



GOD'S LOVE EXPRESSED to EACH of US

A message from our Pastor

THIS YEAR that we have begun, is quite an interesting one.

We have celebrated the coming of Jesus at Christmas, and we have been continuing to remember the Magi's coming to worship the Christ child during these many weeks that we call the season of Epiphany (when and where God "revealed" or "made-manifest" His coming, and great love for us).

Only a couple of weeks into February, the church calendar starts the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. It is the start of that six-week penitential season, in which we remember our many sins (which is why many put-on ashes – to show their sorrow and remorse). The ashes also help us remember our mortality – since we will all eventually return to ash ("ashes to ashes, dust to dust").

God tells us in Romans 6:23 "*For the wages of sin is death*" and since we have all sinned, we will all eventually die. But

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FEBRUARY MEMORY VERSE

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him....

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:9; 19

WHEN TO WORSHIP

SATURDAY EVENING—6:00 pm (2nd Saturday Potluck on February 10)

SUNDAY MORNING—8:00 am | 10:30 am

HOLY COMMUNION—February 3/4, 17/18

WHEN THINGS ARE SCHEDULED DURING LENT

WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 14 (Ash Wed.), 21 and 28 and MARCH 6, 13 and 20

LENTEN FELLOWSHIP MEAL—5:00—5:30 pm

Information on how you can help will be posted at The Welcome Center

LENTEN WORSHIP—5:45—6:30 pm

CONFIRMATION—Please see Lenten schedule on page 2

CHIMES/CHOIR—Please see Lenten schedule on page 3

WHEN TO STUDY

EDUCATION HOUR FOR ALL AGES—Sunday following the 8:00 am service

LADIES MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY—February 5 at 6:30 pm. We'll discuss chapter 9 and 10 from "The Case for Miracles" by Lee Strobel. Contact Mindy Braun at 608-792-9238. For a recap of last's month study, see page

TEN COMMANDMENTS BIBLE STUDY— Tuesday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Led by Pastor Kolander.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday at 9:30 am

CONFIRMATION—Wednesday 6:00 pm (6:30 pm during Lent)

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Thursday at 9:30 am

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—10:00 am

ONGOING MINISTRY MEETING SCHEDULE

TRUSTEES—TBD

FELLOWSHIP— Monday, February 5 at 11:30 am at Perkin's

ELDERS — Monday, February 12 at 6:00 pm

EDUCATION— Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 pm

COUNCIL — Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm

Schedules subject to change. Check the church bulletin, Facebook, Website or Weekly Update for updates.



**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?
HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Look no further! Your help is needed here—right now

MINISTRY CHAIRS

Lead a ministry that meets the specific needs of our members

The following ministries need your help:

- **Human Care Ministry**
- **Youth Ministry**

A full description of leadership duties is located at The Welcome and Opportunity Center. To volunteer, contact Kevin Keeffe at 608-797-5529

Dan Howe at 608-780-1525 or howe32@hotmail.com

PROJECTOR

Advance the projector slides during the church service

To volunteer contact an Elder

COUNT OFFERING

Record the offering or assist, organize and count funds.

To volunteer contact Betsy Jessie at betsy13@hotmail.com

LENTEN and 2ND SATURDAY

MEAL HELPERS

feed the masses

Sign up at The Welcome and Opportunity Center.

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Provide treats, coffee and fellowship

Sign up sheet at The Welcome and Opportunity Center.

USHERS

Help people get to where they are going

To volunteer contact an Elder

New Opportunities Available!

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

SHARE TIPS, CONCERNS AND SUPPORT WITH THOSE AFFECTED BY CANCER

Watch for the time and date of next meeting...

See page 3 for a recap of the January meeting.

Cancer Support Contact: Shawn Mahoney 608-797-1927

CONFIRMATION and YOUTH MINISTRY

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH STUDENTS THROUGH STUDY, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

During Lent (Ash Wednesday, February 14 through March 20) Confirmation class will be held at 6:30 pm. Students will be expected to attend the Lenten Services at 5:45 pm.

