

Shalom Readers

- Adult leaders help children age 4 through 8th grade select and read books from a list compiled by professional educators reflecting core Christian values of peace and justice from an Anabaptist Mennonite perspective. A child who reads seven books and “reports” on two of them will earn a free gift book of his/her choice from the list.

- Presents religious, spiritual, social, cultural and environmental themes from around the world and throughout history.

- Gives children the opportunity to consider what being a faithful disciple of the risen Christ might look like in today’s world.

- Provides occasions for parents/caregivers and other adults in the church to read stories aloud, leading to important discussions about the Christian faith.

- Includes award-winning books available in public, school, and church libraries, as well as the Central Plains Conference library.

- Lists over 270 titles, carefully selected by professional educators, categorized in three age groups, with new titles added every year.

- The Shalom Readers year begins September 1 and ends July 31.

Grateful acknowledgments are given to “The Christian Peace Elf” project and the book, *The Most Wanted Peace Books*, by David Hiebert, 1988. Shalom Readers Club is patterned after the model designed by David Hiebert for Allegheny Mennonite Conference.



Shalom Readers
is a ministry sponsored
by the Christian
Formation Committee
of Central Plains
Mennonite Conference:
an area conference of Mennonite Church USA

We encourage all congregations
to take this opportunity to nurture children
in the Jesus way of peace.

Not sure how to begin?

Contact your regional coordinator:

Churches in CO, MT, NE or SD contact:

Joan Friesen

Box 682, Henderson, NE 68371

402-723-5868

E-mail: jfriesen@mainstaycomm.net

Churches in IA, IL, MN, or WI, contact:

Ellen Miller

2131 Grand Blvd., Waterloo, IA 50701

319-235-9130

E-mail: ellenkmiller@gmail.com

If the books are not available in your church,
school, or public library, they may be
borrowed from:

CPMC Shalom Readers Library

Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029

Phone: (605) 925-4463 M-Th 9am - 3pm

SHALOM READERS

Helping children choose the
Jesus way of peace



**“JESUS is the Path
to PEACE”**

How do I become a Shalom Reader?

1. Fill out the registration form and give it to the adult SR leader in your congregation. If your church does not have a leader, send the form directly to the coordinator for your area. (See Registration Form on the next panel).
2. Read, or have someone read to you, seven (7) books from the SR list, and write the titles on your record sheet. The list and record sheet are available from your church's SR leader, your regional coordinator (see next panel), or online at: www.centralplainsmc.org/shalom-readers. Books from the list may be borrowed from the Central Plains library if not available locally (see address on back panel).
3. Create a book sharing about two (2) of the books you have read. You may want to work with your parents or your SR leader. Here are some ideas:
 - write a short description of the book, telling why you liked it, or why you didn't
 - write a song, poem, story, or skit inspired by the book and share it with someone
 - create a drawing, painting, or collage that relates to the book
 - do a "peace" activity inspired by the book, such as reading the book to a younger child or to an older person in your congregation or neighborhood
 - discuss the book in your Sunday School class or mid-week gathering
 - talk with an adult about how you can be more like Jesus
 - write or draw about a time when you followed the Jesus way of peace in your family, with your friends, or classmates
4. When you have completed your sharing on two of the books you have read and given them to your SR leader, you may choose a book from the SR list to keep as your own! Your church's SR leader will help you and see to it that you receive the book.

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall
be called the children of God.**

Matthew 5:9



REGISTRATION FORM

Sign up now to be a Shalom Reader!

(Younger children will need help from parents or congregational leaders.)

Name _____

Age or grade _____

Address _____

Church Name _____

Church Address _____

Give this form to the Shalom Readers leader in your congregation. If your congregation does not have a designated leader, mail the form directly to your regional coordinator. If you, as a parent or other adult are interested in developing this ministry in your church or are willing to be a Shalom Readers leader, contact the coordinator for your region (see back panel).

For congregations that do not have a Shalom Reader leader, complete information (the SR titles list and necessary forms) is available at: www.centralplainsmc.org/shalom-readers