



March 2026

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK 2026

MARCH 1ST - 7TH
"BRAVE"

During Lutheran Schools Week, we draw on the less common stories of leadership as seen in kids throughout the Bible, with the overarching theme from John 13: 34-35. Through daily devotionals, age-appropriate worship activities, and spiritual connection, we focus on how kids throughout the Bible showed bravery, faith, and love.



Serving 140,000 Children
17,000 Staff
1,300 ELCA Schools and Learning Centers



At St. Luke Preschool, we will be celebrating **Lutheran Schools Week** with

Themed Spirit Days,
Guest Story Readers,
Family Literacy Night, and the
Scholastic Book Fair!

See pages 2, 3, & 4 for the details!

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SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

- March 1: Private Pay Tuition Due — A \$15 late fee will be assessed for payments received after March 5
- March 2 — 6: Lutheran Schools Week (See pgs. 2, 3, & 4)
- March 4 — 6: Scholastic Book Fair (See pg. 4)
- Tuesday, March 3 & Wednesday, March 4: Guest Story Readers (See pg. 4)
- Friday, March 6: Literacy Night, 5:30-7:00 pm (See pgs. 2 & 3)
- Tuesday, March 10 & Thursday, March 11: Get Quiet Drills at 9:30 am
- Tuesday, March 17: Preschool Committee Meeting — over Zoom at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day — Wear Green Today!
- Thursday, March 26: Fire / Property Evacuation Drill at 9:30 am
- Monday, March 30 — Friday, April 3: Spring Break — No School
- Thursday, April 9 & Friday, April 10: School Photos
- Thursday, April 16 & Friday, April 17: Parent / Teacher Conferences — No School
- Wednesday, April 22 & Thursday, April 23: Preschool Village Meet-Ups — 11:45 am
- Monday, April 27: Enrollment Packets Due (See pg. 6)
- Friday, May 8: KinderPrep Spring Program — 9:15 am
- Monday, May 11 & Tuesday, May 12: Spring Programs — IMA and OMA at 9:15 am
Swallowtails and Monarchs at 11:15 am
- Thursday, May 14: Last Day of School
- Friday, May 15: End of Year Picnic in the Park

Please join us for our



Friday, March 6 From 5:30 – 7:00 pm
at St. Luke Preschool

The evening will include a burrito dinner, games,
activities, and story times!

In order to plan and prepare, pre-purchased
Wristbands are required.

There will be no sales on the night of the event.

Pre-sale wristbands will be available in the preschool office from
Friday, February 20 – Wednesday, March 4.

Children's wristbands are \$10.00 and include dinner & activities.
Adult wristbands are \$5.00 and include dinner.

Be Sure to Visit Every Classroom For Our Literacy Themed Activities!

Where's My Teddy? Teddy Bear Toss Game with Ms. Laura & Ms. Aaliyah

The Pout – Pout Fish Fishing Game with Ms. Jessica & Ms. Jena

Pig the Pug Game and Letter Search with Ms. Julianne & Ms. Daisy

What Would Danny Do? Make & Take with Ms. JoEllen & Ms. Moriah

We're Going On a Bear Hunt Obstacle Course with Ms. Kathy & Ms. Sydney

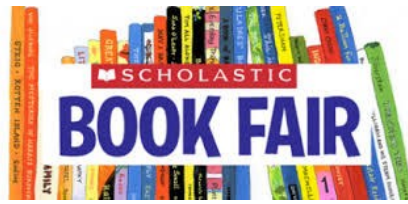
Story Time With Ms. Lea, The Children's Librarian From The Tony Hillerman Public Library in the Zuni Room of the Administration Building

Book Walk With Ms. Lori in Fellowship Hall

Mosquito Burrito, Goodnight Veggies, Ten Apples Up on Top, and If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

Burrito Dinner with Ms. Jane and Preschool Committee Members

Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the
Preschool Professional Development Fund.
This very special fund pays for trainings and coursework for our staff.



Come and shop onsite at our Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday, March 4 – Friday, March 6!
You may wish to stop and shop at drop off or pick up times,
or when you come for Literacy Night.

A wonderful array of preschool books will be available for you to choose from.
Enjoy some reading fun together and benefit the preschool at the same time!

Cash and credit or debit cards will be accepted. No checks, please.

Celebrating Lutheran Schools Week! March 2-6, With Special Themed Days:

- Monday, March 2 and Tuesday, March 3: Wear Your Pajamas to School and Bring a Stuffy!
- Wednesday, March 4 and Thursday, March 5: Crazy Hair and Hat Days!
- Friday, March 6: St. Luke T-Shirt and Silly Socks Day!

The **KinderPrep** class will celebrate as follows:

- Monday, March 2: Wear Your Pajamas to School and Bring a Stuffy!
- Tuesday, March 3: Show & Tell!!
- Wednesday, March 4: Crazy Hair and Hat Day!
- Thursday, March 5: Dress Like an Animal Day!
- Friday, March 6: St. Luke T-Shirt and Silly Socks Day!

And Guest Story Readers:

Volunteers from the Learners and Servers group of St. Luke Church will be visiting each class and joining the teachers as guest story readers on Tuesday, March 3 and Wednesday, March 4.

Stories to be read include:
God Cares For Me by Kristen Wetherell, *Little Ewe* by Laura Sassi,
Each Day is a Gift by Lisl H. Detlefsen,
and *The Good Shepherd and the Stubborn Sheep* by Hannah E. Harrison

Children's Worship

- Thursday, March 5 — Jesus the King (Matthew 21:1—11 and Mark 11:1—11)
- Friday, March 13 — Jesus the King
- Thursday, March 19 — Jesus is Risen (Matthew 27:57—28:10, John 20:1—18, and Luke 24:1—12)
- **Wednesday** March 25 — Jesus is Risen

As you create Easter traditions for your family, consider making Resurrection Cookies or Resurrection Rolls to illustrate the joy of Easter and the gift of eternal life that God has given to us. Recipes and other "empty tomb", Easter, and Palm Sunday ideas can be found on Pinterest.

