

# Grace Lutheran Preschool

Lambs of Grace

Handbook

2010 - 2011



5600 W. Palmaire Ave.  
Glendale, AZ 85301  
623-937-2010

[www.graceglendale.org](http://www.graceglendale.org)

Director: Barb Rubin (ext. 317)  
[barbrubin@graceglendale.org](mailto:barbrubin@graceglendale.org)

This handbook is provided for several reasons...

- To acquaint the reader with the program of Christian education at Grace Lutheran Preschool
- To supply the reader with the philosophy that prompts the members of Grace Lutheran Church to promote and support a Christian preschool
- To provide the parents and students with the functions and regulations of the school they are to observe as part of our educational family.

2010-2011

Grace Lutheran Preschool reserves the right to make changes to this handbook as it deems necessary for the betterment of the school. Parents will be notified through monthly newsletter and notes home if changes are made to any of our policies and procedures.

## Whose Child

“Whose child is this?” I asked one day  
seeing a little one at play.  
“Mine,” said the parent with a tender smile.  
“Mine to keep a little while.”  
“To bathe his hands and comb his hair,  
to tell him what he is to wear;  
to prepare for him his daily food,  
to train him – that he may always be good.”

“Whose child is this?” I asked again  
as the door came open and someone came in,  
“Mine,” said the teacher with the same tender smile.  
“Mine just to keep a little while;  
to teach him how to be gentle and kind;  
to train him and direct his little mind.  
To help him to live by every rule  
And get the best he can from school.”

“Whose child is this?” I asked once more  
just as the little one entered the door,  
“Ours,” said the parent and teacher as they smiled  
and each one took a hand of the dear little child.  
“Ours to love and train together,  
ours, this blessed task forever,  
the noblest work that has ever been given,  
for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

--Anonymous



## General Information about our Preschool

The focal point of the preschool is Christian education. Jesus Christ is the center of our lives. He will be the center of our preschool education program. This means that part of each day will be spent in such a way that Jesus becomes an important element in your child's life.



Grace Lutheran Preschool admits children of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and other school administered programs. A child with special needs requires a pre-enrollment conference to determine if we can meet the needs of the child.

Our preschool calendar follows our K-8 program for vacations and days off for the most part. An annual calendar will be provided in August, with updates being sent each month.

## Preschool Programs & Before/After Extended Care

We provide both a half-day (morning) and a full-day preschool program. The half-day program operates from 8:15-11:15am. The full-day program operates from 8:15am-3:00pm. The preschool program is intended for children who are three years of age or older and not yet ready to enter Kindergarten. Children can enroll in a 2, 3, or 5 day program.

- 2-day program: Tuesday and Thursday
- 3-day program: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- 5-day program: Monday through Friday

The three year old program introduces students to a structured social setting. It provides a nurturing environment for children where they learn about Jesus, their friend and Savior, enjoy building relationships with other children, learn colors, shapes, numbers, physical education, name recognition, arts, science, and have lots of fun!

The four year old program prepares students for kindergarten and continues building upon faith development skills, physical education, science, pre-math, and pre-reading skills. Students are introduced to phonics and writing.

Children must be 3 years old by September 1 and must be able to use the toilet facilities without assistance. Considering our license and the fact that our facility is not equipped with diaper-changing areas, we are unable to provide assistance to children in diapers.

Our **Before and After Care Program** hours are as follows:

- Before School Care (7:45 – 7:50 AM) is \$3 per morning
- After School Care (3:00 – 6:00 PM) is \$3 hourly with a \$3 minimum – billed by quarter hour after 4:00 PM (After 6:00 PM there will be a \$2 per minute charge)

## Child Enrollment and Withdrawal Procedures

The following are guidelines on how a child is enrolled into or withdrawn from our program. We cannot hope to address every possible issue or situation within this discussion. There may be times when we may have to address a personal situation differently from what is presented here, depending upon the circumstances.

### Enrollment Procedure:

1. A parent/guardian expresses interest in our program.
2. The parent/guardian completes an application for enrollment into one or more of our programs. This includes the child's immunization records, medical history, and a personal history at the time of enrollment. We also need written authorization of all individuals who will be allowed to pickup the student from our campus.
3. Based on the application, an open space in our facility, and our review process, a decision to accept the child into our program is made.

