

## WHAT IS CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD?

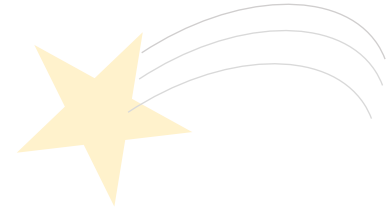
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is Christian formation for children ages 3 -12 which begins with the acknowledgement that God already has a special relationship with the child. In the Children's Chapel, the adult works to create a sacred environment which meets the developmental needs of the child and fosters the child's personal relationship with the Good Shepherd. This is done through the proclamation of Scripture, prayer, and the mystery of the sacraments (particularly Eucharist & Baptism). Influenced by the research of Maria Montessori, the St Matthias program places an emphasis on the shared Christian life in which adults and children together listen to Christ as the true teacher in Word and sacrament.



*"The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice." John 10:3b-4*



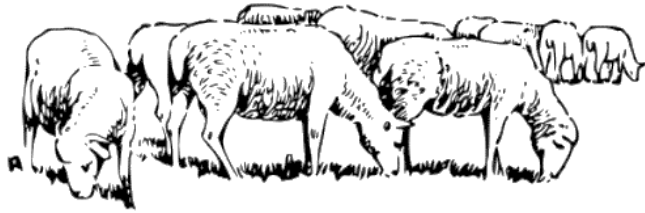
*Gently we unwrap the pieces of the creche and place them carefully on the table. The children delight in seeing their favorite figure, be it an angel, the shepherds or one of the sheep and long to hold it in their own hands as they ponder the story in their minds and hearts.*



## THE CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

The Children's Chapel will allow the child the space to draw closer to God. It is a place where the child can listen to the proclamations of the Good News from the Word of God; meditate on the Word of God and begin to live it according to the child's own rhythm. It is a place for the announcement of the Word of God, a place for celebration and also a place for work. It is an environment in which work becomes meditation and prayer. The child's expression of the religious life is manifested through prayer responses whether silent or aloud, in contemplation, and through artwork.





## REFLECTIONS

*"I could live here." – a child*

*"This catechesis is different in the positive response of the children. They seem much more reverent, much more aware of the awesome presence of God in their lives as a source of peace and joy, it is seen at church, at the altar, in their prayerful attitude, in their sense of joy and happiness at knowing that God is working in their lives in a real and powerful way." – a pastor*



# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

*"Let the little children come" Matt 19:14*

**Sundays at 9:30 AM**

Saint Matthias Anglican Church is launching the new program year in our Children's Sunday School program, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The program is based on the work of biblical scholar Sofia Cavalletti and is grounded in prayer, scripture and liturgy using the Montessori method.

Anglicans are heirs of a rich tradition of Christian faith and life. It is our desire that our children would experience the full love of God as expressed through the Anglican Catechism.

Young children have an immense capacity to enter into the wonder and ponder the deepest mysteries of our faith. The Children's Chapel will provide children a sacred space where they can enter into the uniquely personal and intimate relationship for which they hunger most; a relationship with the one who is both transcendent and lives within our hearts. This is the one who has invited each of us to know him, and he has called us by name.