During the month of April, we will be singing "Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah, Praise Ye the Lord". If you and your child would like to sing it together, it can be found on Spotify.



Parents and Family Members Are
Welcome to Join Us!

KinderPrep (Kathy & Sydney) - 9:30 am
Fridays and Wednesdays only

Older Multi-Age (JoEllen and Moriah) and
Intermediate Multi-Age (Julianne & Daisy) -
10:45 am

Monarchs (Jessica and Jena) and
Swallowtails (Laura & Aaliyah) - 11:15 am

Illness Policy

Thank you for your help with the health and wellness of the preschool community.
Together we make a difference!

- **Send a Brightwheel message or an e-mail to both Lori and Jane any time your child will be absent, even if he/ she is not sick, as we are required to track absences.**
Lori — stlukesc@thuntek.net Jane — stlukepreschool1956@gmail.com
- In order to return to the preschool following illness, children (and staff) must be:
fever free (without medication), diarrhea free, and vomiting free for 24 hours, and able to participate in the school day successfully with respect to energy level and engagement. Children with excessive amounts of mucus and coughing should remain at home to help minimize illness at the preschool.

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 local contact information updated with us. If we are unable to get ahold of a parent, we will continue calling down the list of emergency contacts until we reach someone.

Enrollment Packets

If your child is pre-registered for the 2026 -2027 school year, you will receive the full enrollment packet the week of April 13th. Completed packets will be due back to the preschool office no later than Monday, April 27th. Please let us know of any questions you may have about our enrollment process.

PRESCHOOL
REGISTRATION



Upcoming St. Luke Spirit Days!

- Friday, March 6th
- Friday, March 13th
- Thursday, March 19th
- Wednesday, March 25th



Your child can wear his/ her St. Luke t-shirt for Spirit Days or any day!



School photos will take place on Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10
KinderPrep photos will be on Friday, April 9 only.

More details to come!

Read Together to Support Early Literacy

Children who have lots of experiences with books absorb the rhythms and patterns of language and, at surprisingly early ages, begin to imitate the language and gestures their parents and caregivers use while sharing stories, sometimes turning pages and murmuring as they “read” the pictures.

While we can’t expect infants and toddlers to learn to read and write yet, they are nevertheless developing skills that provide a foundation for later literacy. When you share books with your very young child you support emerging literacy as you:

- help your child learn that pictures and words are symbols that can be interpreted;
- expose your child to new words, thereby increasing her vocabulary; and
- familiarize your child with the conventions of print.

Understanding pictures and print as symbols

Within their first 18 months, most infants who have explored and shared books with adults show an understanding that pictures symbolize things in the real world, an understanding that is uniquely human (Barton & Brophy-Herb 2006). For example, at around 12 months, an infant seems to understand that the cup in a picture on the page represents a cup like the one she drinks from every day. She may tell you about the connection she is making by looking at the picture and pointing to a nearby cup. Another child, age 17 months, enjoying the book *Goodnight Moon* with his dad, may murmur, “Hush,” when his dad turns to the page about a quiet old lady who was whispering, “Hush” (Schickedanz 1999). Understanding that pictures are symbols of real things is a first step toward understanding that print also represents ideas of items in the real world.

Children may begin to notice print in addition to pictures between 15 and 20 months, and by 32 months a child may move a finger or her whole hand across a line of print and verbalize her memory of what the text says (Schickedanz 1999). Although we might find constantly answering the question, “What say?” exhausting, children’s recognition that pictures and print convey meaning is an important step in emerging literacy that we need to support by responding to their inquiries (Neuman, Copple, & Bredekamp 2000).

Increasing vocabulary

Sharing books will expand your very young child’s growing vocabulary. Storybooks often use words in ways that are different from how we use those same words in everyday conversation. Books also use words that are generally absent from day-to-day speech. *The Napping House*, for example, contains many descriptive words related to napping, such as *slumbering*, *snoozing*, and *dozing*, which adults may rarely use in a conversation with a child. By hearing new words in the context of a story and having them explained by an adult, children’s word comprehension will grow, and they will eventually incorporate new words into their spoken vocabularies.

Learning the conventions of print

Through early exposure to books, children begin to learn about the conventions of reading in their own language. For example, very young children using books in English learn that they are read from front to back, from the left of the page to the right, and from the top of the page to the bottom. Books in some other languages have different print conventions. Children learn that books have names (or “titles”) and that they are written by “authors.” Some older toddlers might be interested in books whose layouts break the rules; for example, books that are read from back to front, from right to left, or up and down the page in vertical columns.

Article from NAEYC for Families

References

Barton, LR, & H.E. Brophy-Herb. 2006. “Developmental Foundations for Language and Literacy from Birth to Three Years.” In *Learning to Read the World: Language and Literacy in the First Three Years*, eds. SE. Rosenkoetter & J. Knapp-Philo, 15–60. Washington, DC: Zero to Three.

Neuman, SB, C. Copple, & S. Bredekamp. 2000. *Learning to Read and Write: Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Children*. Washington, DC: NAEYC.

Schickedanz, J. 1999. *Much More than the ABCs: The Early Stages of Reading and Writing*. Washington, DC: NAEYC.

Adapted from Birckmayer, J, A. Kennedy, & A. Stonehouse. 2008. From Lullabies to Literature: Stories in the Lives of Infants and Toddlers. Washington, DC: NAEYC, 45–46.

