



Here We Grow in Our Savior

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"What love the Father has lavished upon us that we should be called His children". 1 John 3:1a

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Staying in touch with you

Each month I will send out my newsletter to keep you informed of special events/activities and other fun stuff happening in preschool. Feel free to always email, call, or come talk to me. When we work together, everyone succeeds, especially your little one!

On the left side of the newsletter you will see curricular objectives that these activities help promote. Learning for kids happens all the time!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION—Can you believe registration will be taking place soon for the new 2017-2018 school year??? Congregation members and current preschool families can enroll beginning January 9. All required forms and other information is available on our church's website at www.oursaviorlutheranchurch.org then click on "Our Savior Preschool". Enrollment packets will be available January 3 and can also be picked up on the shelf at the bottom of the preschool entrance. An \$80 enrollment fee must be paid at the time of enrollment to secure a child's space. Registration for the community opens on February 13. Please spread the word to your friends, family, and neighbors that we have a wonderful preschool program and can't wait to share God's love with each child that walks through our doors!

Christmas Worship Service & Birthday Party for Jesus



On Sunday, December 11th, 2016, *Our Savior Pre-School* with *Our Savior Sunday School* will worship the birth of *Our Savior* at both the 8:15am and 11:00 am worship services in our church's sanctuary. This replaces our usual preschool week night service. You have a choice of joining us for one of the services; each service will be exactly the same. We are doing this to help accommodate the large attendance we always have.

The preschool children will sing their own songs during worship. Preschool children will also be the "extras" in the Christmas story: Giraffes will be sheep, Cardinals will be shepherds, Monkeys will be angels, and Lions will be townspeople.

Another exciting event will be the "Birthday Party for Jesus" from 9:30-10:30am in our church's gymnasium. We will celebrate Jesus' birth by enjoying a birthday cupcake, playing some games, watching a video, etc

Coming to church and hearing Bible stories develops a child's sense of spirituality and knowledge of Jesus. It also develops a sense of self-control.

We learn to give thanks and how to use manners as well as learn about the birth of our Lord.

There are many curricular objectives covered at lunch:

Using fine motor skills with purpose and control.

Personal Care Routines: Feeding

Participates in prayer

Participating in events helps us learn responsible conduct as a group member

We are building relationships of mutual trust and respect with others.

Cooking in the home helps us learn math skills of measurement, comparisons, using number to show quantity, and learning the passage of time.

Singing in church helps with worship development as we praise God with song and participate in prayer.

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Lunch Time!

Did you know we eat lunch upstairs in the gym at child-sized tables and chairs??? Did you know we also serve our lunch family style???? That means the children are learning how to use their manners to have food passed to them, how to scoop out their own food from the serving bowls, take their entrée using tongs, and how to pour their own milk. Yes, even our two-year-olds are quite successful, with assistance!! We use child-sized pitchers and cups and the kids are doing great. The children are learning to take a certain amount of portions, such as 3 apple slices or even cutting or pulling a food apart and getting two parts or one half. We also learn how to sit the correct way in a chair, how to talk to our friends during the meal and when we are done, waiting for our friends to finish, and how to put our cups, forks, and plates in the correct tubs for them to be washed. There are so many skills to be learned while eating family style! Here's one of the prayers we say before lunch and snack (sung to the tune of the Spiderman theme song):

God is great, God is good
Let us thank Him for our food
By His hands we are fed
Let us thank Him for our bread.

Chili/Soup/Dessert Cook-off!

That's right; our annual Chili Cook-Off is just around the corner!! On Sunday, January 15, immediately following the 11:00 am church service, our preschool will be hosting its annual Chili/Soup Cook-Off/Dessert Bake-Off. The event will be held in the gym and it is always a great time of fellowship! All the money raised will benefit our preschool. We need your participation!

Here is how it works: Families enter their favorite chili, soup, and/or dessert in the contest. There is no fee to enter. During the event, everyone walks around the gym tasting as many entries as they want. People can buy tickets for a dollar and vote for their favorites by placing tickets into a cup that is placed in front of each entry. We will have fun prizes for the 3 top choices in the chili, soup, and dessert categories.

This event has been great fun in the past and we need your help to make it a success again this year. There will be a sign-up sheet soon by the preschool office for you to enter your pot of chili or soup or your favorite dessert!

Preschool Children Sing

Our children sing during the 11:00 am service on Sunday, January 11 (before the Chili Cook-off. Please join us and enjoy hearing the children praising God with song.

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As the kids have birthdays, we look at transitioning some to the next class up. This transition typically happens at three times during the calendar year: In January, at the beginning of the summer, and at the beginning of the new school year in August. Some of our 2 year-olds have turned 3 and will transition up to a new classroom (either Monkeys or Cardinals in January). Some of our 3 year-olds have turned 4 and will transition up to a new classroom (either Lions or Cardinals in January). See your child's teacher or Mrs. Huning with any questions.

The Cardinal Class has Changed!!!!

We still have Mrs. Kipp and Mrs. Luetkenhaus as the Cardinal teachers, but now we have 3 options for care in the Cardinal Class: Part day (8:15-11:45), School day (8:15-4:00) or Full day (7:00-6:00). This change was needed to accommodate our large class sizes and now we can enroll a few more children. This class is mixed-age grouping with 3 and 4 year olds.

We still have a few spots available in the "new" Cardinal class. Pass on the word to people you know and have them contact Mrs. Huning via phone or email if they would like more enrollment information.

Jesus Time

During this special time each child is learning the same Bible story over the course of one week. On Monday, Ms. Cari goes into the classrooms and teaches the lesson. On Tuesday, the entire preschool goes into the church sanctuary and Pastor Mike leads us in chapel. On Wednesday, Mr. Mark, our Director of Christian Education, goes into the classrooms to teach the same lesson again. On Thursday, it's Mrs. Huning's turn to teach. Each classroom teacher finishes the week with one last review of the lesson. Each month there is a theme and different Bible stories. The theme for December is "Christmas" and the theme for January is "Christmas".

