



Lutheran Schools Week

The week of March 3-9 is Lutheran Schools Week. This year's theme is "On the Road". Here is how we plan to celebrate:

- **Monday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 5: St. Luke T-Shirts and Crazy Socks Days!**
- **Wednesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 7: Pajama Days!**
- **Friday, March 8: Crazy Hair and Hat Day!**

The KinderPrep class will celebrate as follows:

- **Monday, March 4: Silly Socks Day!**
- **Tuesday, March 5: St. Luke T-Shirts and Wear Red Day!**
- **Wednesday, March 6: Bring a Stuffedie to School Day!**
- **Thursday, March 7: Pajama Day!**
- **Friday, March 10: Crazy Hair and Hat Day!**

March, 2024

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

March 1: Tuition due — A \$15 late fee will be assessed for payments received after March 5

February 28: Lenten Soup Supper: 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall (See pg. 5)

March 3 — 9: Lutheran Schools Week

Wednesday, March 6: Lenten Soup Supper: 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall (See pg. 5)

Wednesday, March 13: Lenten Soup Supper: 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall (See pg. 5)

Friday, March 15: Literacy Night — 5:00-6:30 pm (See pgs. 2 & 3)

Tuesday, March 19: Preschool Committee Meeting — 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 20: Lenten Soup Supper: 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall (See pg. 5)

Wednesday, March 27 & Thursday, March 28: Lion's Club Operation KidSight Eye Screenings Rescheduled (See pg. 6)

Friday, March 29: Good Friday — No School

Sunday, March 31: Happy Easter, Christ is Risen!

Monday, April 1 — Friday, April 5: Spring Break — No School

Thursday, April 18 & Friday, April 19: Parent / Teacher Conferences — No School

Wednesday, April 24 & Thursday, April 25: School Photos

Friday, April 26: Enrollment Packets Due (See pg. 6)

Friday, May 10: KinderPrep Spring Program — 9:15 am

**Monday, May 13 & Tuesday, May 14: Spring Programs — IMA and OMA at 9:15 am
Swallowtails and Monarchs at 11:15 am**

Thursday, May 16: Last Day of School

Friday, May 17: End of Year Picnic in the Park

Lutheran Schools Week March 3-9 2024



The ELEA, Evangelical Lutheran Education Association, serves our Lutheran educational communities.

1,300 Schools | 18,000 Employees | 120,000 Students

We Celebrate This Ministry Together!

Please join us for our



Friday, March 15 From 5:00-6:30 pm
at St. Luke Preschool

Activities will include a taco bar dinner, games
and story times!

In order to plan and prepare, pre-purchased wristbands are
required for the taco bar dinner. Pre-sale wristbands will be
available in the preschool office from
Friday, March 1 – Wednesday, March 13

Child's wristbands are \$10.00 and include dinner & activities
Adult wristbands are \$5.00 and include dinner
Handstamps at the door are \$5.00 for children & adults for
activities only (no dinner)

Literacy Themed Activities Will Include:



The Dot – Art With Ms. Clarisa & Ms. Amanda

Where's My Teddy? – Teddy Bear Rescue With Ms. Laura & Ms. Victoria

Marvin Gets Mad and *Marvin Wants More* – Art and Letter Search With Ms. Kelly & Ms. Daisy

Pete the Cat – Make & Take With Ms. Claudia & Ms. Candice

Bear Hunt – Obstacle Course With Ms. Kathy & Ms. Staci

Musical Stories With Ms. Danielle

Bible Stories With Pastor Christa

Story Time With Ms. Leah – The Children's Librarian From The Tony Hillerman Public Library

Book Walk With Ms. Lori

Dragons Love Tacos – Taco Bar 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 teachers.
We value life long learning!

Children's Worship

- Friday, March 1 — Jesus the King (Matthew 21:1—11 and Mark 11:1—11)
- Thursday, March 7 — Jesus the King
- Friday, March 15 — Jesus is Risen (Matthew 27:57—28:10, John 20:1—18, and Luke 24:1—12)
- Thursday, March 28 — 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.

In March, we will be singing “Jesus Loves Me”. Did you know this beloved song is over 150 years old?!



“Jesus Loves Me”

*Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes,
Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.*

Parents and Family Members Are
Welcome to Join Us!

KinderPrep (Kathy & Staci) - 9:30 Thursdays only
Older Multi-Age (Claudia & Candice) and
Intermediate Multi-Age (Kelly & Daisy) - 10:45
Younger Multi-Age Monarchs and
Swallowtails (Clarisa, Amanda, Laura, and
Victoria) - 11:15

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 Be sure to let us know your child's symptoms.
- 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.

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

Join Us For Lenten Soup Suppers, Crafts, and Services

5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at St. Luke Lutheran Church



Wednesday, February 28: Resurrection Story Wheel
Wednesday, March 6: He Has Risen Handprint Craft
Wednesday, March 13: Beaded Crosses
Wednesday, March 20: Palm Branch Craft

Families are welcome!

St. Luke Lutheran Church Easter Sunday Services, Potluck Breakfast, and Egg Hunt!

You are warmly invited to attend the Easter Sunday Worship Services and Celebrations at the following times:

- **8:15 am:** Worship Service
- **9:30 am:** Children's Easter Egg Hunt
On the playground for preschoolers and kindergarteners
In the courtyard for 1st-5th graders
Children should bring their own baskets for egg hunting
- **10:30 am:** Worship Service

We would love to see you there!



School photos
will take place on
Wednesday, April 24
and
Thursday, April 25.
More details to come!

Financial Assistance

Each year, tuition assistance is given to a few students at St. Luke based on financial need. To apply please see Lori for more information and an application. Along with the application, the following supporting documentation is required to be submitted.

- The previous year's tax return
- Monthly income and expense budget

Applications are due by Monday, May 6, 2024 for the 2024-2025 School Year. Financial assistance is not available for Summer Child Care.

All requests, financial information, and determination are kept strictly confidential.

Upcoming St. Luke Spirit Days!

- Monday, March 4th
- Tuesday, March 5th
- Thursday, March 14th
- Friday, March 22nd
- Thursday, March 28th



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



The Lion's Club Operation KidSight Eye Screenings have been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 27 and Thursday, March 28th. If you previously turned in a permission form, there is nothing further for you to do. If you have not turned in a form, but would still like for your child to participate, please stop by the office to fill out a form.

Enrollment Packets

If your child is pre-registered for the 2024-2025 school year, you will receive the full enrollment packet the week of April 8th. Completed packets will be due back to the preschool office no later than Friday, April 26th. Please let us know of any questions you may have about the enrollment process.

PRESCHOOL
REGISTRATION



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, & HE. 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.

