



2023-2024 Parent Handbook

Faith Lutheran Child Education Programs

An Unlicensed Registered Ministry of Indiana

Welcome

- 2 Mission Statement
- Credo

General Information

- 2 Non-discrimination Policy
- Board of Education
- Our Staff Members
- Communication Plan

Policies

- 2 Health and Safety/Medication Policy
- 3 Child Guidance Policy Discipline
- Guidance Policy
- Safe Conditions Policy
- Child Abuse Policy
- Emergency Preparedness Plan
- 4 Health Policy
- COVID Guidelines
- Suspension and Expulsion Policy

Preschool Information

- 4 Registration
- 5 Curriculum Overview
- Student Health Record
- Preparing for School
- Parent Communication

Preschool

- 5 Parent Involvement
- Attendance and Absences
- Arrival and Departure
- 6 Tuition Payments
- Delinquent Tuition
- Clothing
- Supplies Needed
- Lunch and Rest Time
- Food Allergy Policy
- Snack Calendar
- Snacks for Children with Allergies
- 7 Peanut Policy
- Activities/Crafts
- Special Days/Birthdays
- Preschool Gifts
- Show and Tell
- Outdoor Time
- Transportation Policy
- Pictures
- Calendar & School Closings

Extended Care Programs

- 8 Enrollment Procedure
- What to Leave at Home
- Absentee Procedure
- Pick Up Policy
- Weather Emergencies
- Extended Care Payments
- Dates to Remember



Faith Lutheran
Church, Preschool, & After School

Faith Lutheran Church Info

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Mailing address P.O. Box 1164

Columbus, IN 47202

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2 Welcome

Welcome

Faith Lutheran Child Care and Education Programs

We are excited to have you and your children as a part of the child education programs at Faith Lutheran, and we look forward to working with each of you. To all parents, we ask for your cooperation and prayers. Our goal is to aid in the spiritual, social, and educational growth of your children. Please contact us with any concerns you may have throughout the year.

Mission Statement

Faith Lutheran Preschool, After School, and Extended Care exist to promote Christian education as a vital aspect of God's Great Commission to reach people with the message of Jesus Christ.

Credo

We believe that Christian education is a vital aspect of God's mission to the church through the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

We believe that it is our Christian responsibility to teach the Gospel and reach out to all people, church and unchurched.

(Colossians 3:16-18)

We believe that the Christian teacher has a key opportunity to be used by God to bring spiritual rebirth to a child and perhaps an entire family. We believe that this can be accomplished by teaching the child Christian principles. *(Matthew 19:14)*

We believe that effective education occurs through quality and innovative learning programs that relate the Christian faith to every aspect of life. *(Ephesians 6:4)*

We believe that it is the responsibility of the Christian educator to evangelize church and unchurched preschool children and their families because the family has much influence on a child's total education. The church and the school must equip families for their important role in Christian education. *(Proverbs 22:6)*

ABC



About This Handbook

This handbook is current as of June 2023

The policies, programs and rates are subject to adjustment as needed. Please visit the church website for the most current policies and rates.

General Information

The following information applies to all child education programs at Faith Lutheran Church. If you have questions regarding anything in this parent handbook, please feel free to contact any staff, the child education director or the pastor.

Non-discrimination Policy

Faith Lutheran Preschool and Extended Care Programs do not discriminate in providing service to children and their families on the basis of race, religion, cultural heritage, political beliefs, national origin, disability, or marital status.

Notification of any change in the non-discrimination policy will be made in writing in advance.

Board of Education

Our Faith Lutheran Preschool and Extended Care program is governed by a Board of Education and the Pastor, who act as a liaison between the Church Council and Preschool and Extended Care administration. The Director, the Board of Education, Pastor, and the Church council will review the policies and procedures often, and will communicate to the staff and parents of any changes that may be made.

Our Staff Members

We are proud of our staff members. Each person employed by Faith Lutheran Preschool and Extended Care has committed themselves to the task of teaching children. We intend to employ people who love the Lord, enjoy and are skilled in working with children, and value the philosophies, policies, programs and benefits that our programs have to offer.

