

Children's Ministry Report

Wow, because of COVID-19, a lot has been required to change in our children's ministry. But there is always something to be thankful for and for me that is seeing families' worship and study God's Word together!

Here are some ways that we are equipping families during this time –

- Before stay at home order went into place, we were able to present picture and reader Bibles to our 2/3-year olds and 3rd graders during our 75th anniversary celebration.
- Because we cannot meet in person for Sunday School and Living in 3D, I have been sending out a simple, daily devotion that families can do together in their homes. This, also, includes a fun video to connect to our weekly lesson on Wednesdays and children's message during the Sunday worship service.
- I have tried to stay connected with our families through starting up a Facebook group where we can share our prayers and joys with each other, phone communications, and a virtual playdate Zoom call.
- Continued interaction with our preschool by filming video messages and wishing them a happy summer at their drive-through classroom supply pick-up.
- Because we made the decision to cancel our VBS this year, we will be setting up some monthly family events (with appropriate physical distancing) to continue to encourage our MLC families and community. The first, will be a "Summer is Here Drive-Through Party" where families can pick up a summer goodie bag with summer toys, activities, and family devotional resources. Then to add a little more fun to the party, there will be snow cones available for purchase.
- I have set up a background check program for the church and have begun the process of getting all our volunteers screened, especially those that work with children and youth.
- In this time of physical separation, I have been able to work with a team to begin the process of updating our welcome center, nursery, and children ministry hallway.

I hope that children's ministry can begin meeting together again by late summer/early fall but we are taking great caution, out of love and care for our families, and following guidelines put out by the city and state officials. In the fall, I hope to –

- To host a big, kickoff party to celebrate getting back together again.
- Begin meeting together for kids Sunday school as nursery, preschool, K-2nd, and 3rd-5th.
- Create meaningful fellowship and fun together during Living in 3D on Wednesday evenings.
- Continue to add to our milestone ministry.
- Begin meeting with our youth girls at our monthly GLC events to grow in the confidence we have in God's Word.
- Have greater interaction with our preschool as they go back to school.

I know that God is working in great ways during this time and I am so honored to be able to share the love that Jesus has for us with the children and families of this church community.