



Preschool Chapel

Dear St. Mark's Ark Parents,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our great privilege to teach, form, and nurture your children, and we thank you for entrusting them into our care. As a ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, The Ark implements a faith-based curriculum called Pinnacle, which is built on comprehensive, multi-age, and research-based learning. Each week, the curriculum introduces a story or theme of scripture to supplement the classroom learning objectives.

Starting June 7, our precious children will return to weekly chapel. This is an opportunity to hear the stories of faith again within a worship-like setting. Children (ages 2-4) will take a "field trip" to St. Mark's sanctuary for their chapel time. They'll read a Bible story or related book with me, Pastor Daniel, sing songs with Cantor Tony Cruz, and pray together.

I recognize that our students and families confess and participate in a variety of faith traditions, denominations, and belief systems. The purpose of chapel is not to convert or shame any child into believing or adhering to the doctrine and theology of the Lutheran church. However, it is our intent to teach about God's abundant love and grace within the foundations of the Lutheran faith. Therefore, I thought it would be helpful to introduce to you a few of the themes that will guide our time together in chapel.

God Made All Things Good - In the beginning God created all things. God created all things as good and for the purpose of good. This applies to our children. They are uniquely and wonderfully made in God's image.

God Forgives Us - Sometimes we make mistakes. We mess up. In preschool we learn how to articulate our mistakes, understand why we made them, and how to apologize. In chapel, we learn that God knows we mess up and that is ok. God welcomes our apologies and teaches us how to forgive one another.

God Loves Us No Matter What - God's love is abundant and endless. There is nothing we can do to separate ourselves from God's love through Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus teaches how to love one another the same way.

Our time in chapel will reflect the structure of Lutheran liturgy, which is built on four pillars - Gather, Word, Meal, Send. In worship (chapel time), the Spirit **Gathers** us together to hear the **Word** proclaimed, and we are fed and nourished by both the word and the **Meal** before the Spirit **Sends** us out into the world to love and serve.

It is our hope that children hear the stories of God and God's people with curiosity. It is important to remember that not every story in scripture is happy. There are difficult stories to teach, such as God flooding the Earth in Genesis, drowning the Egyptian army in Exodus, or Jesus being crucified. While we won't withhold these moments of God's story, we will be sensitive and intentional in how we teach and discuss them.

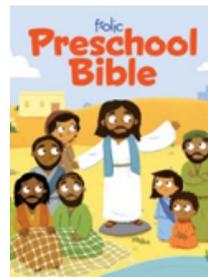
If you would like to continue teaching and learning the stories of faith in the home, the summer schedule for chapel time is listed below. Additionally, the various age-appropriate Bibles that we use for chapel are listed below. If you would like to purchase your own copy, you may make a check payable to St. Mark's Ark, and we will be happy to provide you with a Bible.

Finally, if you should have any questions about chapel time, Lutheranism, or the Christian faith in general, please contact me. I would be happy to talk.

Peace,

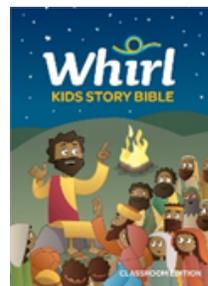
Pastor Daniel Locke
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Date	Story	Bible Verse
June 7	Creation	Genesis 1
June 14	Adam and Eve	Genesis 3
June 21	Noah	Genesis 6
June 28	Abraham and Sarah	Genesis 12-17
July 5	Baby Moses	Exodus 2-4
July 12	Moses & God's people	Exodus 13-17
July 19	Ten Commandments	Exodus 19-20
July 26	Battle of Jericho	Joshua 6
Aug. 2	David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17
Aug. 9	Elijah	1 Kings 16-17
Aug. 16	Daniel in Lion's Den	Daniel 6
Aug. 23	Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4
Aug. 30	Jonah, Nineveh, and God	Jonah 1-4



Frolic Preschool Bible

This delightful picture Bible tells some of the Bible's most beloved stories from creation to the resurrection. It is perfect for emerging readers. \$15



Whirl Kids Story Bible

Designed for kids in pre-K through second grade, the Whirl Kids Story Bible is packed with essential, faith-building stories from Genesis to Revelation. \$25



Spark Story Bible

The Spark Story Bible brings God's Word to life through colorful art and rich retelling of 150 of the most popular Bible stories. \$25

*All Bibles by Augsburg Fortress