We do not necessarily enroll children in the order in which we receive applications. We do reserve the right to select children in the order we feel is best regardless as to the order of applications received. We do allow a priority to siblings and repeat families. Church membership is also taken into consideration.

If a parent no longer wants their child to be enrolled in Grace Lutheran Preschool, we ask for a minimum one-week notice. Payment in full is required on the child's last day. The preschool may ask that a child no longer be enrolled for reasons including:

- Completion of the school year
- Suspension due to disciplinary action (see Discipline Policy)
- Suspension due to failure of parents to pay the necessary fees on time

Children with special needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

## Tuition and Fees

An annual registration fee is required at the time of enrollment and again every July. **This fee is non-refundable.** Tuition is due (pre-paid) at the beginning of every month for the preschool program. Tuition is a yearly fee divided up into 10 monthly payments.

Registration Fee: \$100

Regular Preschool Program: (8:15-11:15am)

2-day program \$1425 annually (10 monthly payments - \$142.50)

3-day program \$1650 annually (10 monthly payments - \$165.00)

5-day program \$2225 annually (10 monthly payments - \$222.50)

Full Day Preschool Program: (8:15am-3:00pm)

2-day program \$2800 annually (10 monthly payments - \$280)

3-day program \$3350 annually (10 monthly payments - \$335)

5-day program \$4450 annually (10 monthly payments - \$445)



We will impose a 10% late fee for all overdue payments.

If a child should be withdrawn from our program, any prepayment of tuition or fees will be refunded on a prorated basis.

## **Child Admission and Release Requirements**

All children must be signed in and out in the student sign-in binder. At minimum Parents/guardians must legibly sign their first initial and last name. For the safety of our students, all who are authorized to pick up or drop off a child MUST follow this procedure. Due to state laws, no one under the age of 18 is permitted to sign out a child. When registrations are completed, parents/guardians can designate people other than themselves to admit or pick up their children.

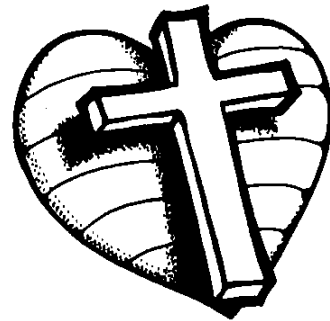
If an unauthorized person must pick up a student, the parent/guardian must call the school and give verbal authorization (we will ask for your code word that you establish at registration). In order for us to release your child, the person picking up the child should have photo identification.

## **Discipline Guidelines and Methods**

At Grace discipline is approached as an opportunity for a child to grow in their faith. We see discipline as a means of helping children learn and use self-control and appropriate behavior choices and to cooperate with peers and teachers. In extreme cases, a child may be removed from an inappropriate situation for a brief period of time. We support policies set forth by the Arizona Department of Human Resources R9-5-510, p. 27. Parents will be notified if there is a consistent behavior problem. A conference will be held to develop a behavior plan.

### **Guide for Disciplinary Action**

1. Serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in all we think, say, and do.
2. Misbehavior will be viewed as opportunities to grow spiritually and will be handled with natural and logical consequences instead of punishment when possible; application of Law (correction) and Gospel (forgiveness) along with prayer will be used.
3. Every attempt will be made to maintain the dignity and self-respect as a child of God of each student, parent, and teacher.
4. Students will be guided and expected to solve their problems without creating problems for anyone else.
5. Students will be given opportunities to make age appropriate decisions and live with the consequences.



## **Transportation**

There is no transportation provided by the preschool. Each parent is responsible for transporting his or her child to and from preschool. We can assist parents who wish to set up carpools.

## **Field Trip Requirements and Procedures**

Due to the Health Department's strict regulations on transportation, as well as the State of Arizona's car seat law, the preschool children do NOT take field trips. We are unable to transport children at all. But we will have special "guests" come to us throughout the year.

## Parent Responsibilities

Parents are invited and welcome to share in the growth of their children. We have an open door policy – you are welcome to stop by and visit your child's class. We are always in need of volunteers. We encourage you to assist and participate with planning special projects and parties.

In the fall and the spring we will be scheduling conferences. At this time, we will discuss your child's development and progress. In addition, we can arrange a conference at other times when needed.

## Activities and Programs

The overall goal of our program is to provide early learning experiences that nurture the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social development of young children. We know this goal can be reached when children are given opportunities for hands-on, active experiences that are developmentally appropriate. We further believe that children develop best when these experiences occur in an atmosphere of unconditional Christian love, care, and respect. Therefore we offer the following in our program:

- Activities that aid the development of children's large and small motor skills
- Experiences that allow children to explore God's world, to solve problems, and to express feelings
- An environment that fosters development of initiative, self-control, and self-confidence
- Opportunities for children to learn through play and to develop socially as they interact with one another and with adults
- Teachers who recognize the individuality of each child's abilities and needs



(Be sure to read **Rationale for Preschool / Philosophy** and **Curriculum Information** found in the appendix)

Included in our preschool curriculum will be music, math, science, art, language arts, and physical education.

Afternoons will include lunch time and outdoor play, followed by a "rest period."

## Snacks

As part of their social skills development and building sense of community, the students, teachers, director, and Minister of Education will take turns providing snacks for the class. A classroom snack calendar will be distributed monthly. We must follow the rules set by the State Health Department. Therefore, all food items brought to school for snacks or school parties must be in ready-to-serve packages. Any preparations have to be done at school by trained individuals. Snacks have to have at least two of the components listed below and provide the minimum serving amount per child:

Snack Components:

- Milk (1/2 cup)
- Vegetable/Fruit Juice (1/2 cup)
- Bread, roll, muffin, etc (1/2 slice or serving)
- Meat (lean), cheese (1/2 oz)
- Peanut butter or nuts (1Tbs or 1/3 cup)

Snack time will be used to teach good nutrition, appropriate manners, and to offer a variety of foods to the students. At times throughout the year, snack preparation and food items will tie directly into the curriculum.

More information about snack requirements will be given by the Director at the beginning of each semester.

## Toys from Home

We ask that you leave your child's toys at home or in the car. Each student will have opportunities to share his/her treasures with "show and tell" type activities. Toys from home tend to get lost or broken and we don't want sad children when this happens. Toy guns, knives, or weapons of any kind are not allowed in the classroom or on campus.

## Insurance Coverage

Grace Lutheran Preschool carries insurance needed under R9-5-308 regulation of the State of Arizona. The plan provides secondary coverage to the family's primary coverage. If the family has no insurance, this plan becomes their primary carrier.

## Absences

For your child's own comfort and protection, plus the consideration for the other children, please keep your child home when he/she is ill. Please call the office in the morning to inform us that your child will not be in attendance. If your child would be arriving late or leaving early for a necessary appointment, please let the staff know in advance. There will be no refunds or reduction in tuition for absences.

## Medication Administration Procedures and Health

Generally, the preschool staff will not administer medication to any student. In certain situations, medication can be distributed to a child. If your child is required to take medicine, you may talk to the director to see if medication can be dispensed to your child. Among the requirements will include that you must give your child's teacher clear, written directions for administering the medication. Prescription medication must come in the original pharmacy's bottle and must be prescribed for that same child, and include the name of the physician, prescription number and date, name of medication, dosage and frequency. The medication must be kept locked up by preschool staff. The exception to this would be in the case of asthma. Upon written directions from the parent, a teacher may need to carry an inhaler for the asthmatic child.

The physical care and health of each child is very important to us. It is VITAL that you make teachers aware of any allergies or special medical needs your child has, both verbally AND in writing.

To ensure all students stay as healthy as possible, please be aware of signs of illness. If your child becomes ill at school, or comes to school ill or with a fever, your child will be separated from the rest of the children to rest. Parents will be notified and required to pick their child up immediately. If your child has had a fever, diarrhea or vomiting, they are not allowed to attend class for at least 24 hours after the symptoms go away. This rule applies to head-lice as well.

Do not bring your child to school if the following symptoms are present:

- Fever (or has had a fever within 24 hours)
- Has thick or green nasal discharge
- Constant Cough
- Fussy, irritable or not his/her usual self
- Chills
- Earache
- Sore throat
- Reddened or oozing eyes
- Rash or skin eruptions
- Stomach cramps or diarrhea
- Unusual fatigue

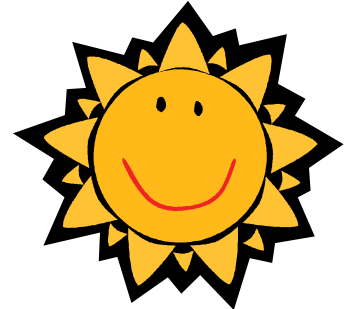


If your child becomes exposed to a communicable disease, please inform the preschool staff immediately. We will send home notification of any contagious diseases that may have been present on the facility.

