



## THIS MONTH'S WINDOW INTO OUR PAST - SUNDAY SCHOOL IN 1898 + PHOTOS THEN & NOW

*Our September installment honoring our 125th anniversary highlights children in our church. The information was gleaned from our church historical collection.*

Our first Sunday School classes (and worship services) were held at the Ozaukee County Court House April through December of 1898. The following is an excerpt from **"Early Days of the Congregational Sunday School"** article by Lenore Harms in the 1938 40th Anniversary church booklet:

# 1898

Irene Scott, a pupil in the 1898 primer class reports that she found the judiciary benches

much too hard and too high in contrast to the little red kindergarten chairs that were used in the basement of the Methodist Church. She feared the mice that also insisted on attending Sunday School in the old Court House. However, these inconveniences were not of long duration, for on Christmas Day, 1898, the lower story of the Congregational Church was ready for occupancy.

**Crazy Hat Day at Vacation Bible School 1949**  
(part of a two page spread in Ozaukee Press June 23, 1949).

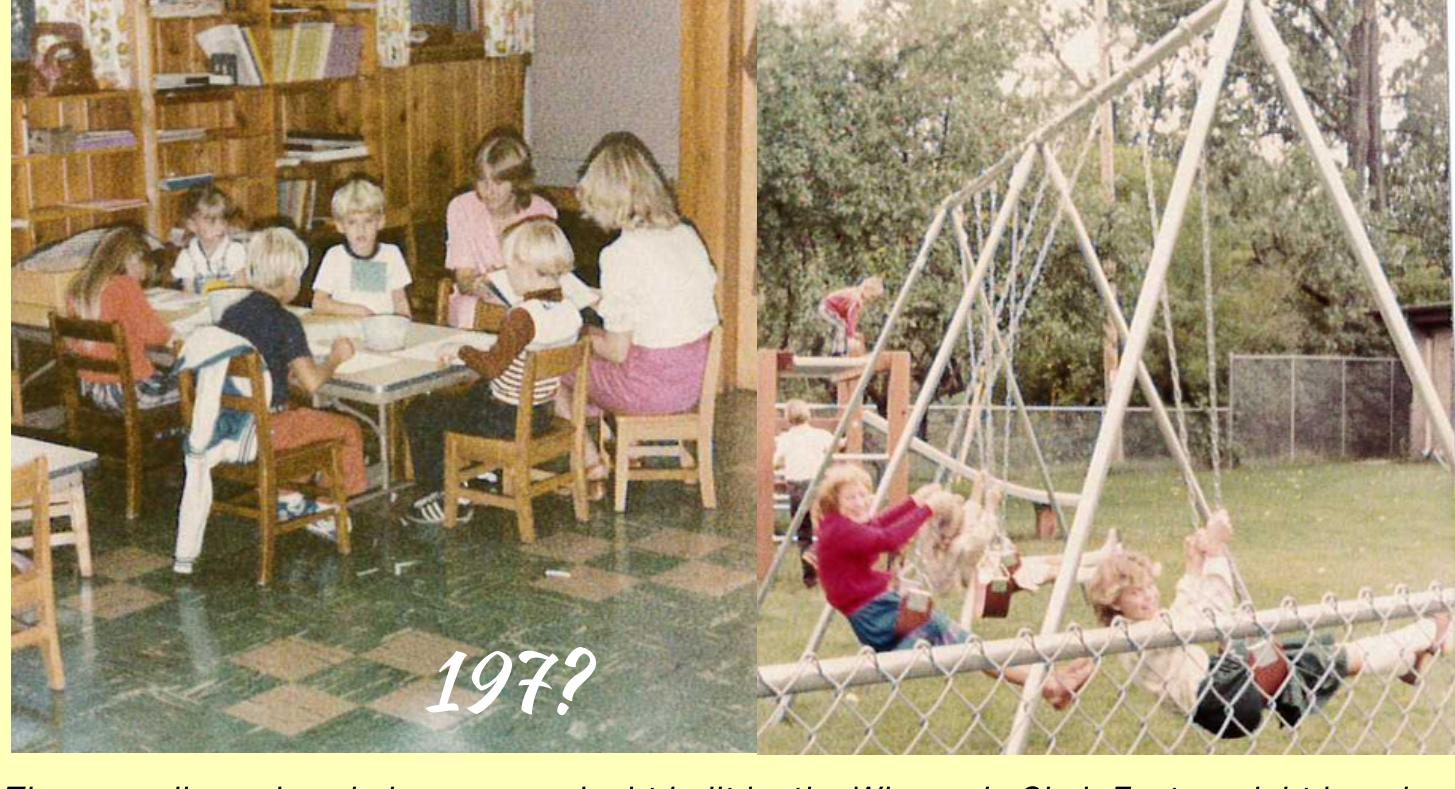


# 1949

**Hats were created with all sorts of items students found around the house.**

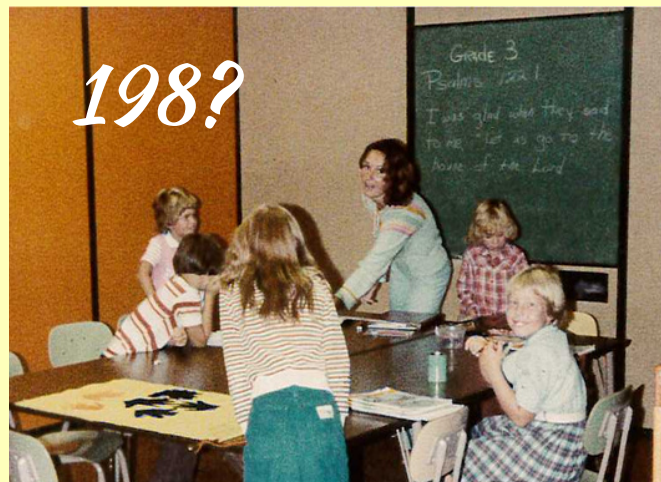
The late 1950s and the 1960s were booming times for Sunday School: most years enrollment was more than 100 students, preschool through high school. In 1963, for example, there were 149 children enrolled in 11 classes and 20 adults were involved as teachers, coordinators, and treasurer.

