



First English Lutheran Preschool

October 2026 Newsletter



From the Director's desk: We have had a great first month of school! So many smiles on children and grown ups' faces as they walk into the preschool each morning. Remember to stop into the bathroom **BEFORE** going into the classroom each day; this helps the class continue with their morning routine without needing to take a break and then children are typically able to wait until their scheduled bathroom time. We know it takes some waiting time but it is so helpful to participate in this routine. If we can have the PreK families arrive from 8:35-8:45 then the younger classes can arrive a bit later (8:45-8:55). The older children need to start their day quicker; this might help bathroom wait times a bit. We do hope you take the time to read the email/lesson plan information sent each Sunday by your child's teacher. This gives great insight into their upcoming week. As well, each Saturday morning families should be receiving photos and/or anecdotal notes weekly to show what actually has occurred in the school day. If by next week you have NOT received anything please let us know!

We are excited about the beautiful fall weather we are experiencing and the children are enjoying their time outside as well, especially with the bikes, block area and mud kitchen!

Wishing you well as you settle into a new season of preschool, Mrs. Gleissner

(school church: 574-255-4234) Remember NEW FAX number: 574-255-4473

Upcoming Events:

***Oct. 2:** World Smile Day! We will try to capture the happy faces at preschool today!

***Oct. 2:** Fall Family Fun Fair 4:30-7pm (still in need of volunteers to make this happen!)

***Oct 4:** Blessing of the Beasts with Pastor Patrick (4pm in the Prayer garden)
with your family pet

***Oct. 7/8:** Fire Safety topics during school day
(provided by Penn Fire) Parents welcome to stay!

***Oct. 12/13:** Pastor Patrick will join classes at snack time
to visit (and introduce himself)

***Oct. 14/15** Individual/Class photo days
(start upon arrival)

***Oct. 15:** Worldwide Hand Washing Day!

***Oct. 19/20** Conscious Discipline coach on-site

***Oct. 22/23** NO School: Parent/teacher conferences
(Babysitting on Thursday only)

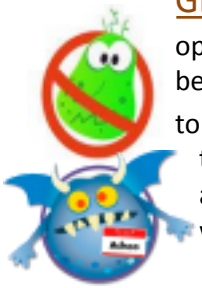
***Oct. 28-30** Fall celebrations: wear fall or festive colors



Safety Days: During Fire Safety Week (Oct. 5-9) we will invite Penn Fire Dept. (Aaron Maust) to FELP share 'safety tips' with our classes during their school day routine. We will experience our first fire drill as well. Parents are welcome to stay for this activity which will start at 9:15 am and will last 20 min.



Ages and Stages Questionnaires. Thank you to those who participated in the parent assessment process. These have been 'scored' and teachers will share the results with you during family conferences. If you did yours but forgot to turn them in, you may still do so this week yet! These questionnaires give teachers developmental information from the family perspective, and we will share our assessment from what we have observed during the preschool day.



GERMS: We are weeks into our year and while we hope we can keep staff and children safe all year, we realize the opportunity for germ exposure and other contagious illnesses will increase; especially, those children who have not been around others frequently. We appreciate the caution several have used especially with coughs/colds/fevers to keep ill children home until they feel better. As well, if you have an ill older/younger child please ask Mrs. Gleissner to help bring your preschooler into the building so we don't spread germs. Teachers do a sanitization of materials after school each day. You may refer to our illness policy in the Policy/Procedure book with any concerns about when to send and when to stay home!

We realize that the CDC has timelines on contagious illness, like strep, pink eye, so please inform Mrs. Gleissner or your child's teacher so that we can activate our notification method to others in the class to watch for symptoms. Families could be notified by email or urgent Kaymbu message as well as posting of information at the building/classroom doors. Did you know that proper hand-washing can reduce the spread of most germs?



CHEESE PLEASE: We are still planning to offer individual and class photographs this month. We are planning to offer them Oct. 14 and 15. Each morning we will have the children come to the 'photo' location at the North side church doors FIRST then go onto the bathroom then their class. The church doors will be the one open to enter the building in the morning. This way families can help with individual photos before the school day begins. We will ask ALL children to participate in the photos (even if you don't order) as we use them for emergency card identification.

Photo order forms will be coming home soon!



Parent Advisory committee: We would love to have about 3 parents meet over the year and discuss matters to help with decision making. We can meet via Zoom after bedtime. Let me know if you have about an hour every few months to chat!



Congratulations to **Olympia** in PreK who became a BIG sister over the summer with her baby sister (Isabella) being born in June..



