



September 2026

- Completing paperwork and documentation.
- Attending New Parent Orientations.
- Dropping off and picking up on time.
- Signing in and out at drop off and pick up 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.
- Signing up for and providing snack.
- Asking great questions.
- Most of all, your patience and kindness while we all settle in.

Thanks to you, we're off to a great start!



We Are Super Germ Fighters!

At the preschool, we are committed to minimizing illness wherever possible. Here is what we do:

1. Get some soap.
2. Rub and scrub for 20 seconds.
3. Scrub all hand surfaces, including backs of hands, between fingers, wrists, and 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 these steps with your child at home!



Preschool Happenings

September 1: Private Pay Tuition Due--
Beginning with September's payment, a \$15.00 late fee will be assessed for payments received after the 5th of the month.

Wednesday, Sept. 2: First Day for Children's Worship (See pg. 2)

Friday, Sept. 4: Fire/Property Evacuation Drill at 9:30 am

Monday, Sept. 7: Labor Day--No School

Monday, Sept. 14 & Tuesday, Sept. 15: First Days for Music Classes (See pg. 3)

Tuesday, Sept. 15: Preschool Committee Meeting--7:00 pm over Zoom

Wednesday, Sept. 23 & Thursday, Sept. 24: Get Quiet Drills at 9:30 am (See pg. 5)

Thursday, Oct. 8: Whole School Field Trip to Wildlife West (See pg. 3)

Friday, Oct. 9 & Monday, Oct. 12: Fall Break--No School

Thursday, Oct. 29 & Friday, Oct. 30: Costume Parades and Pastries for Parents Events at 9:15 am

Children's Worship

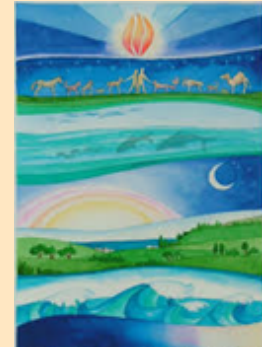
Preschool classes meet on alternating Thursdays and Fridays throughout the school year for Children's Worship. At Worship, we sing, pray, and experience a bible story together in the sanctuary of St. Luke Lutheran Church. Parents and other family members are welcome to join us for Worship! Times are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

KinderPrep (Kathy & Sydney)--9:30 am on Thursdays only

Older Multi-Age (JoEllen & Morgan) and Intermediate Multi-Age (Maria & Moriah)--10:45 am

Younger Multi-Age Monarchs (Jessica & Jena) and Younger Multi-Age Swallowtails (Laura & Alliyah)--11:15 am

During the month of September, we will be singing "God is So Good". You may wish to read *The Creation Story* from a children's bible and spend some time outside playing, walking, or hiking together. Observe the sky, plants, insects, animals, rocks, and experience the wonder of God's creation.



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 email to both Lori and Jane any time your child will be absent, even if he or she is not sick, as we are required to track absences. If your child is sick, please tell us his or her symptoms, as we are also required to track those.**

Lori – stlukes@thuntek.net

Jane – stlukepreshool1956@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 or 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.

Early Childhood Music Classes

We're thrilled that Danielle Cordova, the Music Coordinator for St. Luke Lutheran Church, will be teaching weekly music classes again this year! Her early childhood music instruction will include basic music skills, interpretive movement, singing, experiencing a variety of instruments, ethnically diverse music, exploration of various music styles, dancing, and lots of fun! Music classes will take place on Monday and Tuesday mornings, starting on September 14 and 15. Parents are always welcome to join us!



Be watching for an invitation and details about our Mini Music Classes with guest cellist, Sarah Walder Amata, to take place the week of October 19th!



We will be going on a whole school field trip to
Wildlife West Nature Park

Located in Edgewood
on Thursday, October 8th
from 10:00 am--12:15 pm

The preschool will be closed that day from 9:30 am--12:45 pm while we attend the trip. Children will need to be transported and accompanied by a parent or other adult family member on that day, so be sure to mark your calendar.

