



Welcome To St. Stephen Preschool – About Our Preschool

Welcome to St. Stephen Preschool. We are looking forward to a successful year of working with you and your child. We are very excited about our curriculum and the program we are able to offer.

Our curriculum supports and encourages growth for your child academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Your child will actively take part in arts and crafts, music, reading, story-telling, science, math, motor development, chapel time and more. We work closely with the Bloomington Kindergarten teachers to prepare our children for the transition to the “big school.”

While St. Stephen Preschool is located at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, it is important to point out that we are a Christian preschool, not a Lutheran preschool. We will stress the importance of taking care of others, empower our children to see that their choices and actions do make a difference and help develop a sense of compassion and caring in all of our students. For this reason, we invite children of all faiths to join our classes.

Our school year starts on Thursday/Friday/Monday, September 9, 10 and 13, 2010 and ends on Wednesday/Thursday May 25/26, 2010.* We offer a variety of two, three and four day programs for children ages three through five. Each class time is two and a half hours in length.

All students who enroll at St. Stephen Preschool must be three years old by September 1, 2010 and **MUST** be toilet trained (no Pull-Ups are allowed.) Students should not be older than five and should not be enrolled in a Kindergarten program.

*School start and end dates are subject to change based on final approval of the Bloomington Public School calendar.



St. Stephen Preschool – Our Mission and Goals

Our Mission:

In an environment supporting Christian values, St. Stephen Preschool strives to guide young children as they grow socially, emotionally, academically, physically and spiritually as individuals while also learning to become part of the community.

The Goals of St. Stephen Preschool:

- To foster growth in the intellectual, social, emotional, creative, and spiritual areas.
- To have a curriculum and activities which are developmentally appropriate.
- To put the child's self-esteem development as a high priority.
- To provide a firm and positive educational foundation for every child.
- To value the importance of celebrating and accepting individual difference including race, economic background and religion.
- To teach and encourage our children to love one another as Jesus does.

We value the importance of taking care of others and empowering our young ones to see that they can make a difference in our community. Our goal is to provide each child with a good foundation as they continue taking steps in their academic and spiritual growth.



St. Stephen Preschool – Our Staff and Affiliations

St. Stephen Preschool considers itself very fortunate to have highly qualified and truly gifted teachers who will help guide your child through their “Early Step Toward a Godly Walk”.

Julie Walworth, Director – With a master’s degree in education, eleven years of classroom teaching and four years directing St. Stephen Preschool, Julie is excited about the opportunities this program presents, and is thrilled to have such a talented group of educators by her side. In total, the group has several qualified and caring years of childhood educational experience.

Our Teachers:

These dedicated professionals, all trained in early or elementary education, are committed to providing your child with a year of learning, fun and growth.

Lori Burnham
Sherry Carr
Tracy Crawford
Mara Guza
Peggy Johnson
Carol Andrews
Rebekah Cole
Gloria Lamprecht
Sue Erickson
Debi Zosel

Teacher list subject to change based on classroom sizes and availability.

Our Pastors:

The pastors of St. Stephen Lutheran Church are committed to providing leadership to the school and its curriculum.

Pastor Tom Olson
Pastor Christine Wenzel

St. Stephen Preschool is an active member of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association.



St. Stephen Preschool – About Our School Year and Classroom

Our preschool is open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm daily with morning classes starting at 9:00 am and afternoon classes starting at 12:30 pm. We expect that children will be dropped off and picked up on time to allow our staff to spend 2 ½ hours of quality time with each child and to prepare for the afternoon and next days classes.

Tuition includes classroom time with teachers as well as a snack provided by the preschool. A variety of healthy foods including fruit, cheese, crackers and juice will be served to your child daily. Staff should be advised of any allergies or dietary restrictions for your child.

We feel that a well-rounded educational experience for your child happens when parents and teachers work together. Parents are welcome to visit the preschool at any time but we do ask that siblings be left at home. However, we do have other opportunities for the entire family to see what your child is doing at preschool.

Your child will take part in two music programs at St. Stephen Preschool – one at Christmas time and the other in the spring. These are special events for the children. The children love to share what they have learned with their entire family.

In addition, we will work with you to make your child's year spectacular in other ways. We feel that birthdays and other special occasions are important milestones in all children's lives and we want to celebrate those special days with you and your child. We will celebrate your child's actual birthday as close to the date as possible, or half birthday if your child's special day comes in the summer.

We also have holiday classroom parties. We ask that parents organize and run these parties. Teachers are always on site and willing to help out in any way. The children love these parties, especially sharing them with their parents.

We will also have parent-teacher conferences two times a year to discuss your child's progress. A written assessment of your child's intellectual, physical, social and emotional development will be given to parents at these times. Parents are invited and encouraged to call the teachers or the director to discuss any special concerns you may have about your child and their progress.

To complement these face to face meetings, we also send home a monthly newsletter and calendar highlighting what we are doing in the classroom. Our school operates very closely to the Bloomington Public School calendar. You will receive a complete calendar and schedule for our school year as we get closer to our opening day.