

The Ark Management Committee

The Ark is an important and ongoing ministry at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. It has been part of our church for over twenty five years. This has been a challenging year at the Ark Early Learning Center during the COVID-19 time. The Ark closed 2019-2021 with a gain that helped us stay open when COVID began and the enrollment dropped to 65%. We are grateful for this amazing community that we have and the understanding and supportive parents that trust us. This generous congregation continues to support this ministry here at Cross of Christ that has such an important impact on children and families in our community. We thank ALL of you! We also received financial support with a DCYF \$6,500 grant, two \$25,000 Seattle Foundation grants and a PPP Loan conjoined with the church. All this has helped the Ark in a positive way during these challenging times with a lower enrollment. Solange was instrumental in obtaining the Seattle Foundation grants. Thank you, Solange!

COVID challenged us to become even more dedicated and efficient. Many new cleaning and safety procedures were put in place to avoid exposures. We had to be creative and put celebrations aside and/or do things in new ways. We were able to have a Drive Through 2020 Graduation for that class of Pre-K students and the parents were glad we could do this. We learned to be patient and trust that all this will pass. Fortunately, with the population vaccinated we finally can celebrate this big milestone with all families this June at church. June 11 6 pm

It was decided with the COVID situation the Christmas basket fundraiser would not be held in December 2020. We hope to have this again this year.

Staffing has had some challenges this year with several teachers moving and new teachers hired. A new Assistant Director has recently also been hired. We are in the

process of reorganizing and training the new team members. Thank you, Solange, Carly, the new Assistant Director and ALL the staff!

The existence of the Ark Management Committee is to provide guidance and oversight in the overall direction of the program, such as reviewing operations, finances, training, and personnel policies, We look forward each year to working with the Ark Director Solange Silva and her staff and appreciate her faith and leadership as she leads the Ark and works with the Committee to provide a successful, safe, loving and educational environment for all children in their care. We want to thank Grace Easley for her three years of serving as a church representative and leader, Joan Davis for her continuing service and leadership and welcome Sharen Stoll as the new church representative, for the next three years. Bob Shelley, thank you for all your ongoing work and dedication for the Ark as our church council representative. We also welcome Aaron Davis as the new parent representative and thank everyone on the committee that helps and makes all we do go smoothly and help the Ark and the wonderful children.

We look forward to “turning the corner” and having a GREAT next year! We trust that with God all is possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Solange Silva	Director
Joan Davis	Chairperson
Liz Clark	Assistant Chairperson