All employees are required to:

- Maintain current First Aid certification and Universal Precautions certification
- 12 hours of required professional training, done annually
- Staff will complete and maintain current CPR certification, if needed
- Must have a minimum of a high school diploma
- Have a national Criminal History Check

Communication Plan

Faith Lutheran Child Care Programs is using **brightwheel**, a tool for classroom management, communication, photos, videos, and on line bill pay. At least one parent will be required to sign up for a **brightwheel** account for communication and billing purposes. You will also check your child in and out using the QR code set up in **brightwheel**.

All parents and staff will receive an on line copy of this handbook to read and review. Also, there will be a parent handbook posted in the **brightwheel** program at all times. Parents and staff will be notified if any policy change take place.

Policies

Health and Safety/Medication Policy

The staff will administer minor first aid treatment as needed. A copy of an incident report will be given to the parent in the event of an injury.

If your child has a chronic health condition, that requires staff to give your child medication, we require you to complete a **Medical Consent Form** with your health care practitioner's signature. Chronic health conditions include asthma, diabetes, seizures, etc., or a food or bee allergy that requires an EPI pen. Medications for your child must be brought with him/her and if additional medications need to be provided please let us know. Medications will be stored in a marked container in the refrigerator. **Do not leave any medication in your child's bag.**

Child Guidance Policy

We will consistently affirm the children when they use appropriate behavior and when they have done what the staff has asked them to do. The following guidelines are for the children's safety, while at preschool:

Please go over these guidelines with your children.

- ✍ *Always remain with a teacher or group leader. Follow their directions at all times.*
- ✍ *Be respectful of others, yourself, and the church property.*
- ✍ *Be responsible for your own belongings and respect those things that belongs to others.*
- ✍ *Inside the building - walk and use inside voice and keep hands and feet to yourself.*
- ✍ *Use appropriate language.*

When undesirable behavior occurs, the staff will follow the discipline guidance policy.

Discipline Guidance Policy

It is our policy that a child's development is nurtured through care, understanding, and patience. Our staff will always respect your child.

Our staff **will**:

- ✍ *Get down to the child's eye level and speak calmly to them*
- ✍ *Set clear guidelines and be consistent in applying them*
- ✍ *Use positive language to explain behavior*
- ✍ *Give children clear choices*
- ✍ *Redirect your child to a new activity or move them to a quiet area to help the child to regain control.*

Our policy does not tolerate hitting, kicking, spitting, hostile verbal behavior, or other behaviors that could hurt another child or staff member. While caring for all children, our staff may have to respond to your child's misbehavior.

Our staff **will not** use:

- ✍ *Threats or bribes*
- ✍ *Physical punishment*
- ✍ *Deprive your child of food or other basic needs*
- ✍ *Humiliation or isolation*

If your child's behavior is very disruptive or harmful to themselves or to other children, or the staff, we will discuss the issue with you privately. If the situation can be resolved, the child may remain enrolled. If we are unable to resolve the issue, you may be asked to make other child Care arrangements. (see suspension/expulsion section on page 4).

Safe Conditions Policy

The following steps will be taken to ensure that your child is safe while at our facility. All exterior doors will kept locked at all times.

Children will be actively supervised with the required number of qualified adults.

Faith Lutheran is responsible for maintaining all interior and exterior surfaces, including walls, floors, ceilings, equipment, toys, and furnishings in a safe condition, free of sharp points or jagged edges, loose parts, or materials that are harmful to children.

We will take the following steps to maintain our facility:

- ✍ *Clean classrooms daily*
- ✍ *Keep the facility in a sanitary condition at all times*
- ✍ *Sanitize toys, furniture and other equipment used by children.*
- ✍ *Wash all soiled items*



Each classroom will undergo a cleaning and sanitizing process at the end of every day when children are not present.

Children will be given several opportunities to wash their hands during the day. Hand sanitizers will also be available with adult supervision.

