



Preschool Press

Bethany Lutheran Preschool PARENT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

Bethany Lutheran Preschool exists: "To provide quality Christian early childhood education in a safe, loving and caring atmosphere; daily teaching God's forgiveness and love through our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Sing for joy to God.

Psalm 81:1

Very Important Preschool News!

- Tuesday, October 11— Day with Daddy-9:00-11:00 am
- Wednesday, October 12—Fall Fling Open House 5:30-7:30 pm—for the community—please invite your neighbors
- Sunday, October 16—One service Sunday—Church at 10:00 am with picnic to follow
- Sunday, October 23—Preschool Sings in Church at 8:00 am
- Tuesday, October 25—Parent Education Night—"Foundations for Educational Success - Is it Really Just Play?" FISH hours will be given to those in attendance.
- Sunday, October 30 - Pumpkin Patch - 2:00 - 5:00 pm - More information to come
- **Every Sunday**—Church at 8:00, 9:30, and 10:55 am, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:30 am
- **Every Monday** --Church at 7:00 pm
- **Every Tuesday**—Preschool Chapel at 9:15 am
- **Every Wednesday**—Moms In Touch prayer group. 8:45 - 9:45 am in Conference Room

LOOKING AHEAD

- Thursday and Friday, November 3 & 4 - Preschool Pictures
- Friday, November 11—Veteran's Day—School will be closed
- Wednesday, November 16—LCMS—PSD School Service Day
- Monday through Wednesday, November 21-23—The teachers will be at an Educator's Conference. School will be open for full-day students with qualified teachers filling in.
- Thursday and Friday, November 24 & 25—Thanksgiving Holidays—School will be closed
- Sunday, December 4 the Preschool children will present their gift to Jesus. More info to come...
- Sunday, December 11—Bethany's Annual Choir Concert—1:30, 4:00 & 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 21 through Monday, December 26—We will be closed for the Christmas Holiday.
- Tuesday, December 27 through Friday, December 30—Christmas Camp—full-day students only.
- Monday, January 2—New Year's holiday—School will be closed
- Tuesday, January 3—Opening day 2012
- Monday, January 16—ML King Day—School will be closed
- Wednesday, February 1—Registration for 2012-2013 begins for currently enrolled students
- Tuesday, February 14—Morning with Mommy-9:00-11:00 am
- Wednesday, February 15—Open House 5:30-6:30 pm
- Friday, February 17—Parent-Teacher Conferences—half day for all students
- Monday, February 20—President's Day—School will be closed
- Tuesday, March 13—Grandparents' Day—9:00-11:00 am



This and That

♥ **Last week** we had fire alarm problems, computer problems and phone problems. Without going into great detail, the point is this...Please make sure you have more than one phone number to reach us. The main preschool phone number is 562-429-7335. This is a direct line that rings in all classrooms and is usually answered by the director in the office. The preschool can also be reached by calling the main day school number which is 562-420-7783. If you call this number you will also need to call an extension. They are as follows: Mrs. Lofton ext. 29; Mrs. Padias ext. 28; Teacher Karen ext. 27; Mrs. Raya ext. 23; Mrs. Alicia ext. 24 and Mrs. Seaman ext. 22. If you can't reach anyone on the main preschool number, you can try the school number and your child's teacher's extension. After 5:00 pm. always call the preschool number or Teacher Karen's extension.

♥ **Bethany 101** is a four-week course that explores the key truths of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Attendance at this course is required for those joining Bethany Lutheran Church who are not transferring their membership from another Lutheran congregation. Those transferring from another Lutheran congregation are welcome to attend even as are any members of Bethany wanting to 'refresh' their catechism instruction.

Bethany 201 is a one-session event that welcomes confirmed Lutherans transferring to Bethany from another Lutheran congregation as well as those who have completed Bethany 101. This session therefore joins together all those entering Bethany together in one gathering in which new members have a chance to meet one another at the same time they are learning about Bethany. This learning will focus on the history, practice and values of Bethany Lutheran Church and our BLUEPRINT for mission and ministry as the body of Christ in this corner of His Kingdom.

The next Bethany 101 sessions will begin at 10:55 am on Sunday October 23rd and we will meet in the Parish Lounge. The last Bethany 101 session will be held on Sunday November 13th at 10:55 am. Bethany 201 will be on Sunday November 13th at 3:30 pm we will meet in the music room. Child-care is provided for each session with RSVP.

On November 13th from 5 pm on our congregation gathers for its annual Thanksgiving Feast. Please come to 201, bring your children for childcare & then stay for the feast. More information will be forthcoming.

Please RSVP your attendance with our church office 562 421-4711 or by emailing our Office Administration Cindy Morrison at cmorrison@bethanylutheran.org

- ♥ **FISH opportunities:** We suggest opportunities that will help you fulfill your FISH commitments; while taking care of some of our needs. We will post these needs/opportunities in the monthly Preschool Press, by email and in posters that will be put up on the parent board by the sign in sheet. Currently:
- Day With Daddy (Tuesday, October 11) snack items. A list will be posted by the sign-in sheet.
 - Paint our perfectly good but rusty tricycles.
 - This is a home project—we are looking for someone to type our preschool directory.
 - Rake our rubber nuggets back to the top of the slope.
 - Move furniture in Mrs. Raya's classroom any time in the afternoon or early evening.
 - Hang our new swings.
 - Spider patrol!
 - Take care of items on the "Preschool Wish List"



♥ Please join us at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, October 25 for—"Foundations for Educational Success - Is it Really Just Play?" Lynne Rose, the Early Childhood Consultant from our school district will be here to explore the advantages of a developmental approach to a preschool curriculum. Child care will be available upon request. A FISH hour will be given to those in attendance.

♥ Join **Moms In Touch** and make a difference in the life of your child(ren). We use a simple 4-step prayer format and scripture verses to guide our prayer. The leader provides everything you need, making it easy to follow, even if you've never been part of a prayer group. Join Bethany's group Wednesday mornings at 8:45 in the conference room. To learn more, go to www.MomsInTouch.org or contact Connie Kritzer busybeachmom@msn.com or 562-400-1349.

♥ **Day with Daddy** is coming on Tuesday, October 11. The morning begins at 9:00 am in your child's classroom. At 9:15, we will go to the "Big Church" for chapel, and then to the day-school lunch tables for snack. After that you get to experience Preschool with your child...outside play and learning through fun! This year we will be making and flying paper airplanes—with the help of our dads. We will also have access to the gym and basketballs.

♥ If you would like to send an email when your child is going to be absent or for any other reason:

Nola Seaman – Director	telephone extension 22	nseaman@bethanylutheran.org
Karen Sutherlin –Pre-K Teacher	28	ksutherlin@bethanylutheran.org
Bobbette Lofton– Pre-K Teacher	29	blofton@bethanylutheran.org
Belinda Padias – Teacher of older 3's	28	bpadias@bethanylutheran.org
Dawn Raya – Teacher of young 3's	23	draya@bethanylutheran.org
Alicia Lagana – Teacher of young 2's	24	alagana@bethanylutheran.org

♥ **SCRIP...** Thank you to all the students and parents who worked and shopped at our Fresh & Easy night. Now we need EVERYONE to save Fresh & Easy receipts that are \$20 or more. Please ask your friends and relatives to save their receipts for you, too.

Vons receipts could also earn Bethany thousands of dollars. Please ask your friends and relatives for Vons and Pavilions receipts dated after Sept. 19th. The 10% Goes Back to Schools redemption code will be printed on receipts until Oct. 13th. We only need one receipt per card holder because the same redemption code prints every time they shop. If you are signed up for eScrip your accumulated total has been automatically donated to Bethany. Last year the top earning school received over \$25,000, that's a lot of receipts! Every classroom will have a collection envelope, please collect as many receipts as you can!

