

# The Shepherd's Flock Early Learning Center

## ELC School News

### September / October 2019



back to  
School



**Welcome!** Thank you to all of our families for attending orientation with your child. It's an exciting time and we are eager to begin the school year. We're glad to have you with us for this important step in your child's educational journey!

At orientation you were presented with some volunteer sign-up opportunities. Your child's teacher may have remaining needs posted on her message board. Please take a look when you come to school. Other school opportunities are now posted at the Parent Board, located near the gym. Thank you for pitching in and helping at your child's school. Also, we appreciate you turning in remaining health forms for your child's file. **Please remember that your child's physical exam record is good for twelve months and that you will need to submit a new one to our office with each new exam.** The physical exam information does not have to be on our Shepherd's Flock physical form. We will accept whatever form your doctor's office prints out for us. If you still need to submit yours, please have your child's records faxed to us at 225-0871.

#### E-Mail Address

Newsletters and calendars will be e-mailed to you for the remainder of the school year. You will be emailed this newsletter on a bimonthly basis. Your child's classroom teacher will email hers to you at the end of every month. **Let us know if you do not receive either one. Please keep us informed of any changes in your contact information.**



**Remember to print and post your child's classroom calendar each month.** This is so important! Your little one will take pride in learning to follow along with the calendar, and you will appreciate the prompts when you need to bring something to school. We also encourage you to use the calendar as a tool to ask specific questions about his or her day. You never know what you'll get! Thank you for supporting your child's first school experiences!

#### The Story & Chapel Chats

At Shepherd's Flock our weekly Bible lessons and Chapel Chats will be taken from *The Story*. The children will learn about God in a meaningful, relevant way. Lessons will be presented in the classroom and for Chapel Chats we meet in the sanctuary. *The Story* is 31 chapters of an easy-to-read version of the Bible, presented in chronological order. Each week a Parent Page telling about the lesson will be emailed to you. It will include the text and scripture reading as well as ideas for interacting with your child around the lesson. We encourage you to use the Parent Page to follow along with us on this exciting journey. Parent Pages will be emailed to you at the end of each week for the upcoming one. It is our hope that this tool will help you to discover what your child is experiencing each week at school. Together may you grow in God's love and learn how your story fits in His! Look for the weekly chapters to be listed on your child's classroom calendar.



Beautiful, hard copy picture books for *The Story* are available for purchase in the ELC office. Our preschool classes use *The Story for Little Ones* and it is priced at **\$10.50**. Kindergarten classes use *The Story for Children* which is **\$12.00** to purchase. Reading one of these with your child is a great way to follow along and further support the weekly Bible stories this year. If interested in buying a book, simply let me know. (Diane Hensley at 225-1952 ext. 114 or [diane@sofv-wdm.org](mailto:diane@sofv-wdm.org).)

### **“Meet the Teacher” Bulletin Board**

Have you seen the ELC Staff Bulletin Board in the skylight area? Get to know a little bit about your child’s teacher. See if your little one can spot his or her new teacher. Read how the teachers spend their time when they’re not at school. Get to know this fantastic team that makes Shepherd’s Flock such a wonderful school!

### **Use of the Church Nursery**

Shepherd of the Valley is more than happy to allow Shepherd’s Flock children and families to use the church nursery. If you have spare time and need a place to plant yourself and your child for whatever reason, you are welcome to use it. We do ask that you pick up the toys and return the nursery to its original condition when you are done. Also, please remember to keep any snacks / sack lunches nut-free, per our building policy. Thank you in advance!

### **Back-To-School Family Night on the Lawn - Join us this Friday night!**

Meet & greet fellow ELC parents & kids on **Friday, Sept. 6th**

Who: All Shepherd’s Flock Families

What: A fun, low key, “get-to-know you” event

When: Friday, September 6, 5:00-7:00pm

Where: Shepherd of the Valley’s west parking lot (preschool parking side) & front lawn (facing Ashworth Rd.)



