



in partnership with...

Present...
LOGOS/s360!
(for children/youth)



Family Handbook

From the Coordinators

Welcome to LOGOS at Wayside! As you enroll your child in this wonderful program of Christian nurture, we want to offer our enthusiastic support for your decision.

There is no greater or more wonderful task before the church than to nurture children and adults into faith in Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul expressed it well in his letter to one of the first-century churches:

"It is Christ we proclaim, teaching and instructing everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Colossians 1:28

Becoming "mature in Christ" is a lifelong *journey*, and the sooner it is begun the better. Such maturity comes about in the midst of a *community*—the "we" of Paul's words. That's why LOGOS/s360! is such a wonderful opportunity for children, youth and adults involved in the program. Whether as younger "students" or older "teachers," everyone involved in the meals and games and worship and study will draw closer to Christ and to each other over the weeks of the program.

What greater blessing can there be than to deepen our friendship with God and with each other?

Grace and Peace to you,

Sarah Kneier and Jill Reichert

WHAT IS THE LOGOS SYSTEM AND PROGRAM?

The LOGOS System and Program is a dynamic ministry of Christian nurture, the goal of which is to nurture youth and children into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and live as his disciples.

The LOGOS System and Program is found in approximately 4,000 churches in the United States, representing over 25 denominations. The Program is also found in Russia, Japan, and Canada. Invitations to the national staff have been received from Cameroon, Nigeria and India. As part of this large family we receive the benefit of excellent resources, training, and a wealth of shared experience.

The LOGOS System Associates (all persons in local churches engaged in the LOGOS System and Program) believe that nurturing youth and children into right relationships of faith with God through Jesus Christ is the most important thing the church ever does.

The System

The LOGOS System of Christian Nurture involves the entire congregation. It is only when everyone makes a significant commitment of time, energy and ability to the nurture of young people that the LOGOS Program is most effective. Parents, single adults, grandparents, couples without children, and pastors, all join together to share their talents and gifts.

The LOGOS System unites the efforts of all programs of Christian Nurture in the church.

The Sunday School, Youth Groups, Mission and Outreach Programs, Vacation Bible School, church camps and retreats, and the LOGOS Program work together to bring a comprehensive experience of Christian Nurture to our young people.

The Program

The LOGOS Program is a Four-Part Program. We strive for all youth and children to participate in all four parts of LOGOS every week. Adult leaders participate in the part of the Program in which they have agreed to share their gifts.

The four parts of LOGOS are designed to create a setting in which everyone can practice, through their relationships, the theological concepts learned in Bible Study.

The Program enables youth and children to experience God's unconditional love, and to learn to share that love with their peers, adult leaders, and their families.

The four parts are designed to reflect the life of the early church as expressed in Acts 2.42:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

"Apostles' teaching" = Bible Study

"Fellowship" = Play Time

"Breaking of bread" = Family Time

"Prayers" = Worship Skills

1. Bible Study

The Bible study portion of LOGOS provides the foundation upon which the rest of the Program is designed. To build Christian relationships, and to create a setting in which Christian community can be experienced, everyone must come to know and understand the Bible. Along with regular attendance in Sunday School and other church programs, LOGOS strives to create biblically literate youth and children who apply what they have learned in Bible study to all aspects of their life.

2. Worship Skills

The experience of corporate worship is at the center of our life together as a Christian community. To prepare youth and children to participate regularly in worship with the congregation each Sunday, the Worship Skills portion of LOGOS not only teaches about worship, but provides ways for our young people to lead the congregation in worship.

3. Recreation & Craft Time

A variety of activities are offered every week to provide the opportunity for self-discovery as young people participate in playing together, doing crafts, or exploring special interests with members of the congregation. In a non-competitive environment, we learn to play and have great fun at the expense of no one.

4. Family Time

During the dinner hour a unique sense of the family of God develops as LOGOS members, adult table parents and our youth groups share a meal every week.

The meal is served family style giving everyone the opportunity to serve one another. A caring "family" is created at each table as table members share important events in their lives and enjoy Family Fun time together.

The Importance of Family Members

The LOGOS Program is an integral part of the Christian Education and Nurture system of the church. It works because of people like you who take seriously the faith development of the young people in our congregation and our community. By registering a young person for LOGOS, you have made a commitment to participate in it with the young people of our church.

It is expected that one adult from every family with a child registered in LOGOS will support their young person and the program by:

- Facilitating and encouraging the regular attendance of your young person in the weekly Program, as well as worship and Sunday School on Sunday morning.
- Identifying your gifts, and using them to participate in the Program.
- Participating with your child every week at home as they complete their Home Study assignments, if any. These assignments are designed to facilitate communication between family members and children and the sharing of your beliefs and faith.
- Paying a nominal fee which covers the costs of your child's meals.
- Praying for individual young people and adults in the Program. Prayer is essential and central to the Program. The adults, youth, and children in the LOGOS Program are held up in prayer by prayer partners, members of the Administration Board, and the congregation. Family members are encouraged to pray daily for those participating in the Program.