Until the late 1960s, Sunday School expenses were not part of the church budget but were self-funded via children's offering and financial gifts from members. The attendance numbers are even more staggering considering the space used was just the basement of the original church building! How did they all fit?



# 197?

These small wooden chairs were no doubt built by the Wisconsin Chair Factory right here in Port Washington. This room (located where our church office rooms are now) was used by our youngest Church School class and by Port Pre-School until the remodel and addition was built in 1998-1999. Who remembers when there was a fenced playground just south of the church building?

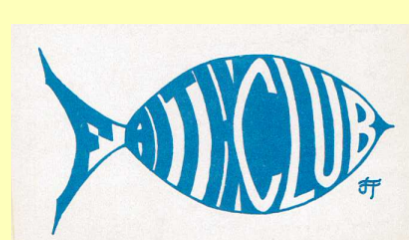


# 198?

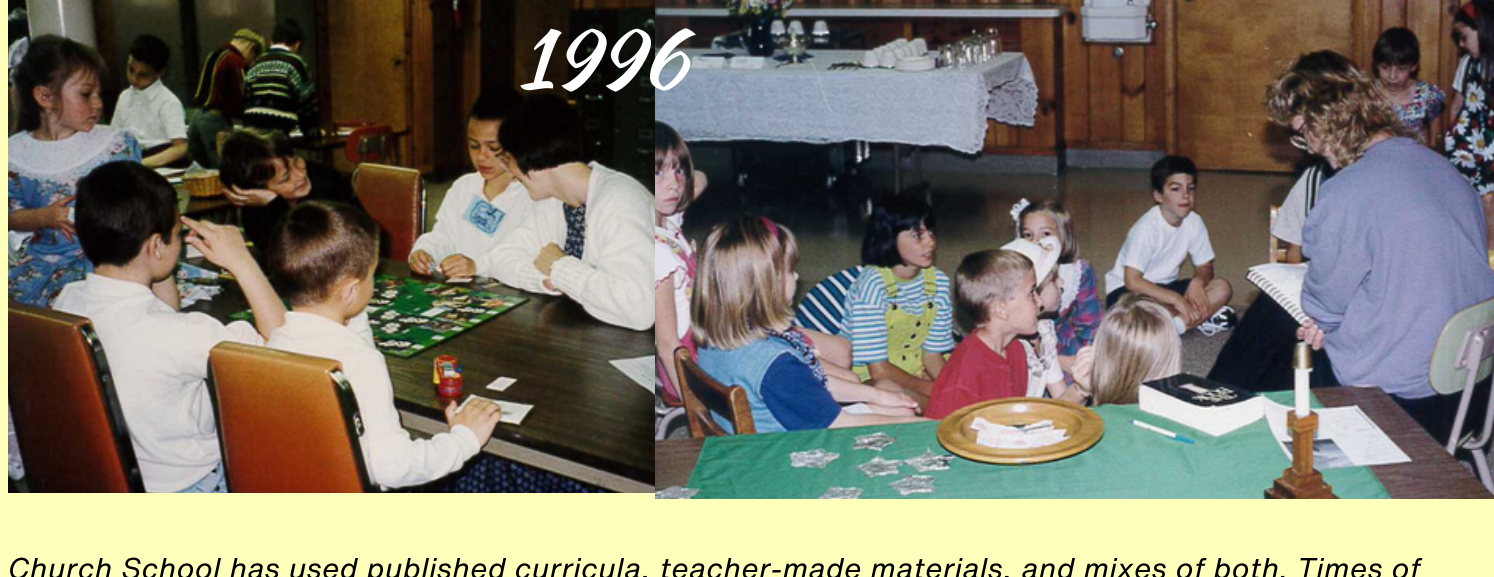
The lower level of the church was divided with foldable orange and tan walls that were pushed/pulled in place to create classrooms. Church School classes often got the cue to end class by hearing the closing hymn being sung overhead: it was to move walls and create the full space for fellowship time after worship.



# 198?



Bruce Laabs, Sr. was instrumental (pun intended) in founding and leading Faith Club, a youth group for middle schoolers that was active in the late 1970s. Photo to left and below shows Bruce playing guitar to younger children on a Sunday morning.



# 1996

Church School has used published curricula, teacher-made materials, and mixes of both. Times of meetings have changed. Classes have varied in size and age range. Most importantly, many congregation members, both parents and non-parents, have worked to create fun and meaningful Church School times for the children of our congregation.



## SUNDAY/CHURCH SCHOOL...NOW!



# 2023

Our Church School youth showing off their wishing well craft this past spring.