



The Shepherd's Flock Early Learning Center
ELC School News
January/February 2018



Greetings! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas! May you keep the joy that only our Savior gives, in your heart all year long! Happy New Year from all of us here at Shepherd's Flock!

January Means Pre-Registration for 2018-2019 School Year

Pre-registration for the 2018-2019 school year is offered first to families with children currently enrolled in The Shepherd's Flock Early Learning Center. The deadline for this process is **Friday, January 12**. When the families with children currently enrolled in the ELC have completed registration for fall of 2018, we will move to the waiting list and fill in all remaining preschool and kindergarten positions. Because people on the Waiting List are guaranteed notification regarding availability by January 31, we must promptly close pre-registration to families with children currently enrolled in the ELC on **January 12**. **Families that miss the deadline, in fairness, are placed at the end of the waiting list.** In a separate online attachment sent with this newsletter, you should find Pre-Registration information including the form to indicate your preference. Please read and fill out all of your materials and **return the form with the required \$100 registration fee (\$200 for kindergarten) to your child's current teacher by the January 12 due date.** Please note that if a class is not at or near capacity, we will be unable to offer it. In the unfortunate event that this would happen, the ELC Director will contact the parents and discuss other options. If an alternative choice cannot be provided, the registration fee will be returned. Likewise, if a class fills up beyond capacity and we are unable to accommodate everyone with a spot in their preferred session, students will be enrolled based upon whether or not SOTV church members, numbers of years in the ELC, and lastly a lottery will take place. (see p. 1 of registration packet) When possible, we structure our day so that two classes pair up for snack, large motor activity and a group circle time. We will pair the class with another class that is closest in age. This still allows children the opportunity to broaden friendships and get to know another teacher. We also try to have a healthy gender balance in each class. If this is not possible, we will opt to have a class of one gender.

Register By January 12 for 2018-2019 School Year

School Cancellations Due to Weather

Here is a review of our policy regarding school closings due to weather: Please be well informed should the situation arise. The Shepherd's Flock will automatically cancel school if the West Des Moines Public School District decides to cancel due to inclement weather. This includes early dismissals and late starts. So if West Des Moines Public Schools have early dismissal in the afternoon due to bad weather, then our PM classes are cancelled. In the event of a late start in the morning, we will cancel classes for our morning session and our PM classes will meet. These district announcements are found on TV and radio news updates. Also, the Shepherd's Flock Facebook page will post information regarding cancellations or early dismissals.



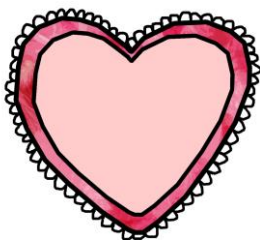
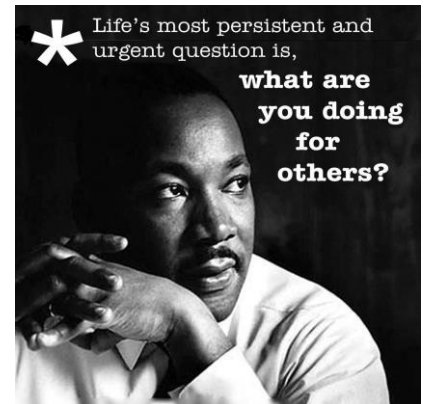
Winter Coffee Social – Join Us!

Our fall coffee event was a great success and our ELC Volunteer Team would like to offer it again! What better time to do this than during the cold days of January! It will be a nice opportunity to connect with other parents after the holidays. This gathering will be held on **Thursday, January 4 & Friday, January 5, at 8:30-10:00 & 12:30-1:30 both days**. Once again, Caribou Coffee will be served along with tea, cider and baked goods. We'll meet in the Shepherd of the Valley Youth Room and a free will offering will be taken. Also, volunteer opportunities are available. Check out the link below if you might be willing to donate a little time to making this event possible. So, mark your calendars and come warm up with us!
<http://signup.com/go/TzFNBFV>



Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School

Please note that Shepherd's Flock will **NOT** be in session on **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 15**. We will honor Martin Luther King Jr. by learning about him during the days surrounding that time. As part of our curriculum, we teach the children that he was a great role model for Christ-like behavior, who preached the word of God. Through books, songs, and discussions, the children will learn all about the remarkable man he was.



Valentine's Day

Valentine celebrations will take place in the classrooms with each teacher conducting special activities in her own way. **Your February classroom calendar/newsletter will contain specific instructions about Valentine cards and how they should be signed and addressed.** Please refer to these instructions when you receive your February communication from your child's teacher.

