Theme: The New Church - June Nineteenth

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

A. It was necessary to start a New Church because the Christian church had divided God into three persons: "the Father", "the Son," and the "Holy Ghost."

B. The apostles therefore went throughout the spiritual world teaching the truth that the Lord is one God. (TCR 4)

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story
   1. Long ago there was no New Church.
   2. When the Lord lived on earth He said He would come again, but people didn't understand how that would be.
   3. The Lord came again in the new Writings for the New Church by Emanuel Swedenborg.
   4. In heaven a wonderful thing happened to celebrate this. We'll read about this special time.

B. Tell/Read the Story
   1. Enclosed

C. Ideas to Discuss
   1. How did Swedenborg see the spiritual world? (With his spiritual eyes)
   2. What did Swedenborg do when the Lord taught him things? (Wrote them down)
   3. What day did heaven celebrate the first birthday of the New Church? (June 19, 1770)
   4. What did the Lord do on that first birthday? (Sent out His 12 disciples into all of heaven)
   5. What did the disciples tell everyone? (The Lord God Jesus Christ reigns and that His kingdom shall be forever)

D. Further Ideas
   1. We celebrate that the Lord was born on earth at Christmas time. That is like His birthday.
   2. We celebrate when the Lord was born again on the 19th of June. This is like the church's birthday.
   3. How do we celebrate the church's birthday? (The church gives the children presents, picnic, pageant, special church service)
III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music
   1. "Happy Birthday to You" to the New Church
   2. "This Little Light of Mine"
   3. “The 12 Disciples” (Lori’s Songs; tape 2, side B, song 12)

B. Activities
   1. Trace the letters: "The Lord God Jesus Christ Reigns!"
   2. Act out the story: Teach the children the verse "The Lord God Jesus Christ Reigns!" and have them "go out" and spread the news. Perhaps they could have a chance to act this out for the grownups after church.
   3. Birthday party for the New Church

C. Projects
   1. Color in a picture of the 12 disciples spreading the news
   2. Decorate the tracing activities (B. 1 above). Use stickers, glitter, and markers. Perhaps mount it on colored paper.

IV. Teaching Aids

A. See enclosed color illustration of the 12 disciples by Mir Synnestvedt

B. Felt board & figures of the Lord & disciples, if available.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher