



St. Helena's  
Episcopal Church and School

410 North Main Street Boerne, Texas 78006 (830) 249-8084

Dear SHEEP Parents,

March 19, 2020

Challenge accepted! While we cannot gather on our beloved campus, our ministry will continue. If you would have predicted March's events several months ago I would have thought you were crazy, but here we are, living in a health crisis. Hold strong to the Word during this time

*Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, abide under the shadow of the Almighty. They shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust." -Psalm 91:1-2*

The staff misses seeing each of your sweet children! We wish we could give each of them a big hug, listen to their precious voices and spend the day with them. With that said, SHEEP is switching gears. Beginning next week, school will be done digitally. The main goal of pre-k is socialization. Our amazing staff has figured out how to do that while we all shelter in place! If you are not part of the class Group Me, then you need to download the free app or let me know if you need another invitation to join.

Here's what you can expect from Pre-k classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on the class Group Me:

1. A morning message video posted from your child's teacher
2. A high scope activity for the family posted by me
3. An enrichment activity posted by Ms. Renee
4. A chapel lesson from Ms. Dawn & Ms. Stefanie
5. A link for an activity or virtual field trip from Ms. Dawn
6. A story or other video activity posted by your child's teacher
7. A phone call, Zoom, or FaceTime call each week to your child

Here's what you can expect from Kinder, First and Second Grade classes Monday-Thursdays:

1. A chapel lesson from Ms. Dawn & Ms. Stefanie
2. An enrichment activity posted by Ms. Renee
3. A link for an activity or virtual field trip from Ms. Dawn
4. Interactive Google classroom activities
5. Website links with lesson practice

I understand the extra strain this may put on some families. I have four children at home, all doing homeschooling with one computer with incredibly slow Internet all the while my husband and I both continue to work full time. However, one of the greatest responsibilities of parents is to encourage their children to become wise and *bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. -Ephesians 6:4b* We will continue to monitor the situation and make week by week decisions about when it is safe to return to campus.

I encourage you to stay seeded in God's word during this unprecedented time. As you talk with SHEEP staff, please do not hesitate to ask if you need help with something! Thank you for those of you who have asked about the staff during this time. Their salaries will continue because they are still working. From Bishop Reed, "In my lifetime, Americans, as a people, have rarely been asked to sacrifice for the common good. Even

the heaviest burdens of war have been largely carried out by our military and their families. But now is a time when we *are* being asked to give up practices and limit freedoms we value for the sake of our life together as a nation. We are being asked to be inconvenienced. Please continue to pray for ALL leaders. No one has prior experience or expertise in this, and they are being called on to love and lead and serve in the midst of great confusion and anxiety.”

As we switch gears for the future, may you enjoy this time with your child; sit and play together, eat together, go outside together! I leave you with Bishop Reed’s prayer for today.

*Lord God, Father Almighty: We easily take so much for granted until it is threatened. In this time of pandemic, make us deeply mindful of our need for you. Help us to cherish anew all that we have received from you—the gifts of life, health, families and friends, the Church. Rekindle in us the desire to strengthen these precious gifts and to be knit together in you. While our worries and fears are real, give us grace to not give in to them. While our inconveniences and hardships are real, give us eyes to see those who truly suffer and to find ways to serve them. Remind us daily that those who abide in Christ are never truly separated, and even as we are physically distanced may we find deeper and closer community. Send your Holy Spirit to bring healing and peace to us, and to our communities. And may we find wisdom and power in you to disrupt the disruptions. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, Healer of our souls, Savior of the world. Amen.*

Tiffany Jureczki

SHEEP Head of School