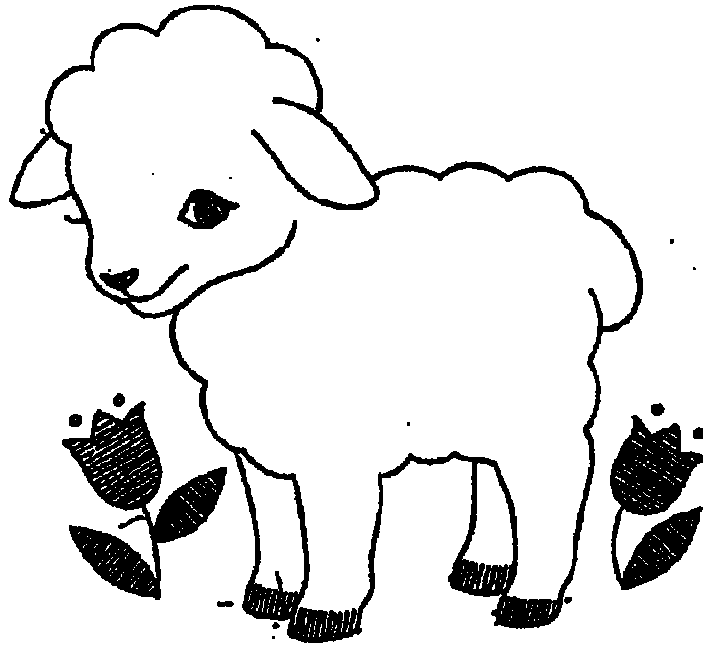
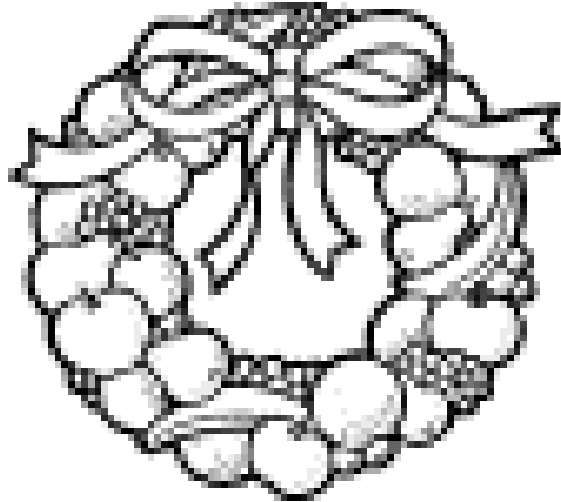


# **Little Lamb Preschool**



**HANDBOOK  
2017-2018**

# Fruit of the Spirit



a ministry of

**DIVINE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

15005 Q Street Omaha, NE 68137

(402) 895-1500

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Divine Shepherd's Little Lamb Preschool is to bring Jesus to as many preschool age children as possible by providing them with a Christ-centered education.

WELCOME to LITTLE LAMB PRESCHOOL,  
a ministry of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church. We are sincerely devoted to you and  
your family and desire to assist you in your spiritual needs. We would like to share  
with you the message and the love of God in Jesus who came to be our Savior and  
cordially invite you to join us in worship and Bible study on site and at our new Grace  
Hill Church.

SATURDAY EVENING PRAISE WORSHIP - 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

7:45 a.m. TRADITIONAL SERVICES

10:00 a.m. CONTEMPORARY

10:10 a.m. FAMILY

11:10 a.m. CONTEMPORARY

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M. - Ages 3-Adult- Sunday School & Bible Classes

SUNDAY WORSHIP at GRACEHILL CHURCH  
at 9:30 a.m. at Noah's event Center 17121 Marcy St

Childcare is provided for little ones age 3 and younger during worship services and  
Bible Study. Kingdom's Corner is located at the back of the Atrium as you enter Divine  
Shepherd.

Wednesday Evening Midweek Classes

Supper at 4:45-5:50 p.m.

Classes 6:15-7:30 p.m.

For ages Preschool to Adult

Childcare is provided for children under 3 years old.  
Preschool age children must have adult on site throughout class time.

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### **OUR CHURCH OFFICE STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Mark Hannemann, Senior Pastor

Rev. James Rasmussen, Director of Finance/Operations

Rev. Sean Chapman, Director of Outreach

Rev. Justin Bell, Pastor of GraceHill Church

Remkea Ockander, Director of Youth Ministry

Aaron Bressman, Worship & Music Leader

Tonya Isaac, Director of Little Lamb Preschool

Kathy Kistler, Office Manager

Darla Novotny, Executive Assistant

Deb Wendt, Ministry Facilitator

Cody Wendt, Facilities Manager

Please see our website at [www.dsomaha.org](http://www.dsomaha.org) for more information

# **OBJECTIVES OF LITTLE LAMB PRESCHOOL**

1. To provide a rich Christian environment for your child so that he/she may grow in the love of Jesus, our Savior and Friend.
2. To provide interactions and activities designed to develop your child's self-esteem and positive feelings toward learning.
3. To provide experiences that meet your child's needs and stimulate learning in all developmental areas – spiritual, physical, social, emotional and intellectual.
4. To increase your child's ability of creative expression through music, art, dramatic play, literature, nature walks, field trips and games.
5. To increase your child's ability to get along with other children and adults outside his/her family.
6. To help your child learn responsibility by providing many opportunities for him/her to make choices.
7. To help your child learn to share, wait, take turns and be patient.
8. To learn to follow simple directions.
9. To develop strong bodies through exercise and controlled use of muscles (large motor skills).
10. To strengthen and develop small motor skills through experimentation with different types of paper, crayons, markers, chalk, paint, glue, clay, etc.