In certain instances, a written release by a physician may be required for a child to return to class, especially if there is a question as to whether a child should be returning to class after an illness.

Parents are advised to follow these sun safety procedures for their child's long term good health:

- Always use a sunscreen of at least SPF 15 or higher, apply it before leaving to come to school.
- Wear a hat or visor, use lip balm with SPF 15 or higher.
- Wear sunglasses.
- Keep skin covered as much as possible.



## **Immunizations**

All immunizations must be complete before a child is allowed to attend school. Verification must be made and health forms complete **prior to the first day of school**.

## **Emergency Medical Procedures**

Parents must remember to keep their contact phone numbers up-to-date with us! In the event of an emergency, 911 will be called and parents will be contacted. Our local fire department and paramedics are within minutes of reaching us. If a minor accident occurs, first aid will be applied and an "Ouch Report" will be sent home. In case of injury being questionable to its severity, a parent will be notified and a decision made.

A fire drill will be conducted once a month. Each staff member will walk the children to the designated area and wait for instructions from the director, Minister of Ed, or fire department for the all-clear to return to the classroom. Staff will use the sign-in / sign-out sheet to account for all children. In case of an actual emergency, parents will be notified as soon as possible.

If we feel a child is at risk for potential harm, when by natural disaster or any other perceived threat, we may "lock down" the building – lock all entrances to the building and keep the children indoors. The staff will keep the children calm and continue activities as to not needlessly alarm the children. We haven't had a dangerous problem in our K-8 school like this, but we do have the procedures in place.

## **Child Abuse Reporting Obligations**

In accordance with Grace Lutheran's Policy and Arizona Law, school staff is obligated under penalty of fine and jail term to report the reasonable suspicion of physical abuse, emotional abuse, emotional deprivation, physical neglect, inadequate supervision, or sexual abuse or exploitation. The clear intent of the law, based on the seriousness of the crimes listed above, is to mandate that a report of reasonable suspicion of abuse be made. School staff will make such reports in the best interests of the child and do not, once reasonable suspicion is established, have any legal alternative except to make the report to the proper authorities for their investigation and review.

## **Help from Home**

**Birthdays**: Your child's special day will be recognized at school. The students will be assigned their birthday (or one close to it) as one of their snack days. For summer birthday, we may try to schedule a "half-birthday" with your child. Students may bring a "birthday gift" to school to share with the class (books, art supplies, educational games, or toys are a few ideas). Each classroom will develop their own special birthday routine.

Classroom Help: Let us know of any special interests or skills that family members may have that could help out our ministry. We strongly encourage families to participate whenever possible so they can share in the education of their children.

Classroom Directories: Early in the school year, Grace Lutheran will provide each family with a classroom directory. The only purpose for the directory is to assist families with carpools, play dates, birthday invitations, thank-you notes, and the like. These lists cannot be used for any business or solicitation purposes. If you do NOT want your child to be included, please let us know in writing.

Clothing and Laundry: Children should come to school dressed for play! We will roll on the floor, sit on the floor, paint, glue, etc. Dress up clothing is not appropriate except for special occasions that are planned. Dress shoes and flip flops are not appropriate. Tennis shoes (with Velcro or laces) with socks are most appropriate for school. If girls wear dresses, shorts are required underneath. Clothing should reflect Christian values. Clothing may not contain vulgar sayings or pictures, or advertising singing groups, or violent or immoral characters. Thank you for helping us maintain an environment that is non-offensive to all, including visitors.

It is required that all students have a second set of clothes in a plastic bag in the classroom in case a new set is needed. This service is provided with only a nominal fee.

Meals: Parents are required to provide meals for their children if in attendance over the noon hour. We support the meal guidelines outlined by the AZ Department of Health Services. All meals should be nutritious and provide a well balanced diet. Students will be encouraged to eat food with high nutritional value first. Foods brought to school high in sugar and low in nutritional value are discouraged and will be saved for last if they come. A "forgotten meal" fee of \$3 will be charged. We will provide your child a peanut butter/jelly sandwich, box of raisins, fruit/vegetable, milk, and dessert if possible.

