



## Sharing the Christmas Story

You are warmly invited to join us in the sanctuary for our Christmas Programs! Come and experience the gift of God's love through the eyes of the children.

KinderPrep (Ms. Kathy & Ms. Larisa) —  
Friday, December 13th at 9:15 am

Older Multi-Age and  
Intermediate Multi-Age (Ms. Claudia,  
Ms. Candice, Ms. Kelly, & Ms. Daisy) —  
Monday, December 16th and Tuesday,  
December 17th at 9:15 am

Monarchs and Swallowtails (Ms. JoEllen,  
Ms. Sharon, Ms. Laura, & Ms. Brenna) —  
Monday, December 16th and Tuesday,  
December 17th at 11:15 am

Please join your child in Fellowship Hall for our reception, following the program.



## SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

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

Monday, November 25 and Tuesday, November 26: Parent-Teacher Conferences — No School

Wednesday, November 27 — Friday, November 29: Thanksgiving Break — No School

Wednesday, December 4 & Thursday, December 5: Preschool Village — 11:45 am--12:30 pm (See Page 3)

Wednesday, December 4, 11, and 18: Advent Soup Suppers at 5:00 pm (See Page 4)

Friday, December 6: St. Luke Spirit T-Shirt Day

Monday, December 9: Fire / Property Evacuation Drill at 11:15 am

Thursday, December 12: St. Luke Spirit T-Shirt Day

Friday, December 13: KinderPrep Christmas Program and Reception (See Page 3 for Reception Request)

Monday, December 16 and Tuesday, December 17: Christmas Programs and Receptions (See Page 3 for Reception Request)

Tuesday, December 17: Preschool Committee Meeting over Zoom at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 18 & Thursday, December 19: Shelter-in-Place Drills at 11:20 am

Monday, December 23-Monday, January 6: Christmas Break — No School, Preschool Offices Closed

Monday, January 1: Check [www.aps.edu/schools/transfers](http://www.aps.edu/schools/transfers) for APS Transfer Form (See Page 3)

Monday, January 6: Teacher Inservice Day — No School

Tuesday, January 7: Welcome to 2025! First Day Back to Preschool

**Please note: Due to Christmas Break, January tuition will be due by January 8. A late fee will be assessed for payments received after January 10.**

Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we were able to join St. Luke Church in donating non-perishable food items for The Storehouse. Thank you for partnering with us!



We very much enjoyed our conference time with you. Thank you for joining us!

As we move into the colder months, it's important to be aware of how closures and delays work. *If APS cancels or delays school, we will too.* This is for APS CITY SCHOOLS ONLY. East Mountain Schools could be cancelled while APS in the city still remains open.

If **APS in the city** announces a 2 hour delay:

- ✦ Students enrolled 9:00 —12:00 or 9:00 — 12:45, classes will be cancelled.
- ✦ AM Extended Care begins at 9:00 am for students who are enrolled in AM Extended Care and 9:00 am — 3:00 pm.
- ✦ Students enrolled in the 9:00 — 3:00 programs – class begins at 11:00 am.
- ✦ PM Extended Care ends at 4:30 pm for students who are enrolled in PM Extended Care.

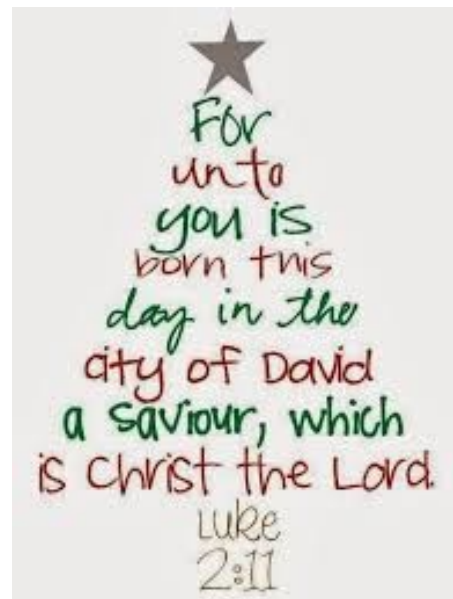
The safety of families and staff is our priority. In the event we have a delay or a closure for the day, you will be notified by e-mail and Brightwheel no later than 6:00 am.



