



Child Learning Center Harvest Strategy

What is Grace Lutheran Child Learning Center?

Grace Lutheran Church in Sahuarita is a mission site of Grace Lutheran Church of Southern AZ. The congregation was established in 2014 to reach the greater Sahuarita/Green Valley area with the Gospel. In our efforts to reach the most people with the Gospel, a Child Learning Center was established in 2020. Through this ministry we teach little children about Jesus Christ. We build relationships with those families so that they too know the importance of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We built a facility that shows our commitment to this ministry for the safety, security and growth of young children in Sahuarita. Our pastor, director and teachers serve as front line missionaries in gospel ministry inside and outside the classroom and church.

Our Mission

Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world, and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

Our Child Learning Center Commitment

We provide child care for infants age 6-weeks through preschool age children. We offer a high-quality, safe, private, Christian child care and child learning environment. Our facility has plenty of space and options for children to grow physically and mentally. Our caring and professional staff creates a warm and loving atmosphere for children to develop and learn.

MISSION/VISION/GOAL

Grace Lutheran Child Learning Center exists as an outreach ministry of Grace Lutheran Church.

Our Mission:

To teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world, and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service through our Child Learning Center in Sahuarita.

Our Vision. We will...

- Preach and Teach the Gospel
- Build Personal Relationships
- Strive for Excellence
- Reach a Digital World
- Use Our Time Wisely

Our Goal:

The goal of our harvest strategy is to have 100% of unchurched families in our Child Learning Center hear the Gospel regularly and worship with us at least one time. Ultimately we want them to have a greater and longer relationship with Christ through our church.

Our Harvest Strategy Philosophy

The Gospel is Our Greatest Tool: We will plan and work hard to share the Gospel in all we say and do. We believe that the Holy Spirit creates faith through the Gospel when and where he wills. Our harvest strategy seeks to connect our families with the Gospel regularly. Everything in our Child Learning Center will be Gospel focused as will our encouragement to families. We also believe that connecting to the Gospel through worship is our greatest opportunity to grow the kingdom. We will encourage families to participate in our special and regular services.

Relationships, Relationships, Relationships. Friendship evangelism has proven to be the most successful way of bridging from awareness to participant. We will encourage every called worker to build relationships with the parents: pastor, director, teacher and teachers assistants. Through these connections, we hope to clearly and openly share the Gospel with families of our community. This happens inside and outside the center.

Striving for Excellence. We don't want to just exist as a child learning center in Sahuarita, we want to be the very best. Through programing, facilities and caring teachers we want to build an atmosphere of trust and love. We want to offer the best to our Lord and to our community.

Reach a Digital World. We know that many of the parents that are looking for child care grew up in a digital world and expect our child learning center to be as digital as possible. We will continue to use all digital resources at our disposal and will constantly strive to keep up with the latest developments in technology, apps and social media. We will use technology as a tool to communicate regularly, quickly and efficiently with families.

Use our Time Wisely. One of the reasons for starting a Child Learning Center that cares for children ages 6-weeks – 5 years is so that we have multiple opportunities to share the Gospel with them. We will see them all daily, weekly, monthly and yearly. Our plan to share the Gospel with them starts before they even enroll with our tour process which outlines our teachings and continues from the day they enroll until they are either members of the body of Christ or have graduated from our Child Learning Center. We aren't rushed, but we also want to start early as it often takes time for families to go from unchurched to churched.

Our Harvest Strategy Details

Grace Lutheran Child Learning Center Advertising: We will use as many resources as possible to reach the community of Sahuarita. We will have a booth at Fiesta Sahuarita, we will participate in local festivals and parades, we will go door-to-door, and we will use any digital form of communication to share information about our child learning center. All our advertising will be clear about who we are, what we offer, and will include a mention of what we believe.

The Tour: We will have every family tour the center prior to their enrollment so that we can start a relationship with them, explain our policies and clearly inform parents of our Bible teachings.

New Family Orientation: We will have a new family orientation once they have decided to enroll their child with us. At this meeting the Pastor and director will guide them through the daily process and include a simplified Bible Information Class to allow the Gospel to work in their hearts.

Enrollment: We will strive to have the Pastor and Director present for the first week of enrollment to work with each family and child to build a close relationship with them early on in their experience with our Child Learning Center.

Weekly Devotions: We will have shared the Gospel with the child every week including a pastor led chapel service. At the end of the week we will share the Gospel with the family through take-home devotions as well as invitations to worship.

Monthly Party with a Purpose: We will host “monthly” events at the Child Learning Center that focus on a time of the year and a family connection. We will design the events around building relationships with the family and the staff.

Bi-monthly Worship Focus: We will plan and invite all students and families to participate in each of the 6 special worship events. Each will be based on a church theme, will have child involvement and intentional time for members and families to interact.

New Member Classes: We will offer regular new member classes to prospective families. We will encourage members to join in the class too based on a relationship they built with an unchurched family as well as for their spiritual growth.

Staff Encouragement: We will encourage all staff member to take part in spiritual growth as part of their training so that they know who we are, what our mission is and what we believe. We pray that the Gospel will work in the hearts of staff members so that any unchurched staff become members of our church and can encourage families to join also.

Harvest Strategy Renewal: We will refresh and renew our harvest strategy on a regular basis. Staff will have some input and will be encouraged to participate and carry out the mission of our Child Learning Center.

New Ministry Opportunities: We will listen to our families and our community and study each new idea for ministry presented to us. We will only start these programs if and when they align with our mission, provide new opportunities to share the Gospel, can be sustained financially and have adequate staffing.

Contact Information

Director: Laura Heiman

520-278-8793

director@gracelutheransaz.org

Pastor: Ryan Heiman

520-999-0245

revrah@gracelutheransaz.org