Newsletters and Communication: A newsletter and classroom calendar will be coming home to share what's happening in your child's classroom. Upcoming events will be mentioned too. It is imperative that parents read the newsletters and information sent home so that you are aware of what is being planned and that your child doesn't miss out on anything!

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held twice a year. This allows staff to give detailed observations on your child's social, emotional, physical, and spiritual development and to answer any questions you may have. Appointments will be made for the formal conferences. Please feel free to schedule additional conferences throughout the year.

A stylized graphic with the text "You can make a DIFFERENCE!". The words "You can make a" are in a cursive, script font, while "DIFFERENCE!" is in a large, bold, blocky font with a thick black outline and a white fill. The entire graphic has a grainy, stippled background.

## **APPENDIX:**

### **Rationale for Preschool / Philosophy**

Grace Lutheran Church's purpose for operating a Lutheran preschool is summarized in these words of Christ to His disciples, "<sup>19</sup>**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** <sup>20</sup>**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**" Matthew 28:19-20.

Children are unique gifts from God. Each child has a spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, creative, and physical component. The first years of life are extremely important in a child's total development. The development of self-concept begins in the earliest years. The young child begins to identify him/herself as a unique creation of his/her Savior. The child's early developmental years coincide with the development of family values and traditions. Research indicates that a family's religious traditions are established by the time that the oldest child reaches the age of five. Grace Lutheran's ministry to families (in reach and outreach) is deeply connected with our ministry to young children.

God desires the children to be taught the truths of His Word. God has imparted the responsibility of teaching children in two ways. First of all, and primarily, God has given to parents the privilege and responsibility of passing on to their children the truths of God's Word through Christian instruction. God tells parents in Ephesians 6:4, "Do not exasperate your children, instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

God has also given this same instruction to the Church on earth. Speaking to Peter concerning his work as an Apostle, Jesus said, "Feed my lambs," (John 21:15). It is the will of Christ that those whom He had redeemed at the cost of His lifeblood should be fed the food of God's Word for the creation and strengthening of saving faith also by the Church.

Grace Lutheran Preschool exists for the purpose of encouraging and assisting parents in meeting their responsibilities to carry out God's saving will of instructing their children in the truths of the Christian faith, as they are drawn from the inspired and infallible words of Holy Scripture. Our preschool seeks to work alongside families in bringing Christian education to children. As a school, we dare not take the place of the family; but instead, we assist and work with the parents or guardians in helping these students with their walk of faith. We must work together as a unique team in raising children. Parents will be included in the training and instruction of the Lord by involving them in meaningful and appropriate activities of the early childhood ministries.

Our preschool aims to proclaim both God's law in all its seriousness, sternness, and severity as well as God's gospel in all of its beauty, majesty, freedom, and glory. We do not add anything to God's Word, nor do we take anything from it. We do not elevate human reason above divine revelation. Rather we approach each Bible lesson with the utmost humility and awe, prayerfully pleading with God to lead us to a correct understanding and a faithful presentation. Armed with the true Word of God, we conduct our preschool confident of God's blessings for faith and salvation. Our preschool program allows children to understand sin, to experience repentance and forgiveness, and to share their faith with others. Children will learn of Jesus their Savior, they will learn stories and teachings of Scripture, and they will experience the joy and privilege of sharing their Savior with others.

**The mission of Grace Lutheran preschool is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for here and for eternity.**

The Purpose of our preschool is to nurture the spiritual and educational needs of the young children of Grace Lutheran Church and other WELS congregations, as well as actively reaching out to our community in general, all in the light of the saving work of Jesus Christ. Our goal is to get the good news of Jesus Christ to as many children and their families as we possible can.

I. Making Disciples means:

- A. using the law to show a need for a Savior (Rom 3:22-23);
- B. teaching them "the one thing needful," (Luke 10:42), the gospel of Jesus Christ;
- C. beginning a lifelong process of spiritual growth in faith and life that we pray will continue throughout their lives. (1 Cor 3:1-2; 1 Pe. 2:2-3; Heb. 5:11-6:1).

Romans 3:22-23 *There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (NIV)*

Luke 10:42 *but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (NIV)*

Ephesians 4:11-12 *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (NIV)*

1 Corinthians 2:14 *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (NIV)*

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 *Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly -- mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.*

1 Peter 2:2-3 *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (NIV)*

Hebrews 5:11-6:1 *We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, (NIV)*

II. Serving the educational needs of the children means:

Instructing them in the academic teachings of this world subject to the truth of the Holy Scriptures (Rom. 11:33-36, 1 Cor 1:25, 1 Cor 1:18).