Consignment Sale – Fri, April 6 & Sat, April 7

This will be the 17th year that the Shepherd's Flock has put on a Consignment Sale for items relating to children...from toys to clothing to maternity items to furniture. It is a big fundraiser and is essential in helping to manage a continually increasing budget. With an event this large, it is so important that everyone pitch in and help out. We are asking each family to donate 2 hours of their time to volunteer in some way. There are many different jobs from which to choose, spanning from pre-sale through post-sale needs. There is also a big incentive to volunteer; and you don't even have to be associated with the ELC to participate. Volunteers who help out a minimum of four hours (whole hours) will be allowed to shop the pre-sale (Thursday, April 5 6:00-8:00 p.m.) and get first choice of items from the sale before they are picked over! Volunteer information will be available and seller packets will be on sale to ELC families beginning January 16. Watch for a table in the Skylight Area featuring packet sales.



The Twice Blessed Consignment Sale is a great way to clear out things you no longer need for your child, as well as a way to prepare for the next stage of your child, or perhaps a new child that's on the way! Sellers receive 70% of the sale price and the school gets 30% for the advertising, set-up and work. (Sellers may instead claim a lower percentage to allow for a greater benefit to the ELC.) Not a bad deal! In order to sell at our Consignment Sale, you must purchase a Consignment Seller Packet. **The Seller Packets will go on sale to our ELC families January 16-19 under the skylight in the Church entry around the lunch hour, from 11:20-11:40 a.m. and 12:20-12:40 p.m.** The packets cost \$20, or pay only \$10 when you volunteer 2 hours or more. After the week of January 16, packets may be purchased in the church office. Tell your friends! Selling is fun and easy to do! If you would be willing to help sell the packets the week of January 16 please contact Diane Hensley. The short, twenty minute shift is easy to do! Be watching for more Twice Blessed volunteer opportunities! Thanks!

The Twice Blessed Consignment Sale will be **Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7, 2018**. You will want to take note that on **Friday, April 6 there is no school at Shepherd's Flock due to the sale**. Please partner with a friend and watch each other's children so that you may volunteer or shop the sale. There is no child care provided. Mark your calendars...if you plan to sell, **start saving wire hangers and safety pins**...clean out those drawers and closets and basements...start telling everyone with whom you come in contact about The Twice Blessed Consignment Sale at Shepherd of the Valley! It's great for buyers and sellers, and it's a huge benefit for our school and our children! Lastly, the sale is a great blessing for many folks in our community as sellers have the option to send their unsold items to local charities at the close of the sale. This makes it a win for all!

Thanks for Lunches at Conference Time

Thank you to the moms who provided a delicious meal during the two days of November conferences. Our staff enjoyed having a lovely meal with a chance to unwind between conferences on those busy days. We appreciated your thoughtfulness. Special thanks to: **Kelli Boisen,**

Jamie Huinker, Sara Upmeyer, Teresa Peterson, Amber Kelley, Meredith Scott, Elizabeth Thompson, Michal Stevenson, Sonja Hansen-Smith, Jennifer Simmons, Kelli Kirkman, Megan Stone and Julia Tentinger.



Successful Coat Drive

Thank you for your donations to the Shepherd's Flock Coat Drive! It was a big success! The many coats, hats, gloves, etc. that were given helped West Des Moines Human Services prepare families for winter. Each and every item helped to make a difference. Thank you, ELC families, for all you do!

Cookies & Carols – What Fun!

We'd like to extend a big thank you to all of our families who donated cookies and treats for our preschool Christmas Programs earlier in December. The performances were so cute and entertaining for all! We want to thank our wonderful volunteers who helped to set up refreshments for our preschool and kindergarten programs. Thanks to: **Amy Sleiter, Wendy Kelly, Heather Hubbard, Tina Anderson, Amy Sarvis, Kari Lengeling, Carrie Temple, Holly Determan, Joey Loeffelholz, Mary Rush, Leslie Napier, Denise Schemper and Carolyn McAleer.** We appreciate your assistance in the kitchen, keeping the cookie platters plentiful and the punch flowing. Thank you for your time. Leftover cookies were happily received by the West Des Moines Fire Department and the Clive Police Department. Thank you to the family of Sarah Schemper, in Mrs. Basler's PM kindergarten class, for helping to deliver the treats.



Like Us on Facebook ... ShepherdFlockELC

If you haven't already, like us on Facebook! You will receive instant notification of school closings due to weather. Stay informed of special activities and events at the ELC through Facebook.

God's blessings to you and your family in 2018!

Fondly,

Diane Hensley

Diane Hensley
Director, Early Learning Center