Child Abuse Policy

Federal legislation requires that our teachers, pastor, and other church staff members inform authorities if they believe there is evidence of child abuse. The Bartholomew County Department of Child Services and Division of Family Resources provides the following guidelines:

All suspected cases of neglect and abuse will be documented with dates and observations. Suspected abuse with physical marks will be reported immediately to the Bartholomew County Department of Child Services and Division of Family Resources (812)376-9361.

Individuals who report the suspected abuse are protected by the state of Indiana. Their names will not be given out.

The Department of Child Services advises that an abusive situation may exist if:

- ✍ *A child has bruises in odd places on his/her body*
- ✍ *A child "acts out" abusive activities*
- ✍ *A child's behavior changes dramatically*
- ✍ *A child's story about bruises or other injuries changes*
- ✍ *A child has a "perfect" burn (i.e. a cigarette burn) on his/her body.*

During drop off and/or pick-up, in order to protect your child's safety, if a parent or adult appears to be impaired in any way, we will prevent them from driving with their child. If we have any reason to doubt the drivers ability to drive, we will call someone else to take the driver and the child home. If the situation appears to be serious and the driver will not allow us to find other transportation, we will call 911 and alert the police that we believe that a child's safety is at risk.

Emergency Preparedness Plan

Please know that the children's safety is our top priority.

In the event of a medical emergency, one trained staff member will administer first aid and/or CPR until assistance arrives from the Police or Fire Department. The child's parents will be notified and instructed where to meet the child and staff. If necessary, the child will be transported to Columbus Regional Hospital for care. A staff member will accompany the child in the absence of a parent.

Staff will be trained and given information for how to handle an emergency. Emergency exits and information are posted in all rooms used by Faith Preschool and the Extended Care Programs. We hold monthly emergency evacuation drills with all groups of children and staff members. Other practice drills are held as needed. The date, time, and effectiveness of each drill will be documented and kept on file.

In the case of a building emergency such as loss of power, heat, or water, plans will depend on the severity and probable duration of the emergency. If it is possible to remain in the building, we will do so.

In case of a weather emergency or other unforeseen situation, parents will be notified as soon as possible. The children in our care will be taken to safety in the basement of the church.

In the event of an emergency where we evacuate the building, each staff member is responsible for a head count before leaving. The staff will check the list immediately upon reaching the designated meeting place away from the building. In the event that we must evacuate the building, **ABC Stewart School**, located at **6691 State Road 46, Phone: (812) 342-3029**. (It is on the south side of SR 46W) will be our safe place.

4 Welcome

If a child listed as present is missing, all groups will take individual group attendance again and one of the staff members will go back inside the building and check all areas again. Another staff person will check the outside area. If the child is not located, the parent will be called immediately and the police will be notified to assist.

If emergency authorities determine that it is unsafe for students to be in the Faith Lutheran Church building, parents will be notified to come get their children immediately. Staff will remain on the premises until the last child is picked up. Parents will be notified as soon as possible. The full Crisis Management Plan is available on request from the church office.



Health Policy

First aid supplies and an AED are available at all times, as needed.

We ask you to check your child for these symptoms daily before getting them ready for school:

- *A fever of 100° F or greater*
- *Cough*
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- *Headache*
- *Sore throat*
- *Chills*

Parents are often the first to know if their child isn't feeling well.

Persistent cough, fever, thick drainage from the nose, and/or conjunctivitis (pinkeye) are some of the common childhood illnesses which need to be monitored at home. If one of the children in our care contracts a communicable disease, the parents of the other children will be notified.

Using the **brightwheel** app, please notify the staff your child is ill and unable to attend. Please do not send your child to any of our programs until they are free from any fever, vomiting, or diarrhea for **24 hours prior to the school day**. Your cooperation is very important in order to keep our staff and students healthy. You will be notified immediately if your child becomes ill during our programs and/or develops a fever above 100° F.

We will continue to follow our established procedures to ensure students and staff that become sick while at Faith Lutheran are separated and sent home immediately.