Romans 11:33-36 *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (NIV)*

1 Corinthians 1:25 *For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (NIV)*

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (NIV)*

In summary, our preschool exists to...

- Assist parents in their primary responsibility of training their children in the truths of God's Word
- Carry out God's saving will of instructing the children of our congregation in the truths of the Christian faith
- Proclaim the good news of forgiveness of sins through Jesus' redeeming work to those children of the community who would like to attend.
- Provide a way to teach our community's children and families about the saving truth of Jesus Christ.

Characteristics of our Pre-school and all early childhood ministries will include:

- The love of Jesus permeates the early childhood ministry's culture and establishes the bond among students, teachers, and parents.
- The authority of the Bible establishes the foundation upon which early childhood activities are rigorously pursued and upon which Christian character is developed.
- Children are cherished and their needs addressed because each was uniquely created and redeemed at great cost by their loving God.
- The whole child is educated in mind, body, and spirit. (Motor skill learning, social learning, intellectual learning, emotional learning, and the learning of spiritual truths are interrelated. Learning activities are not compartmentalized by subjects. Scriptural viewpoints and teaching permeates all learning activities.)
- The home-school partnership is exceptionally strong because teachers and helpers understand that God gives children to parents and parents entrust children to teachers.
- Teachers are highly qualified and motivated because their career is a calling in ministry from their Lord.
- Safe, inviting, orderly classrooms and emphasis on the whole development of the child is evident in our early childhood ministries.
- Teacher-directed and child-directed play experiences will enable children to pass through the stages of development by interacting with activities and materials that are concrete, real, and relevant to their young lives. Young children learn through play.

**Who We Are:** Grace Lutheran Preschool is a ministry of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, and we are a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). You can find a detailing of what we believe at the web site, [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net).

Our church and K-8 school was established over 75 years ago (1927) to offer a Christian education to our members' children. After a major building and remodeling project, we began our preschool in August 2005. We also strive to give the gospel message to others and include them with a Christ-centered education. We teach that Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, was crucified and died to make full payment for our sins. Some of our basic beliefs as noted in our congregation's constitution are as follows:

- We confess the divinely-inspired canonical books of the Bible as the only source and basis of our faith and doctrine. Grace Evangelical Lutheran Congregation agrees to be guided in the interpretation of the Bible by the Book of Concord, 1580.
- We believe the Bible to be not only inspired, but also infallible and error-free. God's Word "is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness " (2 Timothy 3:15-17).
- This congregation accepts and confesses the following Symbols and/or Statements of Faith of the Book of Concord of 1580 as true statements of Scriptural Doctrine:  
The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, and The Athanasian Creed, as well as the original Book of Concord.
- This congregation accepts and confesses these symbolical books without reservation, not insofar as they are the Word of God, but because they are the presentation and explanation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and summary of the Christian faith held by this Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- No doctrine shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation which is in anyway at variance with the Holy Scriptures and these Symbols.
- All controversies which may arise in this congregation shall be decided according to this article and in accordance to the Holy Scriptures.

## **Curriculum Information**

We strive to make sure our classrooms have the following elements present:

- The physical environment is safe and orderly, and contains varied, stimulating toys and materials.
- Children may select activities and materials that interest them; they learn by being actively involved.
- Adults show respect for children's needs and ideas, and talk with them in caring ways.
- Parents feel respected and are encouraged to participate in the program.
- Staff members have specialized training in early childhood development, education, and care.

### **Characteristics of Young Children**

Young children...

- Need a Savior
- Can grow in faith in God
- Are egocentric
- Want to feel important
- Need to be active
- Have short attention spans
- Feel vulnerable
- Have difficulty distinguishing between make believe and real
- Are just beginners
- Are eager for stimulation
- Learn through experience and exploration
- Are trusting

### **Goals of our Preschool Curriculum**

- Hear and see Jesus' love through our staff
- Develop a positive self-concept
- Experience meaningful child-adult and child-child interactions
- Develop and use verbal language for communication
- Learn social skills
- Experience a variety of large and fine motor skill-building activities
- Become aware of their physical environment
- Discover self-directed perceptual motor play
- Experience learning through all their senses
- Increase their competence to do tasks
- Role play and pretend
- See themselves and others as God's children in His family