Confirmation Contact: Pastor Baumgarn 507-227-5646

EDUCATION MINISTRY

ASSISTS WITH THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS

The Sunday School Students will sing during the 10:30 am worship service on February 11, March 24, April 28 and June 2.

There will be a teacher's meeting on Sunday, February 11 at 11:30 am in the chapel. A light lunch will be provided.

Teacher needed to lead 4-8 grade Sunday School on alternating Sundays.

Looking Ahead...Annual Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday, March 23 from 9—10 am
VBS | Sunday, June 23 and 30 during Education Hour | June 25—27 | 5-7:30 pm

Education Contact: Hanni Cowley 608-863-6767 | hannicowley@yahoo.com

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

CONNECTS PEOPLE THROUGH FUN, FOOD and FELLOWSHIP

A review of Advent by Candlelight will be scheduled soon. Watch for details.

Fellowship Contact: Jana Underkofler jounder5js@gmail.com

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY

SERVES THE NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND OUR COMMUNITY

DELIVERING LOVE and FRIENDSHIP—with COOKIES!

Reconnect with members of our church family who might enjoy a quick visit, a smile and a sweet treat! Your help is needed to:

Bake two dozen cookies (deliver to church by Saturday, Feb. 17 at 9:00 am).

Volunteer to assemble the “cookie care packages” on Saturday, February 17 from 10:00 am—noon.

Volunteer to visit specified members who might appreciate a visit. These visits can be done on Saturday, Feb. 17 or Sunday, Feb. 18. *Please sign up at The Welcome and Opportunity Center. Contact Sue Mravik at suemravik@gmail.com or Polly Howe at p.m.75@hotmail.com*

Prayer Chain

to submit requests (or to join the prayer chain) please contact Sharon at sryan6731@gmail.com, 608-526-6731, or the church office.

Onalaska Food Pantry

Food Pantry request for February — Cleaning products. Donations may be left on the shelves located across from The Welcome and Opportunity Center.

MUSIC MINISTRY

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

SOUTHERN GOSPEL SERVICE

Enjoy old-time favorites shared by the talents of SOTH musicians on Saturday, February 3 and Sunday, February 4 during the 10:30 am service. *The 8:00 am Sunday service will follow a regular format.*

CHIMES—6:00 PM | **CHOIR**—Wednesday at 6:30 pm

During Lent (Ash Wednesday, February 14 through March 20) Chimes will practice at 6:30 pm with choir at 7:00 pm

LWML and Music Ministry Contact: Kay Conzemius at bkconz@aol.com

FEBRUARY MAIN STREET LIVING SCHEDULE

“Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life”. View on FOX 25/48 LaCrosse / EauClaire.

Visit mainstreetliving.com for current and past episodes

Feb 4

10:00 am - “Which Way Grows the Vine” - A father struggles to accept the consequences of his actions and set an example for his son.

10:30 am - Rev. Herbert Mueller, pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lewiston, MN, presents the message “The Secret” based on Mark 1:29-39.

Feb 11

10:00am - “Prescription TLC” - Injuries after a plane crash cause a couple to seek God for comfort and healing.

10:30 am - Rev. Jacob Eichers, pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, La Crosse, presents the message “Radiant” based on Exodus 34:29-35.

Continued from “God’s Love Expressed to Each of Us” on page 1

that Bible verse does not end with death and the grave. The whole verse says, “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

The season of Lent takes us to the cross. We remember this great expression of God’s love, that while we were yet sinners – Christ died for us. Because we would be heading for hell, on account of the many sins (we have chosen to commit), God came down here, to take-up our sins, and be punished in our place (for them) upon the cross. “*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends*” (John 15:13).

What’s interesting this year, is that Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent) happens to land upon February 14th, which is usually a day in which people express their love for one another (in various ways). It’s a fine thing to do. But I hope that we also remember the love of God, upon a day that especially brings to mind the whole topic of love. These two events are connected, yet they don’t often happen to fall upon the same calendar date.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP RECAP

Monday, January 15 at 6:30 pm

Five people participated in a speaker presentation on the role genetics play in regards to your health. This special event was led by Miranda (genetic counselor from Gundersen) and Ellen (graduate student).

Stay tuned for more special events and informational discussions organized by the Cancer Support Group.

For more ways to keep your health in check, visit the Narthex library for updated medical and health news in the Mayo Clinic Health Letter.



Feb 18

10:00am - “Dangerous Moment” - An affair on a business trip leads to tension at home.

10:30 am - Rev. David Baumgarn, pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Onalaska, presents the message “Light is meant to be Shared!” based on James 1:17.

Feb 25

10:00 am - “Who will tell Laura?” - A family struggles to adjust after their daughter loses her sight in an accident.

10:30 am - Rev. Jacob Eichers, pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, La Crosse, presents the message “Reconciled to God, Suffering with Hope” based on Romans 5:1–11

After six weeks of Lent (when we remember the suffering of Jesus upon the cross for all of our sins), we celebrate the joy of Jesus’ resurrection; this year celebrated on March 31st. It brings us real and true hope, that although we each physically die (on account of our sins), yet (because of the resurrection of Jesus) all who have faith in Him, shall be raised to new life, once more! His resurrection gives us hope, that we shall live again, that we shall get to see our loved ones again, and that we will get to see Jesus!

The fact that Lent’s beginning on Ash Wednesday happens to fall on Valentine’s Day, is a pretty unique occurrence; and I hope that many within our family here at Shepherd of the Hills will take advantage of it. I pray that many will take the time to look to (and appreciate) the love of God, as expressed in the coming of Christ Jesus for us. “*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved*” (John 3:17).

May the Lord be with you (and yours), until we next can gather together around God’s word, to receive His good gifts, and to thank Him, Who first loved us!

Pastor Baumgarn

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

First, I would like to say that it is an honor to have been selected to serve as the council president. Thank you!

“Here am I send me!” Isaiah 6:8. This verse comes to mind whenever I’m nudged to serve. Though, in my case the exclamation mark would be more of a question mark. “Why me? Why not someone else? I’m not qualified.” The list goes on.

With that said, I have three major tasks to propose to the congregation:

1. Become a planning congregation. Let’s work to develop plans around our worship service, evangelism, and outreach. Pray on them, seek God’s guidance and then execute.
2. Work as a team—a family. Understand our roles within the bounds of our church constitution, then listen, ask, seek, share, invite and encourage
3. Increase our footprint in the community. Embrace our preschool, it is our single biggest, recognizable asset in our local communities. Embrace our Deaf Ministry, it is our second biggest footprint in the local community. Open our fellowship hall to the community in a planned way that assists our neighbors.

Together, let’s use our gifts of time, talents, treasure, passions. What are your ideas? Where do you want to invest? Put that on paper then text message, email, and let me know how we can put our words into action.

Kevin Keffe—Newly Elected President

Text: 608-797-5529 / Keffe.kevin@yahoo.com

Newly Elected Vice President

Dan Howe

Email: howe32@hotmail.com

Newly Elected Secretary

Mindy Braun

Email: mindy.smiles123@gmail.com

DOES GOD WORK THROUGH DREAMS and VISIONS? - shared by Mindy Braun

The Ladies Monday Night Bible study discussed Dreams and Visions, from “The Case for Miracles” by Lee Strobel. The author interviewed an expert on contemporary dreams and visions experienced by Muslims, who would know Jesus as a prophet, but in these dreams they recognize His deity. A common theme is seeing Jesus robed in white, expressing love for them, and directing them to a Christian who shares the Gospel. The dreams prepared their hearts to hear the Word. For it is God’s Word that leads people to faith and His timing is perfect.

As a parallel to the dreams and visions described in the chapter, we discussed the visions of Cornelius and Peter in Acts 10. Cornelius was a Gentile who worshipped God according to Jewish teachings. But he didn’t know Jesus. In his vision God directed him to send for Peter. Why Peter? As an eye-witness and Apostle to Jesus, Peter would teach Cornelius that salvation is through Jesus. In anticipation of Peter’s arrival, Cornelius gathered family and friends. In Peter’s vision, God commanded him “...not to call anything impure that God has made clean” (vs 15). At that time, Jewish law prohibited associating with Gentiles. Only when Peter arrived at Cornelius’, did he understand his vision. “...I now realize...that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right...everyone who believes in Him (Jesus) receives forgiveness of sins through His name” (vs 34-35, 43). What happened next? “...the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message” (vs 44), and Peter baptized them. Did Peter come alone? (vs 45) “The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that...the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles”.

With just two visions given to Cornelius and Peter, God’s grace and perfect timing gathered together an uncommon mix of people, Jews and Gentiles, who heard Peter preach the Gospel. As Jesus said, “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life...” (John 6:40). The chapter’s description of dreams and visions of Muslims today, is evidence that God’s grace and perfect timing continues to prepare people’s hearts, without favoritism, giving us opportunities to share the Gospel.



Thank you to Shawn Mahoney (former President), Warren Bey (former Vice President) and Carolyn Bey (former Secretary) who dedicated their time and talents to serving the family of Shepherd of the Hills.

There are many ways that YOU can share your time and talents at Shepherd of the Hills:

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Education Board

Hanni Cowley

hannicowley@charter.net

Elders

Terry Ours

terryours@gmail.com

608-7801422

Evangelism

Kevin Keffe

Keffe.kevin@yahoo.com

Fellowship

Jana Underkofler

joander5js@gmail.com

Human Care

(Chair person needed. Details at The Welcome/Opportunity Center.)

LWML

Kay Conzemius

bkconz@aol.com

Music

Kay Conzemius

kbconz@aol.com

Stewardship

John Berg

johnjberg@outlook.com

Trustees

Kyle Janzen

kjjanzen@msn.com

Youth

(Chair person needed. Details at The Welcome/Opportunity Center.)

Visit our website at sothonalaska.org and click on the Ministries tab for details of ministry duties.)

For more ways to get involved, see page 2.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS FOR JANUARY 16, 2024

Submitted by Carolyn Bey

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Stewardship Report: Year to Date—12/31/23

Total Ministry Support Received—\$438,272.

Total Ministry Expense—\$467,505.

Total Ministry Support Received/Budget—89%

Total Ministry Expense/Budget—77%

Total Congregational Long-Term Debt—\$464,054

We have a significant shortfall, Mark reported. There is a systemic mismatch between income and expenses. A meeting will be planned to discuss how to set goals in order to engage the congregation in participating.

FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Jana reported that they are still in the process of gathering more information.

GENESIS PROJECT UPDATE

Jana reported that they anticipate looking for land in an appropriate location. They are also in the process of coming up with a name for the school. The question was asked how SOTH could support this project while we are experiencing a financial shortfall. Jana said that the other participating churches are having similar problems at this time as well. She explained that they are not needing financial support at this time, and there will be major fundraisers planned.

MISSIONS FOR 2024

John Berg presented several suggestions for our Spring and Fall Missions Support, and after a discussion, the

council voted to recommend to the Voters: St Clair Health Mission for our local spring mission, and Deaconess Kim Buelmann (from Wisconsin) – serving in Germany, for our Out-of-Area missions recipient. Other ideas may be presented by the voters for consideration.

NEW CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS UPDATE

John Berg hopes to be presenting the voters an overview of the highlights of the changes, perhaps for a few minutes, at the January 21 Voters Meeting. If there are many questions/comments, we will hold an informational meeting. If not, we will look for an opportunity to hold a Voter's Meeting to Approve. It will then be sent on to District to approve.

LENTEN MEALS

Jana would like each of the Ministries to pick a date to sign up to plan and serve one of the 6 Lenten Meals. Terry Ours volunteered the Elders to serve the first meal and will serve soup.