The admission fee for each attending adult and children ages 2 and up is \$5.00. Be watching for more information to come your way soon. Meanwhile, you can learn more at Wildlifewest.org

AM Extended Care Breakfast Reminder

Children who attend AM Extended Care and arrive before 8:15 am can bring breakfast to eat in the classroom. Breakfast will end by 8:30 to allow time for children to transition to outside play. If your child will be arriving after 8:15 am, please be sure he or she eats breakfast before arriving at school. Please remember our "no nuts" policy applies to breakfast, just as it does for snacks and lunch time.



St. Luke T-Shirts Are Coming!

A complimentary St. Luke t-shirt, featuring our logo is being ordered for your child. T-shirts will arrive in approximately 3 weeks and can be worn to the Wildlife West Nature Park field trip, on our School Spirit Days, or any day!



We're looking for volunteers to help with wood chip installation!

When: Saturday, September 19 beginning at 8:30 am on the preschool playground.

What to bring: Shovels, rakes, gloves, wheelbarrows (wide tires preferred), your time,



energy and muscles. Please ask Lori in the preschool office for more details.

To ensure safety for everyone, children under the age of 12 will not be allowed on the playground during the installation.

The engineered wood fiber on our playground provides a safe fall surface for the children due to its high impact absorbing qualities. At the same time, it is slip resistant and biodegradable. Since it is made by shredding the insides of trees, it does not contain additives that may be harmful to children. We are required to keep the wood chips at a depth of 15 inches in the fall zones. Currently, the wood chips need replenishing due to natural decomposition.



Preschool & Church Cooperative (PCC)

The goals of the PCC include building and supporting the preschool community, inclusion with the church community, and supporting the church and preschool with community events. Previous events include the annual Coat Drive, Pizza and Pajama Party, Lutheran Schools Week, Literacy Night, the Scholastic Book Fair, Preschool Village Meetups, and Staff Appreciation!

Parents, grandparents, and other family members are welcome to participate
Contact Preschool Parent--
Mary Fidler at mefidler@gmail.com

If you are able to participate in United Way through your employer, consider directing your United Way contributions to St. Luke Preschool. Contributions we receive go directly to benefit the program.

Thank you to all families who have contributed through United Way. This year, to date, we have received

\$395.44

Together we make a difference!



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 the 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 in school settings. 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 language we use consistently is, "We are practicing so we know what to do in an emergency." We understand that it can be emotionally difficult to consider the need for lock down drills, so please feel free to talk with us about concerns you may have.



Thank you to all who joined us for the
Preschool Blessing!
It was a pleasure to have you there!

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 the 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 an example 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, size, texture, 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.

Adapted from NAEYC Teaching Young Children Vol. 7, No. 3

Lauren Bongiorno, PhD, dean of the Division of Education and Human Studies at Champlain College

Meet Our Staff

Each month we will feature members of our staff, so you can get to know us better!

For September, we'll introduce you to our amazing substitute teachers:

Marcela, Barb, Janie, Serenity, Sunny, and Araceli.

Marcela Villa

Marcela was an accomplished Lead Teacher on staff for 21 years, before she retired to spend more time with her 4 grandchildren. She graciously substitutes for us and we are so thankful for her! Marcela holds a BA in Speech and Language.

Barb Radowick

Barb was an amazing Educational Assistant on staff for 19 years, before she retired to spend more time with her 3 grandchildren. Barb's own children and one of her grandchildren (so far) attended St. Luke Preschool.

We are grateful to be able to continue working alongside her!

Janie Lennox

Janie has been a substitute teacher with us for the past 11 years. When she is not caring for her grandchildren, she kindly shares her time with us.

We are pleased to be able to work with her!

Serenity Castor

Serenity is new to St. Luke Preschool this year, and we're happy to be working with her.

She is a full time student, pursuing a bachelor degree, and we're glad she is sharing her time with us!

Sunny Holmes

Sunny is also new to St. Luke Preschool this year, but has been involved with St. Luke Lutheran Church through her work with the non-profit organization, Saranam. Sunny has previous preschool classroom experience and is also taking coursework in the field of Early Childhood Education. Please join us in welcoming her.

Araceli Lozoya

Araceli is new to us this year and is serving as an Educational Assistant in the PM Extended Care portion of the day. She is a student as well, and has some availability to substitute for us. We are happy to be working with her!

Like our teaching staff, our substitute teachers are fully background checked and CPR/First Aid trained. You will see them in classrooms from time-to-time when teachers are out.