WELCOME: We are hoping to welcome some new children to our Tuesday/Thursday classes soon. All three classes have this opening, so we can welcome any 2-5 year old! We also have a MWF opening in our 2/3 class as well. If you know, someone please share the word we have a spot available right now to enroll.



NO IDLE ZONE: Just a reminder when you pull into the church/preschool parking lot, we have a **No Idle zone** all around the building. This means that vehicles' engines need to be turned off while waiting/parked. As well if you feel you need to leave a child in the vehicle during morning drop off, please park near the entrance door so that Mrs. Gleissner can stay alert of the vehicle. Of course we would prefer that children are NOT left in the vehicle but we do realize situations occur so just notify us and we can even help get your preschooler into the building so that you don't have to leave a child inside.



Family Conferences: We will be hopefully offering babysitting on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 8:30-noon for those families who do not have another childcare option. We want families to be able to discuss openly with the teachers without the preschool child present in the room. We will use trout hall during the 15-20 min. sessions. As each teacher will be scheduling her own conference schedules we will hope to offer afternoon and early evening options per their own family schedules. If no time frame works for you, then please request a phone conversation, zoom meeting or another date.



Glenn the guinea pig is returning to FELP! He has been enjoying time at Mrs. Gleissner's home but it is time for this guinea pig to get more interaction. He will be kept (in a cage) in the hallway so that he can enjoy the status of Program Pet. Families will be able to take him home for the weekend if they desire. Use the sign up genius link to view the calendar of dates he is available. Dates are flexible so if you only want one day vs. the whole weekend we can modify as needed. We hope children will be excited to have a live pet they can help care for at school but then also home.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4FA9A829A3FC1-66253888-glenn>



Fall Family Fun Fair is just around the corner! We are planning to conduct activities outside this Friday night. We also hope the event will be well attended; families can enjoy the beautiful weather and activities while socializing with other families. The Lions' Club train this year is sponsored by Alumni families of Michael and Rachel Kozak AND Jarret and Amber Glon. The horses are sponsored by FELC member, Jean Whetstone. Thank you for their generosity to help keep our expenses down. Thank you to Lynn and Carol Whittaker (FELC members) who shared a Thrivent card to underwrite our food expenses. What better way to celebrate World Smile Day than with a fun fair fundraiser !



Fall celebrations: We will ask children to wear their favorite fall or festive colors at the end of the month as we celebrate our first season together. Classes will plan some festive snacks which we will ask families to help us with. More information will come in your child's teacher email as we get closer to October's end!



2/3 's class: Oct. 9 Khaza (3rd)

Oct. 14 Logan (3rd)

3/4's class: Oct. 8 Max (4th)

Oct. 16 Jude (4th)

Pre-k class: Oct. 12 Aicen (5th)

Oct. 22 Luke (5th)

Oct. 23 Emmy (5th)

Staff: Oct. 14 "Miss" Marsha (secretary)

Things happening in our



- Oct. 8 Howl-o-Ween party- dogs in costume and humans to gather at Rose Park dog park 6-8pm
- Oct 16-18 or 23-25 Zoo Boo at Potawatomi Zoo (costs and times vary)
- Oct. 17 Boo at the Washington Zoo (Michigan City) (10am-4pm CT)
- Oct. 24 Table or Treat- Mishawaka Riverwalk (costume treat or trick around the park) 5-7pm

At Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library

- Oct. 3 Trunk or Treat 4:30-7pm (Mishawaka High School)
- Oct. 12 Stuffed Animal Sleepover (Mish. downtown branch) 6-6:30pm
- Oct. 14 Popcorn and Pickup (Mish Downtown) 6-6:30pm
- Oct. 16 Frightful Friday (10am-noon)
- Oct. 18 Sleepy Hollow, Ichabod Returns 10:30-11:15
- Oct. 26 Spooky Tales (10:30-11:15am)
- Oct. 27 Haunted Graham Cracker Houses (Mish Downtown) 5-5:45pm

At St. Joseph County Library

- Oct. 3 Spooky Sensory Spectacular (Main branch) 10:30-noon
- Oct. 3 Pumpkin Painting (Lakeville branch) 10:30am-1pm
- Oct. 9 Free Health Screenings with CARE 2-4pm (Centre branch)
- Oct. 9 SB Symphony Orchestra (River Park) String Quintet 4-5pm
- Oct. 21 Game Night (Western Branch) 3-5pm
- Oct. 24 Book Sale (Main branch) 10am-2pm Oct. 25 also 1-4pm
- Oct. 24 Theatre with Pete the Cat (Main branch) 12:30-1:30pm

