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| St John’s Lutheran School – GeelongChristian Studies Planner |
| **Unit Title / Topic**God gathers a community of Christians | **Band:** A**Level:** 2 | **Date** Term 2, 2011.**Duration of Unit** 10 Weeks |
| **CB** | **CC** | **CL** | **CW** | **Teacher(s)** Naomi Gibbons, Charlene Grieger & Melinda Troeth |
| **Key Idea (s)** 2. The Christian community is shaped by and shapes its cultural and historical contexts3. Christians pray, worship and celebrate the sacraments | Outcome (s) 2.2: Students draw conclusions about the purpose about the Christian Church in the local community2.3 Students research and describe key Christian practises and celebrations |
| **Unit Overview** 2.2 Christian communities share many characteristics of families. They share a common identity and belief. They encourage and help one another grow in faith. They look after one another, giving practical help where needed. This care extends to the rest of the community. They believe God has called them to share his message of love and forgiveness.2.3 Christians believe that God is present in a special way in their worship and prayer. In baptism they receive God’s Spirit, the gift of faith and forgiveness. The symbols and rituals that accompany worship and significant celebrations point to God’s life-giving actions. |
| **Essential / Guiding Questions**What is a community?What characteristics do Christian communities share?How do they encourage and help one another grow in faith?What do Christian communities believe God has called them to do?How do Christians believe God is present in their lives?What symbols do Christians use for worship? | **Resources**LIFE folderCSCF DocumentsA vision for learners and learning in Lutheran schoolsThe BibleChildren Story books |
| **Links to Lifelong Qualities for Learners*** Self Directed, Insightful investigators
* Discerning, resourceful problem solvers & implementers
* Adapt, creative producers & contributors
* Open, responsive communicators & facilitators
* **Principled, resilient leaders and collaborators**
* **Caring and steadfast supporters & advocates**
 | **Links to LIFE*** God gathers people into the Christian Church
* God calls people to serve
* God gathers Christians to worship him
* God creates human relationships
* God helps people pray
 | **Links to other curriculum areas*** Integrated Studies
* Literacy
* ICT
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| **Identify specific knowledge students need to achieve the outcome (students know...)**2.2* Church buildings are special places where Christians meet to worship God

The five functions of the church :Worship, Witness, Nurture, Fellowship, Service2.3 * Prayer is talking to God (praising, asking, confessing, thanking – PACT)
* God listens to and answers prayers in various ways
* Jesus taught people about prayer and how to pray – the Lord’s prayer
* people can pray anywhere, any time

Key Christian celebrations – rituals, meanings, symbols, practices, events; * God gives people new life through Baptism
* Baptism brings people into God’s family
* Denominations practise baptism differently
* Christmas and Easter – significant festivals in Gods’ saving plan
 | **Identify what students will have the opportunity to demonstrate (students can...)*** 1.
* Express the Christian understanding that people who believe in Jesus are in God’s family, the church.
* Identify churches in the local Community
* Retell the Pentecost story and explain what this means for people today
* Explore Bible stories of people in the early Christian church
* Explain ways the church acts as a family and cares for people
* Interact with members of the local church and identify their roles or responsibilities