## SIX DIFFERENT CLASSES OFFERED

### 4 & 5 YEAR OLDS

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 9:00-11:30 a.m.  
GREEN CLASS

Monday-Wednesday 12:30-3:00 p.m.  
ENRICHMENT CLASS

Tuesday-Thursday-Friday 9:00-11:30 a.m.  
PURPLE CLASS

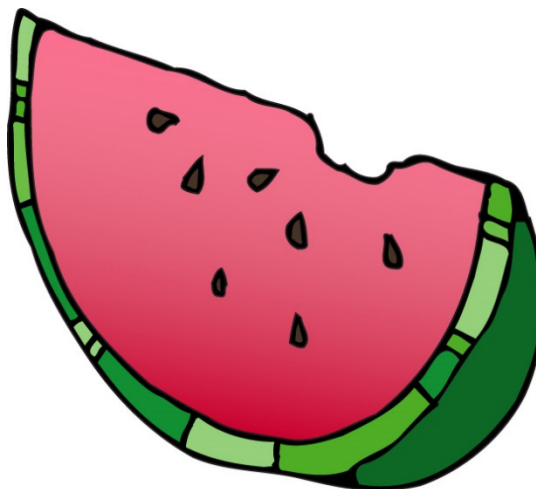
### MULTI AGE 3-5 YEAR OLDS

Tuesday-Thursday-Friday (opt) 12:30-3:00 p.m.  
RAINBOW CLASS

### 3 YEAR OLDS

Monday & Wednesday 9:00-11:30 a.m.  
RED CLASS

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-11:30 a.m.  
BLUE CLASS



## **\*\*\* TUITION \*\*\***

Automatic withdrawal is available and encouraged for our families.

**Make tuition checks payable to: Divine Shepherd or DSLC.  
Payments are to be put in the Tuition slot by the Director's office as you enter.  
Teachers DO NOT accept tuition.**

Monthly fees are:

Two days:	\$96 per month
Three days	\$143 per month
Five days	\$202 per month

Our tuition is due the 1st school day in August and the first of each month following. Please budget so you can get this paid in a timely manner. I'm sure you will notice some months will have fewer school days than others. The tuition is the same to make it easier for all of us. It would equal the same yearly fee:

Two day	\$ 960
Three day`	\$1,440
Five day	\$2,016

Full tuition payments may be made by September 15 with a 2% discount. All tuition checks are deposited the Monday after drop off. A \$25.00 charge will be assessed for insufficient fund checks. For families with three children in our preschool or in the Concordia school system, we offer a 15% discount for the third child in one of our morning classes. The discount increases to 30% for afternoon classes. Scholarships are also available for families in need of tuition assistance.

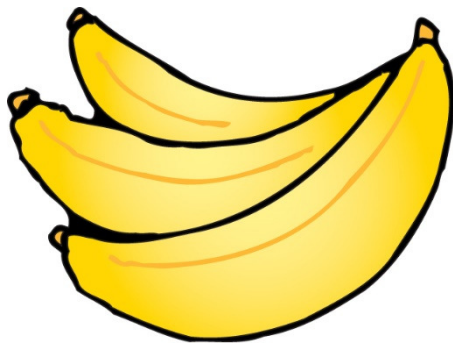
### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Children enrolling in Little Lamb Preschool must be at least 3 years of age on or before July 31 of the current year and must be toilet trained.

Little Lamb Preschool admits children of any race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to children at the school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, grants-in-aid, and school administered programs.

## LICENSING

Little Lamb Preschool is licensed for preschool classes for children between the ages of three and five. To contact the Nebraska State Department of Health and Human Services with licensing or other questions, please call 402-471-3121 or the Omaha DHHS office at 402-595-3343.



## GETTING PARENTS AND CHILDREN READY FOR LITTLE LAMB PRESCHOOL

1. Letter sent first part of July confirming your child's place in our program along with state and information forms.
2. Parents meeting at the end of July to get to know the program and go through this handbook. We also collect forms, T-shirt orders, and have parents sign up for home visits.
3. Home visits by teacher to give everyone a personal connection. Special concerns are discussed, and your child receives their Little Lamb school bag and a children's Bible.
4. Preschool starts just after Millard Public Schools with an Open House for the preschoolers and their parents on the night before the child's first class. This is an opportunity for each child to share a special time with Mom and/or Dad.

## GETTING READY FOR THE FIRST DAY

It is not unusual for a child (any age) to express fear the first day of school. However, in nearly all cases, children soon overcome their fears and find school to be an inviting place and enjoyable experience. In preparing your child, be calm and casual.

Preparation for the first day begins with the Parent Orientation Meeting, Home Visit, Open House, a good night's sleep, clothes specially chosen, a good

breakfast or lunch, and perhaps a special “good-bye routine.” Protein at breakfast is very important for them to be able to make it through the morning.

Our teachers will be on hand to welcome you. Bring your Little Lamb school bag and a smile! We do everything we can to make each child feel relaxed and special.

## **PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

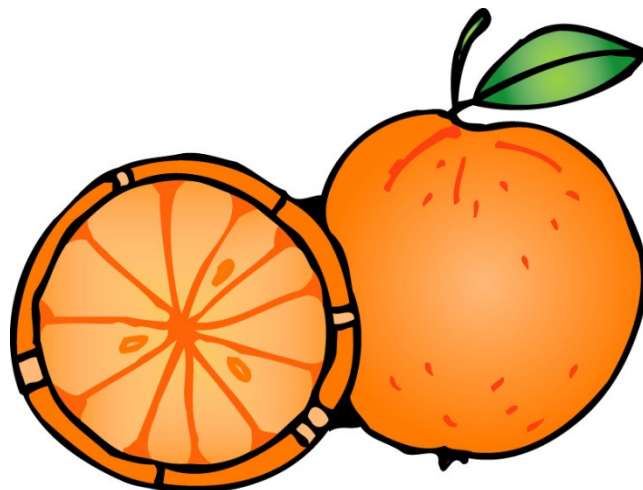
Please LABEL jackets, boots and the insides of mittens and caps with your child’s name or initials. Each classroom area is shared by four different groups of children in the course of one week, plus Sunday School on the weekend.

THE LITTLE LAMB SCHOOL BAG which your child will receive before school starts **NEEDS TO HAVE YOUR CHILD’S NAME LARGELY and CLEARLY ON THE FRONT.**

Please leave ALL other personal belongings at home, with the exception of Show and Tell days.

## **ATTENDANCE**

All children are expected to attend regularly. When you know your child will be absent, please call the office (895-1500) and let us know. There will be no tuition adjustments for absentees. Please be punctual in bringing your child to preschool, but not more than 10 minutes prior to the beginning of class time.



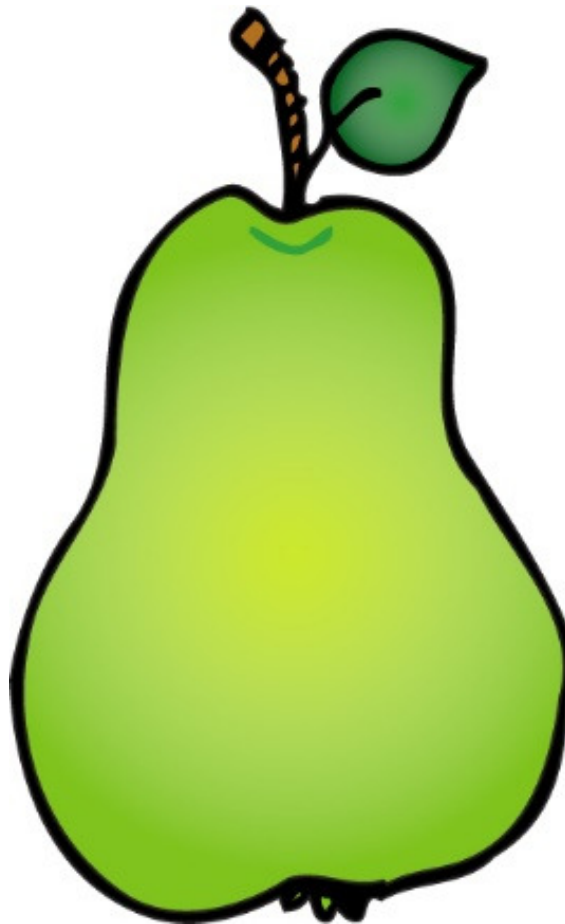


## **SAFETY**

Please bring your child to the classroom. The #1 cause of avulsion and amputation among children is getting a finger caught in a door. The entry doors are very heavy. THE TEACHER MUST HAVE A WRITTEN NOTIFICATION IN ADVANCE FROM THE PARENT if someone other than the parent or usual daycare-carpool person will be picking up their child. IN AN EMERGENCY, a call to the church office is acceptable notification. In either instance, this person may be asked to provide identification and MUST KNOW THE FAMILY SAFETY CODE WORD before we will release your child to them. Please be understanding with the process. On occasion we may call you for verification of someone.

Children are dismissed one at a time for their safety. We recognize the fact that time is an issue when you also have children to pick up elsewhere. We will do our best to be punctual.

***PLEASE DO NOT ABUSE THE PICKUP TIME***



## **LATE FEE POLICY**

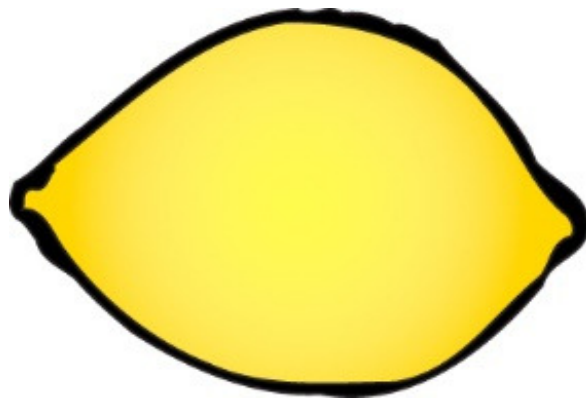
Our teachers have preparations to make for their next class. At the end of the day, they also have children to pick up from school. We have a late fee for any child being picked up 5 minutes after the dismissal time. Morning classes dismiss at 11:30 a.m. and afternoon classes dismiss at 3:00 p.m. One exception to this dismissal time is the first Thursday and the third Wednesday of each month, when we have a staff meeting. Those days, morning classes dismiss at 11:00 a.m. Our staff has responsibilities in the classroom and for our own families when class is done. We ask you to please be considerate of our time and pick up your child on time. Anyone picking up 5 minutes after dismissal or later will be charged \$1 per minute. Time flies when you are having fun or running errands without your child, but we ask for your courtesy in being prompt. Thank you!!

## **WITHDRAWAL NOTIFICATION & FEES**

If something should occur that you would have to withdraw your child from Little Lamb Preschool, we expect at least a 2-week notice. Tuition fees are to be paid for at least two weeks following your written and/or verbal notification.

## **SNOW DAYS**

We will follow Millard School District snow day closings. Please listen to KFAB (1110 AM) on the radio. WE WILL NOT ANNOUNCE LITTLE LAMB SEPARATELY. Several snow days are “built in” to our calendar for each class. Rarely do we exceed those.



## STAFF MEETINGS

Two preschool staff meetings are scheduled each month, September through May. To give some continuity to the schedule for parents, we have established this format:

### Shortened Classes

#### *1st Thursday of the month*

Blue Class                      early out @ 11:00

Purple Class                    early out @ 11:00

Rainbow                        late start @ 1:00

#### *3rd Wednesday of the month*

Red class                      early out @ 11:00

Green class                    early out @ 11:00

Enrichment                    late start @ 1:00

This affects each child only one time each month by ½ hour and enables all teachers and assistants to participate in every staff meeting.

\*\*Occasionally a staff meeting will differ from this format due to a holiday or field trip. Staff meetings will be noted on the monthly class calendars you receive. **Always check that calendar for staff meeting days.**

What is our meeting agenda?

1. Devotion - We cannot serve God and do His will at Little Lamb without first knowing His will. Bible study and devotion keep our work here in focus.
2. Prayer - We pray for God's help in our class settings.

We pray for each other and YOU, the children and families in Little Lamb Preschool. If there are special needs and concerns you face which you would like to have lifted in prayer, please let your child's teacher know. We will pray for you together, but all requests remain confidential within the prayer group.

3. Planning - monthly calendars, learning centers, special activities, dress-up days, field trips, time in worship, birthdays, etc.

4. Staff Development - We focus on both professional and interpersonal growth. Our goal is to provide the best learning environment possible for each child.

### **SAMPLE OF DAILY SCHEDULE**

<b><u>3 year olds</u></b>	<b><u>4 year olds</u></b>
<b>1. OPENING CIRCLE TIME</b>	<b>1. OPENING CIRCLE TIME</b>
<b>2. JESUS TIME</b>	<b>2. JESUS TIME</b>
<b>3. CHOICE TIME</b> with learning centers	<b>3. SMALL GROUPS</b>
<b>4. BOOK LOOK TIME</b>	<b>4. OUTDOOR PLAY</b>
<b>5. SNACK</b> (Bathroom break for some, hand washing time for all)	<b>5. BOOK LOOK TIME</b>
<b>6. OUTDOOR PLAY</b>	<b>6. SNACK</b>
<b>7. CLOSING CIRCLE TIME</b>	<b>7. CHOICE TIME</b> with learning centers
	<b>8. CLOSING CIRCLE TIME</b>

### **CIRCLE TIME**

Our day starts off with a circle time. Please: BE ON TIME. The first 15-20 minutes are very important ones. Bringing your child late increases his/her self-consciousness, heightens separation anxiety and robs them of the personal interaction vital in making them feel a part of the group. This is where the children get to share BIG NEWS from home. This sharing time is very important for preschoolers and teachers alike.

Circle Time is also where the children are introduced to new songs and special activities in the learning centers. Group stories or games are shared, too. Because movement and physical activity are important to your child's health and great to help keep our eyes watching and our ears listening, each circle time will involve 3-5 minutes of "wiggle time." This may be with songs, exercises, scarves or other tools that help us move, build muscles, get our blood flowing and have fun.

## **JESUS TIME: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

Our theme verse and song this year is “For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. For such there is no law.” Ephesians 5:22-23. As we sing the chorus of our theme song the children will memorize these two verses from Scripture.

Each month, we will focus on a different fruit from the list, starting with LOVE. We know it is God’s promise that the Holy Spirit gives us each fruit, yet, with our sinful nature, we do not always show or share these fruits with our friends. We can praise God because every time we sin, His promise of forgiveness is waiting for us. Forgiveness is our free gift through Jesus our Savior.

“Jesus Time” is not one specific time of day. We encourage the children to share God’s love in all we do. We will sing His praise during Circle time, share His love in our play, honor Him as we obey our teachers and celebrate being His children, we worship Him in Chapel.

We talk to God each day. Prayer is a part of each preschool day. We tell God “thank you” for loving us, for making us special and we ask Him to help us share the fruit of the Spirit by sharing His love with others.

Our Bible story curriculum this year will be the stories included in the children’s Bibles. Each child will receive a Bible so that you can read and reread the stories of God’s love and promises with them. We hope each child will see what a special gift from God we have through His Word. Plus, we will be working on the concepts of print as we “read” God’s Word together.

Some weeks, we may add other Bible stories not in the children’s Bible. For these stories, we will have scripture references and encourage you to read from your own Bible with your child. Songs and fingerplays are also an important part of our Jesus time. Most of these will be printed on the back of the monthly calendar.

## **CHOICE TIME**

This is the block of learning time where the children choose the centers and activities where they will work and learn through play. Play is a child’s work. It is the young child’s “mission in life” so to speak. Our job is to provide creative, stimulating play situations for

the concepts we wish to teach. The children will then provide ample motivation. Little Lamb is a highly creative, strong play-ethic preschool. We are always seeking ways to stimulate imagination and thinking.

***“Imagination is more important than knowledge.” Albert Einstein***

We offer the children a wide variety of Manipulatives (puzzles, letter and number games, pegboards, building sets, sensory objects), Tactile Experiences (playdoh, sand, water, fingerpaint), Math and Science Activities, an extensive Creative Art Center, Writing Projects, Reading Area and many Dramatic Play Situations. We can teach the same concept in virtually every center. We must – for each child has their own unique learning style. The question is not “How smart is my child?” but rather “How is my child smart?”

The Choice Time’s main goals are open-ended because we must always consider the process and the multitude of decisions that take place in a child’s mind. Our activities are designed to provide your child many opportunities to think, plan and make decisions about what they want to do and how to go about getting the job done.

***“What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand.” Confucius 451 B.C.***

### **LEARNING CENTERS**

All of our classes have learning centers each day where children may choose to work and play. Our 3 day classes are involved in specific learning centers with their friends in small group settings. During this time, each teacher will lead a learning activity such as Handwriting Without Tears, rhyming, math games, letter sounds, and more.

### **BOOK LOOK TIME**

As we transition to snack time, we take turns using the bathroom. Each child will be asked to use warm water and soap, scrubbing between the fingers as well as the top and bottom of their hands. While waiting for our turn and for friends to finish, we enjoy looking at books with friends or alone.

The children can use the restrooms at any time but this is our only time when everyone is asked to try. Please remember to dress your child in comfortable clothes that he or she can fasten and unfasten independently. Belts, snaps, buttons and zippers are great if they don’t frustrate or embarrass your child. We will be there to

help. **Please** have your child leave distracting accessories at home (like watches, bracelets and necklaces).

Your child will be encouraged to pick out one book from our library and “picture read.” Sometimes the teacher may read to the group.

### **SNACK TIME**

Our snack helper will put the napkins or cups around the two tables and then help the teacher assistant serve the snack he/she provided.

Teachers will assign snack helpers each month which will be listed on the monthly calendar. Because most parents enjoy celebrating their child’s birthday by bringing special snacks, we will assign the day that your child’s birthday will be celebrated.

We strongly encourage you to think nutritiously and creatively. Suggestions include: cheese and crackers, celery, carrots, veggie dip, fruit, frozen yogurt, raisins, graham crackers, etc. Please do not bring cupcakes or other sweet treats unless it is your child’s birthday celebration. There is a refrigerator available. No juice will be served. Milk is appreciated. One half-gallon is plenty if you would like to supply this. We always offer water as a choice.

**NO PEANUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER ITEMS, PLEASE, DUE TO ALLERGIES.**  
**Thank you!**

### **OUTDOOR PLAY**

Outdoor activity is planned daily so children can develop large muscle skills and express themselves freely and loudly. On a normal day we will spend 15-20 minutes outside using the fenced in playground. The days we do not go outdoors we will enjoy using the gym. We will try to take your child out as often as possible. Rain and freezing cold do keep us inside. But snow doesn’t. Watch class newsletters and emails to know when your child should have coats, hats, mittens, and boots. Most Fridays, our 4 year old friends do not have the opportunity to go outside. You will read why on the next page.

**Please dress your child for the weather.** Send a jacket with them when needed. Tennis shoes protect your child the best. Slip-on shoes or shoes and boots with slick soles are fun to wear, but are not the best choices for outside play. Give your child footwear with rubber soles combined with easy closures. Safety must always be emphasized. Tennis shoes or other soft-soled shoes are a prerequisite for

gymnasium play. Emptying crumbs from shoes is part of the outdoor routine. Children who can independently do this are quite proud.

All of our teachers are certified in First Aid and CPR.

### **CIRCLE TIME**

Ending our day in Circle Time ties everything together. It gives us the opportunity to have the children recall what they did in preschool and also to share special things planned for the next time they come to school. This circle time may be on the carpet or at the tables.

### **FANTASTIC FRIDAYS**

Our Fantastic Fridays are for our four/five year old friends. We use both classrooms for our special learning. In the 4 year old room, children will have circle time and choice time. In the 3 year old room, Mrs. DeVries and Mrs. Ramsey have cooking class while Mrs. Isaac teaches music. Though some students are a bit nervous about switching classrooms at first, they soon learn what a great time they get to have “next door.”

### **CHAPEL**

The second and fourth Wednesdays and Thursdays of each month, our classes will worship in a chapel time. These are led by church and preschool staff members in the Sanctuary or Luther Chapel. We find this worship time together very valuable.

## **HEALTH**

### **REGULATIONS**

State regulations dictate that children should have all standard immunizations included as part of their personal preschool file. All health forms must be completed and turned in by the child’s first day of school. A child must be kept home if he/she has a fever (100° or higher) or a communicable disease. Please notify Little Lamb if your child will be absent or if your child has contracted a contagious disease. Your child may return to class once she/he has been symptom FREE for 24 hours.



## **PRACTICE HEALTHY HABITS**

Please teach your child to blow their nose

Please teach your child to cough on their arm or elbow rather than using their hand. The same goes for those sneezes that sneak up on you!

Please teach your child to use warm water, soap and prolonged scrubbing when washing their hands. (You can count to 20 or sing ABCs with them.)

Hand sanitizers are used as needed.

## **FIRE AND TORNADO DRILLS**

Fire and tornado drills are conducted to ensure proper procedures in case of emergencies. During tornado emergencies both teachers and children take refuge in the classroom bathrooms. These are interior rooms with block walls and no windows.

## **DISCIPLINE**

We recognize that families differ in their approach to discipline. In our preschool program harsh or threatening methods will not be used. Discipline will be handled in a Christ-like manner as we share God's love. Discipline = Discipling = Teaching. We:

1. Let the children know what we expect in a positive way
2. Praise good behavior
3. Change the environment when needed
4. Help the children realize and verbalize feelings
5. Redirect the children
6. Offer forgiveness and ask them to do the same with classmates.
7. Quietly remove a child or children from the group to allow time for the child to reflect on his/her actions followed by a discussion of the problem and how to solve it.

Even with discipline, children must be allowed to THINK. To learn that actions bear consequences. To be held accountable and to learn they are responsible for their actions. To work on "sharing God's love in all we say and do." To be forgiven by staff, a friend, and Jesus. Effective discipline is vitally important. "*He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.*" **Proverbs 15:32**

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

We will be scheduling phone conferences with parents at the end of October, but you may request a conference at any time by leaving a written request in the preschool office, a phone message or by e-mailing Mrs. Isaac. (E-mails should be sent to [tonya@dsomaha.org](mailto:tonya@dsomaha.org).) In March, teachers will post signup sheets for face-to-face conferences at school.

## VISITING PROCEDURES

You are always welcome to visit our preschool. We do appreciate it if you make an appointment with your child's teacher. Parents who wish to visit may want to wait 4-6 weeks so their child has time to adjust to their school routine. A child rarely handles his/her day the same if a parent is present. Present your request in the same way you would a conference.

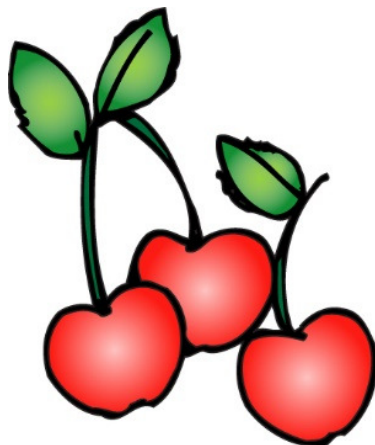
## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We will celebrate each child's birthday. It's rare that a child's birthday falls exactly on his/her class day. Your teacher will choose a day as close to the actual birthday as possible to celebrate. Summer birthdays will be celebrated at 1/2 year times.

*How do we celebrate?*



We assign the celebration day on the monthly calendar so the birthday girl/boy can bring a special treat. Many children choose something other than cupcakes like cookies, donuts or rice krispy treats. **Cupcakes and other sweet treats are reserved for birthdays only.** No candles, please. We sing a special "Happy Birthday" song and give each child a small gift bag.



