



Faith Lutheran Church Sunday School 2011-2012

Dear Faith Families,

Do you have a special place where you mark how tall your children are? My mom used to measure my height every year, and I was always excited to see how much I had grown, especially if I were taller than my sister had been when she was that age. Marking our height is easy, but measuring our hearts, how much we can love, can be harder. Sometimes we only know how much we can love when our hearts are stretched to love someone new.

Jesus once told a young man that the best way to serve God is to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. At Faith, we think about neighbors being “nearby and far away”. We have many neighbors, here and around the world.

This year, we are growing in love by serving our neighbors. One way we will do this is through the Sunday School offering. The money we gather will go to two places, one nearby and one far away. Our nearby neighbors are at [First Place](#), which serves homeless children in Seattle. Our faraway neighbors are at the [Ailanga Junior Seminary](#) in Usa River, Tanzania. We will also have a special offering during Lent for the [Lutheran Malaria Campaign](#).

Another way we will grow in love is through serving our neighbors in Seattle through direct service. In the spring, families will have an opportunity to participate in a **Love by Serving Day** in which we will meet and serve neighbors in Seattle. If you have a favorite service activity that you would like to suggest or you are excited about this idea, please speak with me.

If the phrase “Grow in love and love by serving” rings a bell, you might remember a hymn we often sing on Sundays at the end of worship: “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”. In this hymn, which will be our special song for Sunday School this year, reminds us that as children of God we are nurtured and fed so we can serve our neighbors with joy.

As we serve our neighbors near and far, let’s grow in love and love by serving and see just how much our hearts can grow.

Pastor Abby d’Ambruoso