



## SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

**September 1:** Tuition due — Beginning with September's payment, a \$15 late fee will be accessed for payments received after the 5th of each month.

**Thursday, September 1 & Friday, September 9:** Fire/Property Evacuation Drills at 10:30 am

**Monday, September 5:** Labor Day — No School

**Friday, September 9:** Children's Worship Begins (see pg. 3)

**Thursday, September 15 & Friday, September 16:** Get Quiet Drills (see pg. 2)

**Tuesday, September 20:** Preschool Committee Meeting at 7:00 pm over Zoom

**Friday, October 21:** Fall Festival (see pg. 2)

At the preschool, we are becoming super germ fighters by learning to wash our hands well!



Here is what we do:

1. Get some soap.
2. Rub and scrub for 20 seconds.
3. Scrub all hand surfaces, including the backs of hands, between fingers, wrists, finger tips (nails).
4. Rinse with water.
5. Dry with a paper towel.
6. Use a paper towel to turn off the water.

You can help us by practicing with your child at home!

Thank you to all who joined us for the Rally Day and Preschool Blessing!



Thanks to your help, we're off to a smooth start!

- Providing completed paperwork and documentation.
- Attending New Parent Orientations.
- Dropping off and picking up on time.
- Letting us know when your child has an appointment or will be late or absent.
- Keeping your child home when he or she is sick.
- Establishing consistent good-bye routines.
- Labeling your child's belongings.
- Cleaning and disinfecting water bottles and lunch boxes daily.
- Signing up for and providing snack.
- Asking great questions.
- Most of all, your patience and kindness with beginning of the year hurdles.



All of these and more are making a difference and we couldn't be more grateful!

# FALL FESTIVAL

*You are invited to join us for a fun filled family evening on Friday, October 21st! Come for games, prizes, and delicious food to eat.*

*Wristbands for children will be sold in advance in the school office beginning Monday, October 10th. Wristbands allow children to experience all of the activities.*

*Wristbands will also be sold the evening of the event.*

*Dinner and snacks will be available for purchase.*

*Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to the event if they would like to. We request that costumes not be scary, violent, or inappropriate in nature.*

## AM Extended Care Breakfast Reminder

Children who attend AM Extended Care and arrive before 8:15 can bring breakfast from home to eat in the classroom. Breakfast will end by 8:30 to allow for children to transition to outside play. If your child will be arriving after 8:15, please be sure to feed him or her breakfast before arriving at school. Please remember that our "no nuts" policy applies to breakfast as well.



## Emergency Drills — "Get Quiet Drills"

As we hope your child has shared with you, we have experienced several fire drills these past few weeks of school. Now that children are feeling comfortable with how fire/property evacuation drills work, we will be introducing "get quiet drills".

As adults, we are unfortunately familiar with horrific events that have taken place. While the circumstances are unspeakable, lives can be saved when staff members and children practice lock down drills and know what to do.

At St. Luke, we call these drills "get quiet drills". We do not in any way want children to be fearful, so we approach this in much the same way that we approach fire drills. We simply practice being quiet together in a safe place for a short time. The developmentally appropriate and consistent language we use is, "We are practicing so we know what to do in an emergency." Please feel free to talk with us about drills or about any other concerns you may have.

## St. Luke T-Shirts Are Coming!

A complimentary St. Luke t-shirt featuring our logo will be ordered for your child in his/ her class color.

Please stop by the tables at the front preschool entrance to let us know your child's size.



## Children's Worship

Preschool classes meet on alternating Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the school year for Children's Worship. At Worship, we sing, pray, and experience an age appropriate bible story together in the sanctuary of St. Luke Lutheran Church. Parents or other family members are welcome to join us for Worship! Times are as follows:

KinderPrep (Kathy and Staci) — 9:30 am on Tuesdays only  
Older Multi-age (Claudia and Cherish — 10:30 am  
Intermediate Multi-age — 11:00 am  
Younger Multi-age Monarchs and Swallowtails (Kaylynn, Candice, Clarisa, Deborah and Tarin) — 11:15 am

Here is our September Worship schedule:

- Friday, September 9th and Tuesday, September 13th: Welcome to Worship
- Friday, September 23rd, and Tuesday September 27th: Creation — Genesis 1:1-2:3



You and your child may wish to read "The Creation Story" from a children's bible. Spend some time outside playing, walking, or hiking together. Observe the sky, plants, insects, animals, rocks, and experience the wonder of what God has created.

From the desk of our



Now that our school year is underway, please note that tuition is due by the 1st of each month. Beginning with September, a late fee of \$15.00 will be assessed for payments received after the 5th. Tuition can be paid online through Brightwheel, or by cash or check given to Jane or Lori. Please be advised that should you choose to pay online through Brightwheel, there is a 2.9% convenience fee, based on the invoice total, for each credit card use. A less expensive option is to pay through your bank account with ACH. This fee is 90 cents per transaction.

If you should have any questions pertaining to your billing, please do not hesitate to email me at

[stlukechurch.bkp@gmail.com](mailto:stlukechurch.bkp@gmail.com).

