



March, 2025



Created to Be!

*ELEA Lutheran Schools Weeks*

March 2-8, 2025



140,000 children nurtured and educated

17,000 staff serving

1,300 schools and early learning centers

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

Special Themed Days,  
Guest Story Readers,  
and  
Family Literacy Night!

See pages 2 3 & 4 for the details



## SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

- March 1: Tuition due — A \$15 late fee will be assessed for payments received after March 5
- March 2 — 8: Lutheran Schools Week (See pgs. 2, 3 & 4)
- Tuesday, March 4 & Wednesday, March 5: Guest Story Readers (See pg. 4)
- Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday (See pg. 4)
- Friday, March 7: Literacy Night — 5:00-6:30 pm (See pgs. 2 & 3)
- Tuesday, March 11: Preschool & Church Cooperative (PCC) over Zoom at 7:00 pm (See pg. 5)
- Wednesday, March 12 & Thursday, March 13: Preschool Village Meet Ups — 11:45-12:30 pm (See pg. 5)
- Monday, March 17 — Friday, March 21: Spring Break — No School
- Tuesday, March 18: Preschool Committee Meeting — over Zoom at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 26 & Thursday, March 27: Lion's Club Operation KidSight Eye Screenings (See pgs. 7 & 11)
- Wednesday, April 9 & Thursday, April 10: School Photos — PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECTED DATES
- Wednesday, April 16 & Thursday, April 17: Parent / Teacher Conferences — No School
- Friday, April 18: Good Friday — No School
- Monday, April 28: Enrollment Packets Due (See pg. 6)
- Friday, May 9: KinderPrep Spring Program — 9:15 am
- Monday, May 12 & Tuesday, May 13: Spring Programs — IMA and OMA at 9:15 am  
Swallowtails and Monarchs at 11:15 am
- Thursday, May 15: Last Day of School
- Friday, May 16: End of Year Picnic in the Park
- Wednesdays, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, and 4/9: Lenten Soup Suppers at 5:00 pm and Services at 6:00 pm (See pg. 8)

Please join us for our



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

Activities will include a pizza dinner, games,  
and story times!

In order to plan and prepare, pre-purchased wristbands are  
required for the dinner.

Pre-sale wristbands will be available in the preschool office from  
Friday, February 21 – Wednesday, March 5.

Children'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).

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



*Where's My Teddy?* Game with Ms. Laura & Ms. Brenna

*No David!* Make & Take with Ms. JoEllen & Ms. Sharon

*Pig the Pug* Game 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. Aaliyah

*Musical Stories* With Ms. Danielle & Pastor Brad in the Youth Room

*Story Time* With Ms. Leah, 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

*Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party and Goodnight Veggies*

Pizza and Veggie 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.  
We are committed to life long learning!

## Celebrating Lutheran Schools Week! March 2-8, With Special Themed Days:

- Monday, March 3 and Tuesday, March 4: Wear Your Pajamas to School!
- Wednesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 6: Crazy Hair and Hat Days!
- Friday, March 7: St. Luke T-shirt and Silly Socks Day!

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

- Monday, March 3: Wear Your Pajamas to School!
- Tuesday, March 4: Bring a Stuffedie to School Day!
- Wednesday, March 5: Crazy Hair and Hat Day!
- Thursday, March 6: St. Luke T-Shirt and Wear All Blue Day!
- Friday, March 7: 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 4 and Wednesday, March 5. Stories to be read include *The ABC of God Loves Me, No Greater Love!, and God Knows All About Me.*

#### What is Ash Wednesday?



## Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

On Ash Wednesday, we are marked with the cross using ashes and the words from Genesis, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," reminding us that God loves us and forgives us.

Children can be very curious about the idea of adults wearing ashes in the shape of a cross on their foreheads. Children may wish to have their own ashes as a sign that "I am part of this, too". We are first marked with the cross using water (and sometimes oil) at our baptisms. At that time, to be marked with the cross is a wonderful thing as we are identified as the loved children of God.

At St. Luke Preschool, Pastor Brad will be dispensing ashes for interested parents, children, and staff from 8:45-9:10 am at the preschool main entrance. Whether or not you are Lutheran, whether or not you've had ashes on your forehead before, you are invited to request ashes, to ask questions, and to join the Lenten journey of self-reflection and faith, if you would like to.

Ash Wednesday services at St. Luke Lutheran Church will be observed on Wednesday, March 5, at 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm and are open to all who wish to attend.

You can find a short video clip for children about Ash Wednesday at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTukTohLYrg>

## Children's Worship

- Friday, March 7 — Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
- Thursday, March 13 — Mary and Martha
- Friday, March 28 — Jesus the King (Matthew 21:1—11 and Mark 11:1—11)
- Thursday, April 3 — Jesus the King

In March, we will be singing "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love" by Southwood Lutheran Kids and Mike Mennard. If you'd like to listen to this song or sing it with your child, you can find it on Spotify.



Parents and Family Members Are Always Welcome to Join Us!

KinderPrep (Kathy & Aaliyah) 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

## 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.

**We will be meeting on**

**Wednesday, March 12 and  
Thursday, March 13, 11:45 am — 12:30 pm**

To learn more, 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 would love for you to join us!**



## Preschool & Church Cooperative (PCC)

We will be meeting over Zoom at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 11th.

At that time, we will be planning for  
Teacher Appreciation Luncheons  
and  
The Scholastic Book Fair

Please consider joining us!

