children then re-enact a Las Posadas celebration, complete with costumes, music and prayer. Children also examine the verse Rev. 3:20 and learn that Jesus is knocking at the doors of our hearts and asking to be a special part of our lives at Christmas as well as other times. Finally, children learn the Christian symbolism of the piñata during a fiesta celebration.
- Workshop type: Drama
- Location: Discovery Den
- Teacher(s): Volunteer Teacher Still Needed

#### **– Date: December 21**

- Workshop title: Sviata Vecheria (Holy Supper)
- One sentence description of theme: Jesus was born to bring the world together in love to make us brothers and sister in Christ.
- Short description of the workshop goals/ what the children will do: As "traveling believers", children enter Ukraine. Children will learn that Christmas is the most important family holiday of the whole year for Ukrainian. The children will cook for and experience a Sviata Vecheria (Holy Supper), which takes place on Christmas Eve and is a central traditional celebration in the Ukraine. Through this traditional Sviata Vecheria (Holy Supper) that is filled with symbolic foods and actions, Ukrainians affirm Christ in their lives. Kids think of ways they can customize their own family's Christmas dinner with traditions that focus on Christ.
- Workshop type: Cooking
- Location: Discovery Den
- Teacher(s): Volunteer Teacher Still Needed