

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool Parent Handbook



Preschool Mission Statement

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool is deeply committed to families and children. The preschool will provide a safe, fun Christian environment for children with emphasis placed on assisting them to grow in mind, body and spirit.

“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.”
Proverbs 22:6

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool is committed to the belief that each child has an intrinsic value and is loved by God. In an effort to develop and enhance each child's self-esteem, we strive to provide a setting where children can learn and grow in all areas of development.

Preschool is a place where your children will be able to satisfy their curiosities, develop their abilities, talents, and pursue their own interests through a variety of activities.

CURRICULUM



The curriculum at Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool provides a holistic approach to learning that enhances the physical, cognitive, social/emotional, and spiritual development of your child.

We will be exploring different thematic units throughout the year. Each thematic unit may include the following activities: art, language development, finger plays, poems, gross and fine motor development, math, science, music, chapel, field trips, guest speakers, indoor and outdoor free play and basic Christian principles.

ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool is open to children of all faiths who are 3, 4 or 5 years of age by September 1. Registrations will be accepted throughout the school year based on availability. A non-refundable registration fee of \$50 is required.

Registration for the next school year begins in January for the community of faith at Bethlehem and opens in February for the community at large.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool
1625 Milwaukee Ave. NE
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-225-9740

www.bethlehemaberdeen.org/Preschool.html



Mrs. Katie Anderson, Preschool Teacher
kanderson@bethlehemaberdeen.org
605-225-9740 ext. 25



Pastor Deb Grismer, Preschool Director
dgrismer@nvc.net
605-225-9740 ext. 29
605-252-0329 (cell phone)



ADVERSE WEATHER

If the Aberdeen School District is closed due to bad weather, preschool will be closed. If the Aberdeen School District has a late start, the morning preschool class will be cancelled but the afternoon class will meet. If the Aberdeen School District has an early dismissal, the morning class will end at the

regular time. However, children may be picked up early. The afternoon preschool class will be cancelled.

Please listen for school cancellations and announcements on Hub City Radio Stations or hubcityradio.com. If you are ever in doubt, please call the Bethlehem Lutheran office at 225-9740.

DISCIPLINE

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool emphasizes positive reinforcement of correct behaviors. We promote respect for others and themselves. Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool reserves the right to dismiss a child for continuous non-acceptable behavior. This would happen only after multiple attempts to correct the behavior and in constant conversation with the child's parents.

Hitting, biting, spanking, pinching, shaking, verbal abuse, threats and any forms of bullying are not acceptable behaviors at Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool.

We are required by law to report any forms or signs of child abuse to the proper authorities.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

- 1 backpack (full size to fit folder inside)
- 1 reusable water bottle 1 folder with 2 pockets
- 2 Glue sticks (preferably Elmers) 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 Clorox Wipes container 1 roll of paper towels
- 1 Container or refill baby wipes
- 1 Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool T-shirt
 - *Available for purchase from Bethlehem for \$7.00.
 - *May use t-shirts handed down from past preschoolers.
- 1 Change of clothing in a labeled gallon-size Ziploc bag
(Label with name and section your child is in for preschool.)
(These will be returned at the end of the school year.)

DAYS AND HOURS OF PRESCHOOL

For children who are 3 by Sept. 1:

Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

For children who are 4 by Sept. 1:

Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. **OR**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. **OR**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

TUITION

Tuition for the Tuesday/Thursday sessions will be \$80 monthly and the Monday/Wednesday/Friday sessions will be \$105 monthly. First tuition payment is due at the open house in August. We are able to offer a variety of tuition payment options. For further information, please contact Janis Heier, Director of Administration at 605-225-9740 ext. 14.

For those who choose to pay by check or cash, a late fee of \$5.00 will be assessed if paid after the 1st or 15th, unless other arrangements have been made.

Please note, there will be no adjustments for absences, including illness or vacations. If snow days occur, they will be made up at a later date.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool class time begins promptly at 8:00 am and 12:30 pm and ends promptly at 11:00 am and 3:30 pm. For the safety and security of all, we ask those bringing the preschoolers to walk them to the preschool classroom door. The preschool entrance into the building (by the flagpole) will be unlocked 10 minutes before class begins and will be locked again at the start of preschool. Please do not bring your child to preschool any earlier than 10 minutes before the start of class. The students will be brought out of this entrance at the end of the day by the teacher.

We ask that preschoolers are both brought and picked-up from preschool on time each day so that they can have the best experience possible. If you have questions or concerns about this, please speak to the teacher. If you would be running late to bring your child, please enter the building through the main entrance to the church and walk your child to the preschool room. Thank you.

TRANSPORTATION

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool is unable to provide transportation to or from preschool. We want this to be as safe a learning environment as possible for your child. Your child will be able to leave with only those adults listed on your child's pick up permission form. If for some reason a different adult will be picking up your child, please notify the teacher right away. The teacher will need to see photo identification before she lets your child leave with a different adult. Please pass this information along to the individuals picking up your child.



DRESS

Your child will be most comfortable wearing casual clothing. Please be aware they will be using paint, crayons, glue and markers and may get messy so dress your child accordingly.

For those children who are still learning to tie shoes, please have them wear shoes that do not require tying if at all possible. During the winter, please send along shoes they can change into when they wear snow boots to preschool.

Please label their mittens/gloves, hats, boots and coats just in case another child has the same item(s).

ABSENCES AND ILLNESS

Visit with the teacher before preschool begins if there are any known health concerns (physical or emotional) that might affect your child. If there are any changes at home during the school year, please talk about them with the teacher.

If your child will be absent, please notify the teacher. Please notify the teacher when your child has been diagnosed as having a contagious reported disease.

LEADER, SNACKS, SHOW N' SHARE

The children will take turns bringing treats to preschool. A monthly calendar will be sent home with your child at the beginning of each month. The "Leader" of the day will be printed on the calendar. This child will also bring snacks for his/her class and something for show and

share time. Each child will have a chance to be leader on or close to his/her birthday.

Please refrain from bringing any items for show n' share that might promote violence or that could be easily spilled or destroyed. If you have questions on an item's appropriateness, please contact the teacher.

A treat bag will be sent home with the child who will bring treats for the next school day. You will be notified if any food allergies exist in your child's class. Individually wrapped treats are preferred. If you are in need of suggestions on what to bring for treats, please visit with the teacher.



FIELD TRIPS AND CLASSROOM EXCURSIONS

Field trips will be taken throughout the year to enhance learning and help develop your child's awareness of our community. All children will be buckled in the church van.

Your child is asked to wear his/her Bethlehem shirt/sweatshirt on all of these excursions.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We encourage parent involvement at preschool. If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom, please contact the teacher or sign up on the calendar posted on the cubbies outside of the preschool classroom. You are welcome to visit the classroom at any time. For the safety of all children, you will be asked to sign a Safe Haven form whether you visit for one time or volunteer. Please check in with the front office when you visit so we know who is in the building. Be forewarned, if you come to visit you may just be asked to help out in the classroom. ☺

PRESCHOOL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Preschool conferences will be held twice a year, in the fall and spring. Specific times will be set up closer to each conference date.