

St. Mark's Preschool

Our Philosophy

St. Mark's Preschool (Nurturing Center) is a ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. St. Mark's Nurturing Center assists families in building a strong Christian foundation for their children, and in cultivating the love of learning about the world in which they live. This is achieved by employing staff who will bring the love of Jesus Christ and His teachings into the classrooms each day, and by celebrating the inquisitiveness of the young mind.

Goal

Our goal is to establish a relationship of love, trust, and support that will nurture the child and to help his/her their young mind to bloom. We seek to have a developmentally appropriate environment that encourages and inspires not only a love of acquiring knowledge but also the joy of loving the Lord with all their heart.

God's View of Children

God's Word gives us great insight as to how God views children. The Bible says

- Children are gifts from God. God grants children to adults as gifts. Please see Deuteronomy 7:13 and Psalm 127:3.
- Adults receive blessings from children. Parents can receive blessings of God's grace as they choose to exercise patience and self-control through the challenges of parenting. Please see Numbers 5:28, Deuteronomy 28:4, 11, and Lamentation 4:2.
- Children need to be instructed how to think and act in relation to God and His ways. As George Barna writes, "One of the greatest adult challenges is passing on appropriate knowledge and behaviors to their progeny." God has created us for Himself, so it is no wonder that our chief end in life is to get to know Him, love Him, and live for Him in a world that so desperately needs Him. Please see Exodus 12:26, 37; Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 6:1-7; 31:12-13; Psalm 78:4-6; Proverbs 22:6.
- To have a fruitful relationship with God, our love for Him must be coupled with obedience borne of gratitude and trust. We are missing out on blessings if we do not understand that every one of the Ten Commandments contains a promise, a provision for future happiness, and protection from harm. Children, being born in a state of spiritual blindness, deadness, and enmity toward God, are greatly blessed to be taught to fear God (in the Biblical sense) so as to obey Him in love and gratitude. Please see Proverbs 8:32; 19:26; Jeremiah 2:30; 3:22; Ephesians 6:1; and Colossians 3:20.
- God earnestly desires to have a genuine relationship with His children. It is a great privilege to enter into His presence in worship and enjoy His presence on a moment to moment basis throughout our lives. Please see Psalm 8:2; Psalm 34:11; Psalm 103:13; Malachi 2:15; Matthew 21:15; and Mark 10:13-16.
- God loves children, and desires that children receive discipline/instruction so that children can be in a position to enjoy Him and get the most out of life. Please see Proverbs 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; 23:13; 29:15-17; and Ephesians 6:4.
- God commends children and some of the personality traits of children to adults for our emulation. God treasures the sincerity, humility, and trusting nature of children. Please see Matthew 18:3; 19:14; and Philippians 2:15.

(I am indebted to George Barna for some of the observations on this page.)