

Messiah Lutheran Preschool Newsletter March 2021

Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday, March 14th
Remember to set your
clocks ahead one hour.



A Prayer for the New School Year

Heavenly Father,

At the start of a new school year, we give you thanks for the work of all schools, especially Messiah Lutheran Preschool.

We pray for all children starting at new schools and those returning to school. Help them to explore what they can achieve, and give them confidence to play their part in shaping our world.

We pray for those who work in schools. Care for them as they care for the children in their classes.

We pray for all leaders of schools. Grant them wisdom and sound judgment, and help them to keep children's well-being at the heart of everything they do.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

W 3/17

Spring Session begins!

St. Patrick's Day



Su 3/28

Palm Sunday

F 4/2

Good Friday — NO SCHOOL

Su 4/4

Easter Sunday





“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.”

Genesis 28: 15

March Fruit of the Spirit is **Faithfulness**.

March Virtue is **Perseverance**.



Supply List

Please send in the following with your child:

Change of Clothes/Masks - Please put a change of clothes in a Zip-Loc bag with the child's name on the bag. Include 5 additional masks in the bag. Masks will be sent home daily/weekly or as needed for laundering. Please put names on masks.

Contribution to MLPS Snack Cupboard -- Each child should bring one food item and one juice item (gallon size) from MLPS's approved [Snack List](#). The snack list is available at the Parent Page of the MLPS website and at the link above.

Water bottle -- One filled water bottle that child can drink from independently. Please put the child's name on the bottle.

Supplies -- Please provide:

- one clear plastic pencil pouch (with zipper) with your child's name on it;
- a set of large dry erase markers (5 colors);
- one package of small brown paper (lunch) bags; and
- 1 small (2-4 oz) can of playdough.

Not all items will fit in the pencil pouch. Please send these items in a plastic bag.

First Day Expectations

Arrive at 9 AM

Parent sign-in will occur outside the front door entrance. Please stay six feet apart from other families and have your masks on. If there is inclement weather, such as rain or snow, please stay in your car until the sign-in area is clear so that you do not have to wait in line. Only one parent or guardian escorts the child for entering school.

Temperature Check

Parent/guardian will take the child's temperature with their own touchless thermometer and show it to the staff member.

Health Screening

Parent/guardian will answer 3 questions each day of attendance and initial the screening form. Clean pens will be provided OR you can use a pen that you have.

Attendance Sign-in

Our usual attendance sign-in sheet will also be available for you to initial that your child is at school. You will also sign-out as usual at the end of the day.

Say Good-bye to Your Child

There will be a designated "Kiss and Hug" area for saying good-byes before your child enters the school building.



Meet Your Spring 2021 Session Staff

Mrs. Jill Woodworth

Mrs. Tammy Inman

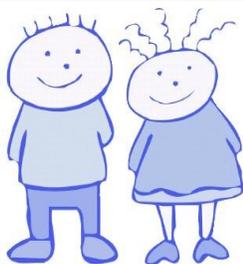


Mrs. Carol Carpenter

Mrs. Susan Wollman

Messiah Lutheran Preschool welcomes Mrs. Jill Woodworth as a Teacher Assistant for the Spring 2021 Session. She has a degree in Education and experience as an elementary teacher. Mrs. Woodworth has served as a substitute for MLPS in previous years and is also an MLPS mom to Kade (2017) and Maeve (2020). Please join MLPS in welcoming Mrs. Woodworth to the Spring 2021 staff!

Be sure to view the Spring 2021 [Welcome and Message from the Director video!](#)



Registration for the 2021—2022 School Year continues.

We have openings in our 2021-22 classes at this time.

Please refer your friends and neighbors!

Messiah Lutheran Preschool (MLPS) is currently planning for a full schedule of in-person classes beginning Fall 2021. Please visit the [MLPS webpage](#) for more information on class options and program information.

All necessary forms are being accepted electronically. Download and complete your forms, then save and send via email.

A new online payment system has been implemented! Please look for the red button to make your payment. Reminder: we are not able to accept credit cards at this time.

Make Your Payment
(Click Here)

Gratitude for Financial Support during the Pandemic

In March 2020, when we closed for in-person classes, we could not have imagined the many challenges that Messiah Lutheran Preschool (MLPS) would face. There was the quick switch to a virtual learning environment for the spring, followed by the difficult decision to not open in Fall of 2020. However, throughout those challenges, friends and families have provided prayers and encouragement. MLPS is very grateful for that support.

MLPS has also been blessed with financial support to offset the monetary losses experienced due to the pandemic. With much gratitude, MLPS acknowledges the following gifts:

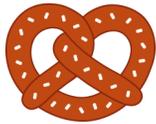
- Donations by MLPS and church families to provide tuition assistance to families in need
- Donations by families of cleaning supplies and more
- Forgiveness of facilities fees by Messiah Lutheran Church and continued cleaning of the preschool area
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) grant to cover the costs of maintaining every staff member on the payroll throughout the spring of 2020 — Note that we have completed the paperwork and are still waiting to hear if this “loan” will be forgiven.
- Reopening stipend of \$1600 in June 2020 from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and other items necessary for re-opening
- Several deliveries of supplies for cleaning and PPE from Montgomery County
- Beautiful set of 7 Christian preschool board books from the Southeastern District
- Individual student school supplies from Staples.
- Stipend of \$1175 from MSDE to purchase air purifiers and cleaning supplies for the Spring 2021 session
- MLPS has recently applied for a Childcare Relief Grant from MSDE to help counter the loss of income from reduced class sizes and enrollment. This grant requires us to be operating through at least June, leading to the extra week of classes for the Spring 2021 session! MLPS will not know if a grant will be awarded until mid-April.
- MLPS (with Messiah Lutheran Church) is applying for the second round of the PPP offered through the federal government. This has not yet been completed.



Special thanks to Carol Carpenter (our tireless Director) for seeking out the grant opportunities, to the Preschool Board for supporting and encouraging many of the grant applications and for Tom Fegley (church Treasurer) and Melissa Burgess (Bookkeeper) for countless hours of completing the necessary paperwork for many of these grants.

Reminders...

- Be sure to dress your child for the (often unpredictable) weather. To help with physical distancing, we intend to conduct many activities outdoors. We will be playing outdoors everyday. Be sure to have hats, mittens, jackets and sweaters available for your child.
- Please sign your child **IN** and **OUT** every day. This is a State of Maryland licensing mandate. The temperature check and health screening do NOT replace this requirement.
- Please read and review the Parent Handbook. A signed receipt for the Parent Handbook (included with the Parent Handbook) is due on the first day of school (W 3/17). A copy of the Parent Handbook was sent electronically and is available on the Parent Page of the MLPS website.



- Please bring in two items from the MLPS Snack List. The MLPS Cupboard is currently empty so all items are in need. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Family Resources



- Faithfulness: [Kids of Integrity Lessons and Activities for the Home](#)
[Faithfulness Coloring Pages](#)
- Perseverance: [Developing Perseverance in Preschoolers](#)
[Teaching Grit and Perseverance to Children](#)
- COVID Resources: [Keep Children Healthy During COVID-19 Pandemic \(CDC\)](#)
[Talking with Children about COVID-19 \(CDC\)](#)
[Back to School ABCs \(video\)](#)
[Messiah Lutheran Preschool COVID Plan](#)



The Messiah Lutheran Staff thanks you for all of your support and prayers in making our preschool a blessing to children, families and staff.