

Nursery Ministry



9300 Jason Avenue NE
Monticello, MN 55362
763-295-5511

Family Handbook

(Rev. (6/20/2008))

The Nursery Ministry is a part of our
Children & Family Ministry.

The Children and Family Ministry
mission and vision is as follows:

Mission Statement

We will nourish discipleship by...
Foundational Learning
Experiential Learning
Intergenerational and Relational Learning
...in order to equip all of God's children for their
life-long journey of faith in Jesus Christ.

Vision Statement

Children & Family Ministry is the LIFE BLOOD of
God's city...nourishing the mind, body & spirit of children
through Scripture-based teaching, tools,
and experiences and supporting families
to aide in that journey.

WELCOME TO THE RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH NURSERY!

We welcome you and your child to the nursery ministry of Resurrection Lutheran Church. We join with you in the amazing and wonderful calling of supporting the faith nurture of your child.

Our Nursery mission is:

“Caring for Christ’s little ones and their parents with the love of Jesus.”

Our focus is to provide a trusting, safe, and welcoming environment for children from infants through 4 years of age in our Nursery area. A feeling of trust and security in the nursery builds a basis for your child to know and trust in God. We want children to experience love and care by our dedicated caregivers. We have set standards for this ministry area that we hope give you assurance that your child is well cared for.

Please let us journey with you in the joys and challenges of the family faith walk; We hope to connect with you by getting to know you and your child personally and by offering resources to help you grow in your walk of faith. For starters, please use this little handbook as a helpful introduction to our Nursery Ministry.

**“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”**

Matthew 19:14

“You have taught me since I was a child.” Psalm 71:17

Karen Chatterton
Children & Family Ministry Director

What helps our Nursery to be an effective ministry of care and faith nurture?

Our Nursery Team and Staff strive for a ministry of high standards, which we ask all registered families to help us maintain. These are the basics:

- All children must be registered on their first visit (either visitor or regular)
- We employ paid staff attendants for scheduled nursery caregiving, who supervise volunteers and who receive appropriate training.
- **All registered regular families are expected to volunteer.** We have a one hour, every four week schedule. Ask our nursery staff to give you a current schedule and include you on the rotation.
- We will provide a nursery environment that is **safe, secure, healthy, and faith nurturing:**

1. Safe!

Separate rooms for infants/crawlers and toddler/preschoolers
 Toys and furnishings are safe for children under 4 years of age
 Covered electrical outlets
 Hot beverages are banned
 Snacks are simple and approved by parents

2. Secure!

Creating Sanctuary child protection policy which requires healthy boundaries in place
 Sign-in and out procedure in place
 Security number tags given to match children and parent(s)/guardian(s)
 Parent notified if child cries inconsolably
 Pager system to locate parents when needed

3. Healthy!

Toys and surfaces are cleaned regularly with disinfectant
 Well-child policy posted and encouraged
 We strive to keep hands clean and germ free
 We have a sanitary diaper changing policy

4. Faith Nurturing!

Bible-based videos, music CD's, and books
 Beginner Bible and Bible storybooks
 Nursery Education time on Sunday mornings starting in 2009

Answering your questions about Nursery policies and procedures...

What to bring...

You may bring a diaper bag for your child. We suggest a change of clothing be included. We have cubbie storage where the bags can be kept for easy access to both parents and caregivers. Please have identification on your child's personal belongings (including pacifiers and sippee cups). We also provide an identification tag with a number that matches your child's sign-in number and your numbered tag. Please refrain from bringing personal toys into the Nursery.

Our staff and volunteers are not allowed to give medications. If your child needs medication, please administer it before coming to the Nursery. Medications would typically include ointments and powders administered during diaper changing, which our attendants will administer only with parent permission.

If you provide a bottle of milk or pre-mixed formula or juice, we are happy to give this to your child. Crackers, raisins, and fruit snacks are available if your child is hungry. Be sure to let us know if you do not want your child to have a snack.

When you arrive...

Our Nursery Attendant will greet you from behind the check-in counter, and guide you through registration if needed, and the check-in process. All children need to be signed in by an adult. You will receive a numbered ID tag that will match the number on the sign-in sheet (a matching tag will also be provided for any belongings kept in the cubbie space). You will complete an adhesive nametag for your child, which will be applied to his/her back. Please note any information that will help in the care of your child such as feeding times, allergies, or special needs. You will also be asked to serve one hour every four weeks as a volunteer. In order to create a safe environment and to support our staff person, extra hands are needed to be successful. You will not be asked to change diapers or check in families. You will be the support person and hold babies, play on the floor with the children, read books, etc.

Leaving your child...

Some children have great difficulty with separating from their parents. This is made easier by your own positive attitude and communication with your child. Please let them know that this is their special time of worship by playing with friends and doing fun Bible activities. Let them know they will be safe until your return and you are happy they are being cared for here. Also assure them they may ask the grown ups for any help they need. It is also helpful to arrive 10 minutes early to have time to reassure your child before leaving. If your child cries inconsolably, you will be notified after 10 minutes by our pager system. If less time is desired, please note that on the sign-in sheet and inform the attendant.

Picking up your child...

