



February 1, 2018

Dear Parents,

Bethany Lutheran Church Preschool will continue to offer Transitional Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year. Transitional Kindergarten provides a nurturing, learning environment for children who are eligible for kindergarten entrance, but are not quite ready and for those whose birthdays fall between September 1 and December 31 who are no longer eligible for kindergarten as of fall 2014 due to the California legislation requiring children to be 5 years old by September 1.

The California Department of Education feels that “The academic, social, physical, and emotional readiness required for today’s kindergarten has changed in recent years” and that “young children who are accelerated to kindergarten may feel stress as they try to achieve academic expectations and relate to older children.” We believe that developmental readiness is crucial to success in school, so Transitional Kindergarten provides our students with an extra year to develop before the Kindergarten Program.

Transitional Kindergarten offers active learning experiences; learning centers and interest areas including pre-reading and pre-writing, dramatic play, multifaceted open ended art, music, building, sensory and discovery, and cognitive development; varied instructional strategies; an integrated curriculum and a balance between teacher-directed and child-directed activities. Transitional Kindergarten includes activities encouraging creativity, exploration and discovery in a developmentally appropriate learning environment. Activities are child-centered and provide experiential, open-ended opportunities for learning including manipulatives to strengthen eye-hand coordination. We offer both structured and unstructured activities. Children participate in whole group, small group, and individual settings. We focus on Bible time, math and reading readiness, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving and social skills. We have a balanced classroom with an emphasis on language and literacy, experiential learning, an active environment that encourages movement, and facilitation to encourage success. We use the “Get Set for School” curriculum by Handwriting Without Tears, “Zoophonics,” “Conscious Discipline,” and “One in Christ.”

If your teacher suggested the Gift of Time for your child or your child has a September –December birthday, we ask that you consider our Transitional Kindergarten Program. If you would like to register for the fall, please complete your Enrollment Form and submit your registration fee. Our program is very flexible in that you are still able to do 3, 4, or 5 mornings or full days. Unlike the Transitional K programs that you find at the public school where the teacher to student ratio runs 1:24 or 26 with no aide, our program typically offers a teacher to student ratio of 1:7 in the morning and 1:10 in the afternoon.

Our teacher, Mrs. Jennifer DeJongh, has worked in our Kindergarten classroom and knows the expectations. In addition, she has taught Pre-K and Transitional Kindergarten. Mrs. DeJongh has her Bachelor’s Degree and Teaching Credential from Concordia and serves as a Called Lutheran School Teacher.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Transitional Kindergarten program.

In His Service,

Mary Wolfinbarger  
Director  
(562) 429-7335