



No Christian Education 12/21 & 12/28

We can't wait to see your children back in Sunday school on Sunday, January 4th! See below more information about Children's Sunday School in 2026.



GODLY PLAY

Preschool and Younger Elementary Sunday School

Preschool and Younger Elementary classes will use the Godly Play curriculum to explore Bible stories through imaginative and interactive storytelling. Classes will begin in Room 304 and end their time in their separate classrooms.

What is Godly Play?

Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired approach to children's faith formation that invites them to explore Bible stories with wonder and imagination.

How It Supports Children's Spiritual Growth:

- **Engages Through Storytelling:** Uses hands-on materials to bring Bible stories to life.
- **Encourages Reflection:** Prompts children to wonder and connect personally with God's story.
- **Fosters Spiritual Growth:** Builds foundational skills for prayer, worship, and lifelong faith.
- **Creates a Safe Space:** Provides a calm, welcoming environment for creativity and community.

Godly Play nurtures children's faith by helping them see themselves as part of God's story in a meaningful and joyful way.



Older Elementary Sunday School

Our Older Elementary (3rd Grade to 5th Grade) children will meet for Sunday school to explore Spark: Activate Faith lessons. An activity-filled Sunday school curriculum that follows the salvation story from start to finish, helping kids explore key Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments. **The older elementary class will meet in Room 212.**



Spark helps kids learn at their level

Interact with the Bible in every lesson, helping kids navigate the story and begin to compare what they learn to their own life.



Focus on hands-on learning

Engage kids in the Bible story with lessons packed with activities, interactive games, and creative crafts.



Experience the Salvation Story arc

Help kids experience the Salvation story each year by exploring the Old Testament in the fall, and the New Testament in the winter and spring.



Frolic Nursery: Little Steps, Big Faith

Our Nursery aged children (Birth to 1 year) will explore Frolic Nursery lessons. Drawing on brain science as well as theology,

Frolic was designed by early childhood experts to build faith through play in babies, toddlers, and young children from birth to age five. Frolic uses Bible lessons, music, and play to help build a firm Faith foundation.



Start faith formation at birth

Uses a curriculum-based on early childhood best practices to help your little ones to take little steps to big faith—starting at birth.



Focuses on learning at their level

Frolic's curriculum focuses on helping young children explore faith concepts in the way they know best— through play!



Equips caregivers to nurture faith

Equips leaders and parents to nurture faith in many ways—through storytelling, prayers, and music.



Thank you to the Children's Ministry Volunteers and Parents!

Thank you for your love and dedication in serving the children of St. Mark's and our surrounding community in 2025. Through your prayers, time, generosity, service, and faithful example, you help children experience God's love in meaningful ways. Your commitment truly makes a difference in their lives. May Christ bless you and your families in the New Year as we continue to grow and serve together in children's ministry.

Blessings,

Hannah



Confirmation Classes start January 25th!

All children in 5th-7th grade are invited to attend the Confirmation classes starting Sunday, January 25th at 9:15-10:15 AM. Classes will be located in the banquet hall. Confirmation Sunday will be May 17th.

Confirmation Orientation

Confirmation orientation will be held on January 11 after worship in the banquet hall. A letter with additional details will be mailed to families later this week.

Please contact Hannah Underwood or David Cowan to register if you haven't already!



Kids Connection will resume January 28!



Children's Christmas Eve Play Practice is this Saturday!

During the early Christmas Eve worship service, our children and youth will act out the Christmas story. We need actors! If your family will be in town and your child can participate, please sign up [here](#).

Rehearsal Schedule

Those participating are required to attend at least one rehearsal.

- **2nd Rehearsal** – Saturday, December 20st from 9 – 11 a.m. in the Gym



Little Lights and G.L.O.W. Kids!

We've had a wonderful semester building relationships with one another and those around us through our GLOW Kids and Little Lights meet-ups. These times of service and fellowship have been a special opportunity to not only nurture friendships but also enrich your child's life and the lives of others. I pray that these meaningful connections will continue to deepen as your children keep shining the light of Christ brightly in 2026.

Stay tuned for the 2026 GLOW Kids and Little Lights calendar!



Save the Date for Cedar Crest Camp's Be Retreat!
February 28 – March 1, 2026

All 3rd-5th graders are invited to join us for a weekend of worshipping, playing, and connection! Register by January 19th for the early bird cost. Click [here](https://cedarcrestcamp.org/events) to sign up. More information to follow.



SAFER SANCTUARIES

Nurturing Trust within Faith Communities

Help St. Mark's be a Safe Sanctuary to all people entrusted to our care!

- Keep empty rooms locked
- Sign children in and out of classrooms
- Supervise your children at all times
- Accompany your children to the Restroom

Help St. Mark's be a Safe Sanctuary to all people entrusted to our care!

Ways you can help:

- Keep empty rooms locked
- Sign children in and out of classrooms
- Supervise your children at all times
- Accompany your children to the Restroom
- Help us observe the two-adult rule at all times by serving as a Safe Sanctuaries helper
- If you see any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate, inform a ministry leader

Please contact Hannah Underwood at hannah@stmarkstn.org if you have any questions. Follow our St. Mark's Children's Ministry Facebook page and Instagram @stmarkstnkids for more information!