## FIELD TRIPS

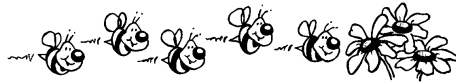
Our goal is to provide one “field trip” per month. Some will be on-site experiences (i.e.: firefighters & fire trucks in October and our Hawaii trip).

Three trips will be taken elsewhere. Each child is required to have a parent accompany them on these off-site trips. Field trips usually fit within the frame of your child’s regular class time. The registration fee covers admission for 1 parent and 1 child on each of these trips.

Child care for younger siblings will be available here at Divine Shepherd’s Kingdom’s Corner Nursery for a fee by registering in advance for the field trip day.

### Plan Ahead

3 Off-Site Field Trips  
(1 parent per child required)



Monday, September 11 Super Bee Apple Orchard  
(Red-Green)

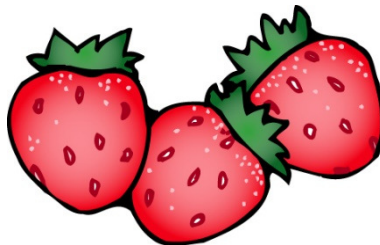
Tuesday, September 12 Ft. Calhoun, NE  
(Blue, Rainbow, Purple)

Monday, November 13 Celebration grocery  
(Red-Green) shopping trip to

Tuesday, November 14 Stony Brook HyVee  
(Blue, Rainbow, Purple)

Monday, May 7 Gifford Farm  
(Red-Green-Enrichment)

Tuesday, May 8 Bellevue, NE  
(Blue, Rainbow, Purple)



It is our policy that each child have a parent or guardian accompany him/her on the field trip, as well as transporting the child to and from the field trip location. We encourage carpooling with each of the Field Trips but teacher will not take on

the responsibility of transporting children. Please follow the Nebraska law which states that children up to the age of 6 must ride correctly secured in an appropriate child restraint system.

Please have your children wear his/her Little Lamb Preschool T-shirt each time we have an outing. It helps us keep our group together --- and the children look so cute in the matching shirts.

### **BOOK ORDERS**

Most months the school will be sending home 2 or 3 book order forms. You may wish to take advantage of these great prices and the excellent choice of book selections. Feel free to share them with Grandparents too! If you would like to place an order as gifts, just attach a note stating this and the Teacher or Director will “sneak” the books to you.

\*Reading to your child is one of the best things you can do with him/her to stimulate thinking, listening and vocabulary skills. Please try to budget in at least one book a month. The dividends will be worth the investment.\*

You may also shop and purchase books online by going to [Scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://Scholastic.com/bookclubs) and use our class activation code: GZNNB.

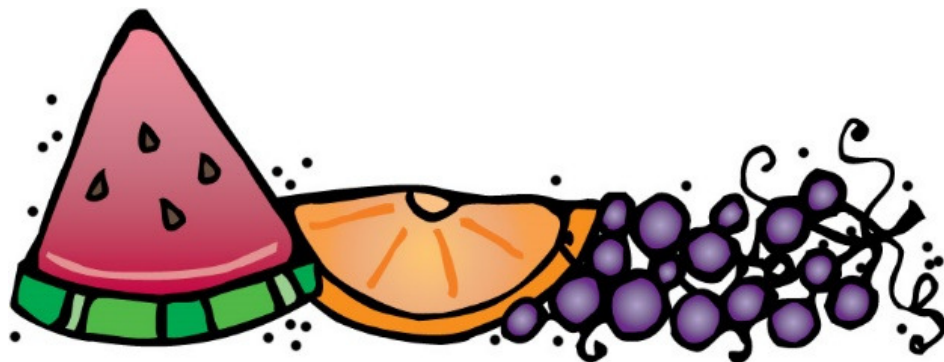
### **MOPS**

(Mothers Of Preschoolers)

MOPS meets here at Divine Shepherd twice a month, during the school day on Fridays. Their meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday from 9:15-11:15 a.m.. Announcements begin at 9:15. A second group of MOPS meets Tuesday evenings.

### **Childcare (MOPPETS)**

MOPPETS is provided by a wonderful group of caregivers who are committed to helping your children experience joy and build relationships.



## CHARACTERISTICS OF 3-5 YEAR OLDS

- Very active
- Curious about things and people
- Questions “how?” and “why?”
- Imaginative. May fear the dark and animals. May have imaginary companions. May imitate adults in play.
- Short attendance span; able to wait for short periods, starts things but may not finish.
- Sociable; younger children play alone well; beginning to play well with other children but may be self-assertive.
- Developing language skills; uses short sentences; talks; tells stories; invents meaningless words of many syllables.
- Establishing self-concept; wants to be included; “me, too”.
- Developing initiative; likes to help, such as run simple errands; takes some limited responsibility for staying within bounds and putting toys away.
- Needs to feel safe and secure; responsive to adults; enjoys their approval.
- Developing at different rates; children of same ages may be at different stages in development of language, social skills and cognitive ability.
- Learns through all their senses.

# APPROPRIATE CONCEPTS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS

## **About God:**

- God made me and all things.
- God cares for me.
- I can sing and talk to God.

## **About Jesus:**

- Jesus is God's Son.
- Jesus was once a child, growing as other children grow.
- Jesus is my Savior and Friend.

## **About the Bible:**

- The Bible is a special book.
- The Bible is a book of true stories.
- The Bible tells about God and Jesus.

## **About the church:**

- It is God's house.
- We have happy times at church.
- I can feel secure here because I can understand what is expected.

## **About myself:**

- God loves me just the way I am.
- God wants me to be kind, loving and thankful.
- God forgives me when I do something wrong.

## **About others:**

- God loves all the children in the world.
- Some children may appear different, yet they are alike in many ways.

