

Welcome Packet



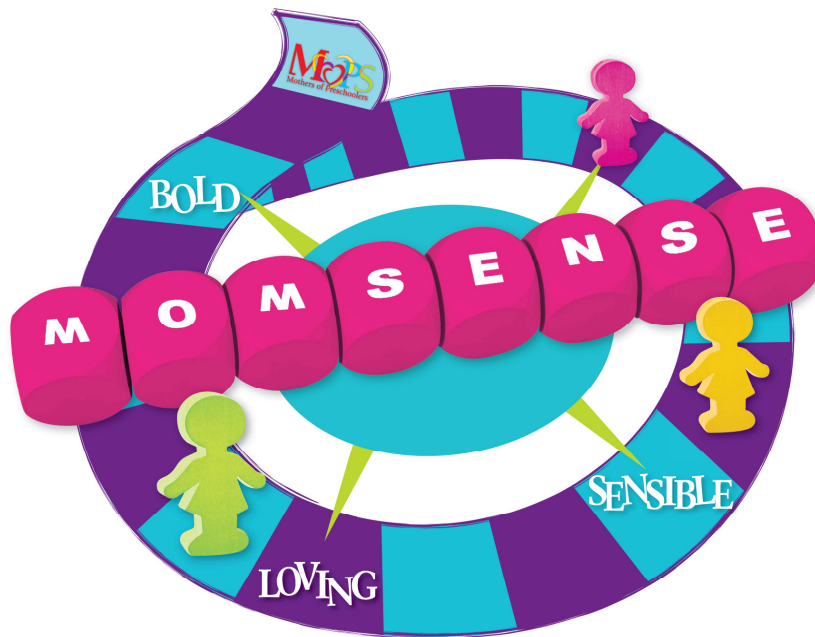
Mothers of Preschoolers

2011-2012

Living Hope Lutheran Church

MomSense: Bold • Loving • Sensible

Equips moms to embrace their mothering instincts and develop their own parenting style while navigating through the myriad of daily mom decisions.



Developing a mothering strategy is somewhat like playing a game — and this year's theme is appropriately game related. Have fun being a mom! Playing games involves **being bold** and taking risks, **loving those in the game** with us and **being sensible while figuring out what works and what doesn't**.

Just as in real-life, sometimes in games, unexpected, "chance" events occur, abruptly changing our paths. We must regroup and determine our next steps. Teaming together with other moms is a great strategy.

Combining her mom intuition and her common sense helps a woman discover her own unique MomSense.

(Mom Intuition + Common Sense = MomSense)

The Game Plan:



Meeting Topics

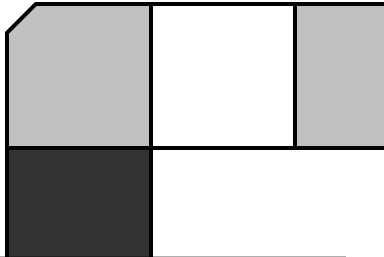
September 12 th	MAD GAB- MomSense Intro, Get to know you group. CRAFT
September 19 th	PUZZLE TIME - Prioritization of our households
October 3 rd	SURVIVOR- Guest Speaker Karen Schmidt
October 17 th	PICTIONARY- Scoring Tips on capturing those great family photos
November 7 th	BATTLESHIP- Self Defense Moves
November 21 st	MEMORY- Family Traditions: Men's Panel Create your own Memory Game
December 5 th	OPERATION- Raising Healthy Kids in a Fast Food World
December 19 th	TEA & TESTIMONY- Christmas Party
January 2 nd	MONOPOLY- Finding Financial Peace in your home
January 16 th	HUNGRY HUNGRY HIPPO- Meal Planning 101 Recipe Swap
February 6 th	APPLES TO APPLES- Seeing Eye to Eye with your Spouse. Guest Speakers
February 20 th	SCRAMBLE- Choosing your Words Carefully MOVIE NIGHT No childcare
March 5 th	THE PRICE IS RIGHT- Big Deals and Couponing – MAMA SWAP
March 19 th	LIFE- How to handle Change & Tragedy
April 2 nd	OLD MAID- Beauty, Fitness & Fashion Special Guest Jill Talent
April 16 th	UNO- SPA NIGHT
May 7 th	JENGA- Balancing your Many Roles MOM PANEL
May 21 st	SOLITAIRE- No Mom Alone Forming friendships for the long Summer Months

General Meeting Schedule

7:00-7:10	Check-in, Snacks, Mingling
7:10-7:20	Announcements, Door Prizes, Game Play!
7:20-8:10	Speaker/ Topic of Discussion
8:10-8:20	Discussion Group Time
8:20-9:00	Craft activity or Outreach Activity
9:00	MOPPETS pick-up!

