



Let the children come to me...  
Matthew 19:13-14

Dear Parents,

*"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* Isaiah 41:10

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to make news, and with reports of confirmed cases in Minnesota, and with Pipestone Area School recommending canceling classes until the end of March, we wanted to touch base to give you information as to how St. Paul Preschool is handling this fluid situation.

### **Information from MN Dept. of Health and CDC**

We highly encourage you to keep up with the MN Dept. of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) webpages concerning the COVID-19. The pages cover prevention, symptoms, guidelines, and the current threat. There have been confirmed cases in the surrounding area, but there are not any confirmed cases in Pipestone County, as of this writing.

Even with cases close to us, the MN Department of Health continues to state, "risk remains low." While there is low risk, we want to help in preventing the spread of sickness and be prepared depending on how the situation progresses. Any directives from the World Health Organization, CDC, or local governmental organizations should be followed.

### **What St. Paul Preschool is Doing**

Since Pipestone Area Schools are cancelling classes, St. Paul Preschool will follow the direction of PAS and cancel its classes during this period, too. We are preparing materials for you to use at home, and if necessary, will make up absent days with a longer school year.

As of right now, the World Health Organization (WHO) and CDC continue to stress prevention from continued washing of hands, disinfecting of common areas, and staying home when sick.

Daily disinfecting includes our classroom and bathrooms. In addition to this regular disinfecting, we will be disinfecting handrails and doors throughout our building while COVID-19 may be a threat. Hand sanitizer is placed in the classroom throughout the year and we will encourage our preschool students to use it regularly.

### **What Parents Can Do**

- Continue to encourage children to wash hands regularly, sanitize after blowing their noses, and sneeze or cough into the arm of their shirts.
- Please talk to your children about the nature of COVID-19. Some may see it as a joke and make light of the situation. It would be beneficial to talk to your children about the seriousness of what it could be and how joking about it can affect others around them. You may not have fear because of your faith or your good health, but others around us may be struggling. Respect their fears, seek to encourage them and pray for them.
- This is also an opportunity to bring our Christian faith into the conversation. While children have many questions, a common one can be "Why do diseases like this happen?" It is a chance to talk about our human story from a biblical perspective. We can tell the story of how we were perfect as part of God's Creation, His love of the human race in giving us free will, humanity's fall into sin, God's love and grace shown to us through the Cross, how our sin is wiped away through the blood of Jesus, and how the Father now sees us as righteous. Through faith, we will spend an eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven. We can also point out how through bad things, God creates good. In perspective of these moments, the situation seems difficult, but in the perspective of eternity, we see it as a blip on the radar in an eternity filled with love in the presence of our majestic Creator!

Please know that we at St. Paul Lutheran Church and Preschool are keeping you in our daily prayers and asking the Lord to bless you and your loved ones during this difficult time.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us through email, cell phone, or at preschool.

In Christ,

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