In the case of head lice, children may return to our program when they are completely free of nits. The staff will check children's hair before they may return to the program.

COVID Guidelines

Face coverings are optional for staff and students. Masks are highly encouraged for those at risk and/or are not vaccinated.

If your child has been exposed to any one who has tested positive with COVID, we ask that your child be under self-quarantine at home for 5 days. Please note these COVID related facts may change as we receive information from local, state, and federal governments.

Suspension and Expulsion Policy

We will encourage, teach and provide support for children as they learn to self-regulate, resolve conflicts and build relationships. Our curriculum is used to help children learn to care for others, as well as themselves and learn to solve problems with words and expressions.

The curriculum will include ways to express emotions appropriately. Teachers will build relationships with each student and provide positive support for the children in their play and interactions with others.

If a child is having behavioral issues, the following processes will occur:

1. The teacher will reach out to the parent(s) to work together to help the child learn to regulate his/her emotions and behavior. The parent/teacher relationship is established to provide consistency for the child both at home and at school. A written plan will be developed, and the staff and parents will work together to set up a structure for the child to be successful. A one-month period will be used to help the child adjust to modifications to his/her behavior.

2. If improvement is not evident after one month, the director, parent(s) and staff will work on modifications to see if improvement can be made. The director will observe the child in the classroom daily for a two-week period.

3. At the end of the two-week period another conference will be held with the teachers, parent(s) and director. The director will share observations and offer suggestions. If the situation has not been resolved, the director will call in early childhood specialists to help with strategies for the child to be successful. Support could include but is not limited to:

- First Steps Early Childhood Intervention*
- BCSC Special Education Services*
- Centerstone*
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants*
- Childcare Resource and Referral*

If the child does not make any improvements with the specialists or requires support in the classroom to be successful, the parent(s) must follow the recommendations of the staff for the child to remain in school.

Modifications requiring an aide in the classroom must be paid for by the child's parent(s).

If necessary, the staff will receive continuing education regarding children with special behavioral needs. Some continuing education could be specific to an individual child.

Suspension or expulsion will only be used as a last resort. Our priority is to help children and parents be successful. We do not feel suspension or expulsion benefits the child or parents. However, if a child presents a serious safety threat to other children or staff, suspension or expulsion may be the only alternative.

Preschool Information

Registration

Registration for the new school year begins after the winter holiday break and continues until all class rosters are filled. When the church office receives the completed application form, a new student profile will be created in **brightwheel** and the invitation to sign up for an account will be sent to the parent. Once they have signed up, an invitation is sent to set up their billing information and an invoice for the non-refundable registration fee will be sent. Your child is registered for the Fall when the registration fee is paid.

Parents may register their child in our Pre-kindergarten class when they are 4 years old by August 1. Our Pre-K classes offer the following options: 3, 4, and 5 full days from 9a-3p, or 4, 5 half days from 9a-12p. Our Preschool classes offer the following options: 2, 3, 4 or 5 half days from 9a-12p or 2, 3, 4 or 5 full days from 9a-3p. Parents may register their child in our 3's class when they are 3 years old or turn 3 within the first month of the school year.

Your child must be **completely** potty trained. Pull-ups will not be allowed due to our licensing requirements. No exceptions will be made.

We offer Before Care from 7a-9a, where breakfast is served for children who are dropped off before 8a. Those staying for the full day class must bring lunch to school in clean, insulated and sanitizable containers, which keep cold food at 41° or below. You will also need to provide a blanket from home for your child.

Our After School Program is from 3p-6p. Please notify the staff if your child is going to participate in the After School Program.

Curriculum Overview

The curriculum for Faith Lutheran Preschool is Christ-centered. Our objective is to begin the child's education in the light of God's love and to demonstrate God's love to the children through every aspect of the curriculum. The program will involve the following activities:

- Bible stories
- Music and rhythm
- Reading readiness
- Beginning mathematics concepts
- Science concepts
- Arts and crafts
- Unstructured outdoor and indoor play

The staff at Faith Lutheran will provide a diverse, developmentally appropriate curriculum to engage all children in their various stages of development and cultural diversity

Student Health Record

A student health record should be up to date prior to the start of the school year. The required state health form is two parts, the first part being a general physical that **must be signed by your physician or nurse practitioner**. The second part is your child's immunization record. Your child's health and immunization forms will be kept on file in the church office.