We have Sports Authority SCRIP on hand at all times if you suddenly need new sports equipment. If you use SCRIP and turn in your receipt for School Cents Bethany benefits twice!

♥ **Fall has arrived—at least on the calendar.** I know it is still hot, but it can turn cold in a snap. Be sure that your child has a light sweater or jacket in his/her cubby, and a warm—and a cool—extra change of clothing. Also...**Please check on a regular basis** to make certain that we have a complete change of clothing on hand. We do have some extra clothing, but it is easier for us, and more comfortable for your child, if we have his/her own things. Thank you.

♥ We are still having a few challenges with the drop off/parking situation in the mornings and afternoons. Between 8:30 and 8:45 in the morning, and between 3:00 and 3:30 in the afternoon, the parking lot is ONE WAY! You need to enter from Clark, slowly travel east through the campus, and then exit—turning right—onto Arbor. **PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY AND WATCH FOR CHILDREN.**



Jesus loves you more than this, Jesus loves

Another mission opportunity....

"...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5

- ♥ Bethany's Mission India would like to help ongoing services of Lighthouse Ministries India, in Mumbai (Bombay) at their Almost Heaven Children's Home. Their present need is twin sheets; preferably 50% Cotton/50% Polyester or more Polyester because they dry faster when laundered. The sheets do not have to be new, but the expense of new sheets can be minimal at bargain stores. We hope you are able to join us in our efforts to bring simple comforts and protection into the lives of God's children. We will provide a box in the school office for drop off. Thank you for coming together as one body.

Signs of a Good Preschool

The preschool years are some of the most important years in your child's life. The preschooler is developing at such a rapid pace, emotionally, socially, and educationally. A good preschool program will cater to each of these needs and provide a nurturing, child directed learning environment.

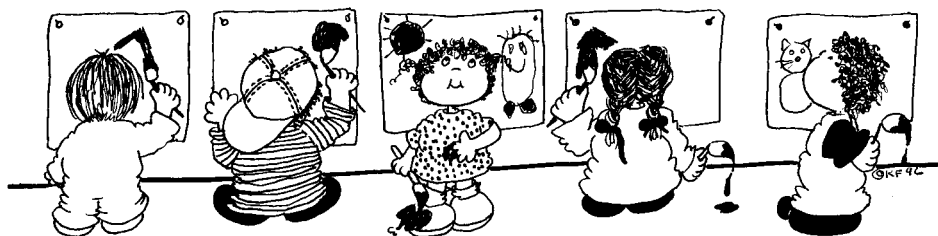
Clean and Inviting Physical Environment

A preschooler's surroundings can have a huge impact on their behavior. A good preschool arrangement should be clean and inviting. Ideally, the space will be divided into centers to encourage play. Posters, labels, signs, and other materials should provide a print rich environment for preschoolers. Young children are slowly becoming aware that words and symbols stand for something else. The more they are exposed to print material the easier it will be for them to learn important pre-reading skills. Each child should have some space that is their own, no matter how small it is. A small cubby to store their personal items and projects helps children to feel a part of the group.

Curriculum

Children learn through play. An experience must be fun and exciting for them in order for it to be of any value. A quality preschool curriculum should focus more on the experience of the child and less on having projects finished to take home and hang on the fridge. Art activities should be open-ended, giving the preschooler the freedom to express themselves and experiment with different art materials. Science and math should be hands on. A preschool that constantly uses worksheets as part of their lesson plans is not providing the children in their care with a quality learning experience. Preschool children are not developmentally ready for worksheets or lecture-like teaching. They will not gain as much from filling out an alphabet worksheet as they would be from making letters out of play-dough or writing them in sidewalk chalk.

It is important to understand that a preschooler is learning so much more than they have to show in take home projects. They should have opened ended art projects or science projects that they personally participated in. Projects that come home looking picture perfect most likely were not done entirely by the preschooler and show the skills of the teacher rather than the child.



Look for us on the web at www.bethanylutheran.org