

The Shepherd's Flock Early Learning Center



ELC School News March/April 2017

The month of March typically signals that spring is almost here but we've already enjoyed an "early spring". The weather we had in February was such a gift! The kids have already been out having fun on the playground. Unbelievable!

Pre-Registration for 2017-2018 School Year

By now, all currently enrolled families who plan to attend Shepherd's Flock next year should have received confirmation along with the packet of forms and next year's Parent Handbook. If you did not receive your paperwork, please call the ELC office immediately. Remember that the enrollment paperwork was due back by March 1. There are still some preschool spots available at Shepherd's Flock for next school year. If you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact me as soon as possible. Thank you.

ELC Families Enjoyed the Drake Women vs. UNI Game!

Free tickets to the game were offered to Shepherd's Flock families for the February 24th game. Thank you to ELC parents Dave Haskin (dad of Sam & Emily) and Head Coach Jennie Baranczyk (mom of Eli) for giving us this fun evening!



Coming Soon: The Twice Blessed Consignment Sale!

March 31 & April 1

If you're not familiar with the Twice Blessed Consignment Sale, you are in for something big! The sale is a huge fundraiser for the Early Learning Center. It's a great way to recycle and purchase about anything having to do with kids! We sell clothes, toys, games, books, dvd's, video games, bikes, maternity items, baby gear and other items too numerous to mention. Please, spread the word to anyone who has kids or is expecting one!

Anyone can sell items. You do not have to be associated with Shepherd's Flock or Shepherd of the Valley. All you have to do is buy a Seller Packet in the church office (M-F 9:00-3:30). The packets contain all the instructions and price tags. The cost of the packet is \$10 for volunteers who work 2 hours or more, and \$20 otherwise. The nice thing is that the volunteers do the work. It's much easier than having your own garage sale. The sale benefits both the buyer and the seller. Sellers can pass on their gently used items, and empty out closets and drawers, while keeping 70% of their asking price. The school gets 30% and does the set up, organizing, and advertising in the community. Buyers can purchase things that are still in good condition, at discount prices! In this economy, that's a great deal!

Lastly, we need your help. An event of this size requires lots of volunteers. Every Shepherd's Flock family is encouraged to give two hours to volunteering at the sale. You know the saying... *Many hands make light work*. A successful sale helps us to meet our financial needs. Another incentive... if you volunteer for four hours or more, you get to shop the Pre-Sale on Thursday night, March 30th, before the sale opens on Friday. Please visit our on-line volunteer sign-up at <http://signup.com/go/AUYZ8X>

There are many different jobs associated with the sale. If you sign up during a "drop-off shift" prior to the start of the sale, you will assist the sellers as they bring their items. You might be an "inspector" checking to see that their merchandise meets quality standards, or you could be a "runner" getting their items out on the floor. If you are a floater / floor person, you will organize and straighten merchandise during the sale. Another job is that of a "tagger", who is in charge of removing price tags from items being purchased as the customer waits to check out. If you've never helped with the sale before, please don't be afraid to jump in. Each year there are many first time volunteers/families helping out. It's a great way to meet people and have a lot of fun. We hope to see you there! Thank you for supporting your child's school!

Easter Celebrations at Shepherd's Flock

Here at Shepherd's Flock, the teachers do a wonderfully creative job of sharing the joyous message of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Some of the activities and stories will focus on new life through the empty tomb, the symbolism of the Easter egg, and most of all, a message of how Jesus died on the cross for each and every one of us!



Spring Parent Teacher Conferences

Preschool Conferences - Thursday, April 27 and Friday, April 28
Kindergarten Conferences - Thursday, April 13 & Friday, April 14.

Your teacher's newsletter will provide details regarding sign-up. Please remember that children may not attend conferences and child care is not provided. It often works for parents to cover for each other for the conferences. Kids are welcome to sit quietly out in the hallway. However, the gym will also be open with a few toys and activities in it. Adult supervision is always required in the gym.



