

DEAR PARENTS:

We're so glad you've signed up your child for a busy week at Long Hill Chapel for our VBS Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus. This VBS program is a wonderful way to help your little one explore God's Word in new ways.

Your welcome/registration packet may be picked up at the Church office Monday through Thursday between 9am - 1pm or if you need a different time, please feel free to contact us! Enclosed in the welcome packet is the CD of the music we will be playing and learning at Shipwrecked so you can start listening to this CD with your child! We have also provided an iron-on for your child if you would like to make them their own T-shirt for Shipwrecked.

At Shipwrecked, our elementary and preschoolers will be in separate curriculums, with our preschoolers being in our "Tidepool." Both the elementary and preschoolers will be in small groups comprised of mixed-age groups. These groups are called Crews led by adults or high schoolers who love children and love the Lord. Crews are an important part of VBS! Here's why.

Older kids share their skills and abilities with younger kids. Older children play an important role in their crews. They become the "big kids" who can cut with more accuracy, glue more easily, and (gasp!) even write their names! Younger children will love being with your older child and will show their affection generously. All this admiration is wonderful for your child's self-esteem and allows him or her to serve younger children in hands-on, practical ways.

Younger kids are loved and nurtured by their Crew members. They'll be loved, served, and doted on by the older children in their Crews. Plus, in a mixed-age Crew, the Crew leader has much more time to spend one-on-one with your child. And you can be sure that the activities are all specially designed for mixed-age groups, so younger children will not be in over their heads.

Your children will develop new friendships. While it's true that your child may not be with his or her very best friend, there will be opportunities to make many new friends. Studies show that children learn as much-or more – when they're linked with kids of different ages. If your child really needs the security of a familiar face, we can likely pair him or her with one special friend.

Millions of children have experienced the multi-age "family" approach at VBS programs with surprise and delight at the outcome. However, the most important factor in making this program a success is your attitude. If your child has doubts, reassure him or her that this is a wonderful opportunity to try something new and meet new friends. Your support will speak volumes to the children we're serving.

We are excited to start our adventure at Shipwrecked and to have your child as one of our Castaways!

Troy Kennedy and Kathy Gonzalez (your VBS Directors)

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Each morning you will drop off your child for our Castaway Sing & Play and they will go and meet with their Crew. ***You will receive a tag with a unique number, please hold on to this tag you will need it to pick up your child.*** If someone else will be picking up your child, please arrange to provide them the unique tag or let the Director know the person's name at drop-off.

At the end of each day, you will pick up your preschooler after the Sail Away Sing and Play Sendoff in our registration area. ***When you arrive you will provide your child's name to one of the Directors who will call out your child's name. You will then proceed to the check-out podium where your child will come to meet you and our volunteer can match the unique number with your child's name tag.*** For safety reasons, please do not intercept your child before the VBS Director and Crew leaders have had the opportunity to make sure they and their belongings are ready to go home and their name tags have been verified. For your child's safety, we instruct our volunteers to only release children to an adult with the unique tag or that have been noted on the child's nametag and carrying proper ID.