### Thank You for Helping Us Play Outside!

Thank you to everyone for bundling up your children! Hats, mittens, and temperature appropriate jackets make it possible for us to get fresh air, Vitamin D, and large motor play each day. Please help us by **labeling all winter wear items**. This helps us to get the right items to the right child.

**We wish you and your family  
Christmas joy  
and the peace of Christ  
in the new year.**



## St. Luke Preschool Village

The Preschool Village Meet-Ups provide an opportunity for parents and guardians to enjoy each other's company and allow for young children to play together.

Follow the signs to the courtyard and enjoy coffee and a treat on us.  
Activities will be provided for children.

Please do not pick your child up from class early, but join us with younger siblings before pick-up or after pick-up with your preschooler.

### Upcoming Village Dates and Times:

**Wednesday, December 4 & Thursday, December 5, 11:45 am – 12:30 pm**

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Mary Fidler, [mefidler@gmail.com](mailto:mefidler@gmail.com), or Allie Brandt, [stluke.abrandt@gmail.com](mailto:stluke.abrandt@gmail.com).

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## LOOKING AHEAD TO KINDERGARTEN

If your child will be five by August 31, 2025, and you are interested in an APS elementary school that is not in your district, you will want to be watching the APS website for transfer information. Typically, APS begins accepting transfers online on January 1st. You can find more information and learn about the transfer process by visiting [APS.edu/schools/transfers](https://aps.edu/schools/transfers).

## Treat Donations Needed For Our Christmas Program Receptions

Be watching for a Sign Up Genius link to come your way soon, as we welcome your help with providing snacks for our receptions.



## Children's Worship

- Friday, December 6— On the Way to Bethlehem (Luke 2: 1–20)
- Thursday, December 12 — On the Way to Bethlehem

Throughout December, we will be learning about Baby Jesus. You and your child may wish to read about the birth of Jesus from a children's bible. A child friendly nativity set can lend itself well to the retelling of the story. When children can move and interact with the pieces, including Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, angels, shepherds, donkey, sheep, Magi, and more, the story becomes meaningful for them.



Parents and Family Members Are  
Welcome to Join Us!

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

Older Multi-Age (Claudia & Candice) and  
Intermediate Multi-Age (Kelly & Daisy)  
10:45 am

Monarchs (JoEllen & Sharon) and  
Swallowtails (Laura & Brenna) 11:15 am



You are warmly invited to Family Friendly  
Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers, Crafts, and Worship Services  
at St. Luke Church

5:00—6:00 pm — Soup Supper and Craft      Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18  
6:00—6:30 pm — Worship Service



You are warmly invited to the  
Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 pm

St. Luke Lutheran Church

## 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](mailto:stlukesc@thuntek.net) Jane — [stlukepreschool1956@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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



The Preschool and Church Cooperative (PCC) has asked each teacher and staff member for a “wish list”. This list includes some of the teachers’ favorite things, such as restaurants, stores, sweets, flowers, etc. At your request, we can share these via a link to a google drive. Please let the preschool office know if you would like the link. You can also request a copy of your child’s teacher’s Favorite Things by emailing preschool parent, Mary Fidler, at [mefidler@gmail.com](mailto:mefidler@gmail.com).

## NAEYC Standard 5: Health

“The program promotes the nutrition and health of children and protects children and staff from illness and injury”.

In order to benefit the most from their education and to maintain quality of life, children need to be healthy and well. Children depend on adults to make healthy choices for them and teach them to make healthy choices for themselves. Although some degree of risk taking is needed for learning, we are committed to providing hazard free indoor and outdoor learning environments and participating in practices that promote health and wellness for children, families, staff, volunteers, therapists, and others who are a part of the preschool community.

You can learn more about the 10 standards at [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org).



## Open House and Pre-Registration for Next School Year!

Please let your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers know about our Open House that is scheduled for **Sunday, February 2, 2025**, from **3:00 - 5:00 pm**. Current and prospective families will have an opportunity to tour the classrooms, talk with the teachers, and ask questions about our programs.

