

## School Philosophy

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."  
(Proverbs 22:6)

Holy Scripture teaches us that through diligent teaching we can make a proper defense of the faith. Our Lord Jesus Christ urges us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, teaching and admonishing one another in His truth. Calling this to the attention of the Apostle Peter in his commission to all ages, Jesus asked him to "Feed my Lambs, Feed my Sheep." Knowing that the education of a child requires not only knowledge in human needs but also those of spiritual needs, the objectives of Bethlehem Lutheran School and Preschool are:

- to provide the opportunity for the children to grow in their relationship with God, knowing the love and forgiveness our Lord Jesus Christ has for them through His words in Holy Scripture, so that they know and love our Lord as Savior and are able to grow in their relationship with their Savior, their family, and their church;
- to provide a comprehensive program of education where children may develop their knowledge, talents, and skills for responsible Christian living and service, while experiencing a positive environment;
- to provide a Christ-centered environment where children can develop strong inner resources: confidence, independence, initiative, and creativity; to provide a preschool program which offers learning experiences that vary as each child's differences and abilities are recognized and respected. This program promotes kindergarten readiness through the development of verbal skills, large and small motor skills, social skills, and rhythmical skills;
- to provide an alternative to public education for parents who desire an educational environment fostered by Christian faculty members, Christian principles and values;
- to provide a formal elementary education in a setting that involves a small student-teacher ratio and hands on learning in an atmosphere conducive to personal learning acceleration commensurate with the child's abilities;
- to provide a setting in which the students will be given opportunities to achieve proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, writing and number skills;
- to provide an environment in which students recognize and respect the uniqueness and individuality of themselves and others;
- to provide an atmosphere where Christian values are taught and where both parents and teachers work for a common goal--Christian nurturing in the Word and Will of God;
- to provide an excellent academic program and life skills while developing a personal relationship with God; and finally, to establish an outreach to the community where Christian love and evangelism are present.

Parochial education at Bethlehem is more than an alternative to Carson City education. It is an opportunity to bring the saving Gospel and the Way of Jesus to the lives of little children. It is as integral a part of our church's educational program as Sunday School classes, Bible classes, Vacation Bible School, and other educational outreaches. It is another effort to obey our Lord when he said, "If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free."