

Library News

December, 2014

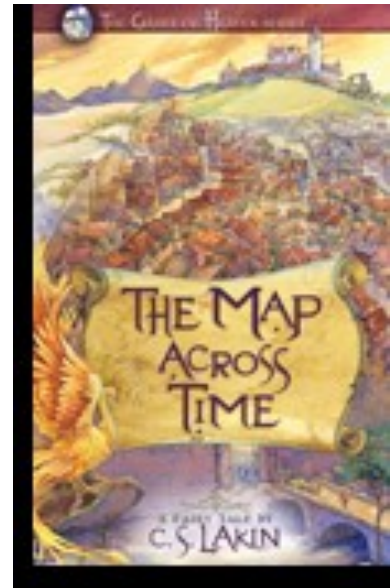
By Leah Krotz, Librarian

Books and DVDs are available on the shelves in the back of the church as well as in the library room upstairs. To check one out, just remove the card from the pocket, write your name and the date on it, and place it in the box. It's easy! When you return your items, put the card back in the pocket.

December New Items

This month, look for five titles in the *Gates of Heaven* collection of fairy tales, which draw from traditional, well-known classic tales and combine these elements with new storylines and deep characters. Designed to follow in the tradition of C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* (but for a more adult and sophisticated audience), these tales meld humor, purpose, and inner struggles as characters seek heaven's will for their lives.

"Much richer and deeper than traditional tales from fairyland...what Lakin does so well with her fairy tales is to provide images which remind us of what God has done for us." ~Mark Sommer, *Examiner.com*



Read to Your Kids...and Give Them the Gift of a Lifetime

"If every child were read to daily from infancy, it would revolutionize education in this country!"

~Former Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley

Are you familiar with the specific advantages your toddler or preschool-age child can receive by being exposed to the joys of reading? Below are some benefits that highlight the importance of reading to your children.

1. **A stronger relationship with you.** As your child grows older, he'll be on the move—playing, running, and constantly exploring his environment. Snuggling up with a book lets the two of you slow down and recaptures that sweet, cuddly time you enjoyed when he was a baby. Instead of being seen as a chore or a task, reading will become a nurturing activity that will bring the two of you closer together.
2. **Academic excellence.** One of the primary benefits of reading to toddlers and preschoolers is a higher aptitude for learning in general. Numerous studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education.
3. **Better communication skills.** When you spend time reading to toddlers, they'll be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way.
4. **Mastery of language.** Early reading for preschoolers has been linked to a better grasp of the fundamentals of language as they approach school age.
5. **The knowledge that reading is fun!** Early reading for children helps them view books as an indulgence, not a chore. Kids who are exposed to reading are much more likely to choose books over video games, television, and other forms of entertainment as they grow older.