Note: Bring lawn chairs and or blankets. There will be lawn games, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, and a Kona Ice truck on site! Wonderful, icy treats will be available for purchase. Prices range from \$3-\$6 with 10 fun flavor options. All forms of payment accepted. This event will be held weather permitting. We hope to see you there!

### **The ELC Volunteer Team Invites You! ... Tuesday, September 10**

Would you like to be involved in your child’s school and help make a difference? Do you want to have a say in what goes on at Shepherd’s Flock? If you answer “yes” to either of these questions, then the ELC Volunteer Team is right for you! This team is a group of parents who meet once a month for about an hour. We help plan school events and facilitate volunteer and fundraising needs. We consider ourselves ‘cheerleaders’ – people who love the school, inspire joy in others and have a spirit of service. You are invited to join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, September 10 at 11:35** in the church nursery. Anyone is welcome! Feel free to bring your kids, sack lunches (nut-free please), your willingness to share, AND **bring a friend!** It’s very informal and easy to attend. Jump in as your schedule will allow. It’s a great way to meet others and to get involved in your child’s school. Refreshments will be served. We’re planning the Ice Cream Social at this meeting so if you’d like to get involved, join us!! Questions? Contact Diane Hensley at 225-1952 ext. 114 or [diane@sotv-wdm.org](mailto:diane@sotv-wdm.org).



### **Scholastic Books**

Scholastic book orders will be sent home each month. If you are not familiar with Scholastic Book Clubs, they provide a great selection of books at affordable prices. The paper book order forms are sent home each month. There are two ways in which to order books. You may fill out the order form and place it with your check attached, in the mailbox marked “Scholastic” located in the Education Wing hallway. Paper orders that are placed in the box must be paid for by CHECK ONLY, made out to SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS. Scholastic also provides an online option which allows you to view and order from the many Scholastic catalogs offered, for all ages. To order online visit: [scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://scholastic.com/bookclubs) Activation Code: **GOTFL. Please do NOT input teacher name, ONLY use this code.** (In case you forget or misplace this information, slips containing simple on-line instructions can always be found on the Parent Table near the gym.) Shepherd’s Flock is not set up to order by teacher name (this is for large elementary school



classes). If you order using teacher name, your order will simply “float out there” and will not be processed. Scholastic book orders are usually due the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month but short months will have an earlier date. You will want to check the date stamp each month on the order form. Whether you order online or with the paper order form, all books are delivered to Shepherd’s Flock. Then our wonderful volunteer will sort them by individual classes. The books will then be placed at your child’s coat hook for you to take home. Enjoy the books and remember to read to your child every day!

### Vision Screening

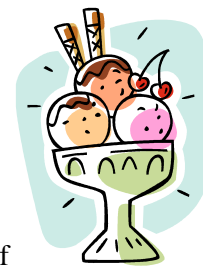
On **Wednesday, September 18 (for MWF, M-F, and Kindergarten classes) and Thursday, September 19 (for T/Th and M-Th classes)** all students will be provided a free, voluntary vision screening by Iowa Kidsight, sponsored by the Des Moines Lions Club. An informational brochure was given out at orientation. A consent form will be sent home with your child closer to the date. **A few volunteers are needed to assist with getting small groups of children to and from the screening room. If you are interested in helping, please sign up at the Parent Board.**

### Picture Day

Picture Day is **Wednesday, October 2 (for MWF, M-F, and Kindergarten classes) and Thursday, October 3 (for T/Th and M-Th classes)**. Monahan Photography will be taking our pictures this year. Lon Monahan brings us his experience for quality portraits. Our previous photographer, Wayne Makeeff, has retired. Wayne sold the business to Lon and they worked together the past couple years. Order forms will come home soon and are due back with payment the day of the photo shoot. Pictures will be in before Thanksgiving.

### Shepherd’s Flock Ice Cream Social & Theme Basket Raffle

Join us on **Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for the annual Ice Cream Social! The Ice Cream Social is a great time to get the SCOOP on new friends and to chat with teachers. This is a party for the whole family and is an easy “come as you are...stay as long as you are able” event. If you would like to assist in planning this event, please sign up at the Parent Board and plan to **attend our Volunteer Team meeting on Tues, /Sept. 10** (see announcement on previous page regarding the team.) There will be a raffle of theme baskets, carnival style games for the kids and ice cream, of course! Each of the ELC classes will sponsor a basket. Families are invited to donate an item specific to their class theme. We also invite any of you who want to donate services or items, perhaps through your business or hobby, to put together a basket to donate to the raffle. You may provide business cards or brochures beside your basket. There is no charge for the evening but if you’d like to donate an ice cream topping, cookies, or brownies, watch for sign-up sheets to be posted at your teacher’s Message Board. There are volunteer opportunities for that evening as well. If you are able to help set-up tables and chairs over the lunch hour, scoop ice cream that night, or clean up when the fun is done, please sign up! These volunteer opportunities will be available online later this month. Watch for a note with all the details to come home soon. Thank you for making this a successful event!



### ELC Harvest Festival

October is Harvest Festival time! On **Wednesday, October 30 (MWF, M-F, and Kindergarten classes) Thursday, October 31 (T/Th and M-Th classes)** and we’ll spend the day enjoying fun autumn festivities. We invite the children to come to school in costume, as we’ll begin our day with a costume parade in the skylight area at approximately 9:15 / 12:45. **Parents are welcome to join us for the costume parade portion of the day.**



### About your child’s costume...

Please refrain from costumes that are scary or Satanic, including witches. Toy weapons are not allowed. Fancy heirloom type outfits are also discouraged as they may be damaged during play. Our costume parade is the first activity of the day so your child should **come to school in costume.**

If your child wants to wear regular clothes following the festivities, please make sure he or she has them on under the costume. Thank you for your attention to these details.

## **Important School Reminders**

**Arrival Time:** Parents, please deliver your child to his or her teacher no earlier than 9:00 for morning preschool classes, 8:30 for kindergarten, and 12:30 for afternoon classes. If you must arrive early you are asked to spend your “wait time” somewhere else in the church or outside the building. The teachers need the time before class to prepare the room with the day’s activities. Please know that the church nursery is also available to you. We only ask that you pick up after yourself and leave it as you found it.

### **Church Doors Locking**

The west and south doors to the church will lock 15 minutes after drop off time. If you arrive later than 9:15 (for AM classes) or 12:45 (for PM classes) please reroute yourself to the east entry doors (main church entrance by the office) which remain unlocked. Doors will unlock 15 minutes prior to start times for dropping off children. Remember, the main church door (east doors) are for kindergarten classes and church use only.

**Restroom Use, Handwashing, & Illness:** We appreciate you taking your little one to the restroom upon arrival each day. If a child has to use the restroom prior to a scheduled bathroom break, the teacher must take the entire class to the restroom. This uses up precious minutes in the already fast moving day. Thank you for taking the time to make this a habit. This good habit also helps to ensure that all children get a thorough hand washing upon arrival to the classroom each day. As we all try to be extra mindful about the spread of germs, this one simple task helps to protect all of us against colds and the flu. If your child is absent due to illness, please remember that they should stay home for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicine. **If absent, please contact your child’s teacher directly.**



**Appropriate Shoes at School:** Please remember to send your child to school in appropriate shoes. Your Parent Handbook states that “shoes should have a closed-toe and closed-heel”. Flip flops, loose fitting sandals as well as “Crocs” are not allowed. Tennis shoes or something similar are the best. Thank you for your attention to this.

