



First English Lutheran Preschool



Upcoming Events

December and January

***December 2:** Book orders due: N8Z6R FELP code

***December 15:** Pre K class to Elf Jr. Play (Field trip) 10:30 show

***December 16:** Pastor Zell's Christmas Story in the Church, 9:15a.m. Families welcome!

***December 21:**
Christmas Program
9:00-10:00 a.m. (M/W)
10:30-11:30 a.m. (T/Th)

***December 22-January 8:**
NO SCHOOL,
Christmas Break

***January 9:** Classes Resume

***January 16:** NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



December 2016

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Many dads, grandpas and preschoolers enjoyed time together at Hats off to Dad's Night last month. We began the evening with hat songs and then let everyone enjoy a hat snack, books, photo booth, hat games and scavenger hunt. The different classrooms all enjoyed their Thanksgiving Feast with their classmates and teachers. Thanks to all the families who contributed to this fun celebration with food donations or helping hands.

We look forward to seeing your families at our Christmas party and sing-along on December 21, 2016. More details follow in this newsletter. Have a joyous, relaxing Christmas vacation and we will see you next year, January 9th!

This month will just jingle right by, Tracy Gleissner

The WEBSITE is completed so check us out at:

FirstEnglishLutheranPreschool.org!



See school photos, preschool facts, forms, teacher info, resources and parent testimonials on this site. It also contains newsletters! We know you will enjoy it and coming soon, paying monthly tuition from the website. Thank you **Ashley Swanson** for working so hard to design and maintain it for us!



Christmas Party



Our school-wide Family Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 21, 2016. Families attend with their child. Monday/Wednesday children and families are invited to attend from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday/Thursday children and families are invited from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Families are asked to bring a treat to share. The 2's class may bring a fruit/vegetable snack, while the 3/4 's class may bring an appetizer. Pre K class can provide a sweet treat. For this special event the food does not have to adhere to our nutritional guidelines. Punch will be provided.

Upon arrival, families will go to the church (preschoolers will stay with their teachers in Trout Hall. Classes will sing a few songs and after the performance, families can enjoy goodies set up in Trout Hall. We will also need to listen for sleigh bells and reindeer hooves on the roof, because there is a rumor that Santa will be making an appearance in the First English lounge. Shhhhh!





Pastor Zell and the First English Lutheran Church welcomes all preschool families to celebrate weekly Sunday morning services at 9am. There is Sunday school available for children afterward. Christmas Eve services will be at 7pm Dec. 24
Merry Christmas!



We Love Our Volunteers

Thank you to **Don and Jasper Wisner** who are helping to put our Trout Hall items out each Monday morning. If you would like to join them at 8:30 it only takes about 15-20 min. We could also use some help Friday afternoons to put the items away too!

November Food Drive Update



Thank you to all the children and family who helped support our food drive this year! We donated 15 pounds of food to the Mishawaka Food Pantry. Our preschool helped make a positive impact on those who need help in our community. We will continue food donations into the month of December if your family has extra non-perishable items consider donating into the boxes in the hallway.



Winter Weather



We try to take the children out for outside play as much as possible. Please send in coats, hats and mittens for your child to wear each day. If it is below 30 degrees (including wind-chill), or there is so much snow on the playground that boots are required, then we will stay inside.

We will also try to schedule some special snow days during the snowy, winter months so the children can enjoy some outside time with their friends at school. Kids love snow! Each class will schedule their own days for the children to go outside weather. On those days, the children should bring their snow boots, mittens, hats, and snow pants. You will receive advance notice of these days.



INTRODUCING: **Mary Schori** and **Ashley Leeper** are the Parent Representatives to our Preschool Board. Please contact them all through this school year if you have concerns, ideas, and suggestions you would like the board to discuss.
(maryschori@gmail.com or asleylprlovesscott@yahoo.com)



FAMILY SURVEYS

All the families will be asked to participate in our NAEYC survey, distributed in January. We do look at each of the comments made so we hope you will all take the time to respond. The questions can be marked for YES, NO, and DON'T KNOW (DK) answers with space for any additional comments. Some of the information will be contained in the Parent Handbook and Policy/Procedure Books that were emailed in August. If you need a paper copy or prefer to have those booklets sent again please let your teacher know. We will respond directly to families if you put your name on the survey but it is fine to also be anonymous. We will let you know the results of the combined scores. Please know that all staff welcome your comments and concerns about your child or our program. It is our goal and belief that children benefit the most when the teachers and parents work together as a team. We also will have a brief survey about future programming options!

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

December birthdays

3 Mrs. Barnes
20 Ryan (3/4's class)

June 1/2 Birthdays

11 Khloe (Pre K)
12 Taylor (Pre K)
15 Milo (Pre K)
16 Owen (Pre K) and Mrs. Andrews
20 Ruby (Pre K)
29 Jackson (Pre K)



Class News will return to the newsletter pages in January. We know it is fun to read your children's names in print and so we will try to incorporate those again a few more times with our monthly newsletters. We wanted to keep Dec. newsletter short as there is a lot of reading this month with our new website (FirstEnglishLutheranPreschool.org) and the family report with your child's observation record that will be available online at the family network site. If you prefer a printed copy, then let us know by Dec. 21. Also, make sure to include reading to your child daily. Children need interaction with adults and 1000 books to nurture pre-reading skills!



School closings: This is always a tricky thing to predict but we try to err on caution when considering if we should cancel school due to weather conditions. We are in PHM school district so if they cancel for the day then our school will also be cancelled. If PHM has a delay we will typically begin at our regular time. We make every effort to notify families of preschool's closing before 7:30 am. WNDU and WSBT will be our primary television stations for posting as well as on our Facebook page. Additionally, teachers will send an email to families to let them know that school is cancelled for the day. If ever the weather is questionable and you would prefer to keep your child home, then just call into the office to notify staff. Please feel free to call school office 255-4234 after 8am or Mrs. Gleissner's home (255-3471) before 7am!



Child Observation Record reports will be posted online at Family Network link at the end of this month!

Winter Family Time Activity Ideas

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/30-fun-things-home.html>



1. Have a costume party and photo session
2. Tell a story or write one
3. Throw an indoor picnic or tea party
4. Make a scavenger hunt or a map to a "secret" treasure
5. Plant some seeds or bulbs for indoor natural beauty
6. Make something, jewelry or a card to give to someone else
7. Build something with cards, boxes, toothpicks
8. Play in the snow (angels, fort and snowball fight)
9. Visit a new place
10. Make an obstacle course
11. Decorate a t-shirt
12. Make and play with homemade playdough
13. Play with bubbles inside and outside
14. Learn some yoga

