

February, 2012

God's love never fails! "I have loved you with an everlasting love..." Jeremiah 31:3



ST. LUKE PRESCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
20 CANDLEWOOD PATH - DIX HILLS - NY - 11746 - 631-462-5216

Be of love a little more careful than of anything. e. e. cummings

♥ We all live together in God's world! ♥

Dear St. Luke Families:

It has been a very busy time here at St. Luke. We had a lot to get ready prior to beginning our registration for September. The response has been wonderful—many of the classes are already filled!

The positive reviews for enrichment classes have encouraged us to continue them every day from 12:15 until 1:15. The success of our "pilot program" for Learn & Play caused us to add an additional half hour for enrichment classes.

The schedules available will continue to be flexible. We are able to accommodate

children who are attending their home school district's UPK program and also to offer a full-day program for children of working parents. We will continue our early drop-off and late pick-up options.

Please continue to share your ideas with me. I appreciate the visits from parents and the great ideas from our Advisory Committee.

Happy Valentine's Day! God bless you and your families -

Regina

♥ St. Luke Preschool Registration ♥

Families of current students began registering for September, 2012 on January 23. Registration will be open to new students beginning February 6.

Registrations are processed in the order that they are received. A child is not registered and cannot be placed on the roster until the registration fee has been received.

Please remember that we comply with regulations set by the NY State Office of Child and Family Services and cannot be flexi-

ble about certain elements of enrollment. Children will be placed in the class appropriate for their age and the number of children in all classes must be limited to ensure that mandated teacher:student ratios are maintained.

If your first choice of session is not available, we will be happy to register your child in your second choice session and put your child on a waiting list.

We have a limited num-

ber of spaces and classrooms. The schedule is designed to make the most efficient use of our facilities and teachers. If you need a special schedule, we will do our best to accommodate your request, but it may not be possible.

We have worked hard to keep the tuition reasonable and continue to give consideration to families who are members of St. Luke Church and those that have two children attending school at the same time.



Winter vacation will be from February 20 through 24. School will re-open on Monday, February 27.

It has been wonderful to get reviews for St. Luke Preschool on parenting Web sites. If you haven't gotten to this yet, please let us know in the office and we will email you the links.

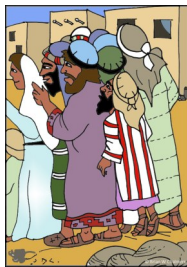
Thank you!



Zacchaeus - Bible Story of the Month (Luke 19:1-10)



In Chapel this month, the children will hear the story of Zacchaeus. Nobody liked Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector and had gotten rich by keeping some of the money he collected.



Just like Zacchaeus, young children are unable to see when they are in a crowd.

Zacchaeus was a short man. He went to see Jesus. He hoped that Jesus would perform a miracle. But Zacchaeus could not see anything! He stood on his tiptoes. He tried jumping up and down. He tried to push through the crowd to get in the front, but no one let him through. Zacchaeus decided to climb up a tree so he could see.

Sure enough, Jesus stopped right under this tree. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus could not believe that Jesus

knew his name and wanted to stay at his house. He jumped down from the tree and happily began to walk to his house with Jesus.

The people in the crowd were not happy. They had been following Jesus all day and were standing in the hot sun. Now Jesus was leaving with a rich, cheating tax collector whom they did not like.

Zacchaeus heard what the people were saying. He wanted to make things right for Jesus. He told them, "I will give half of everything I have to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus was very happy. He said to Zacchaeus, "Today, salvation has come to this house! I am here to find and save the lost."

There are many elements of the story of Zacchaeus that appeal to chil-



Zacchaeus was watching from a tree when Jesus called him by name to come down.

dren. They have experienced being at a parade or event and being unable to see through the crowd. Climbing a tree seems like a great idea.

In chapel and in their classrooms this month, the children will think about how Jesus knows each of us by name. They will talk about how they help their parents clean up before company comes. Zacchaeus cleaned himself up before Jesus came to his house.

Jesus wants to come to us and tell us how much he loves us. He wants to tell us the good news and be with us. All we have to do is ask him in!

Thoughts from Pastor Froehlich

Dear Parents,

One of the earliest ministries to the community when St. Luke Church was established was that of a Christian preschool. It is a ministry for not just the members of St. Luke, but of anyone who desires an early childhood experience that is faith based. The preschool is a ministry that is supported by the congregation through their offerings and other involvement in the preschool program.

We invite you to join us during the

Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday—February 22—we will worship at 5:30 and 7:30. Every Wednesday following that, worship will be at 5:30, followed by a soup supper and Bible study. You may come for any combination or all of these Lenten experiences, Your child is also welcome to come to our Sunday School, which meets every Sunday at 9:30 for children age three and older.

*Our church enriches our
Preschool and our
Preschool enriches our church.*



If you have any interest in finding out more about our ministry, I would be happy to meet with you and explain in more detail our vision for ministry as we move forward in serving the Lord and His people in this little corner of God's kingdom.

Peace and love,

Charles W. Froehlich, Pastor



What Is the Place of “Academics” in Preschool?



One of the great joys of my life has been working with children and families for more than 25 years. I have been fortunate to have had a great education and the opportunity to work with experienced professionals, but I think I have learned a great deal by spending time watching children and teachers and thinking about the learning that is taking place. Of course, I continue to learn a great deal from my own children.

Recently, a number of parents have talked to me about the importance of academics in early childhood education. They are impressed when they see very young children completing worksheets or dittoes and coming home with homework.



Writing is an important skill that is best mastered when a child is ready. Lots of activities contribute to readiness.