Conference Lunches for Teachers

If you would like to take part in providing lunch for the teachers during conferences in April, you may do so. An online sign-up will be available mid-April. Thank you.

Thank You, Volunteers!

Long before the Twice Blessed Consignment Sale even begins, volunteers are hard at work. Thank you to some terrific women who manned a table back in January selling the Twice Blessed Seller Packets during the lunch hour. They are: **Cindy Ramsay, Karen Renaud, Becky Bonefas, Tiffany Uittenbogaard, Victoria Ogier, and Amber Keehn.**

Using Restrooms upon Arrival

If you are not already doing so, please take your child to the restroom upon arrival. It is disappointing when class has started and the children are involved in their activities and someone has to use the restroom... only 10 minutes after class has begun. Preschool children cannot visit the restroom unattended so everyone must stop what they're doing to leave the classroom and go down the hall. There are whole class restroom breaks built into the daily schedule. Of course with young children we do anticipate unscheduled breaks. When they occur often in a 2 ½ hour program it is unproductive and frustrating for all parties involved. So when you arrive, please take a moment for a quick trip to use the restroom and wash hands, that way there will be more time for all the "good stuff". Even if using the restroom makes your child a few minutes late to arrive in the classroom, we really would prefer it over having to bring the entire class down. Your attention to this is GREATLY appreciated by our teachers and classmates too!

A Reminder about Shoes

When the weather changes and the temps warm up, the children get excited about wearing flip flops, sandals and Crocs. Please remember that shoes such as these are not allowed at Shepherd's Flock. For safety sake, **shoes must have closed toes and heels** with safe rubber soles. Page 15 in your Parent Handbook provides further details. Thank you in advance for your compliance with this policy.



Current Emergency Information

Please remember to inform us of any changes in phone numbers or address when they occur. It is extremely important that we are able to contact you at all times in the event of an emergency. Thanks!

Important Dates

No School for Spring Break – Friday, March 10 - Friday, March 17

No School – Twice Blessed Consignment Sale – Friday, March 31

***The sale runs March 31 & April 1 ***

Preschool Conferences - Thursday, April 27 and Friday, April 28

Kindergarten Conferences - Thursday, April 13 & Friday, April 14

Have a fun and safe Spring Break. This Easter may you and your family see the real meaning in the ultimate love that Christ has given you!

Springtime Blessings!

Diane Hensley

Director, Early Learning Center

Shepherd of the Valley Invites You!...

Read on for more!



Annual Easter Egg Hunt- April 15th

Join us at 11am on Saturday, April 15th for an Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds... Come rain or shine! This event is sponsored by SOTV's high school youth group, A.C.T. – Active Christian Teens. (Please arrive a few minutes early.)



Easter Breakfast-

ACT will be hosting a FREE breakfast for the congregation on Easter Sunday, April 16th from 7:30am—10:30am. Plan on having breakfast at SOTV with us! (Menu – eggs, sausage, pancakes, fruit) It's our way of saying "Thank You" to our wonderful congregation who supports us in so many ways.

Lenten & Easter Service Times to follow...



Lent and Holy Week Worship Times

Sunday Services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. (Saturday services at 5:00 p.m.)

Sunday, March 5th—Lent I
Sunday, March 12th—Lent II
Sunday, March 19th—Lent III
Sunday, March 26th—Lent IV
Sunday, April 2nd—Lent V

Mid-Week Wednesday Services at 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, March 1st
Wednesday, March 8th
Wednesday, March 15th
Wednesday, March 22nd
Wednesday, March 29th
Wednesday, April 5th

Holy Week Services PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 9th
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 13th 6:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Friday, April 14th
1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 15th at 11am

Easter Services Sunday, April 16th

7:00 a.m. (Sunrise)
8:30 a.m. (Traditional)
10:30 a.m. (Contemporary)
Communion served at all services

*FREE Easter Breakfast served
7:30 am—10:30 am*