



## Mission

To joyfully share the gospel of God's kingdom and prepare children for a life of learning and service to Christ Jesus and their neighbor by nurturing their faith and developing their skills and acumen.

## Ministry

The purpose of St. James Lutheran Early Childhood is to serve as a ministry of our Lutheran congregation to make known the love of Christ to the young students and equip them to become disciples of the kingdom of God (Eph 2:10). We partner with parents as they fulfill their vocation to nurture their child by providing a quality Lutheran education. We work together to support our students and foster their growth spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially.

**Spiritually** - Knowing, through faith, they are created in God's image as His forgiven and redeemed children through their baptism (Mark 16:16), aiding their growth in faith as they learn about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Intellectually** - By understanding and learning about God's world through meaning-laden play (Rom 12:2).

**Physically** - Learning to discipline their bodies through regular exercise and proper nutrition (Rom. 12:1).

**Socially** - Learning to live together as God intended and being good stewards of His creation (Luke 6:31).

**Emotionally** - Maturing in their knowledge and understanding of each person as their neighbor in love and respect (1 John 3:1).

## Philosophy

All children are a gift from God (Ps. 127:3) and are unique individuals called to flourish in His kingdom and within their family (Ps. 92:12-13). Our classrooms and teaching practices reflect our belief that Jesus Christ graciously determines all we say and do. A developmentally appropriate Christian environment provides children with a place to learn and grow.

Our childhood education program addresses the whole child by focusing on a student's creative, physical, social/emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth. We value an environment that recognizes each child's varied abilities, interests, needs, and learning styles.

Young children learn best through hands-on meaningful play which cultivates curiosity, discovery, and problem-solving. The classrooms offer opportunities for guided, teacher-directed, and self-directed play. Our teachers encourage and support students to make positive choices and practice decision-making skills so they succeed in a complex, ever-changing world as life-long learners.

Parents are the child's first teachers. Children learn best when parents are involved in their child's education. Our teachers partner with parents to enhance their child's academic and spiritual growth, so they may become rooted in Christ. (Col. 2:7)