## **About the world:**

- God's world is beautiful.
- God wants me to take care of His world

## GETTING TO KNOW US...

**Tonya Isaac, Director and Teacher:** As I begin my 21<sup>st</sup> year in education, I am excited to be at Little Lamb Preschool. I have taught in Lutheran schools since I graduated from Concordia University in Seward, NE. I graduated with a degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Early Childhood. I received my Master's degree in Education with a Reading Endorsement. God has blessed me with an awesome education. More richly, He blesses me with all the children He entrusts in my care, like yours! In addition to being with children, I enjoy baking, cooking, water skiing, and cross-stitch. Time with family, immediate and extended, is precious to me.

My husband, Doug, has been by my side through each classroom of children. He listens to all my stories of the dear children in my class and then thanks God he is in business with adults and not children; though he dearly loves our own three boys. Doug and I enjoy playing cards and games with family and friends. We have three sons. Christopher, 23, working full time in Omaha. Anthony, 19, is serving at Offutt Air Force. Aaron, age 13, is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Concordia Junior High.

I love my job working with the faculty of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, the staff of Little Lamb Preschool, teaching your children, and getting to know the families as we share Jesus' love.

**Heidi Abrahams, Teaching Assistant:** I moved to Omaha 5 years ago from Minnesota with my husband Jeff of 17 years and our four beautiful daughters Grace-14, Annalyse-11, and twins Malia and Taya-9. Malia and Taya were both in the orange class at Little Lamb Preschool.

Before having our girls I worked in healthcare as a massage therapist. After our oldest was born, I was blessed with the opportunity to be a stay at home mom. While we lived in Minnesota I helped teach Sunday School and VBS. Here at Divine Shepherd I have helped in the nursery and with Moppets. This will be my 3<sup>rd</sup> year assisting at Little Lamb Preschool!

I love spending time with my family and attending all of their activities. I enjoy reading, scrapbooking, volunteering, and spending as much time in the sunshine as possible. I look forward to a fun year getting to know your kiddos at Little Lamb and sharing God's love with them!

**Lavonna Bonney, Teaching Assistant:** I was married to my husband Cleo for 44 year, when he passed away this spring. We have five grown children and blessed

with nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren! I moved to Omaha from York, Nebraska after high school to attend Business School.

In the past, I have worked at Abundant Life Lutheran School in the Learning Center. For 21 years we owned and operated our own business. Prior to that I worked for Hy-Vee and Safeway in various areas of customer service. In my spare time I enjoy fishing, painting and gardening, and grandchildren.

I'm looking forward to serving the Little Lamb Preschool Family, and getting to know, the children, parents and staff. It is so exciting to be a part of God's plan for His littlest ones.

**Rhonda DeVries, Teacher:** I am very excited and blessed to start my 6<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Little Lamb preschool. I truly enjoy watching the growth of each child not only physically but especially in their individual journey with Jesus. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children over the next year.

I obtained an accounting degree from Morningside College in 1995 and worked in that field for 16 years full-time. At that time I was able to stay home with my children and ran a part-time daycare out of our home. Then I was given the opportunity to become part of the Little Lamb staff.

I have been married to my husband, Matt for 21 years and we are blessed with 4 children, Allison-19, Dylan-16, Devin-13 and Drew-12. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, doing puzzles and playing cards and games. I love spending time with my children and supporting them in all of their activities that they are involved in.

**Casey Ketterer, Teaching Assistant:** I grew up in Lincoln but moved to Omaha and married my husband, Jason. We have been married for 14 years and we have three boys who all attended Little Lamb Preschool. Colin is 11, Garrett is almost 9 and Easton is 6. They keep us busy playing baseball and hockey. I enjoy reading, baking, Jazzercise and going to sporting events. I taught kindergarten and first grade in Lincoln and Omaha before staying home with my boys. I look forward to getting to know your kids and having fun learning and growing this year.

**Andrea McDonald, Teaching Assistant:** Todd and I have been married for 9 years and have been attending Divine Shepherd for the last 8 years. We have three beautiful children; Lyla who is 8 and going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Hailey who is 6 and going



into 1<sup>st</sup> grade and Nathan who is 4 and will be in Green and Enrichment classes here at Little Lamb. I worked as a Speech/Language Pathologist for 8 years for Bellevue Public Schools working with all different ages of children from preschool through age 21. I specialized in Traumatic Brain Injury and volunteered as a leader on the Brain Injury Regional School Support teams for the Omaha Metro Area. After we had Nathan, I was blessed with the opportunity to be a stay at home mom the summer of 2013. Lyla started preschool here at Little Lamb in August that same year and we have been a part of the Little Lamb Preschool family ever since. When the opportunity arose to be a part of the staff last January, I could hardly contain my excitement! As I have watched my own children grow in their love for God over the years through this program, I am now a part of sharing that love with each one of your children.

**Joy Neville, Teaching Assistant:** I have lived in Omaha for 22 years with my husband Jeff. Together we have three boys, Jack-14, Devin-12 and Parker is 9. I worked for several years as a medical secretary before I had my first child. After Jack was born, I decided to be a stay at home mom. I have been a stay at home mom for the past 13 years working childcare on the side. I have helped with MOPS at Divine Shepherd the past 4 years.

I love being with my family. My three boys keep me on my toes and always running somewhere. We love to be outdoors and when we cannot be outside, we love to play games. We currently have three shelving units packed with different games. I love reading, quilting, singing in my church choir, scrapbooking, and spending time with friends and family. This will be my first year with Little Lamb and I'm looking forward to getting to know you and your children!

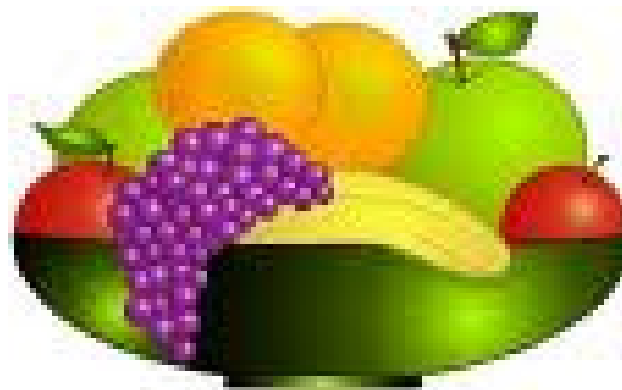
**Kristie Ramsey, Teacher:** As a child I had many "classes" of stuffed animals. I knew I wanted to be a real teacher when I grew up. That dream came true in 2000 when I graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Elementary Education. Two weeks later I married my husband, Brett. Three months later we moved to Omaha from Tulsa.

