

Fee Increase Effective 01/01/2018

November 29, 2017

Dear Families,

The Congregation of the St. James Lutheran Church reviewed and approved the budget for 2018 on Sunday, November 19, 2017. As in years past, the budget review results in a tuition increase. Each year the tuition increase is directly impacted by the rise of staff salaries and benefit costs. However, this year it was also directly impacted by the elimination of the Keystone Star Merit Award in Pennsylvania.

In August we learned that the Merit award had been eliminated from the state's budget. For the past decade, this money covered most of the annual costs of classroom learning supplies and materials as well as major equipment purchases and minor renovations. The lack of this funding is approximately about the cost of \$250.00 a year per child or \$2.50 per week per child.

Additionally, our organization, like many others, are facing a significant increase in staff benefits which include health, life, disability and retirement as well as a cost of living increase for staff salaries. The bottom line result is an increase in the tuition fees of approximately \$5.00 per week depending on your child's enrollment status. However, even with this increased cost, our tuition is either significantly lower or as low as other programs in the area.

As center director, I think it is important for you to know exactly where your tuition dollars go.

- 88% of the tuition supports staff salaries and benefits,
- 5.3% support church reimbursement fees for utility usage and financial management fees and salary,
- 6.7% covers additional costs of field trips and special events, groceries, staff training and development, classroom supplies and equipment.

We are committed to providing a quality program to you and your children for this reason and quality begins with the staff. The Governance Committee, church and I value the staff that we have. Although it is difficult to face annual tuition increases, with rising insurance costs and elimination of state funds, it cannot be avoided.

Finally, attached you will find an automatic debit form. If you currently are not enrolled in the EFT program, you may wish to consider it. We offer a \$2.00 discount for each child enrolled in the automatic debit – a savings of more than \$100.00 per year per child.

Thank you for the support that you continue to give to St. James Lutheran Church Early Learning Center,

Suzan L. Seibel-Willard, Center Director

2018 Tuition Rates

St. James Lutheran Church Early Learning Center

109 York St.; Gettysburg, PA 17325

717-334-7171

e – mail: childcare@stjamesgettysbug.org

Web Address: stjamesgettysburg.com

Program	4 – 5 Days		3 Days		2 Days	
Infant	\$195.00		\$146.00		\$98.00	
Toddler	\$185.00		\$139.00		\$93.00	
Preschool – Pre-K	\$175.00		\$131.00		\$88.00	
School Age						
Summer	\$165.00		\$124.00		\$83.00	
School Year	Before School	\$53.50	After School	\$65.00	Before and After	\$107.00

Discounts:

St. James Lutheran Church Early Learning Center offers two discounts. For a family who has more than one child enrolled, the family will receive a 10% family discount.

Additionally, if a family enrolls in the EFT program, an additional \$2.00 discount will be applied for each child enrolled.

Payment Policy Reminder:

Payments are due weekly on the first day of care. A \$5.00 fee is added to the weekly tuition if it is unpaid for two consecutive weeks without making budgeting arrangements with the director and financial manager. If no budgeting arrangements are made and tuition is unpaid, **services will not be provided the third week and thereafter until full payment is made.** If the \$5.00 fee is added to tuition a second time in a calendar year, it will become a permanent addition. Once a budget is agreed upon, payments must be kept current as overseen by the director or early learning services will be terminated. If termination of services is necessary, all legal and collection fees incurred are the responsibility of the parent.

2018 Scheduled School Closings

Monday, January 1, 2018

Monday, February 19, 2018

Friday, March 30, 2018

Monday, May 28, 2018

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

Monday, September 3, 2018

Thursday, November 22, 2018

Friday, November 23, 2018

Monday, December 24, 2018

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Monday, December 31, 2018

Tuesday January 1, 2019

New Year's Day

President's Day

(Staff Training Day)

Good Friday

Memorial Day

Independence Day

Labor Day

Thanksgiving Day

Black Friday

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

New Year's Eve

New Year's Day