Young children learn to write in many ways—drawing letters in the sand, developing their fine motor skills by working with tools, and learning to recognize letters by being in a print rich classroom environment. All children are different, and those who are interested in writing will probably do more of the activities that move them toward printing. As children grow, they will develop more control over the tools they use and have better eye/hand coordination.

variety of learning activities, worksheets can fill up time and keep children occupied. The problem arises when dittoes become a primary activity.

Young children sometimes want to do homework to be like an older sibling. Instead of a worksheet, give your child crayons or paint and paper. They can use scissors or tear the paper to make a self portrait. They can cut pictures out of magazines and glue them on paper. They can work alongside their sibling, doing something that is just right for them—and lots of fun!

“Young children learn best through direct sensory encounters and not through a formal academic process.” NAEYC



Is this really how young children should be spending their time? Does this kind of work

help get children ready for success in school?

Everyone who works with children knows that children learn by doing—with lots of “hands on” activities. The more engaged a child is in learning the more he or she will retain information.

Completing worksheets generally requires children to sit still for too long. These dittoes are often used to keep children busy. This frees up the teacher to work with other children. It also means that the teacher does not have to do the same lesson planning for the class.

Is there anything good about dittoes? If you have ever had to attend to an important telephone call or want to listen to the pediatrician after your child’s appointment, you know that busywork can be helpful. As a supplement to a rich

St. Luke Preschool
invites you to help with a

Baby Shower

February 27—March 2

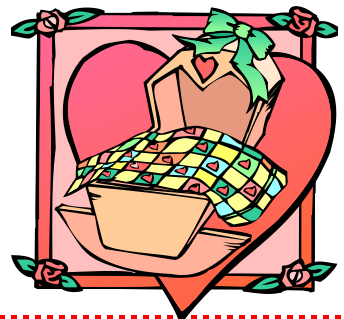
Your donations will help local mothers in need of baby items including diapers, undershirts, blankets, pacifiers, onesies and other clothing, formula, bottles, toys or gift cards.

Gently used items welcome!

Please drop off your donation in the school office.

They will be distributed to mothers in need.

Sorry—we cannot accept cribs or car seats.



Valentine’s Day



February has been the month to celebrate love since the Middle Ages. More cards are sent for Valentine’s Day than for any other occasion except Christmas.



Enjoy this day with your family. Exchange cards with each other and with friends. Make a special dessert and

have a fancy dinner. Celebrate the love you all share!

When valentines are exchanged in the classroom, try to send them in a day or two in advance. You do not have to address the valentines—just make sure there is one for each child. Talk to your teacher if you would like to help with the class celebration.

Parent Involvement

The new Parent Advisory Committee has been a big help to the school—and fun for the parents, too. Please try and come to one of these meetings! If you cannot make it, you are always welcome to stop by the office or call on the phone to share your ideas.

Right now, we are looking for parents who would like to volunteer with a few upcoming projects. The Book Fair in the spring needs a few parents who can stay for about an hour after drop-off time or come about 30 minutes early when they pick up their child to help with the sales. We could also use help setting up the fair and taking it down—about an hour for each of these jobs.

The St. Luke Carnival will be held this spring. This wonderful day is fun for the whole family! Mrs. Rogener is co-



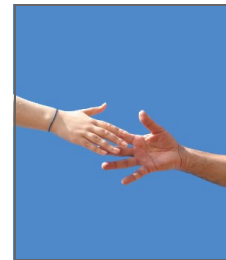
Volunteer are needed to help with upcoming activities at St. Luke.

ordinating the baskets that will be raffled off and would enjoy help from a parent or two. On the day of the fair, parents can help with the set-up or take-down or during the event (if they aren't too busy with their children).

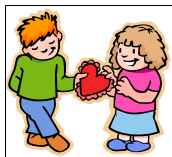
When we work to raise funds for Haiti and Kenya, a few volunteers to help with publicity and get things ready to hand out would make a huge difference. This would only take a few hours and some of it could be done at drop-off/pick-up times or at home.

Good Works

Families at St. Luke Preschool have done a lot of good works! Watch for information about our two projects for this year: continuing to help build houses in Haiti and helping a preschool in Kenya.



A Home-made Valentine is a Treasure!



Making Valentine's Day cards with your child is a fun activity that will give you - or Grandma or Grandpa - a keepsake that will be treasured forever. You

can get everything you need at Michael's or a dollar store, or by ordering online from chinaberry.com Start by folding a piece of paper in half to make a card. If you can get card

stock, it will make a sturdier card that will hold up better. You can use stickers to decorate or Mom or Dad can cut out hearts from a different colored paper to glue onto the cards. It is also fun to use striped or floral paper or magazine pages when you cut out the shapes to get different patterns. Young children love glitter! Use a bottle of glue to

“draw” on a heart or phrase (such as “Be Mine”). Sprinkle glue generously with pink, red or white glitter and let dry over night. Tap off excess glitter when completely dry.

Make sure that your child is the artist! If you want to participate, make a card by yourself that you can give to your child or your spouse.

A Valentine made by a child is a sign of love that you will keep forever!



Mommy & Me

Mommy & Me classes are a wonderful introduction to St. Luke Preschool and Early Childhood Center. These classes offer you and your child an introduction to the preschool environment with the comfort of the child's mother being present.

Many mothers who are part of a Mommy & Me class make lifelong friends with others in their group. If you are interested in this



Mommy & Me class helps your child build communication and socialization skills.

class, please leave your name and phone number in the school office and Mrs. Leo will call you. If you have a friend or neighbor with a child between the ages of nine months and two years old, please let them know about this wonderful program of St. Luke Preschool.

We are looking at ways to expand this program. If you are interested in Mommy/Baby Yoga or a Mothers of Infants class, for example, please let us know

2012 St. Luke

Summer Program

July 9- August 2

Monday - Thursday

Brochures will be sent home with children currently enrolled at St. Luke

Registration will begin

March 12, 2012