### **How we hope our children will grow through our program:**

#### **Spiritually:**

- Develop a sense of trust
- Realize their need for God's love
- Know Jesus as their personal Savior
- Respond to God's love
- Feel secure in God's love and care
- See themselves as God's children

#### **Emotionally:**

- Develop a positive self-concept
- Feeling free to make mistakes and learn from them
- Develop a sense of security and trust
- Show independence and self-responsibility
- Channel emotions into appropriate and acceptable outlets

#### **Socially:**

- Learn to play, work, and communicate with peers and adults
- Adjust to group situations
- Accept others even though they may be different than self
- Develop a sense of community
- Accept changes in routines and environment

**Physically:**

- Develop gross and fine motor coordination
- Develop eye-hand and eye-foot coordination
- Become aware of his/her own body

**Intellectually:**

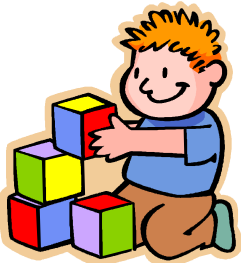
- Continue to develop language usage and understanding
- Develop an ever-increasing attention span
- Complete tasks begun
- Develop problem-solving skills
- Initiate his/her own activities
- Develop pre-reading skills such as:
  - Visual discrimination
  - Auditory discrimination
  - Understanding of symbols
  - Love of and interest in books

**Creatively:**

- View himself/herself as a unique individual created and valued by God
- Express ideas in his/her own unique way
- Be free to create artistically using a variety of media
- Develop his/her God-given talents and abilities

**The Importance of Play:**

Children learn best through play as they engage in real actions involving tangible objects. Children learn best through direct experience with their world using all their senses. Play promotes growth in all areas of development: spiritually, emotionally, socially, physically, intellectually, and creatively.



## Curriculum Areas:

Faith Development: Living a life of worship to Jesus is the core of what we are. All classes will be taught in the light of God's Word. Christ-Light and other materials produced by the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod will be used. Also included will be prayer, chapel, songs, Bible lessons, drama, puppets, classroom activities and projects, daily living, character building, living a life of love and thanks for our Savior.

Language Arts: is inclusive and expansive for young children. This will include conversation, stories, sharing, pre-reading and pre-writing skills, learning the alphabet, word games, recordings, puppets, prayers, songs, loud-soft, high-low, names, left-right, body parts, finger plays, writing, scribbling, coloring, handedness, practicing good listening, reciting.

Music: With preschool children, music opens the doors to creativity, motor development, and the total learning process. Music will be used to praise God, getting acquainted, transitions, giving directions, quieting groups, and for developing cognitive and listening skills.

Science: consists of planned and spontaneous experiences. Science for young children is child-centered and activity-driven. The teachers provide opportunities for the children to explore the world our Lord has created for us. Children will observe, predict, classify, and communicate. Students will also discover how things work, cooking, sinking-floating, balancing, friction, wheels, inclined planes, pulleys, magnets, evaporation, freezing-boiling, melting, weighing, caring for living things, seasons, shadows, weather.

Art: provides the children with many opportunities to use their imagination, express their individuality, and be creative. The children will experiment with a variety of media (paint, crayon, pencils, markers, clay, paper, cloth, glue, yarn, etc.)

Math: hands-on activities are very important. Counting, classifying-grouping, comparing, sorting, size relationships, estimating, matching, patterning, measurement, one-to-one correspondence, numbers and shapes will be introduced.

Physical education: gross and fine motor skills development. Much of the physical development at this age occurs in non-directed free play in a well-planned environment. Besides the climbing equipment, our activities will use materials such as hula-hoops, bean bags, balls, parachutes, and the like. Motor skills develop through the use of games, puzzles, tools, paints, crayons, clay, sand, water, and manipulative materials, building, carrying, climbing, lifting, pushing, throwing, catching, balancing, swinging, running, jumping, pedaling, and group games.

Social Studies: Family, community, holiday, culture, days of the week, months of the year, geographic awareness, beginning map skills.

Health and Safety: Daily hygiene, sun safety, water safety, accepting limits for safety, exposure to health and safety rules, awareness of body and what it can do, nutrition. Our bodies belong to Jesus.

Practical Life: Self-care, buttoning, snapping, tying, cleaning chores, snack activities, manners, appropriate school behavior, etc.