**Caring for Children**

Children are a gift from the Lord — Psalm 127:4 (adapted)

**THE CHURCH IS CALLED:**

- to treasure each child as a gift from God
- to tell and show children that God is love
- to make working with children one of the most important things the church does
- to include children in everything the church does – from Sunday worship to helping others

**Ministry to the child**

Then Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them. — Mark 10:16

**THE CHURCH IS CALLED:**

- to love and protect children, in the church and in the world, especially children who are in danger
- to support families so that their children know their own special gifts as children of God
- to welcome all children who come to us, including those who come alone
- to stand up for children's rights in our churches, communities and the world

**Ministry of the child**

A child shall lead them — Isaiah 11:6

**THE CHURCH IS CALLED:**

- to receive children's special gifts as signs of the grace of God
- to be a community where children and adults know one another by name, care about one another, and work together to follow Jesus' teachings and do God's work
- to encourage children's ability to show and share God's love and grace in the church and in the world