Thank you, Michelle

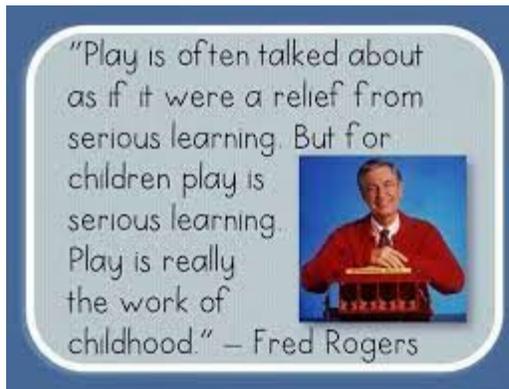
If you are able to participate in **United Way** through your employer, consider directing your United Way contributions to St. Luke Preschool. Contributions that we receive go directly to our scholarship fund, which creates the opportunity for children to attend preschool, who might not otherwise be able to.

Thank you to all families who have contributed to our scholarship program through United Way.

This year to date,  
we have received \$259.20!

Together we make a difference!





## Illness Policy

Thank you for partnering with us to combat illness at the preschool!

- Call the preschool office at 292-8812 or send an e-mail to both Lori and Jane (stlukesc@thuntek.net **and** stlukepreshool1956@gmail.com) **any** time your child will be absent, even if he/she is not sick.
- Please see the updated (as of August 22nd) Quarantine and Isolation Guidance for All Providers that is attached along with this e-mail, for how to proceed in the event a child (or staff member) has been exposed or has tested positive for COVID.
- In order to return to the preschool, following a non-COVID related illness, children (and staff) must be **fever free (without medication), diarrhea free, and vomiting free for 24 hours, and exhibit two or less symptoms. Children must also be able to participate in the school day successfully with respect to energy level and engagement.**

If your child becomes ill while at school, you will be called to pick him/ her up within 30 minutes of receiving the call. Please be sure to keep your contact information updated with us and let us know of any questions you may have.

More detailed information about illness, health, and safety can be found in the Family Handbook starting on page 20.



We need to hire several new substitute teachers. If you know someone who is passionate about working with young children and would enjoy part time, flexible hours, please let us know!



# PRESCHOOL

# Community Events!

As we continue to move forward from the pandemic, we are excited about offering some of our annual events, in a way that celebrates our community, while at the same time is cautious with respect to illness. Our plans include:

- Friday, October 21st in the evening: **Fall Festival** — We are imagining this to be a downsized version of previous events and held entirely outside at the preschool.
- Monday, October 31st and Tuesday, November 1st at 9:15 am: **Costume Parades and Pastries for Parents** — To be held entirely outside in the courtyard, playground, and parking lot.
- Monday, December 19th and Tuesday, December 20th: **Christmas Programs and Receptions** — On a smaller scale with individual classes, as opposed to the whole school at once, to be held in the sanctuary of the church.
- Wednesday, May 17th and Thursday, May 18th: **Spring Programs and Receptions** — Again, on a smaller scale with individual classes, as opposed to the whole school at once, to be held in the sanctuary of the church.
- Friday, May 19th: **End of the Year Family Picnic** — 10:00 am-12:00 noon —To be held entirely outside at Hoffman Park.

These events are a starting place, and we look forward to sharing more details with you soon!

## Volunteers in the Classrooms

We **very much** value parent and family involvement in the life of the classrooms and the preschool. Now that we have been released from the classroom quarantine and closure mandate, we plan to begin extending opportunities for you to join us, if you would like to. As always, this is an invitation, not an expectation.

Thank you for your patience while we work out the logistical pieces—it's been a long two years! Be watching for details from your child's teacher soon.

# The Importance of Process Focused Art Experiences for Young Children



Early childhood is the optimal time for encouraging a child's sense of wonder, nurturing creativity, exploration, and the love of learning. Process focused art experiences are developmentally appropriate and are based on the open ended exploration of a variety of techniques, tools, and materials.



## Characteristics of process focused art experiences

- There are no step-by-step instructions.
- There is no right or wrong way to explore and create.
- The art is unique and original.
- The experience is relaxing or calming.
- The art is entirely the child's own.
- The experience is a child's choice.
- There is no adult created example for the child to follow.
- Children often say:  
"Look what I made!"  
"I want to make another!"  
"Can I have more time?"

## Characteristics of product focused art experiences

- Children have instructions to follow.
- There is a finished product in mind.
- The children's finished art all looks the same.
- There is a right and a wrong way to proceed.
- The children experience frustration.
- The adult might "fix mistakes".
- An adult created a sample for the child to follow.
- Children often say:  
"Can I be done now?"  
"I can't do it."  
"Mine doesn't look like yours."

Be watching for your child's process focused art to be displayed in the classroom, the hallway, and to come home to you!

## Benefits of Process Focused Art Include:

**Social and Emotional** — Children can express their feelings, ideas, and imagination through art and feel successful.

**Language and Literacy** — Children may choose to discuss their art, add print to it, or dictate a story about it.

**Cognitive** — Children compare, predict, plan, problem solve, practice spatial relationships, measure, learn about color, shape, and size, and so much more!

**Fine Motor Skills** — squeezing, gluing, cutting, painting, spraying, dripping, brushing, and more strengthen the muscles in fingers and hands that will be used later for writing.