



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*November 10, 2019*

### Lutheran Education Sunday

Bible Reference: Luke 18:15–17

For years Mt. Calvary has valued, supported and played an active role in Lutheran Education. In the past we had our own grade school. Now we have our own preschool, which has blessed the community for 45 years. We have also been in association with Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) for over 40 years. This weekend we start a new chapter—recognizing the other Lutheran schools with whom we are also connected. We did a quick search and found that there are 30 Lutheran schools in a 15-mile radius of Mt. Calvary. This is a huge blessing since St. Louis is a very large Lutheran community. Yet, like any great blessing, the devil tries to get in the mix and mess it up.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has been gifted with education throughout history. We have the grade schools, high schools, universities, and the church workers to prove it. We take quite seriously Jesus' words "Let the children come to me..." Sadly, however, schools and churches, like all humans, can become jealous of one another, which can make it challenging to work together. We get into a mindset that we have to do it all, but each of our churches and schools have different resources and can help families and children in different ways. Just recently one of our confirmation students found it difficult to attend our 9 am confirmation class, so we began working with another Lutheran church whose classes they could attend. It worked out well for this family that our churches could work together.

Unfortunately we can't bring in all 30 schools this weekend, that is, not until Jesus gives us a bigger space, but we can start by highlighting the four Lutheran schools with whom Mt. Calvary is most connected. You will hear from them briefly during the service, and you can browse their tables and ask them questions while enjoying some Kolaches after the service. Just because you no longer have kids in the home does not mean the information isn't for you. You never know when Jesus will put someone in your life who might ask you about Lutheran schools. If you have the information, you will know better what to recommend. If we work together, my prayer is we will feel great joy in recommending the school that is best for their family, not merely based upon bias or previous connection.

This weekend's reading from Luke is a well-known reading, one we often hear and say: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (*Luke 18:16 NIV*) Besides the literal meaning of telling the disciples to allow the children to come see Him, Jesus was also reminding them (and us) that we need to come before Him as children as well, a concept we often lose in our adulthood. As adults it is easy to think we have

something to offer this world, and ultimately confuse that with thinking we have something to offer Jesus. But Jesus is training His disciples and us differently—to come before Him in awe and humbleness just like the children. In the Lutheran Church, and at Mt. Calvary, we value children and families, and this weekend we ask Jesus to show us ways to continue letting the little children come to Him.

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*