



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church  
Tweens  
Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grade

## Learning-Serving-Believing

The St. Matthew's Tweens are fourth, fifth, and sixth graders who work, serve, learn, and play together in order to develop their God-given abilities as they help others. The word "Tween" comes from "between." Children of this age are "between" being small children and becoming teenagers. They are growing fast, having new ideas, and starting to wonder about things that they see, hear, and feel. The Tween years are a time of rapid development when children start to be influenced by people other than their parents and immediate relatives.

The Tweens meet from 4:30 until 6:30 PM every other Sunday evening during the school year. On a typical evening, we start with a fun activity or game. After we have eaten together, there usually is an upcoming activity or event to be planned. Next, we will have a lesson or discussion on a topic about faith. Evenings almost always end with the boys and girls playing Sardines, the official game of the St. Matthew's Tweens.

### Faith

Both the Apostles Paul and Peter admonished believers to continue building up their faith. During our "Faith Time," we read and discuss topics that are intended to strengthen the Tweens' faith by causing them to discuss and think about traditional values and new ideas. In past discussions, the boys and girls have talked about beliefs, doubts, the challenges of maturing, and how to become the type of people that God wants them to become.

## **Service**

The Tweens also build their faith by serving others.

- For the last few years, we have volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank. Almost everyone who has participated in this service project has enjoyed it enough to want to go back.
- Each year, on the Monday before Thanksgiving, the Tweens fill twenty-five baskets of food for needy families.
- Every year, the boys and girls put on a fund raiser for a worthy cause.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, the Tweens led a food drive called "Each One Bring One" to restock the St. Matthew's food pantry. Our trip to Winn Dixie to buy food was exciting.
- One evening, the group visited St. Anthony's Nursing Home to distribute toiletries to the residents. After this outreach, some of the boys and girls made very aware comments about the effects of aging, the challenges of group living, and the realities of the situation that they had just seen.

## **Fun**

Even when we are working, doing things with the Tweens is fun.

- Last year, the Tweens performed a program of scripture reading and interpretive dance at both worship services on a Sunday morning. One of our fifth graders choreographed the dance.
- We always decorate a trunk at the annual "Trunk or Treat" celebration. Our decorations have won awards in the booth decorating contest for the last two years.
- In past years, the Tweens have performed puppet shows for small children and for residents of assisted living centers. In early 2017, we plan to form a sub group called "The St. Matthew's Puppeteers" for boys and girls who want to perform in puppet shows.
- In the Spring, the Tweens are going to perform a skit that is based on Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son.

## **Please Try Us**

Will you please try our group? If you would like to meet some great boys and girls, please come to St. Matthew's at 4:30 on a Sunday evening. We hope that you will have fun so that you will want to come to Tweens regularly. The children in our group are incredibly nice and being with them is pure joy. We serve together, learn together, and have fun together. Mostly, we have fun.