Pre-registration for the 2025-2026 school year will open to our current families, and church congregation members on Monday, February 3, 2025. Pre-registration for the public will open on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

We do accept Child Care Assistance.

Class offerings for the 2025-2026 school year will be similar to this year and are as follows:

Younger Multi-Age Swallowtails Class: (younger two year olds) — Potty trained not required.

Younger Multi-Age Monarchs Class: (older two and younger three year olds, all children to turn 3 by December 31st) — Potty trained not required.

Intermediate Multi-Age Class: (three year olds) — Fully potty trained is required.\*\*

Older Multi-Age Class: (older threes and four year olds, all children to turn 4 by December 31st) — Fully potty trained is required.\*\*

KinderPrep: (five-day-a-week program for children who will be four years old by August 31, 2025 and moving on to kindergarten the following year) — Fully potty trained is required.\*\*

\*\*Please note that our Fully Potty Trained policy states: "St. Luke enrolls children who are not yet potty trained into our youngest classes, where the classrooms are set up for diapering and potty training opportunities. Only children who are fully potty trained may move up into our older classes. Fully potty trained means the child does not wear diapers or pull ups for any portion of the school day, that there is no pattern of accidents, that both urination and bowel movements take place consistently in the toilet, and the child is able to navigate restrooming successfully with a level of independent skills."

## Summer Preschool

Again this summer, we will be offering  
*Summer Preschool*

for the currently enrolled children whose families have exhibited the need for consistent care — Monday through Friday, 8:00 am — 4:00 pm.

In January, we will be reaching out to these individual families with an invitation to join us for  
*Summer Preschool*  
from May 27th — July 11th, 2025.

Be watching for more information soon!

## Upcoming St. Luke T-Shirt Spirit Days!

- Friday, December 6th
- Thursday, December 12th

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



## Books Make Great Christmas Gifts!



A large body of research supports that one of the most important things parents can do to help their children become readers is to read aloud to them, from the time they are infants. Here are some suggestions for making the most of your read aloud time together:

- read aloud at least once every day and read favorites again and again.
- talk about the story before, during, and after reading.
- find out what kinds of books and authors your child likes best.
- visit the public library with your child.
- share a variety of literature (stories, poems, and informational books) over time.
- suggest activities that go with the books you read. For example, "In this story, Yoko brought sushi to school for lunch. What special food would you like to take for lunch?"
- offer books throughout your home and even outdoors.
- be sure to provide books that reflect your culture, and that are written in your home language as well as in English.
- offer books that address social and emotional issues such as *When Sophie Gets Angry — Really, Really Angry* By Molly Bang.
- offer books about diversity such as *The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz.
- offer books about faith, such as children's bible stories.

### Great book choices for young children include:

ABC and counting books — look for engaging colorful illustrations of the alphabet and numbers such as *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault.

Wordless picture books — stories told through pictures with few or no words such as *Good Dog Carl* by Alexandra Day.

Concept books — pictures or photos of familiar objects or ideas such as colors, shapes, opposites, or sizes such as *Color Dance* by Ann Jonas.

Pattern books — repeating text and predictable plots that allow children to join in, such as *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.

Information books — realistic pictures or photographs that introduce facts about a specific topic, such as *Bugs* by Nancy Winslow Parker and Joan Richards Wright.

Traditional rhymes and stories — nursery rhymes, fairy tales, fables, and folktales from various cultures, such as *Abiyoyo* by Pete Seeger.

Picture books — words and pictures that tell a story about realistic or imaginary characters and events, such as *Abuela* by Arthur Dorros.

Poetry — illustrated poems for young children, such as *I Love* by Eloise Greenfield.

Easy-to-read books — limited vocabulary, rhyme and repetition for beginning readers, such as *The Foot Book* by Dr. Seuss.

Children's bibles — a variety of children's bibles are available, including the *Frolic Preschool Bible* and the *Spark Story Bible*

Resources: NAEYC for Families—[www.NAEYC.org](http://www.NAEYC.org) and *Read With Me*, a RIF Parent/ Teacher Partnership