

For more information contact Meredith Davis at 713-402-5034.

Contributions in honor of loved ones make wonderful Christmas gifts, and acknowledgment cards are available.

Need a gift idea?

Multi-year pledges will also be accepted. Look for the special envelopes in the pews.

online at StLukesMethodist.org/ChristmasOffering

Cash, credit card or check payable to SLUMC with *Christmas Offering 2018* in the memo line,

Ways to give to St. Luke's Christmas Offering 2018
Equipping Children~Transforming Families: The Early Childhood Education Project at St. Luke's Gethsemane

their families.

enrichment opportunities will be provided for students and Connect Community, social services and educational reading to children during story times. Through our partner, to prepare and serve lunch, offer teacher task support and St. Luke's will serve as the host site and provide volunteers

What organizations will be involved in the school?

The full-day preschool will begin with 50 children; age 3 (pre-K 3) and 4 (pre-K 4), and will grow in three phases to a maximum capacity of 150 students. The teacher/student ratio will be no more than 2:17. The opening is planned for 2020. After school care will be provided through a partnership with the YMCA.

About the school

While assured that their children are in a safe school that will prepare them well for kindergarten, parents will have the opportunity to advance their own education and job opportunities through classes (including English). Whenever able, parents will be encouraged to volunteer at school functions and activities.

parents?

What are the requirements and benefits for the

How will the school be funded?
 It will be funded by a combination of low tuition, grants, private donations, as well as other programs and funds available to schools serving low-income communities. It will NOT be funded through the SLUMC annual budget.



The Early Childhood Education Project at St. Luke's Gethsemane

**EQUIPPING CHILDREN
 TRANSFORMING FAMILIES**

Christmas Offering
 2018

WHY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MATTERS...

90% of brain development occurs by age 5 -Zero to Three



The majority of children are **not ready** for Kindergarten.

- 60% cannot **identify letters**
- 62% cannot **count**
- 78% cannot **recognize numbers**
- 59% cannot **write their names**

-HISD,
Department of Early Education, 2013



One book
is available for every
300 children
in low-income homes.

Barbara Bush
Houston Literacy Foundation



Every \$1 invested in early
childhood education can
save \$8 in long-term costs
associated with remedial
education, criminal justice
and welfare payments.

- National Conference
of State Legislators

DON'T YOU SEE THAT CHILDREN ARE GOD'S BEST GIFT?

Psalm 127:3

Dear Friends,

The psalmist is right. He goes on to say that our children are like "the arrows of the warrior..." I believe that we are the bows to launch the children of our community into tomorrow, where the impact they can make on the world is immeasurable. I also believe that working with children is our best approach to open doors into the families around St. Luke's Gethsemane mission so that we might make a difference in their lives as well.

That is why we will open a preschool to provide quality full-day education for three and four-year-old children in our parish in southwest Houston.

The statistics about the impact of early childhood education are clear and undeniable. It is essential for children's success. The school will also be the platform for equipping families in parenting education, financial and English language literacy, and advocating for and supporting their children as they move into HISD and charter schools.

I hope you will join us in this effort through your prayers, your time, and your financial support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Pace".

Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor

