



We invite you to join us as we set sail on
an adventure with God
High Seas Expedition: Vacation Bible School 2010

Each day you will be a part of fun Bible learning you can see, hear, and touch. Bible Point Crafts, team-building games, lively Bible songs, and hands-on Bible Adventures are the High Seas activities that help faith grow into real life. You will even choose a Daily Challenge—an exciting way to live out what you've learned.

<i>Where?</i>	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, St. Joseph
<i>Who?</i>	Ages 4 years through 6 th Grade (just completed)
<i>Dates?</i>	Monday, July 26 th through Friday, July 30 th
<i>Time?</i>	Mon – Thurs: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm (includes dinner) Friday: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm (includes dinner)

There will be a closing program for family and friends on Friday at 7:00 pm. We will be using the Sanctuary for a group Bible Lesson and final program practice until 6:40 pm.

In order to make sure we have enough materials, food, and staff, we request that registration forms be turned in by **July 1st**. Submit your form in by the **end of June** and pay **\$10 per child** (\$20 cap per family) and be entered into a **drawing for a restaurant gift card**. Submit your form in the month of **July** and pay **\$12 per child** (\$24 cap per family). Your registration fee will include all meals, activities, a t-shirt and a CD of the week's music.

We are also looking for volunteers to help!

If you are willing to help with planning or set up, for one or two evenings or for the whole week, please put a checkmark on the appropriate line(s) on the registration form.



Please turn your registration form in to either the
Church or Learning Center Office.





Dear Parents of Preschool Children,

We're so glad you've signed up your child for an exciting week at High Seas Expedition. This VBS program will help your little one shine God's light.

You'll notice that things at High Seas Expedition are...well, a little different than you might be used to. For one thing, preschoolers will be in mixed-age groups with other young children, ages 4 – 5 years old. These small groups, called Crews, are led by adults who love children and love the Lord. Crews are an important part of High Seas Expedition! But you still might have some doubts...

My 5-year-old will be bored with 4-year-old kids. Five-year-olds play an important role in their Crews. Pre-kindergartners now become the “big kids” who can cut with more accuracy, glue more easily, and (gasp) even write their names! Younger children will *love* being with your child and will show their affection generously. All this admiration is wonderful for your child's self-esteem and allows him or her to serve younger children in hands-on, practical ways.

My 4-year-old will get hurt by those older kids. Actually, younger children will be loved, served, and doted on by their older crew mates. Plus, in a mixed-age small group, a crew leader has much more time to spend one-on-one with your child. And you can be sure that High Seas Expedition activities are all specially designed just for mixed-age groups, so younger children won't be in over their heads.

My child won't come if he/she can't be with her friend. While it's true that your child may not be able to be with their very best friend, he/she will have the opportunity to make many new friends. Studies show that children learn as much—or more—when they're linked with kids of different ages. In fact, one study observed that children naturally chose to play with other children their age only 6 percent of the time. They played with children who were at least one year older or younger than they were 55 percent of the time. If your child really needs the security of a familiar face, we can most likely pair him or her with one special friend.

Millions of children have experienced this multi-age approach with Group's VBS, with surprise and delight at the outcome. Children's ministry experts agree that combining ages has numerous benefits: teaching children to work together, experiencing what it means to be a family, and serving others in love. However, the most important factor in making this program a success is your attitude. If your child has doubts, reassure him or her that this is a wonderful opportunity to try something new. Your support will speak volumes to the children we're serving.

We look forward to ministering to your child at High Seas Expedition.

High Seas Expedition Preschool Directors
Carol Shriver and Jennifer Lewis





Dear Parents of Elementary School Children,

We're so glad you've signed up your child for an exciting week at High Seas Expedition. This VBS program will help your child experience the deep, rolling waters of God's love.

You'll notice that things at High Seas Expedition are...well, a little different than you might be used to. For one thing, elementary kids will be in mixed-age groups with other children who have finished kindergarten through grade 4. These small groups, called Crews, are led by adults who love children and love the Lord. Crews are an important part of High Seas Expedition! But you still might have some doubts...

My child won't come if he can't be with his/her friends. While it's true that your child might not get to be with his or her very best friend, your child *will* have wonderful opportunities to make new friends and interact with a new group of children. Most of us assume that age-graded classes are the best way to go, simply because that has been our only experience. However, studies indicate that children choose to play with children of other ages. Studies show that children learn as much—or more—when they're linked with kids of different ages. In fact, one study observed that children naturally chose to play with other children their age only 6 percent of the time. They played with children who were at least one year older or younger than they were 55 percent of the time. Encourage your child to try something different—he or she might be surprised!

My child won't like being with little kids. Parents are continually surprised that, after a few days of VBS, their older children *love* this newfound role! Suddenly, they're the “cool” big kids with younger children looking up to them. And while your child is helping younger kids with simple tasks like reading and writing, he or she is having the chance to serve and demonstrate Christ's love! It's a meaningful way to discover—and practice—the joy of service.

My child will get trampled by those bigger kids. High Seas Expedition is carefully designed for groups of multi-age children. That means games are noncompetitive, team-building activities (brilliantly disguised as wildly fun games) in which your child's abilities will shine. In fact, many games are designed to highlight the importance of smaller kids. It's more likely that your younger child will be loved, affirmed, and doted upon by his or her older crew mates.

You'll have to water down the Bible lessons so everyone can learn. Since High Seas Expedition doesn't rely on more traditional teaching methods (like fill-in-the-blank puzzles or word searches), kids *experience* Bible stories in powerful, life-changing ways. And that's something kids of *all* ages will enjoy...and remember. Then, crew leaders gather with kids for small-group discussion. These are questions that apply to every child but may touch each child at a different level.

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High Seas Expedition Directors
Lisa Mason, Suzi McLain, & Cheri Woller





Volunteer Sign-up



I want to help! Please contact me about helping in the following areas (please circle):

Preschool

Crew Leader Crew Helper Games
Bible Story Crafts

Name - _____

K - 4th (Just Completed)

Crafts Games Food Prep & Serve
Decorations Bible Adventures

Phone - _____

5th - 6th Grade (Just Completed)

Coordinator Helper

E-mail - _____

Days Available (please circle): M T W R F

2010 VBS Fundraiser

This year, we are giving the flamingos a break and selling nautical sponsorships instead. Just like you can purchase shamrocks, ribbons, and sneakers for charity, you can now purchase a nautical item to help set our youth on sail for an adventure with God at Prince of Peace. Based on your donation amount, your name will be placed on a nautical item and displayed in the narthex. Some children have made donations of their own. Any child that makes a donation under \$5 will still have their name placed on a sea gull.

Any donation amount is appreciated. Names will be added to these nautical items as noted below. Donations larger than \$20.00 will be applied to purchase additional items. Donations may be placed in the Vacation Bible School offering envelopes and put in the offering plate, the silver inbox in the church office, or mailed to the church office. VBS Offering Envelopes and forms are available from the ushers.

Thanks for your help!

\$5.00



\$10.00



\$15.00



\$20.00



Name: _____ Donation Amount: _____