
PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT – ST. JOHN’S WEE CARE

1. **St. John’s Wee Care Learning Center is a mission and ministry agency of St. John’s Lutheran Church.**
It serves the children and families of St. John’s as well as those of the community. Its objectives include pre-kindergarten education in a Christian context for children ages 3, 4, and 5, to teach them the skills needed for kindergarten readiness.
 2. **A Christian Environment**
The environment in which Wee Care classes and programs is conducted is one that is not only physically close to the Church, but philosophically close as well. Staff members at Wee Care view all of the “subjects” they teach, and every other contact with children, as ways to witness to God’s love for His children. All of life—not just “Jesus time”—is sacred. Our words and actions convey our deepest convictions, even when we are not conscious of them.
 3. **Wee Care’s philosophy parallels that of the Lutheran Church.**
Children are born sinful (Psalm 51:5); Christ has saved the whole world from sin (John 3:16). Through the “Means of Grace” (*Baptism*: Romans 6, and the *Word of God*: Romans 10:17), children and all people can believe that Jesus Christ is their Savior and receive eternal life (Romans 10).
 4. **The Purpose of Christian Education**
Christian education; therefore, seeks to nurture this faith in such a way that it touches every area of life (Ephesians 2:10). Since even little children can have faith (Matthew 18: 1-6), they are to be shown how to live as God’s people. The Christian values and virtues they are taught are not ways to gain God’s favor, but rather ways to express the love of God to others in daily life.
 5. **Christ-Centered Teaching**
“Jesus Time” Bible lessons will, for example, emphasize that even great “Bible heroes” were sinners who were forgiven and empowered by God, even as we are. Their deeds, though exemplary, are not the main point of the story. The main point is God’s work on our behalf, especially His work of salvation through Jesus Christ.
 6. **Goal: Discipleship as a way of life**
Christian living is a life of discipleship. “Discipline” is the root word of “disciple.” At Wee Care, Christian discipline permeates the environment. Children are taught that their behavior is a positive way to give glory to God. Even misbehavior, though it brings appropriate consequences, does not cause God to love His children any less. We continually stress that Jesus died and rose to save sinners out of His great love for the world. Our behavior (children and adults) is motivated by His love for us.
 7. **St. John’s Wee Care Learning Center is a vital element along the way to life-long Christian education in a developmentally-appropriate setting.**
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