In some situations, there is not an adult family member who can assume these commitments. In such cases permission is asked of the family for a member of the congregation to take on the commitment and responsibilities related to registration and participation in the Program.

Children and youth "catch" the Christian faith by entering into relationships with adults who live their Christian faith, and who treat every person as a child of God.

Whether you are leading a game, washing dishes, parenting a table, or driving a car-pool, you are demonstrating to children and youth in the LOGOS Program that you love them, and you want them to know God and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. They will know by your participation that you believe the LOGOS Program to be a high priority for them.

Discipline in LOGOS

There is one main rule in LOGOS:

Everyone is to treat everyone else as a Child of God.
No one has the right to treat anyone as if they do not matter.

All relationships in LOGOS are guided by this rule. We believe that nothing is more important to God than our relationships with others and with our God. Every aspect of theology has to do with relationships.

The word Discipline comes from the word Disciple. Christian discipline is the teaching of self control and how to respond as Jesus would respond to unacceptable behavior. This requires risking and making ourselves vulnerable, but it is only in this approach that we can teach what Christian love is all about.

We learn from our conflicts. Discipline situations are opportunities for teaching and for the students to take responsibility for their actions. Adults can model resolutions that build self-esteem and help young people understand what it means to treat each other as Children of God. We give them tools to build healthy Christian relationships.

Unacceptable behavior will be dealt with as quickly, creatively, lovingly and firmly as possible. Courtesy and respect are expected at all times regardless of the part of the Program in which the student is engaged. We ask that the family support our approach to discipline, and that cooperation with others in the Program and staff be stressed.

Our Commitment

The skeletal strength of the LOGOS Program is provided by taking seriously several commitments which we call the "bones" of the Program. Without them, the Program becomes weak and does not accomplish the goals which we have set for ourselves. We are committed to keeping these bones in place:

- Everyone should participate in all **four parts** every week.
- Everyone should attend **regular congregational worship**.

- The **pastor will participate** and provide leadership in the Program.
- An **adult family** member will make a **commitment** to attend the Annual Parents' Meeting and to offer their gifts in service to support the Program.
- The Program will be offered **Midweek**.
- **Financial participation** by families is important to the maintenance of the program.
- People will be **called** to ministry **according to their gifts**.

Registration

Registration is not complete until a parent, or a sponsoring adult has attended a Parents' Meeting where they will:

- Complete registration forms.
- Contribute their fees.
- Make a commitment to share his or her gifts in the Program.

Fees

Payment of all fees at the time of registration is preferred. However, payment arrangements can be made upon request.

No child or youth will be denied the rich Christian experience of LOGOS for financial reasons. Scholarship aid is available. Please contact Jill Reichert to make arrangements for financial aid. All requests and arrangements are strictly confidential!

There are 10 weeks during the first semester and 11 weeks during the second semester, with an estimated food and materials cost of \$3 per person per week. However, we recognize that families with more than one child may have difficulty; therefore, we have structured fees as follows:

1 child	\$30 per semester
2 children	\$45 per semester
Maximum per family	\$50 per semester

POLICIES

Visitors

We encourage and invite youth and children to bring their friends to visit the LOGOS (children's and youth groups) Program. Please call the church office at 898-1551 by 3:00 pm on Mondays so a place can be set at the table for him/her. It would be appropriate for the person bringing the guest to pay for their guest's meal (\$3.00), if possible. Payment may be given to the Dinner Dean or placed in the basket during the Family Time Meal. When a guest has attended two times, the parents will be contacted and invited to register their youth or child in the Program.

IMPORTANT!!! Please visit the church website (www.waysidepc.org) and print our Guest Release Form for your guest's parents to fill out, which will give us any emergency information on your guest that we may need.

Car Pools

Individual families will be responsible for arranging transportation for their child(ren). We do not, however, want this to prohibit any child from attending. If transportation to the church is a problem, please contact the church office (898-1551) to arrange transportation.

Absences

If your youth or child is going to be late or absent, please call the church office at 898-1551.

Dismissals

In order for your child(ren) to be dismissed, you must enter the building and pick them up after activities have ended (except those teens who have previous arrangements to stay for choir practice). Children will only be released to those people listed on the registration forms as having permission to pick the children up. Parents must notify the Director ahead of time of any other arrangements. Your children's safety is of utmost importance to us. We want to do everything we can to ensure this.

Snow Days

We will follow the Hempfield School District's schedule. Therefore, if Hempfield Schools are closed or dismissed due to snow or other inclement weather, LOGOS will NOT be held. We will also make every effort to post messages on the church office answering machine and/or website. So, if you have any questions, please contact the church office at 898-1551 or visit us on the web at www.waysidepc.org.

Safety At Church

We wish to assure you that we take very seriously the safety of every young person and adult who participates in any program of the church. We have established standards of safety, and policies and procedures that will keep everyone as safe as possible.

- Before each semester all first aid kits are checked for supplies. All leaders are informed as to the location of all kits.
- We have implemented a Child Safety Policy for the protection of our children (and adults). Any adult working directly with children in our church is required to have Criminal Background and Child Abuse History clearances.
- A minimum of two approved leaders have oversight of the young people at all times.
- An information form, giving us names and phone numbers to call in an emergency is obtained at registration and whenever a visitor attends LOGOS.
- Everyone is given directions for emergency evacuation of the church. Drills are held during the year to practice safe evacuation.