Preparing for School

To help your child prepare for a happy school experience, take time to talk with them about various activities that they will be doing at Preschool. Talk about their daily routine, what they are learning and their teachers. It is also important to ensure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast. Also, please do not allow your child to come to school with gum or candy.

Parent Communication

We encourage your communication. We are here to serve you and your child. Good communication ensures growth and success for your child. The **brightwheel** app is a great tool for more direct interaction between Preschool and After School families, and the Staff and Administration at Faith Lutheran. The staff will do their best to respond to your messages in a timely manner. We also reserve the right to only respond during working school and extended care hours.

Faith Lutheran Preschool and Extended Care staff take their responsibilities seriously. Parents are always welcome to visit the classroom, unless the CDC issues certain guidelines. Open lines of communication between staff and parents are very important for the continuous improvement of our programs. We value your input to better know your child.

Regularly communicate with our staff and Child Education Director when you have a concern. Parent conferences can be arranged at any time. Parents may also voice any concerns to the

pastor or the Director, who will discuss your concerns with the Board of Education.

Also, please keep your contact information current with the church office.

Parent Involvement

A calendar/newsletter will be sent each month and weekly notes from your child's teacher will keep you informed of various activities and upcoming events. Make sure to regularly check the **brightwheel** app for updates and information.

Preschool children will participate in worship once or twice during the school year. Your support and attendance is greatly appreciated. Watch for dates and times on the monthly calendar.

Pre-K and Preschool parent-teacher conferences will be held once a semester. You will be notified of your conference date. Your attendance is important for your child's educational growth. Parents are encouraged to become involved with the preschool by helping at parties, sharing a skill or hobby with the class. Please call your child's teacher if questions arise.

Attendance and Absences

Attendance is key to your child's academic growth which includes bringing your child to school **regularly and on-time**. Call the church office (812) 342-3587 or send a message in **brightwheel** if your child will not be attending school. **Parents/Guardians are responsible for tuition payments whether or not your child is in school.**

If your child will be out of the classroom for an extended period of time, a **vacation request form needs to be completed**. This form can be requested from the church office or the Preschool Director. **The parent is required to pay the full monthly tuition for the time the child is on vacation.** If tuition is not paid for the time the child is absent, the Child Education Committee reserves the right to withdraw the child from the program. If a student is absent for an extended period of time, re-enrollment may be required.

Arrival and Departure

Preschool hours are from 9a-12p for half day classes, and 9a-3p for the full day class. The staff will be at the drop off and pick up area ten minutes before and ten minutes after the drop off/pick up time.

For drop off:

- ✎ *For the safety of all students, children must remain buckled in their car seats as the vehicle pulls into the drop off area.*
- ✎ *Stay in your vehicle and a staff member will be there to assist when you drop off your child.*
- ✎ *If you arrive after drop off time, park and walk your child to the church door. Ring the doorbell and wait for a staff member.*

For pick-up, at either 12p or 3p:

- ✎ *Use the pick up line*
- ✎ *Stay in your car, your child will be brought to your vehicle.*
- ✎ *Do not come to the door to wait for your child.*

During drop off and pick up, your child should be properly restrained in a safety-approved car seat as required by Indiana law. Your child has to remain in the car seat until the staff come to get them.

If you do not have a car seat, the staff will not put your child in the car for safety reasons. If the child is not restrained in a car seat, the staff will notify Child Protection Services (CPS).



6 Preschool Program

If your child has trouble being away from you, it is best to say, "Good-bye," assure them that you will back, and leave immediately. "Quick good-byes are the best good-byes." If your child continues to be upset, the staff will call you.