Since then, I have been a special education para, taught in a multi-grade classroom, a second grade classroom and I am starting my 7<sup>th</sup> year at Little Lamb. I have also coordinated the Moppets program and helped in various ways with the Children's Ministry at Divine Shepherd.

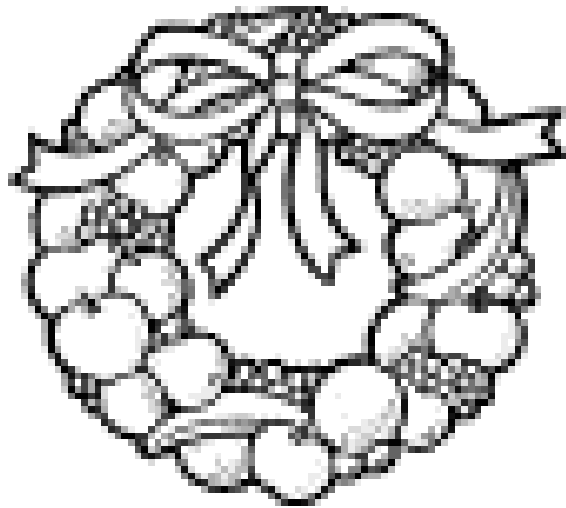
I have two children, Will and Faith, heading off to 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Concordia. I am very excited to return to another year at Little Lamb teaching! Psalm 127:3 says that, "Children are a gift from the Lord, offspring a reward from him." I believe

this with my whole heart. I look forward to getting to know your “gifts” from God and helping them grow in many ways!

**Patty Wooden, Teacher:** I graduated in 1992 from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a degree in Elementary Education and Endorsement in Early Childhood, and have been working with children of all ages ever since. This will be my 14<sup>th</sup> year teaching preschool. I have been married to my wonderful husband, Tim for 23 years and we have 5 beautiful children. I gave my life to Jesus in the summer of 1994. I feel so incredibly blessed to be working at Little Lamb, to help your child grow spiritually, socially and academically.



# **Fruit of the Spirit**



**CALENDAR INSERT**

**2017-2018**

## SPECIAL CALENDAR DAYS 2017-2018

(\*\* Notates Deviation from the Millard school schedule)

- Aug 15 Evening Open House  
GREEN CLASS: 6:15-6:45  
RED CLASS: 6:30-7:00  
ENRICHMENT: 7:15-7:45
- Aug 16 First day of class for:  
RED 9:00-11:00 \* (Shortened class 1<sup>st</sup> day)  
GREEN 9:00-11:30  
ENRICHMENT 12:30-3:00  
Evening Open House  
BLUE CLASS: 6:15-6:45  
RAINBOW CLASS: 7:15-7:45  
PURPLE CLASS: 6:30-7:00
- Aug 17 First Day of Class for:  
BLUE 9:00-11:00 \* (Shortened class 1<sup>st</sup> day)  
RAINBOW 12:30-3:00  
PURPLE 9:00-11:30
- Aug 31 Moms' Night at Little Lamb
- Sept 4 Labor Day—No School
- Sept 11 & 12 Field trips to Super Bee Orchard, Ft. Calhoun, NE
- Oct 18-20 No School Millard - No School Little Lamb
- Oct 30 & 31 Noah's Ark Parties – Children are invited to join their teachers in wearing simple critter costumes
- Nov 7 Election Day – Remember to vote – It's a privilege
- Nov 13 & 14 ThanksLiving Field Trips to the supermarket to buy food with money the children have earned
- Nov 20 & 21 Family Feast Days – families invited to provide finger feast foods and join us the last 45 minutes of class to celebrate God's good gifts and give thanks  
Usbourne Book Fair—Plan to shop for Christmas!
- Nov 22-24 No school –Happy Thanksgiving
- Dec 18 RED/GREEN/ENRICHMENT  
Christmas Service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 19 BLUE/RAINBOW/PURPLE  
Christmas Service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 20 & 21 Happy Birthday Jesus! Class Christmas Party  
Parents invited last ½ hour with BABY gifts
- \*\*Dec 22 NO CLASSES—Christmas take down for Staff
- Dec 23-Jan 7 Christmas vacation – Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Jan 1	Happy New Year!
Jan 8	Classes at Little Lamb Preschool resume
Jan 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No School Millard - No School Little Lamb
Jan. 17 & 18	Teddy Bear & Pajama Days
Jan 26	18 <sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off Little Lamb Preschool Fundraiser
Jan 29-Feb 2	Early registration 2018-2019 for families with children <u>currently</u> enrolled
Feb 5-9	Early registration 2018-2019 for families <u>returning</u> to Little Lamb
Feb 10	General Registration 2018-2019—Tell all your friends!
Feb 13	Dads' Night at Little Lamb
Feb 13 & 14	"Share God's Love" Class Parties Bring valentines for all your friends at preschool
Feb 15-19	No School Millard - No School Little Lamb Presidents' Day Weekend
Mar 5 & 6	Hawaii Days
Mar	ALL Little Lamb Students sing at Lenten Service
Mar 19-23	Spring Break Millard & Little Lamb
**Mar 30	No school---Good Friday
Apr 1	Easter Sunday - Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
**Apr 2	No school –Easter Monday Church building is closed
APR 3 & 4	EASTER CELEBRATIONS AND EGG HUNTS
May 7 & 8	Gifford Farm field trips
May 21 & 22	End of the Year Potluck Picnic & Last Day of Class
May 22	<b>Graduation/Closing Service in <u>Sanctuary</u> at 7:00 p.m.</b> <b>for all students going to Kindergarten in the fall</b>