If you have any questions about the safety of your child or youth when he or she is on the premises of the church, please contact one of the directors of our LOGOS Program or our pastor.

Staffing Our LOGOS Ministry

There are two kinds of staffing. We have positions to which persons are called into ministry, and positions for which persons volunteer (which may also develop into a calling - God *does* work in mysterious ways). Family members of youth and children enrolled in LOGOS fill many of these positions, and persons from the congregation without children or youth in the Program fill others. If you have not been called to be a member of the staff of LOGOS, you are asked to volunteer to participate in some way. Our greatest needs each year inevitably are in the kitchen. **We ask that you allow us to schedule you to help in the kitchen approximately twice per semester. You are certainly welcome to help more than that if you'd like.**

The Head Cooks need the most help at the times of 5:00-7:30 pm. We would like to make a schedule with you included in it & if you are scheduled on a particular day that does not suit, we'll ask you to call someone on the list and swap with them. PLEASE do not neglect to show up for your scheduled time without finding a substitute. We'll really be in a "pickle" without kitchen helpers!

If you cannot help in this capacity, we can arrange for you to be our dessert makers or clean-up crew. We can speak individually about those capacities.

There may also be other capacities in which you can serve in this ministry—perhaps administratively or if you're "crafty" or have a particular hobby you could share, etc. Sharing your time with the children is invaluable, so let's talk!

Those persons called to a ministry, as well as those who have volunteered in LOGOS will be supported in many ways.

At the beginning of the year, and several times during the year, there are staff meetings where we will be nurtured through Devotions, fellowship, and training to improve our skills. During these meetings there is also the opportunity for those working in the four parts to do planning and coordinating for their part of the Program.

The International Program offers Leadership Training Schools each year. Every year we try to send a group of people. Information about these schools will be shared at staff meetings.

SCHEDULES

Our Evening's Schedule

- 5:25 - Gather in sanctuary for prayer
- 5:30 - Pre-S/K (Rec/Play); Grades 1-6 (Worship Skills); Youth (Rec/Play)
- 6:00 - Family Time/Dinner
- 6:35 - Pre-S/K (Worship Skills); Grades 1-3 (Bible Study); Grades 4-6 (Rec/Play)
- 7:05 - Pre-S/K (Bible Study); Grades 1-3 (Rec/Play); Grades 4-6 (Bible Study)
- 7:25 - Pre-S/K (Free Play Time)
- 7:35 - Gather in atrium for closing prayer - *Sanctuary*; Gather take-homes from mailboxes and dismiss to families.

Our LOGOS Calendar, Themes, Special Days & Worship Skills

More information about each theme night will be made available closer to the time. You will be informed of any additional special dates as they come up.

Oct. 7 - Picnic Night - craft - introduction to LOGOS

Oct. 14 - Adventure/Scavenger Hunt Night - recreation - acolyting

Oct. 28 - Safari Night - BRING A FRIEND!!! - craft - praise songs & motions (taught by youth)

Nov. 4 - Sleepover Night - Not a REAL sleepover - but bring pillows, blankets and wear jammies! - recreation - praise songs & motions (taught by youth)

Nov. 11 - Hero Night - craft - interpretive movement for Family Christmas Service (to Amy Grant's *Breath of Heaven*)

Nov. 18 - Thanksgiving/Harvest Night - recreation - interpretive movement for Family Christmas Service

Nov. 25 - No LOGOS - Happy Thanksgiving!

Dec. 2 - Advent Night - craft - interpretive movement for Family Christmas Service

Dec. 9 - Meet the Wayside Staff Night - recreation - interpretive movement for Family Christmas Service

Dec. 16 - Backwards Night - craft - interpretive movement for Family Christmas Service

Dec. 23-Dec. 30 - Winter Break

See you on Jan. 6 for Semester #2!

Worship Leadership Schedules

As you've discovered, the purpose of Worship Skills is to teach the children what it means to worship, various ways we can worship and the importance of regular worship. It is our goal to have the children not only participate in worship, but lead the congregation in worship on a regular basis. Therefore, we will be having them participate on a regular basis through the various ways listed above, as well as more to come in the 2nd semester (e.g., art, banners, drumming, etc).

We will give you more information on those Sundays in which we will be participating as soon as it becomes available - some of which is dependent upon when they are ready and comfortable with doing so.

Please make special note of the Family Christmas Eve Service in which we will be doing an interpretive movement to Amy Grant's *Breath of Heaven*.

The children will practice and work hard to prepare for these times of worship participation. They will prepare as a "team" (or better still, a family) and the participation of everyone is necessary to make it work. So, please look for announcements and mark these Sundays on your calendar and be sure to join us in worship . . . and please invite your family and friends!

Welcome to LOGOS! We're so excited about the New Year!
If you have any questions, always feel free to call the church office @ 898-1551 and ask for Sarah Kneier or Jill Reichert.