If your child is to be picked up by someone other than those listed as a regular driver, a parent must send a message through **brightwheel**. In order for the staff to release your child to someone other than their regular driver, some form of identification must be presented when the child is picked up. This policy is for your child's protection. No child will be allowed to go home with an unauthorized person.

A late fee will be charged if your child is repeatedly not picked up within 10 minutes after dismissal time.

Tuition Payments

Tuition is based on a fee for the entire school year, from August to May. Tuition remains the same each month regardless of holidays, vacations, snow days, illnesses, or number of weeks in the month. Tuition is non-refundable and is not pro-rated for any reason. For current tuition fees, please check the website or call the church office. Children cannot attend on days other than their scheduled days unless the Preschool Director gives prior approval.

A **brightwheel** invoice is sent monthly, and must be paid by the 10th day of each month. Payments may be made within **brightwheel**, once the parent has set up their billing profile. You may also pay by check which should be made out to "Faith Lutheran Preschool" with your child's name in the memo portion of the check.

Tuition scholarships are available to families in need of financial assistance. Scholarship applications are available upon request.

No tuition payments will be refunded if a child is withdrawn from preschool. An End-of-Fiscal Year Statement itemizing tuition and Child Care fees can be accessed through the **brightwheel** program.

Delinquent Tuition

- Accounts are considered delinquent when payments are received after the 10th day of the month. A delinquent fee may be assessed for outstanding balances.
- The Preschool Director and the Faith Lutheran Board of Education reserves the right to withdraw your child from our program if your account is delinquent for 1 month. When the outstanding balance is paid in full, then your child may return to preschool.
- Families with delinquent accounts will not be permitted to attend any programs of the church and preschool.
- In the event a check is returned from the bank because of insufficient funds, the account will be considered delinquent. Parents will be charged a delinquent fee plus the bank's handling fees.

Clothing

Belts, buttons, buckles, or zippers can be challenging for preschool children. Keep that in mind when getting your child dressed.

Dress your child in comfortable season appropriate clothing so that they can sit on the floor and play outdoors with ease. Leave extra set of season appropriate clothes, including underwear and socks, in your child's bag. Label all clothing with your child's name. The staff is not responsible for lost or damaged articles.

Flip flops and boots cause a safety hazard during play. We recommend that your child wear tennis shoes. It is best to dress your child in shorts or slacks with

elastic waistbands. For a girl who wears a dress or skirt, please put tights or leggings on underneath their dress or skirt.

Outerwear such as a sweatshirt or a jacket for cold weather outdoor play is recommended.

Supplies Needed

Parents will need to purchase a large 3-ring binder, water bottle, and bedroom slippers for their child. Parents can bring the binder to the Meet and Greet the Teachers before school begins.

A tote bag will be given to each child. This bag should be brought to school each day. **There is an activity/supply fee of \$100 which will be used to purchase these items for the preschool:**

- Construction Paper
- Scissors
- Notebooks
- Pencils
- Cardstock
- School t-shirt
- Glue

Lunch & Rest Time

Parents are required to send a lunch and a blanket with their children who attend full-day Preschool from 9a-3p. A rest time will be taken after lunch each day.

Lunch must be brought in clean insulated, and sanitizable containers which will keep cold food at 41° F or below. **Their lunch will be stored in the refrigerator, unless we have a written and signed note from the parent. Please note that we do not heat up any food per our licensing.**

The staff will send home what is not eaten at lunch, rather than throwing it away, so that parents know what has actually been eaten.

Food Allergy Policy

Faith Lutheran Preschool makes every effort to keep children with food allergies safe and included in all activities. In addition to providing your child's health and medical information during registration, you will work closely with your child's teacher to safely manage his/her allergies at preschool.

Snack Calendar

A snack will be given to the children during preschool hours. A monthly snack calendar is provided to parents/guardians. Parents will be asked to provide snacks for their child's classroom on a rotating basis. We ask that snacks be store bought and healthy, such as fruit, mini-peeled carrots or pretzels. Individually wrapped snacks are not required.

Snacks for Children with Allergies

Your child's teacher will work with you to determine what is best for your child if he/she has an allergy.

