

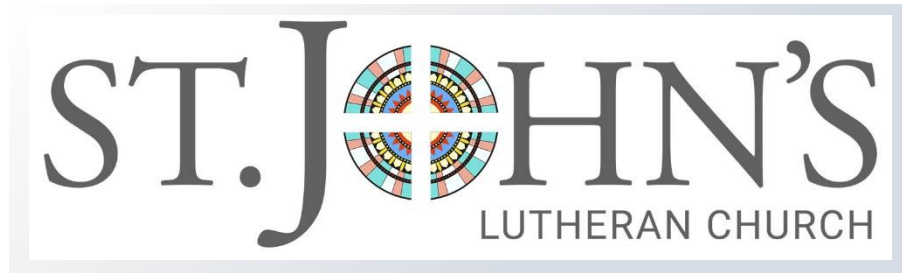
# Statement on Wee Care Program

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## Expansion of Wee Care to Preschool with Wrap-Around Childcare

On November 28, 2023, the St John's Lutheran Church Congregation voted to adopt the business plan to expand Wee Care from its current form to a wrap-around childcare facility. The congregation believes this will allow Wee Care to grow its ministry and continue to provide a Christian based pre-k education program for the Stewartville community. This wrap-around care will be offered to families that are enrolled in Wee Care with children in the 3-5 age range similar to the current pre-school requirements. The expectation is to open the wrap-around care for the 2025-2026 school year.

Wee Care's current director, Tricia Knutson, was hired in the spring of 2023 on an interim basis knowing the congregation was exploring this expansion option. She has been instrumental in keeping Wee Care moving forward as we work through staffing shortages and other challenges. Both the congregation and all our Wee Care families are grateful for her work along with all the current Wee Care staff!

With the congregation voting for expansion, the first task forward will be to hire a new director to lead the program into the future with the expansion. Tricia notified the congregation that this would not be the right opportunity for her and her family, so the Church has begun taking applications for the director role. Tricia is planning to continue in her current role through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. If you have questions on the expansion of Wee Care, or the director job, please call, email, or stop in and talk with the Church office.