

CHRIST THE KING

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Purpose

{why our Children's Ministry exists}

The Children's Ministry at Christ the King Presbyterian Church seeks to provide opportunities for children to encounter and be changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Vision

{where we are headed—our destination}

Our hope is for children to be transformed to love God, to develop and nurture a personal faith in the Lord Jesus, and to live bearing witness to the gospel.

Mission

{how we strive to reach our vision}

- Teach children the gospel—God's redemptive plan for his people and their need for Jesus in their own lives
- Nurture and care for children so they feel embraced as part of the church community
- Assist parents in “the spiritual nurture, instruction and training of the children of the Church”¹
- Encourage faith formation and communing membership amongst covenant children²
- Recruit, train, and equip teachers and volunteers to be effective and joyful communicators of the gospel while showing the children the love of Jesus

Mission Tactics

{what we do to reach our vision}

CARE AND TEACHING

“We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. That the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.” Psalm 78:4, 6-7

Based on these words of scripture, we take seriously the call to teach our children the truths of the faith and the character of God. In our nurseries, Sunday School, and Children's Worship classes the children of Christ the King engage with these truths through studying the Bible (the overall narrative as well as its teachings), worshiping through song, memorizing scripture, catechisms, and participating in other hands-on activities. The specific mission of our key programs include:

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Sunday School

Sunday School serves as the primary time for the Christian Education of children and youth at Christ the King. Classes are offered each week for all ages³ and the scope of these classes reflects the church's desire to equip children with an understanding of Scripture⁴ and God's saving work to redeem his people through Jesus. Our Sunday School classes follow a systematic study of the Bible appropriate to each age group, and use curricula from Great Commission Publications as their primary teaching resource.

Communicants

Classes are periodically held for those children who may be ready to become communing members. Such communicant classes review principals of faith and also help parents gauge their child's level of spiritual maturity and growth to determine whether appropriate for him or her to join the church.

Children's Worship

Children's Worship takes place during the sermon and provides a time of teaching for children (4 years to 2nd grade) to be shaped by the practices of worship and living by faith. The curriculum follows a two-year rotation that children repeat (covering in greater depth the second time through):

*I Believe: The Apostles' Creed*⁵ - Foundations of the Christian faith are taught through lesson units covering each portion of the Creed. Themed science discovery, music and service projects help children relate the words of the Creed to their own lives.

*The Story of Worship*⁶ - Worship is unfolded as the story of our conversation with God throughout our service, with lesson units teaching through the order of our worship. Children complete collaborative art projects as a creative expression of worship.

Nursery

Our nursery rooms provide safe care for our youngest children (birth through three years) throughout our worship service. Children are nurtured through play, music, snack and Bible story time. Our primary teaching tools are Bible storybooks such as the *Read Aloud Bible Stories* series and *My Very First Bible* by Lois Rock.

CONNECTING, FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47

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Throughout scripture we are called to love one another and live in community. We hope that by connecting our families to one another, healthy nurturing relationships are built. These connection points happen through Sunday morning services, retreats, community groups, summer programs, church cookouts, and other gatherings and events.

We also desire that volunteer service within the Children's Ministry connects church members with one another and is one way our congregation lives out its baptismal promise to undertake the responsibility of assisting parents in the Christian nurture of their children.⁷ We also value the gifts and talents of our children and therefore welcome and provide opportunities for them to serve one another, whether that be older kids helping in nursery or assisting with art or other special projects in Children's Worship.

OUTREACH

"But seek the welfare of the city...and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Jeremiah 29:7

We take the call to love the city seriously and long to be a church and ministry that engage in and care for our communities. We desire our families and Children's Ministry to be intentional in sharing the gospel with neighbors and inviting them to church, that the kingdom of God may grow. We seek to create such outreach opportunities through backyard bible clubs and other social or community events.

¹ *The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church of America, Ch. 28-1.*

² *The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church of America, Ch. 28-3 & 56-4j.*

³ *with the exception that those under age 2.5 years receive care but no instruction*

⁴ *The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church of America, Ch. 28-2.*

⁵ *The Apostles' Creed curriculum includes content from "Laying the Foundation" (by Luke Gilkerson, licensed for use through Intoxicated on Life, L.L.C.) and original lesson material and activities developed at Christ the King.*

⁶ *The Story of Worship curriculum is based on materials from Trinity Presbyterian Church (Charlottesville, VA) that were enhanced and substantially expanded at Christ the King.*

⁷ *The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church of America, Ch. 56-5.*