Mary Fidler: [mefidler@gmail.com](mailto:mefidler@gmail.com)  
Holly Trujillo: [htrujillo1624@gmail.com](mailto:htrujillo1624@gmail.com)  
Allie Brandt: [stluke.abrandt@gmail.com](mailto:stluke.abrandt@gmail.com)

## Enrollment Packets

If your child is pre-registered for the 2025 -2026 school year, you will receive the full enrollment packet the week of April 7th. Completed packets will be due back to the preschool office no later than Monday, April 28th. Please let us know of any questions you may have about our enrollment process.



Word of mouth has served us well throughout the years and we are honored that you tell others about us!

Please help us spread the word further by placing a review on **greatschools.org**, **Google**, or on our **Facebook page**.

Thank you for allowing your child to learn and grow with us, and thank you for your support!

## Did you know...

The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) offers **child care subsidies** for families that qualify. St. Luke Preschool is pleased to be able to accept this state provided financial assistance.

Visit: [www.nmeccd.org/child-care-assistance/](http://www.nmeccd.org/child-care-assistance/) for eligibility information and details.

## Financial Assistance

Each year, tuition assistance is given to a few students at St. Luke Preschool, 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 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 for the 2025-2026 School Year. Tuition assistance is not available for Summer Preschool.

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



As we move toward enrollment for the 2025—2026 school year, we are grateful that you share with your family, friends, and coworkers about St. Luke Preschool. Word of mouth is the #1 way that families learn about us! You can receive a \$100 tuition credit for referring a new family, and the benefit does not stop there: the family you refer will also receive a \$100 tuition credit off one month's tuition, beginning in September 2025!

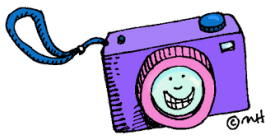


## New Mexico Lions Club Operation Kidsight

The **New Mexico Lions Club** will be visiting St. Luke Preschool with the **OPERATION KIDSIGHT** program. Children ages three and older will be given a free eye screening with parent consent. Please see the attached Consent Form for Eye Screening located on page 11. **Only students whose parents return the Consent Form to the office will be able to participate.**

The Albuquerque Northeast Lions Club will provide screenings on the **mornings of Wednesday, March 26 and Thursday, March 27** during your child's class time. Results will be provided to parents that same day.

If you would like for your child to be screened, please **fill in only the highlighted areas on the form**, and return it to the office by **Monday, March 24**. Hard copies are available in the office.



School photos will take place on **Wednesday, April 9** and **Thursday, April 10**. More details to come!

### Upcoming St. Luke Spirit Days!

- Friday, March 7th
- Thursday, March 13th
- Friday, March 28th
- Thursday, April 3rd



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

## NAEYC Standard 8: Community Relationships

"The program establishes relationships with and uses the resources of the children's communities to support the achievement of program goals."

Effective programs establish and maintain reciprocal relationships with community agencies and institutions that support goals for curriculum, health and wellness, diversity, inclusion, and children's transitions. By helping to connect families with resources, the program further supports healthy development and learning for children.



## Join Us For Lenten Soup Suppers and Services in the Fellowship Hall at St. Luke Lutheran Church



Wednesday, March 12:

Wednesday, March 19:

Wednesday, March 26:

Wednesday, April 2:

Wednesday, April 9:

Soup Suppers at 5:00 pm

Services at 6:00 pm

Families are welcome!

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



# 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.*





Albuquerque Northeast  
Lions Club  
"Operation KidSight"

Dot Bean (505) 980-8820  
dglbean@gmail.com

## Registration and Consent for Eye Screening

Please Screen My Child I have read, and agree, with the information on this sheet and will provide all requested Follow up information.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Print All Information Legibly

M ( ) F ( ) Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact number \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency CTC Name \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Insurance: Private ( ), Medicaid? ( ), None ( )

Has your child been previously seen by an eye Doctor? Y ( ) N ( )

Does your child wear corrective lenses? Y ( ) N ( )

African American ( ) | Caucasian ( ) | Hispanic ( ) | Native American ( ) | Other ( )

The Albuquerque Northeast Lions Club, is giving a free vision screening test. Your child is eligible to have a state of the art digital image taken for evaluation to determine if your child should be tested further by the eye specialist of your choice.

The photo screening and evaluation may determine the presence of eye disorders including far and near sightedness, astigmatism, strabismus, anisometropia, exotropia, esotropia and media opacities (i.e. cataracts). Correction of vision disorders at an early age may greatly improve a child's ability to learn.

**NO PHYSICAL CONTACT IS MADE WITH YOUR CHILDS EYES AND EYE DROPS ARE NOT NECESSARY.**

By signing this form you give permission for your child, to participate in this screening event. You also agree that you understand and consent to the following:

- > I, the parent or legal guardian, understand that I am responsible for arranging for a full eye exam with an eye care professional if I am informed that such an exam would be beneficial for my child by the Digital Image evaluation. I also agree that I will provide the required follow up medical information if further evaluation is indicated.
- > The information obtained from this vision screening is to be considered a preliminary procedure only and does not constitute a diagnosis of or absence of vision problems. It should be utilized only as a part of a comprehensive eye care program which includes regular optometric / ophthalmological exams.
- > The Albuquerque Northeast Lions Club, may keep the names of children screened and the date in order to provide follow up or to avoid unnecessary duplicate screening and may use a separate entity NMLOKS for follow up process. Follow up contact may include information on financial resources available to assist in obtaining eye care.
- > The Albuquerque Northeast Lions Club, will not be held accountable for any errors of commission, omission or other misdiagnosis.