### **Can You Share a Pair? (...Shoes, that is!)**

You may have noticed the “Soles 4 Souls” box next to the Parent Table by the gym. Soles 4 Souls is an organization that helps provide footwear to many people in several countries throughout the world. Here in the United States, we are often so comfortable that we fail to acknowledge how truly blessed we are! This is an opportunity for you to pass on some of those blessings to others in need. We collect shoes of ANY variety for this organization, all year long. This organization is in need of children’s shoes in particular but will accept shoes of any size. We ask that any shoes you have to donate be attached as a pair in order to simplify the organizing and shipping process. You may simply tie or rubber band them together. Thank you in advance for your donations! Again, you’ll find the box next to the Parent Table, by the gym. For more information visit [GiveShoes.org](http://GiveShoes.org).

### **Prayer Requests**

If you or someone you know would like to be on the prayer list at Shepherd of the Valley, please see me or anyone on our church staff and we will be happy to assist you. While we realize that many of our ELC families have a church home elsewhere, we are always happy to pray for you and to support you however we are able. We hope that you find, as we do, that as the school year progresses, we truly are like a family here at Shepherd’s Flock. If there is anything that we can do for you, please let us know.

Please know that you and your family are welcome at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. If you have questions about the family ministries at SOTV, please stop in the church office. Anyone in the office will be happy to assist you.



Always, we thank you for partnering with us to provide quality early education for your child. It is a privilege to have you and your child as part of our "school family" this year. If you have questions or comments feel free to contact me. I am in the ELC Office (just inside the church office) Monday through Friday and will be happy to visit with you.

Respectfully,

*Diane Hensley*

Diane Hensley

Director, Early Learning Center

[diane@sotv-wdm.org](mailto:diane@sotv-wdm.org) / 225-1952 ext. 114

**\*\*September ELC Volunteer Team Meeting\*\*  
Tuesday, September 10 at 11:35 in the church nursery**

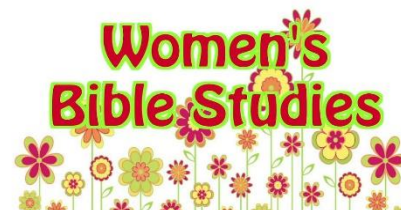
## **Shepherd of the Valley Invites You! ...**

### **Ladies Bible Study - ELC Moms, You're Invited!**

**Below are 2 great Bible study options:**

**Did you know that there is a wonderful Ladies Bible Study that meets every Thursday morning at**

**Shepherd of the Valley?** The group gathers from 9:30 to 11:15, in room 34, which is located at the end of the south hall. Come for fun, fellowship, treats and a Bible Study! Child Care is provided in the nursery. Many ELC moms have been a part of this study through the years. Feel free to jump into this informal group setting at any time! **For more information contact Marie Rickert at 225-8421.**



**Moms, are you looking for a Bible study that gets you deep in the Word and fellowship with other moms?** A Precept Upon Precept study will start back up again in November. Studies will be of the books of 1 Timothy and Titus. This study involves some homework and you will learn how to study the Bible - word studies, cross-references, observation, interpretation, application, and more! Two times are available: Tuesday mornings (9:15-11:15) and Tuesday evenings (7-9pm). Both studies take place in homes and little ones are welcome during the Tuesday morning study (nursing moms and babies always welcome at both). **For more information call/text Leslie Napier (former ELC mom) 515-664-0909.**

### **Growing In Christ at Shepherd of the Valley**

You are invited to attend our **Sunday School Ministry** each Sunday from 9:15-10:15 a.m. beginning this **Sunday, September 8**. We have classes available for 3 year olds through adults. Our nursery is staffed during this time as well as our Sunday worship services (Sat. at 5:00pm, Sun. at 8am and 10:30am) We'd love to have you join us. In addition to Sunday School, we also have a **Wednesday Night Ministry called B.L.A.S.T.** (Bible Learning and Sharing Together) for children Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade from 6:30-7:30 p.m. September through April. This is an activity-based, high-energy program that uses drama, puppets and songs to learn about Jesus' love for us. BLAST begins this **Wednesday, September 4**.

**Have a blessed school year!!**