At Elkhart Public Library

- Oct. 3 Book Sale (Downtown) 9am-2:30pm
- Oct. 10 Happy 100th Winnie the Pooh (Cleveland branch) 9am-2pm
- Oct. 12 Bilingual Story time (Main) 10-11am
- Oct. 13 Family Paint by Sticker 4-5:30 pm Pierre Moran branch
- Oct. 15 Blow Paint Monsters (3:30-4:30pm) Osolo branch
- Oct. 16 (5-5:45pm) Family Night Bingo at Osolo branch
- Oct. 28 Crafternoons Kids (Cleveland) 2:30-4pm
- Oct. 28 Day of the Dead Celebration (Downtown) 4:30-5:30pm
- Oct. 29 Trunk or Treat (Pierre Moran branch) 4-6pm



NAEYC Accreditation: We hope families will take time to browse through our Portfolio binders for the classroom and program which will be displayed this month near the bathroom doors. We were accredited again in 2023 and we have held this consecutive ranking since 1986! That is 40 years-no other program in Indiana has this recognition! We will go through the re-accreditation process in another few years and prepare for our portfolios to be digital then a rater will come visit before our current certificate expires in 2028. . We will highlight some of the standards through our newsletter to help families be more aware of what this “GOLD STANDARD” of High Quality of Early Childhood Education means.

Standard 1 Relationships: Teachers are building relationships to help children make friends as well as creating a predictable/consistent/ harmonious classroom. Did you know that teachers are providing opportunities to increase the complexity of children’s play? Classroom materials are used that depict family roles but also work roles without gender bias. There are also opportunities/chances for children to be a decision-makers in their class (with plans/activities)



Conscious Discipline: Did you know that when children experience “upset” (times of sadness, frustration, disappointment, anger), they need an adult to help them regulate themselves? This can be done by taking 3 to 5 deep breaths (encourage doing these together) as sometimes the adult must gain the active calm first then manage the situation. Dr. Becky Bailey states in *Conscious Discipline Building Resilient Classrooms* (p. 45) “The emotional state is the gatekeeper of the brain, regulating the flow of information and energy. Our emotions are the lens through which we see the world.” Once they have settled from their emotional upset you can use, “you wanted...” or “you were hoping for...” to help them converse about the situation. You can also give two positive choices so the child can decide what their next action step will be. Finding ways to regularly relax the body while also adding playful activities with your child, helps them feel connected. Misbehavior should be viewed as call for help as they need to be coached to learn a skill so the situation can be handled differently.

With our continued Cohort with this project sponsored partially by Ready to Grow St. Joe We are pleased to have Angela Fraley (Conscious Discipline coach) come to FELP on Oct. 19 and 20 to share feedback with teachers. We are trying to create the best community of learners through connection while supporting self regulation skills..



Things to donate this month

Food pantry items of *Mac/cheese, hamburger helper or shampoo*

We are requesting our **2/ 3’s class** families donate supplies used frequently in our program classrooms supplies: paper towels, kleenex boxes, liquid soap refills (we do not need the antibacterial brands) and/or boxes of non-GMO cereal. If each family provides just ONE item that would be helpful.

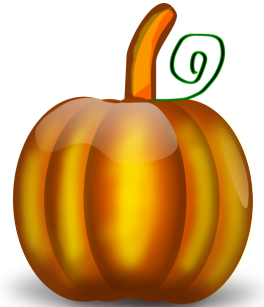


First English Lutheran Preschool fundraiser: Fall FunFair

16495 Ireland Road, Mishawaka

Friday, Oct. 2, 2026 from 4:30-7pm

Preschool games, horse rides, bounce house, train rides,
touch-a-trucks and food to purchase (until 6:30)!



Tickets will be sold inside near the bounce house but you can save the line wait time by purchasing some before the event~ Please send the order form in by **this** Friday morning and tickets will be returned in your child's cubby!

Each ticket is .50 cents so you can get 2 for \$1. Most activities will be one ticket but a few will be two tickets per child. Most food items will be one to four tickets as well!

Family Name: _____

We would like to purchase

- _____ \$5 worth of tickets (10 total)
- _____ \$10 worth of tickets (20 total)
- _____ \$15 worth of tickets (30 total)
- _____ \$20 worth of tickets (40 total)
- _____ \$25 worth of tickets (50 total)