

Children, Youth & Family Ministries / Early Learning Director Full-Time | Grand Forks, ND United Lutheran Church

What if you could help build something from the ground up?

We are seeking an experienced, creative leader to strengthen our children, youth, and family ministries while helping develop a new Child Care Center designed to serve families in our church and community.

This unique leadership opportunity combines ministry, early childhood programming, relationship-building, and operational leadership. The right person will have the opportunity to help shape both the vision and the practical development of a sustainable program serving children and families from early childhood through adolescence.

What You'll Do

- Lead and strengthen children, youth, and family ministries, including faith formation, fellowship, service, worship participation, and special events.
- Build strong relationships with children, youth, parents, caregivers, and families.
- Recruit, train, coordinate, and support ministry volunteers.
- Lead the planning and development of a new Child Care Center, including assessing community need, licensing requirements, staffing, enrollment, budgets, policies, and program design.
- Help create a sustainable operating model and guide the center from planning through implementation.
- Oversee Child Care Center operations as the program develops, including quality, safety, regulatory compliance, family communication, staffing, and financial performance.
- Recruit, supervise, and develop Child Care Center staff as needed.
- Build partnerships with schools, community organizations, churches, and other community resources.
- Support fundraising, grant development, marketing, and community outreach.
- Collaborate closely with the pastor, church leadership, staff, families, volunteers, and community partners.

Who We're Looking For

We're looking for someone who sees possibilities and knows how to turn ideas into sustainable programs. The ideal candidate is a strong relationship-builder who is equally comfortable engaging with children and families, leading a team, managing a project, and working through the operational details required to launch something new.

As an ELCA congregation, we are seeking someone who understands and supports the mission and values of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Familiarity with ELCA theology and its approach to ministry is preferred, along with a willingness to continue learning and growing in the Lutheran faith tradition.

A bachelor's degree or relevant experience in early childhood education, child development, education, family studies, ministry, business, nonprofit leadership, or a related field is preferred. Experience in early childhood education, childcare administration, licensing, supervision, or program development is strongly preferred.

Candidates should also demonstrate strong communication, organizational, leadership, and community-engagement skills and a commitment to the church's faith, mission, and values.

Why This Opportunity?

This isn't simply an opportunity to step into an existing program. It's an opportunity to help create one.

You'll have the ability to influence what the Child Care Center becomes while strengthening ministries that serve children, youth, and families throughout our congregation. For someone who enjoys building programs, developing people, creating partnerships, and seeing an idea become reality, this is a unique leadership opportunity.

This is a full-time position with a flexible schedule that will include Sundays, some evenings, and occasional weekends. Successful completion of required background checks and child-safety training is required.

Please send your resume and letter of interest to: reception@unitedgf.or