2.3 * Recognise that prayer is being with God in a special way and can be experienced alone or with others
* Identify things Christians can pray about and formulate simple prayers accounts of Jesus praying (eg, the Lord’s prayer, Jesus in the garden)
* Explore Bible stories about baptism
* Explore the Christian teaching that through baptism people become members of God’s family
* Explore the rituals, events, symbols and practices related to Christmas and Easter
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| **Sequence of Learning opportunities:** (See Weekly planner attached for more details.) |
| **Week 1:**  **Inquiry Question- What is a community? What is a Christian community?**Explore the events after Easter (Jesus praying in the garden, Mathew 26:36) Brainstorm their thoughts about a community. |
| **Week 2:**  Accounts of Jesus praying. Eg; the Lord’s prayer (Mathew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-13)Jesus talks about prayer (Mathew 6:5-8)Jesus praying for his friends (Luke 22:32, John 17)Jesus praying for his enemies (Luke 23:34)Looking back on this unit, this worked well being planned early on in the term. The students made many references to their understanding of the Lord’s prayer. Discussions came up several times in Devotion about the meaning of different parts. When broken down, the Lord’s Prayer really does cover everything we can pray about.  |
| **Week 3:**  Recognise that prayer is being with God in a special way and can be experienced alone or with others .Identify things Christians can pray about and formulate simple prayers (Prayers at meals times, before bed etc)(Luke 18:9-14) (Mathew 14:19, Mathew 26:26, Luke 24:30) |
| **Week 4:**  Retell the Pentecost story and explain what this means for people today Acts 2:1-13 (LIFE folder God gathers people into the Christian church page 13 PENTECOST; The church begins) |
| **Week 5:**  **Inquiry Question: How do Christians believe God is present in their lives?**Interact with **members** of the local church and identify their roles or responsibilities. Pastor Mark to come in and look at how God is present in their lives. Collect information for the inquiry question. |
| **Week 6: Inquiry Question: What symbols represent a Christian Community?**Identify **churches** in the local Community- There are all types of churches for Christians to worship in.Possible excursion. **Assessment task**: Slice of PieWe discussed different churches that the students had been to or heard of, then got on the internet and looked at different churches around the world. The students asked why some of these churches were so different which lead into differences and similarities of the church. We talked about being a Christian and what it meant. From past excursions looking at Churches around Geelong, the Pastors stated that some churches had a roof the shape of an upside down boat (boats were mentioned many times in the Bible), that some Churches were in the shape of a cross and we looked at different symbols they saw in the Churches. |
| **Week 7:** Express the Christian understanding that people who believe in Jesus are in God’s family, the church. (LIFE folder – God gathers people into the Christian church page 11, families)Serving others 1st Peter 4:10-11  |
| **Week 8:**  Explore the Christian teaching that through baptism people become members of God’s family. Introduced Baptism and discussed the symbols used in Baptism. I then gave the students the opportunity to talk and discuss their thoughts and we took the learning from the direction of their questions. They wanted to know if they would still get into Heaven without being baptised, why some churches have baths and other fonts, why water is used and is it from a tap? Why can’t we just baptise ourselves. We discussed these things, got on the internet, looked at pictures of other churches and their fonts and talked about other stories in the Bible which made reference to the dove.Jesus is baptised (Mathew 3:13, Mathew 4:11, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22) |
| **Week 9:**  **Inquiry Question: How do Christians encourage and help one another grow in Faith?**Explore Bible stories of people in the early Christian church (God calls people to serve the world, pg 10, 12, 16)The disciples after Jesus’ ascension- were told to spread the good news of god (Acts 3:1-4:22)Apostles being persecuted (Acts 5:17-42, Chapter 8:1-13)**Assessment task**: Take a look |
| **Week 10:**  **Reflection of student learning this term****Assessment task (Rubric)**: When you think of the word ‘God’s Family’, what does it make you think of?Students are able to express their thoughts and ideas in the form of a brainstorm, on paper with pictures or images, sentences or as a discussion. They are given a rubric which outlines their criteria.(This activity was added only at the end of the term which I felt was a very successful move. The assessment task encouraged students to reflect on their learning throughout the unit and connect what they had learnt)**Devotion Discussions (Small group Assessment)** In small groups get the students to rotate around each of the question centres discussing and answering the following questions- What is Baptism, what does it mean? How does a Christian community help one another grow in faith? What is the church made up of? What symbols represent God/ Christians? Who is part of God’s family? When do Christians believe God is present in their lives?This was also a very interesting activity. Students worked very well in the small groups and the discussions in each of the groups was very explicit. They made reference to different displays from around the room and were able to use their books as well. They said they enjoyed this activity. |
| **Assessment:** * Observations
* Discussions
* Work samples
* Group activities
* ‘The Learning Wheel’ – An activity encouraging students to think over their learning and express their feelings and thoughts.
* ‘Take a look’- Students form small groups and pick up a card. They are then to discuss their thoughts and ideas based on what they have learnt during the term according to the card.
* ‘Slice of Pie’- Describing their thoughts using words, symbols and colours. Students then discuss their pictures.
* Assessment task at the end of the unit: Question Brainstorm- students rotate in small groups and together answer the questions on the paper, placing their thoughts and ideas from what they have learnt during the term.

These assessment tasks really encouraged the students to think back on their learning. I felt they were effective tasks for student reflection as it enabled them to connect what we had learnt through the unit, and put all the pieces together. |
| **Evaluation** (comments in red)What activities worked well in the unit? Why?What activities didn’t work well? Why? How can we change and improve this unit?* Although we read many stories from the Bible and made reference to different stories Jesus had told, I probably should have allowed the students to independently use their own Bibles a bit more throughout the unit. They love finding Bible verses and reading along, so I will take note of this and incorporate it more into next unit. (Throughout our unit in term 3, I incorporated a greater use of the Bible and the students have loved it!)
* The information they gathered throughout the unit in their books and/ or as a brainstorm displayed on the walls, were used to connect all that they had learnt throughout the unit. Their questions about what a Christian Community is, were made clear, when they could see all the elements involved in making a Christian Community.
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