Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Redeemer Lutheran Preschool & Day Care **Enrollment:** 120 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22048

Street: 301 S Main ST **City:** Ventura Iowa **Zip** 50482 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: PO Box 138, Ventura, IA, 50482

Director's Name: Kari Johnson Markla **Phone Number:** 641-829-3615

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sandy Watson **E-Mail:** redeemerdaycare@cltel.net

Date(s) of Visit: 05-11-2023, 07-14-2023

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** X **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 05-07-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	26		111	23	160
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2022 to 06-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-17-2023

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Redeemer Lutheran Preschool & Daycare on on 05-11-23 -where I met with center director Kari Markla, and on-site supervisor Sandy Watson. Both are well qualified for the positions they hold with extensive experience and training. The program operates on a campus model with utilizing several classrooms in the elementary school located directly across the street from the main programming location at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ventura. Kari acts as the overall director but primarily oversees the operations of the preschool programming at the school location. Sandy oversees the operation of the of the church location and the daycare programming. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors from the church. The center offers daycare programming to infants through preschool age children at the church location. Formal preschool and school age programming is provided at the school location. The formal preschool program operates in 4 sessions with an AM & PM class on MWF for 4 year old children, and an AM and PM class on TTH for 3 year old children. The program currently has approximately 120 children enrolled though some of these are duplicate enrollments of the formal preschool children. There are currently 22 teachers employed by the center. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

As noted the program is housed in two buildings and the general design and layout of buildings and rooms remains the same as in past reports. The preschool programming is operated out of four rooms in the old elementary school building with two that are connected by a small pass-through entry coat area. The pass through provides direct secondary egress to the outdoors and the playground area. The classrooms are divided by age, and use intent. One classroom is used for the 4 year old preschool classes and also has more of a group learning learning arrangement. The other connected classroom is used for the 3 year old preschool and has more of a large motor active play arrangement. School age programming is located across the hallway from the preschool rooms, and the forth room is used arranged for nap and quiet activities. Renovation was completed that added a connecting door between those rooms, and a direct exit to the exterior in the school age room. In observing the napping room it was noted that window coverings can create a very dark environment. This has been identified in the past and the staff had adjusted the coverings so that there was enough light that they can observe the children to determine if they are in distress. Each classroom in this building has a traditional school room design of a large open area with windows located along the exterior walls to provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room has sinks located in the room to facilitate hand washing. The two preschool rooms have toilets directly accessible from the classroom, and the school age room has access to toilets located down the hallway. The building is shared with other programs and so children are escorted to the restrooms when needed. Each room was observed to be clean with no issues noted due to maintenance.

The daycare programming is provided in the original location of the Redeemer Lutheran Church making use of classrooms on two levels and again the general layout and design remain the same as in prior visits. The lower level has an infant room used for older mobile infants, and a larger area for pre-school age children. Restroom facilities and changing stations are located outside the main programming spaces and children are escorted to the bathroom when needed. There are several entrances to the space including a doorway that provides direct access to the outdoors, and a secondary exit providing access to the upper level. The upper level houses an infant area for younger infants. The room has a secondary exit providing direct access to the outdoors. Two other classrooms located on the upper level have been used for preschool age children in the past but renovations are in progress to convert these for additional infant programming. Restroom facilities are located

off a hallway leading to the preschool classrooms. Windows along the exterior walls provide natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors on the upper level. The windows are located along the upper edge of the wall on the lower level and so do not provide much of a view.

Each room of both locations are divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures with the options, and materials increasing in number and complexity with the older age rooms. The activity options include large/small manipulatives, art/crafts, music, reading in all classrooms and expand to include dramatic play, math/science, and group learning in older age rooms. The toys and materials were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Toys in the classrooms for the infants, and children under 4 years of age had parts that were either too large to be a choking risk, or were stored in an area where the teachers could bring them out for supervised play. Each classroom had a copy of the planned schedule but not the curriculum though it was obvious that both were in place and being followed. Good interactions were observed in all classrooms with the teachers of all classrooms responding to the children's needs, and engaging in activities with the children. This included teachers reading to the children, working on craft/coloring activities, and playing with the children either in organized play activities or child directed play activities. The teachers did respond to the behavioral issues well with using positive approaches that included recognizing positive behavior, redirection, and use of time out. Ratios were maintained in each classroom as required by age. Supervision was provided with the teachers dividing children into to smaller activity groups. One issue that was noted when visiting the school building location was that at least one child was allowed into the coat room area separating the two preschool rooms without supervision. Children need to be within the direct line of sight and sound of staff at all times especially given the multiple use nature of the building, and the direct exit from that area.