Options include:

- Providing your own snack each day for your child.
 - Reading labels of snacks typically provided at school and letting your child's teacher know which are and are not safe for your child.
 - Keeping safe snacks at school for days when the provided snack is not an option for your child.
- Please let your child's teacher know if it is safe for him/her to sit with other children that may be consuming a food or doing a craft with ingredients in which he/she is allergic.

Please note that we cannot guarantee that all snacks will be free of allergens. Parents may be asked to check ingredients on snacks brought to school by other parents. If the teachers are



unsure of the ingredients or its safety for your child, it will not be given to him/her and a substitute snack will be provided.

Peanut Policy

Some snacks may have language on the packaging that the product is made in a factory with peanuts, may contain peanuts, etc. Although we ask all parents to be considerate of students with food allergies, the preschool cannot guarantee that all snacks or special treats brought in by parents do not contain peanuts. A peanut-free table will be made available and accommodations can be made for children with other food allergies if necessary.

Activities/Crafts

Preschool activities and crafts may involve food items. Your child's teacher will make every effort to identify these activities, find reasonable substitute materials, and minimize the number of projects in which your child cannot participate. Teachers may ask for your help in identifying unsafe activities and proper substitutes.

Special Days/Birthdays

Your child's birthday celebration will be scheduled on their snack day as close to their birthday as possible. Summer birthdays will be celebrated in April and May.

Please attempt to find a suitable food for all students. We understand this may not be possible in all circumstances, but it is much appreciated when possible.

Preschool Gifts

Many parents like to share treats or gifts with their child's classmates and/or teachers on special holidays. We appreciate this thoughtfulness, but are reminded of the insecurities felt by those classmates who do not or cannot participate in this giving. Here are some alternatives for ways to give:

- Donate a book to our library in honor of a child's birthday or in honor of their teacher.
- Check with your child's teacher for appropriate gifts that can be used within the classroom.

By doing one of these things, the gift would then be enjoyed by all children.

Show and Tell

When your child is scheduled to provide a snack, they are also encouraged to bring a show-and-tell item to share with your class. Show and Tell items might include:

- Souvenirs from a vacation
- A picture
- A collection
- A special book, etc.
- Toys are acceptable for show-and-tell

****No video game characters will be allowed. No war toys, or toys that are violent in nature will be allowed in preschool at any time. Toys may only be brought to school on show-and-tell days.**

Outdoor Time

We believe that in order for children to be healthy, they need fresh air and exercise. We are required to provide outdoor time for children every day, weather permitting. Parents are advised to be aware of daily weather conditions so that appropriate outdoor attire is sent to school with the child. Children will be taken outdoors except when the severity of the weather poses a safety hazard. Examples include a temperature below 32° Fahrenheit or if a heat advisory is in effect for Bartholomew County.



It is our policy that if a child is too sick to go outdoors, the child is too sick to be at school. We cannot honor requests to keep a child inside while his or her class is outdoors as this would violate the required teacher to student ratio.

Transportation Policy

Our child care does not provide transportation to school or other extra-curricular activities. If children are transported for field trips, child/staff ratios will be maintained at all times. Bartholomew County School Corporation (BCSC) school buses will be used to transport the children and adult teachers and chaperones. When we use Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation (BCSC) school buses for field trips, the bus driver is in charge of discipline and will follow BCSC's customary discipline procedures. In compliance with Indiana Law, when using the school bus, it will be equipped with child restraint seat belts.

Field trips are an important part of the preschool curriculum. Please watch for information on field trips and, if possible, work them into your schedule.

The parent release form asks for general permission for field trips. Parental signature on the form allows for students to participate in field trips all year.

The safety of our children and staff is very important to us. Any adult who will accompany us on a field trip must have a background check form completed and kept on file in the church office.

