

RESURRECTION & LIFE LUTHERAN LEARNING CENTER

Proposed Mission

The mission of Resurrection & Life Lutheran Early Child Learning Center (ECLC) is to reach out to families in the Rochester community and to share the Good News of our Savior. The ECLC will spiritually nurture the children in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, while guiding the child's educational and social development through exploration and discovery in this Christian setting.

Goals

- Share Jesus with ECLC students and their parents; planting the seed of the Gospel
- Provide Rochester community with safe, caring and strong learning environment
- Introduce families and children to Christian education, while encouraging families to continue Christian education into our Lutheran Elementary School
- Draw unchurched families into our congregation

Long Term Vision

Resurrection & Life Lutheran ECLC will provide an environment for children 6 weeks to 5 years old, with a capacity of 70 children. We will offer a before and after school care program, as well as summer care for Learning Center children. We will provide children in our care with a comprehensive program that will stimulate, challenge, and encourage students to become learners for a lifetime. We will have a safe and inviting facility, that will meet or exceed all state requirements.

Expectations

- The ECLC will strive to be financially self-sustaining. This means that income received from child tuition will offset Learning Center staff compensation, classroom materials, and the utilities within facilities.
- Early Child Learning Center Director will be called to oversee operations of the Center and work towards building key relationships with Learning Center families.
- Resurrection & Life will introduce a new leadership board for Early Childhood Ministries. The Learning Center Director will work closely with the Early Childhood Ministries chairman and board members.

Early Child Learning Center (ECLC) Director

A Director will be called to focus on the following items:

- Manage day to day operations and ensure certifications are properly in place for existing Preschool
- Plan and help launch the Early Learning Center phased approach
- Partner with Resurrection Lutheran School Principal and Early Childhood Ministry Coordinator (ECMC) to focusing on building relationships with existing Child Ministries at Resurrection & Life Lutheran

Perceived Challenges

- **Is the mission of the ECLC fully understood across the congregation?** There have been many questions and various feedback on the ECLC. This overview is a result of over a year of defining the mission, goals, and expectations in the ECLC committee. The committee is comprised over 15 members, pastors and school faculty.
- **Will we need new facilities and funding to support a new Learning Center?** Based on a phased approach outlined, we will not immediately need new facilities. Once the Center grows and the congregation determines to move forward into future phases, we will have facility remodeling needs in Phase 2 at our Resurrection Campus, and Phase 3 & 4 would require new facilities at a later determined location. We have received a \$100,000 per year grant for the next 4 years which was given towards the Early Childhood Ministries.
- **Will we need additional staffing and support for the ECLC?** The ECLC will require a Director which was outlined above. The Director position would be funded by the grant over the first 4 years. The Director position would also fill the need of the current Preschool Director position that is now vacant since Polly Bitter has left. With each phase, there will be additional staff needed, however, the called workers would only be required for Preschool age students. The other children would have hourly staff. The financial model is set up to have the child tuition fully fund or exceed ALL staffing and programming needs.

Opportunities

- Calling new Early Child Learning Center Director would encompass the role of preschool director which would be a savings of \$15,000 per year for the first four years
- Rochester community continues to have significant need for early child care with an estimated 1,082 open childcare slots (December 2017 survey in Olmsted County by the Center for Rural Policy and Development)
- Startup can be eased with incorporating it into the existing Preschool. The first phase would be focusing on making the Preschool more financially sustainable. Adding a Summer session to the Preschool and providing specific Preschool before and after child care would greatly expand the pool of families looking for quality Preschool
- Facilitate the growth of Monkey Junction families into our school and congregation. In a survey of 55 Monkey Junction families, 56% were interested in joining an ECLC if we had one available

Phased Approach

Realizing that we will not be able to start off immediately with new facilities and 70 students, this phased approach outlines the start up through reaching our long-term vision. The phased approach timeline will be dependent on enrollment, interest, facilities and funding.

PHASE ONE: Spring/Fall 2019- Spring 2020

- Call Early Child Learning Center Director (Spring 2019)
- Focus on making existing Preschool more financially sustainable
- Continue to use existing Resurrection Preschool classroom
- Formalize before & after-hours child care
- Introduce Summer sessions which will greatly expand interest in our Learning Center (Summer 2020)

PHASE TWO: Summer/Fall 2020

- Expand Center to two classrooms by using Resurrection Kindergarten room
- Need remodel project at Resurrection for moving existing Kindergarten class (Summer 2020)

PHASE THREE: Summer/Fall 2021

- Expand Center to include Toddlers
- New/expanded facilities ***Congregation approval to proceed with Remodel/move**
 - Decision to stay at Resurrection campus or relocate to Life campus or other location

PHASE FOUR: Summer/Fall 2022

- Expand Learning Center to include Infants
- Need expanded Facilities at determined location ***Congregation approval to proceed with facilities**

Next Steps

- **April 1st-** ECLC team meeting with School Faculty
- **April 7th-** Open Forum at 10:45 at Life Campus and 11:45 at Resurrection Campus to review the ECLC
- **April 14th-** Voters meeting on our Resurrection Campus following the 10:30 service to call ECLC director

ECLC Team contacts

If you have questions pertaining to this information or you are unable to attend the open forum, please contact Daryl Schulz or DJ Earls.

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