

September Spotlight – Melissa and Russ Parr

Sunday School resumes in September, so we decided to shine our spotlight on a pair of teachers – Melissa and Russ Parr, who have been teaching Sunday School since the inception of the program at Immanuel. In addition to teaching lessons on Sundays, they have run the Sunday School table at our annual Christmas Market, selling crafts made by the children. They are also involved in the annual Christmas pageant, enjoyed by the whole congregation.

Melissa pitches in when needed with other parish activities, such as helping at the peach sale and assembling turkey pot pies.

The couple were also very active a few years ago in the parish Refugee Fundraising Committee, which raised \$26,700 to sponsor the Al-Kahtib family in Lebanon. Now, with the rest of the parish, they are waiting for the family to finally be given official refugee status and brought to Canada.

Melissa and Russ have three active children: Brody who is 14 and plays football and chess, and takes computer coding classes; 11-year-old Calla, who takes theatre and acting classes, and mother-and-daughter Zumba classes with Melissa; and Holden, now seven, who swims and plays flag football and hockey. Their parents are kept busy getting the children to all their activities.

Russ works with Saskatchewan Health Authority as a therapist, and Melissa is now a stay-at-home mom.



Most of their family vacations are spent travelling in the USA, where Russ's family lives. Melissa's parents are Gwen and Gerry Rupchan, who are also active members of Immanuel congregation.