**Remember to pick up your kids promptly! Children get anxious as they see other children being picked up. Especially since it will be late and close or past bedtime. We want them to leave MOPPETS with a smile!*





Hospitality

This year we will be taking turns bringing a snack to enjoy during our evening meetings. Signups will be at the **Welcome Table**. Please sign up for at least one meeting and also consider bringing a box of snacks for the children as well (we will collect them throughout the year). Do you have items at home you need to get rid of? Unload them on the **"Free to a Good Home"** table and let other moms discover a new treasure, or stop there to see if you can find one yourself! Use your best judgment. If you have questions about items please ask someone from the Leadership Team.



Outreach

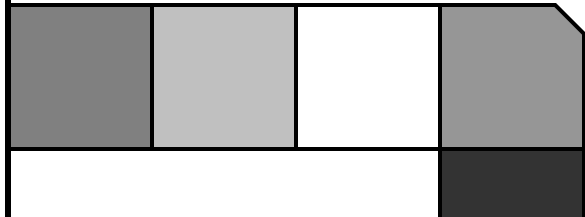
This year we have a couple of great opportunities to reach out to our community. The first way we will be reaching out and giving back is through the kids' quiet bags for the church services. The next way we are going to be able to reach out to the community is through our Block Party on **September 18th from 3-6**. Throughout the year we will try to give back in some way or another each month. Also, don't forget to save clothes, games, books, and toys to bring to the **exchanges** this year!

MOPPETS

MOPPETS is our **FREE** childcare program. We will have a collection container for a freewill donation as you are able to. We want to give you a chance to have uninterrupted "girl" time while your child(ren) is being safely cared for. You can be sure your kid(s) will have a fun and educational time while they are in MOPPETS. Our **curriculum** this year will teach valuable Bible lessons with the help of short clips from **VeggieTales!**

Please see attached sheet for guidelines as to when to not bring your child.

Player Profiles:



Leadership Team

Carrie Orvik: Coordinator
carrie.orvik@yahoo.com

Sara Westing: Creative Activities
swesting@gmail.com

Anita Pfeifer: Speakers
annabelle876@gmail.com

Liz Bloom: Publicity/Welcome
Mopsmom2011@gmail.com

Finance

This year we are able to keep the costs down and offer two meetings a month from Sept thru May for just **\$30/Semester or \$55/Year**. This includes your membership to **MOPS International** (\$24); they will encourage, equip and develop you to be a great mom. Look for their weekly Mom-E-mail along with a quarterly magazine and other goodies, including a reusable shopping bag! The rest of the amount will cover operating expenses such as speaker fees, supplies, childcare expenses and leadership training.

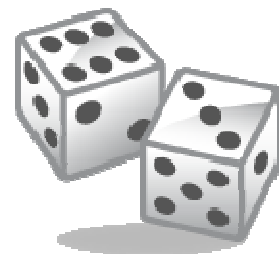
Scholarships (partial or full) are available for moms who would not be able to attend MOPS because of financial restraints. Also a payment plan can also be arranged.

Care

Sometimes life gets rough and we need people to come alongside us with **support** and **encouragement**. If you are in a "rough" spot and would like prayer, our Team is here for you. Please use the pray request cards and Jar so that we can pray for your needs. Are you expecting a new addition to your family this year? We will set up a **meal train** for those first few weeks at home with baby. Please let **Liz Bloom** know what area we may be able to bless you.

Discussion Groups

A key aspect of MOPS meeting is the **time to discuss**, in **small groups**, the topic covered by the speaker. Our Leaders will facilitate your discussion and offer opportunities to **get to know one another** through icebreakers and play-dates. Discussion group assignments are **chosen randomly**, we believe you will be placed exactly where you need to be!



General "Rules" to Play By:

- We are a breastfeeding friendly group
- Many of our MOPS members help to supplement their family income through home businesses. To protect the privacy of our MOPS moms and to maintain an atmosphere focused on our common bond of mothering we ask that you do not use MOPS meetings or contact info lists (ie-email lists) to promote your business. We wholeheartedly support your goals, but respectfully ask you to conduct your business dealings outside of MOPS. Thank you!
- Please refrain from having conversations while the guest speaker is talking. Our speakers are giving of their time and resources to impart valuable lessons to us and we want them to know our group cares about what they have to share!
- We ask that you do not bring your child to MOPPETS if they have had a fever in the last 24 hours, have vomited in the last 24 hours, have a rash or are sick and still contagious (pink eye, strep throat, etc.)

*“Better Moms
Make a Better World”*

We look forward to an exciting year of learning together, how to be better moms! *–Living Hope MOPS Leadership*