



The Early Childhood Corner

From the Teachers' Desk

Dear parents,

We pray that you have a blessed Christmas, celebrating Jesus' birth with family and friends. We also wish you a 2026 filled with joy and blessings from our Lord.

The school year continues with a number of things to look forward to - library days, Valentine's Day, Easter, parent/

teacher conferences, field trips and 4K graduation. School begins again on Jan. 5/6 and Lutheran Schools Week will be Jan. 25-31

When we are back, the Preschoolers will focus on things like cutting on a line, walking on a balance beam and counting.

Children in the 4K class will work on

skipping and bouncing a ball as well as counting and recognition of teen numbers and the sounds for more letters in the alphabet.

In His service,
Mrs. Leuck
Ms. Rajer
Mrs. Stiemke

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**St. Paul Early
Childhood Center**

Volume 16 Issue 5

January 2026

Special points of Interest:

- Tuition changes effective Jan. 1, 2026
- Lutheran Schools Week
- How you will know if school or Child Care is closed due to weather
- Enrollment information for 2026-27 school year

Child Care Notes

We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas holiday with your family, celebrating the birth of our Savior. It is such a special time of the year. Child Care did a variety of activities in preparation,

We talked a lot about Advent and what it means. We used an Advent wreath, calendar and chain to help us count down to the big day. We talked about hope, peace, joy and love, things we can all feel due to the birth of Jesus.

We also read and talked a lot about the actual birth. The children learned about Mary and Joseph, the angels and the shepherds. They really enjoyed learning all the Christmas songs that told the story, which many were able to share with many of you during the ECC Christmas service. What a great job they did!

Other December activities included decorating a Christmas tree, singing and dancing to Christmas music, completing a variety of art projects that reflected the many Christmas symbols we see and decorating cookies.

The children are continuing to work on proper table manners, trying to complete tasks on their own, cleaning up and waiting their turns in lines.

Continued p. 3

Inside this issue:

Take Home Activities	2
Library	3
Funding Update	3
Snow Days	3
2026 Tuition	4
Enrollment Information	4

Snow Days

If school or Child Care will be closed all day, we will notify you through HiMama. The general rule of thumb is— if Falls Elementary closes



or has a 2 hour delay, Preschool and 4K classes will be cancelled for the day.

In most cases Child Care will still be open. If Falls YMCA closes, Child Care will be closed too.

If the school district closes early, Child Care will close 1.5 hours after the closure to give families time to get children at multiple places if necessary.

Life Skill: Pass food, pour your own drink. Use "please" and "thank you." Clean up after eating..

3 Year Old Preschool in January

Date	Jesus Time Themes	Additional Concepts & Skills
January 5-9	Simeon & Anna See Jesus	Space/Day & Night #7
January 12-16	The Wise Men Find Jesus	Space/Day & Night star
January 13-17	Boy Jesus Studies in the Temple	Winter & Snow white
January 19-23	Jesus' Baptism	Winter & Snow circle

Lutheran
Schools
Week

Jan. 25—31

Winter Clothes and Boots

If your child is in Child Care, please continue to have all the appropriate clothing for outdoors at school everyday.

Please check to make sure your child's **clothing is marked with his/her name** to help the teacher's keep track of what belongs to each child.

When your child comes to Child Care or school wearing **wet** boots, please help your child change into shoes near whichever door you enter and set the boots on the carpeted area to dry.

Children coming **only** to school **do not** need boots

or snowpants as we will not go outside unless we notify you ahead of time.



Library

The 4K class went to the library Dec. 10 and Miss Britt visited our Preschool/Child Care on Dec. 11.

We heard the books

January Library Days will be Jan 7 for 4K and Jan. 8 for PS/CC. Drivers will be needed for 4K.

Thank you

- **We have earned about \$135 from saving used ink, toner cartridges and cell phones.**

- **You have earned about \$300 from your SCRIP purchases.**



Child Care Notes continued

We are looking forward to the new year ahead with more exciting themes and activities. Our Family Fun Event will take place January 31. The sign-up sheet is attached.

Thank you for all your cooperation and support this first half of the year!

Family Toolbox: Go to church as a family. Look at the stained glass windows and symbols, talk about them. Talk about why we do the things we do in church (offering, invocation, benediction, etc.)

4K in January

Date	Jesus Time Themes	Additional Concepts & Skills
January 5-9	The Wisemen Visit	Space/Day & Night Ss—stars star
January 12-16	Boy Jesus in the Temple	Space/Day & Night Nn—night #7
January 19-23	Jesus is Baptized	Winter & Snow Ii—ice, igloo white
January 26-30	Jesus Calls the Disciples	Winter & Snow Qq—quilt square

Family
Activity
Day

Saturday,
Jan. 31

10-11:30
am

Family Events

We have planned 3 events this year when families can meet with others from St. Paul and have fun.

In September, we met at the Shaw Family Playground and had fun playing on the equipment.

To end Lutheran Schools Week, on Sat., Jan. 31, the teachers will be providing 4 fun activities (Shapes theme) for parents and children to do together on Family Activity Day.

See the attached sheet for more information. If you would like to participate, please return the form by Fri, Jan. 23 so

we have time to prepare the materials needed.

Our final event is Sat. May 2. We will enjoy some type of entertainment and have Theo's Pizza for dinner. Watch for more information in April.

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Enrollment

Enrollment forms with the \$75 registration fee will be accepted for the 2026-2027 school year as follows:

- Children currently enrolled in Preschool or Child Care, as well as siblings and church members can enroll beginning Jan. 19. On Thursday, January 29 there will be an Open House from 6-7:00 pm when non-members may enroll.

As of this date, spots cannot be guaranteed.

Enrollment forms will be sent home January 15/16 with all children currently in the Preschool and Child Care. If you will not be using the form, please pass it on if you know someone who might be interested. If someone enroll because of your recommendation, you will receive \$25 off your next month's tuition bill. Additional enrollment forms, can be found on the wall next to the Child Care bulletin board in the entrance hall.

Remember that if you aren't already using SCRIP, you can begin saving as soon as your child is enrolled. You can also bank earnings over the summer or a year in advance.

2026-27 Tuition (as of Jan. 1, 2026)

Registration—\$75

Preschool—\$110 per month

4K—\$170 per month

Child Care—(2.5-3yrs)\$6.00 per hour

Child Care (3-5yrs)\$5.75 per hour

Drop- In Rate—\$7.00/\$6.75(2.5 yrs/3-5 yrs)

Full-time—\$235/\$225 (2.5 yrs/3-5 yrs)



WEMLS Standards

Knowledge and Skills

Diversity in Learning

- 1. Experiences a variety of routines, practices and languages.*
- 2. Learns within the context of their family and culture.*
- 3. Uses various styles of learning including verbal/linguistic, bodily/kinesthetic, visual/spatial, interpersonal and intrapersonal.*

- We begin with a regular routine and then vary it to incorporate visitors, , 4K field trips, etc.
- Each child is the "Special Child of God" for a week. He/she brings pictures and shares information about his/her family and home life.
- Children share their experiences and we compare them to others' knowledge.
- Show-n-Tell, book time and Bible stories foster verbal learning; playing outside or in the gym develop body, visual and spatial skills, while play time develops intra and interpersonal skills.