PRE-SCHOOL SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

is coming up on Friday February 2nd, from 5pm to 7pm. There will also be a silent auction. Members should wear their nametags so people from the pre-school and the community will know who are members attending. It is a well worthwhile and enjoyable way to spend an evening.

COULEE REGION GOSPEL CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

will be Sunday afternoon, March 24th, at SOTH.



HOPE LHS OPEN HOUSE

See the school in action at the Hope Lutheran High School's Open House **Wednesday February 7 from 4-7 pm.**

Students can attend a shadow day on **Friday February 9** from 7:45am - 11:45 am. Lunch is provided.

Hope is a place that teaches, nurtures, and puts into practice the centrality of Christ's Gospel. Hope has and strives for outstanding academic performance, stewardship of abundant resources, servant leadership, faithful integrity and commitment.

Visit hopelhs.org. Hope Lutheran High School-Preserving and Extending the Kingdom of Jesus Christ!

Who ya' gonna call?

call pastor

If you have a question about spiritual matters, would like Christian counsel or need information about worship services, Bible studies or confirmation...

Rev. David H. Baumgarn

507-227-5646

david.baumgarn@sothonalaska.com

call an elder

If you have questions pertaining to the spiritual needs of the congregation or need help resolving a conflict...

Terry Ours—Head Elder

terryours@gmail.com | 608-780-1422

John Gardner

thejohngardner@charter.net

608-783-1556 (H) | 608-769-0271 ©

Adam Jessie

adam_jessie@hotmail.com | 608-487-3803

Bruce Kerr

bjakerr@gmail.com | 608-385-2880

Kevin Keeffe

keeffe.kevin@yahoo.com | 608-797-5529

Rick Otto

craigsonalaska@yahoo.com | 608-797-1165

Chris Robertson

crobertson@wi-kil.com | 608-790-4152

call martha

If you'd like to promote an event (or update information about an event) in or on...

CHURCH BULLETIN

FACEBOOK (Share up-to-date information, photos and positive comments)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NARTHEX MONITOR

ROAD SIGN (Weather dependent)

THE WEEKLY UPDATE (this is received in a digital format only)

WEBSITE (sothonalaska.org)

You may also find the most up-to-date information on the media platforms listed above.)

608-783-0330 | martha.keeffe@sothonalaska.com

call a ministry chair person

If you'd like to volunteer for a specific ministry or have questions about an upcoming event. The names of the chair people and their contact information are found on page 4 and on our website at sothonalaska.org

call kira

If you need information about...

BUILDING USAGE REQUESTS

BUSINESS ACCOUNTS

CHECK REQUESTS / TAX EXEMPT FORMS / COFFEE HOUR and ALTAR FLOWER REQUESTS

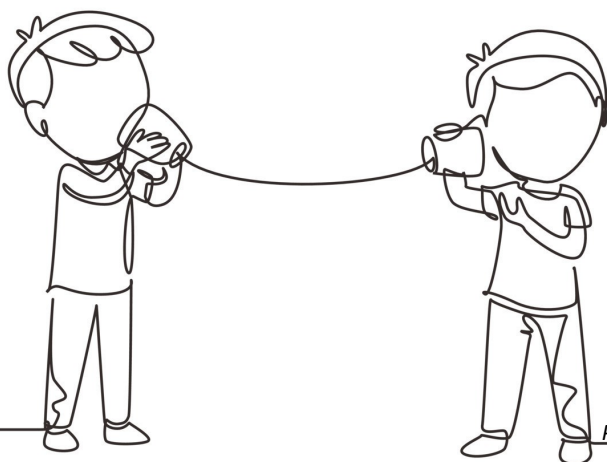
GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

GIVING STATEMENT

OFFICE CALENDAR

WORSHIP SERVICE POWER POINT

608-783-0330 | office@sothonalaska.com





**HAVE A QUESTION?
FIND YOUR ANSWER HERE!**

Q & A

WHY? WHAT? HOW?

Do you have a question about your faith or how our church works? Do you want to know how your faith applies to your daily life? To submit a question, visit the church website at sothonalaska.org and click the Q & A tab. An answer to your question will be posted on the website—just because you asked.

All submissions are anonymous.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES!

- 1 Marla French
- 3 Talia Bembnister
Wren Harper
Evan Londergan
- 4 Meagan Books
Kathy Huth
- 8 Eden Cain
Rya Cowley
- 10 Kurt Ziegelbein
- 11 Murphy Honaker
Donna Jendersee

**Bob and Dianne Campbell
Wedding Anniversary**

- 13 Paul Klipp
- 14 Margaret Jacobs
Ellie Kriese
**Tim and Dawn Heiden
Wedding Anniversary**
- 15 Allan Dale
- 16 Steve Barg
Caitlin Drury
Tyler Lewis
Rick Otto
Jean Ours

- 17 Lola Fry
- 19 Bill Van Ess
- 20 Lorraine Koch
Keith Torgerud
- 24 Carolyn Bey
- 25 Cody Cudo
- 26 Natalie Kriese
- 28 Tatum Jessie
- 29 Ann Hocking

CONTACT US

Kira Peters—Admin. Asst./Church

608-783-0330
office@sothonalaska.com

Rev. David H. Baumgarn

507-227-5646
david.baumgarn@sothonalaska.com

Mark Kolander—Retired Pastor

509-885-2490
koly1759@gmail.com

Terry Ours—Head Elder

608-780—1422
terryours@gmail.com

Shepherd's Flock Preschool

608-781-9445
shepherdsflockonalaska@gmail.com

Martha Keffe—Communications

608-783-0330
martha.keffe@sothonalaska.com

Hanni Cowley—Education Coordinator

608-863-6767
hannicowley@yahoo.com

OFFICE HOURS/COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

Kira's office hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00 am—2:30 pm

Friday

9:00 am—12:00 pm

Martha's office hours

Monday—Wednesday

9:00 am—2:30 pm

Thursday

9:00 am—12:30 pm

Submit ALL bulletin, Weekly Update and Narthex TV entries to Martha by noon on Tuesday of that week. Items received after the deadline will not be included.

March Newsletter submissions must be received by noon on Tuesday, February 20.

CONNECT CARD for members, visitors and friends -

Provide your current contact information to receive up-to-date information on church activities and announcements! Connect cards are located in the back of the church pews.



SHEPHERD'S FLOCK PRESCHOOL

February 2024 • Shepherd of the Hills Newsletter

Monthly Update

It's been a busy January at Shepherd's Flock! During our Jesus Time, we learned about Jesus meeting Anna and Simeon, Jesus as a boy, Jesus at the temple & Jesus' baptism. Our classroom themes included a Restaurant Theme, Gingerbread Man and Winter Fun theme. Remember to stop by the preschool hallway after church on Sunday to see some of the beautiful artwork that our preschoolers have been creating! This month we also hosted Dad's Night! We had a great turn out with most of our families attending! What a blessing it is to be able to spend each day watching our preschoolers grow.

You're Invited!

Please join us for our Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser and Silent Auction on Friday, February 2nd from 5:00pm - 7:00pm.

This is our only fundraiser of the year, and we need your support. All the proceeds that we raise this night help fund our preschool program throughout the year. We can't thank you enough for your continued support of Shepherd's Flock Preschool!



Enrollment for Fall

Enrollment opens on February 5th for members of Shepherd of the Hills Church.

Enrollment opens to the public on February 25th. Please share and invite any families you know that may be looking for a preschool home for their children.

Multi-age classes are available for children ages 3-, 4- and 5-years old
Monday – Thursday from 8:45am – 11:30am.

3 Year Old Class: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday (\$135/month)

4 & 5 Year Old Classes: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday (\$135/month) **OR**
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday (\$155/month)

\$60 Registration Fee

All children must be 3 years old by their 1st day school.

Our preschool open house for interested families will be Sunday, February 25th
from 5:30pm-7:00pm.