When you pick up your child, you will sign them out on the same sheet on which they were signed in. Please show and turn in the numbered identification tag and be sure to take all your child's personal items. Although it is important that the Attendant knows where you are located, please take the time to tend to your spiritual needs for worship, prayer, and fellowship knowing that your child is well-cared for.

What happens if your child is sick?

In our efforts to minimize the spread of colds and flu, we have the following well-child policy in place. A copy of this policy is posted in the Nursery Room. For the comfort of your child, if he/she becomes ill during Nursery care, you will be notified.

Well-Child Policy

Children with obvious and visible illness or symptoms SHOULD NOT be present in the Nursery. These symptoms and illnesses include the following:

- **Fever over 100.2 deg.**
- **Runny nose with colored discharge**
- **Pink eye (conjunctivitis) or other eye infections**
- **Persistent coughing and/or sneezing**
- **Vomiting**
- **Inflamed throat, or strep throat, unless the child has been diagnosed and medicated for at least 24 hours.**
- **Earaches**
- **Diarrhea (2 or more diarrhea BM's)**
- **Swollen Glands**
- **Untreated Rash (except diaper rash)**
- **Head Lice**

(Note: children with allergies may exhibit some of these symptoms, in which case exceptions will be made if the parent notifies the Staff Attendant.)

Who may be in the Nursery?

Only children through the age of 4 may be in the Nursery. We also try to maintain manageable and safe adult to child ratios, using the following guidelines:

- Infants to 12 Mos. – 1 caregiver per 2
- Toddlers/Preschoolers thru age 4 – 1 caregiver per 6,
- A maximum of 10 children in the room per one adult caregiver.

Additional volunteers may be asked for by our attendant or the ushers.

We strive for at least two adult caregivers at all times per our Creating Sanctuary policy.

We welcome children with special needs. However, it is important their care is closely coordinated with the Nursery Attendant. Please inform the Attendant on duty of special care that may be required. We also invite you to speak with our special needs liaison, Deb Odell, to assure your child's special needs are attended to.

Parents who need to tend to the needs of their child, such as feeding, are welcome in the Nursery. Our general policy, however, is to have only staff attendants and signed-in volunteers during scheduled nursery coverage.

Can the Nursery be used if unstaffed?

Yes, under parent supervision, or if parents leave their child with Creating Sanctuary trained adults/youth, and can be located on the Church Property. The Nursery should be picked up and sanitized after it is used. Keys and reservations are available through the Church Office.

What happens in the event of an emergency?

There is an outdoor exit in the Nursery Room. If we need to evacuate the building, attendants and volunteers will take children outside through that door. Parents may meet their children outside. During the winter months, children's outdoor wear should be placed in the cubbie space. A phone is located in the Nursery to make emergency phone calls. Ushers will be contacted immediately for help if needed. Our Nursery Attendants are asked to complete CPR training for the safety of all who use the Nursery.

What are the volunteer opportunities for parents?

We expect that at least one of the parents of a registered child will regularly volunteer in the Nursery, especially on Sunday mornings. A volunteer sign up is located at the check in counter in the Nursery. We ask that you sign up for one Sunday Worship Service time every four weeks. If not able to provide that level of commitment, please speak with our Volunteer Coordinator about alternatives. Volunteers should be members of the congregation for at least 3 months. You will need to sign an Occasional Workers Creating Sanctuary Form. For your own safety and that of the children, we encourage you to receive the Creating Sanctuary training when offered.

We would love to have your help in a leadership role as part of our Nursery Ministry Team to help grow and strengthen this ministry area of Resurrection Lutheran Church. Please speak with our Ministry Leaders or Children & Family Ministry Director.

May I donate items to the Nursery?

Yes, we accept new or “like new” items. We also publish a wish list, which is posted in the Nursery. Please contact Aaron Milbrat, our Room & Supplies Coordinator to make a donation.

(Note: A complete copy of Nursery policies and procedures is included in the Nursery Manual located in the Nursery, available for viewing, if desired.)

Supporting Parents as they Nurture their Children's Walk of Faith

It is part of our mission to help equip and support parents as the primary faith influence for their children. This is a growing area of our Nursery Ministry and we invite your comments and suggestions.

Baptism Classes

Resurrection offers pastor-led Baptism classes for expecting, new parents, and baptismal candidates. Please call the church office to be notified of the next Baptism class offered (#295-5511).

Worship & Children

In baptism, children are welcomed as part of the body of Christ. It is important that children experience church as a place where they belong and can participate with the community of faith. Children also bless the worship experience of others, reminding us all of God's wonderful creative activity. Jesus welcomed children and expects us to welcome and also to learn from children. We encourage families to worship with their children for those reasons. We provide a Nursery Ministry to help children experience a loving and caring faith community, especially when the child's developmental, physical, and emotional needs keep them and parents from a meaningful time of worship.

Sunday School Readiness

Your child is welcome to join in the Preschool Sunday School classes if he/she is 3 years of age as of September 1. Preschool Sunday School is scheduled during the 9:30AM worship services on Sundays, which includes a time of welcoming at the beginning and a time of saying goodbye at the closing of our time together. It lasts from September thru May and requires a separate registration form and fee to enroll.

If you have questions about your child's readiness for Sunday School classes, please obtain the handout "Is My Child Ready for Preschool Sunday School" from the Nursery attendant or speak with the Children & Family Ministry Director.

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