Pictures

The release form asks for permission to take your child's picture during the school year. These pictures will be used for the following purposes:

- ✎ *Student Records*
- ✎ *Promotional flyers or newspaper articles*
- ✎ *School/Church website*
- ✎ *Church service bulletins and newsletters*
- ✎ *Other candid photos of classroom and school activities may be used for any of the above purposes*

Calendar & School Closings

We are closed on the following days/weeks:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ✎ <i>Labor Day</i> | <i>Professional Development Days:</i> |
| ✎ <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> | <i>Tuesday, September 5, 2023</i> |
| ✎ <i>Winter Break</i> | <i>Monday, November 27, 2023</i> |
| ✎ <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> | <i>Monday, February 19, 2024</i> |
| ✎ <i>Good Friday</i> | <i>Monday, April 8, 2024</i> |

Please check the **brightwheel** app for Preschool closures due to weather conditions.

When BCSC's schools are closed due to inclement weather, Faith Lutheran Preschool will also be closed.

If BCSC schools are on a two-hour delay, then Faith Lutheran Preschool will be on an one hour delay. We will provide two hour delay care starting at 7a for an additional fee. Preschool children will go directly to their classes at 10a.

We make every effort to inform parents regarding a school closure due to weather. This information will be sent out through **brightwheel** and also posted on our church website..

Extended Care Programs

The activities offered by our extended care programs fulfill a twofold need. For working parents, the programs provide a safe and stimulating environment. For the child, it fulfills the need to be part of a group, enjoy recreation, and learn new skills.

The following programs are offered at Faith:

Before Care

Is provided from **7a-9a** for preschool and elementary school children. A school bus will pick up and transport children to Southside Elementary School at **7²⁰a**.

After School Care

Is provided from **3p-6p** for preschool and elementary school children. There are limited seats available to transport the children by bus from Southside Elementary School to Faith Lutheran.

Participants in this program are in an environment which is structured and supervised, but provides opportunities for individual choice. Outdoor play is encouraged. There are times for snacks and homework, as well as arts and crafts, music, special enrichment programs, board games, and seasonal projects.

2-hour Delay Care

Is offered starting at 7a for preschool and elementary school children for an additional fee. A BCSC school bus will transport elementary children to Southside Elementary School.

Break Care

Is offered from **7³⁰a-6p** for preschool and elementary school children during Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation (BCSC) Fall and Spring Breaks only. Enrollment in our Break Care Programs require that payment be made in full as stated on the enrollment form. Parents are required to send a lunch with their children on Break Care Days.

Enrollment Procedure

For After School Care for school age children, a family is enrolled when they complete a registration form each year, and pay a **non-refundable** registration fee for each child.



What to Leave at Home

Pocket knives, or weapons of any kind and electronic devices are to be left at home.

Explicit t-shirts or other apparel that is offensive, discriminatory, or suggestive cannot be worn.

Absentee Procedure

During the school year, if your child will not be attending the program on their regularly scheduled day, we ask that parents to send a message in **brightwheel** or call the church office at **(812)342-3587**.

Pick Up Policy

If your child is to be picked up by someone other than those listed as a regular driver on the student information form, a parent must either send a note or message the staff in **brightwheel**. In order for the staff to release your child to someone other than their regular driver, the person must present some form of identification when the child is picked up. This policy is for your child's protection. No child will be allowed to go home with an unauthorized person.

We expect parents to pick up their child by closing time. If you are unable to pick up your child by closing time, please send a message through **brightwheel**.

Weather Emergencies

Please refer to the **brightwheel** app for Extended care closures due to weather conditions. We do not provide snow day care when BCSC is closed.

Extended Care Payments

Extended Care only offers daily rates. A daily charge will be made if your child is dropped off in the afternoon, with immediate parent pick-up.

A **brightwheel** invoice will be emailed on Mondays, and must be paid by the end of the week. Payments can be made through **brightwheel** or you may also pay by check which should be made out to "Faith Lutheran Preschool".

If payment is not received within 2 weeks, the parent/guardian will be informed that their child may not attend Extended care until the account balance is paid in full.

In the event a check is returned from the bank because of insufficient funds, the account will be considered delinquent. Parents will be charged a delinquent fee plus the bank's handling fees.