The center does have established health and safety practices but some practices do need to be reviewed. I was able to observe diaper changes while at the center and each classroom where diapering occurs does need to have a separate trash container for diapers from other trash. When diapering staff did not deglove between handling soiled and clean materials, and when cleaning the changing station the staff were using a bleach water solution but did not preclean the surface. In addition the staff would hold the infants while treating the station. When using chemical cleaners staff need to read and follow the label directions, and should remove children from the immediate area before application. While visiting various classrooms it was noted that items such as an employee purse, chemical cleaners, and sunscreen were stored in areas inaccessible to children. Good safe sleep practices were observed. The center did not have any children that were currently taking any medications but policies and procedures are in place to ensure that required plans and documentation are maintained if needed. First aid kits are maintained at both locations and contain materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Good cleaning and hand washing practices were observed during the time of my visit with the older age children.

Playground facilities are located at both locations with a more traditional school playground at the school site that contains some climbing structures and swings that were left by the elementary school. Kari identified that the children are limited to those structures that are appropriate to the developmental levels of the children. In reviewing the playground equipment it was noted that some set screws for safety rails were becoming loose which allowed the railings to move and need to be tightened. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing and has developed a hard pan layer in high traffic areas such as those beneath swings and the entry/exits to the climbing structures. This needs to be aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of material. The playground also has a large open grassy area, and a paved area where the children can play. In addition to the playground the center has access to the gymnasium space.

The playground at the church building location was reviewed briefly as the center was preparing to have renovation work completed. The new equipment had been delivered and the center did have contractors scheduled to begin removal of old equipment, and install the new equipment.

The center has a full kitchen located at the church building site where meals are prepared for that location. The center was in the process of completing renovations to the kitchen during the visit. Meals for the school age and preschool children were prepared by the school and transported to that location in hot/cold holding containers. A menu is posted and identifies a good variety of nutritious meal options. The preschool program has parents take it in turn to provide snacks for that program though a limited supply of snack items are kept to supplement as needed. A small refrigerator is present for items that need cold holding. Good food storage and handling practices were observed. I was able to observe the morning snack and lunch service. During the snack service it was noted that the snack consisted of raw baby carrots and pretzels which were served directly on the table. Raw carrots are considered a high risk choking food and need to be modified either by cooking so that they are soft, or cut into sticks or other shapes that avoid creating discs or spheres. Additionally food items should be served on plates, paper towels, napkins, or some other option rather than being placed directly on the table surface. Supervision was provided at the tables while the children were eating.

In reviewing administrative records all required postings were present at the church and school location. In addition the required postings for diapering procedures, hand washing, and evacuation were posted as required though the diapering procedures posting for the 2-3 year old children was covered. Required postings need to be maintained so that they are clearly visible at all times. A random sample of 10 child files were selected for review. Of those files 4 needed a renewed physical and 6 needed an annual update. It was noted that the files reviewed did appear to contain records for children no

longer attending the center. A random selection of 4 staff files were reviewed and each was missing at least one required element. A request was made for the center to review and update the records and provide documentation of the current status. That documentation was received on 07-14-23. The updated documentation provided a sample of 25% of the child files which had all be updated and contained all required information. The documentation was completed for all staff files and identified 11 needed initial or updated 1st Aid/CPR training, 8 needed a current physical, 8 needed an FBI Fingerprint record check, and 11 needed an updated Iowa SING record check. It was noted that those that needed an updated SING check had prior checks that expired at the end of June. Kari also identified that arrangements were being made to complete the fingerprint checks. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates a current Fuel Burning Appliances inspection was not available with the last documentation dated 2019. As a reminder all fuel burning appliances must be inspected annually to ensure that they are in good working order with no gas or carbon monoxide leaks. This should be done in the fall prior to the start of the heating season. Emergency Evacuation Drills were also not logged as having been conducted monthly for the church location. Drills were not logged for April fire, or April and May tornado. It was reviewed that the drills must be documented or they are considered to not have occurred.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has received several grants and has been engaging in substantial renovations. This includes the exit doors of the school age program classroom, renovations of a new infant area, renovations of the church location kitchen, and plans to install new playground equipment.

The program is participating the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is in the certification stage.

The center is working to implement the use of the Brightwheel computer application which will allow the use of electronic files, and parental communication.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 10

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 8

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 8

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic

conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 4

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Documentation of fire drills not present for April, and documentation of tornado drills not present for April or May.

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-- A child was observed to be in the pass-through coat area of the preschool rooms at the school location where the child was not within the direct line of sight or sound of staff. Children must be supervised at all times.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Documentation of was missing for the school location, and expired for the church location.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
-- Documentation for the church location was expired.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
-- A separate trash can for diapers is needed. Staff did not de-glove between handling soiled and clean materials. Staff need to read and follow manufacturer label directions when using chemical cleaners. Staff holding infants while using chemical cleaners. Changing procedures posting needs to be visible at all times.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
-- Raw baby carrots were served whole and need to be cut into stick or other shapes that do not include discs or spheres, or cooked so that they are soft. Foods also need to be served on plates, paper towels, or some other option rather than directly on table surfaces.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.