

Illinois Lutheran Schools, Inc.

Preschool Information Booklet



Illinois Lutheran Preschool

448 Cass St.

Crete, IL 60417

Elementary Campus (708) 672-5969

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Preschool Teachers

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Illinois Lutheran Preschool is the early childhood education ministry of Illinois Lutheran Schools, Inc. This ministry is supported by Trinity Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church of Crete, Illinois.



Our Mission

Illinois Lutheran Schools provide quality, Christian education to students of the church, community, and the world, nurturing and reaching souls for time and eternity.

Our Vision

Illinois Lutheran Schools empower young people to be bold, confident Christian leaders by encouraging each to identify and develop those unique gifts with which God has blessed them. Using a comprehensive curriculum, qualified, caring teachers nurture critical thinking skills enabling our graduates to become independent thinkers, positive role models, and effective servant leaders in their church, community, and the world. By emphasizing spiritual growth, academic excellence, and co-curricular activities, we develop strong Christian character and spiritual maturity that prepares today's youth for tomorrow's world and eternity.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Illinois Lutheran Schools, Inc. is an association of Christians committed to the principles of Holy Scripture as espoused by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. As such, Illinois Lutheran Schools, Inc., expects the faculty and staff to uphold and support those principles in their lives and careers. Illinois Lutheran Schools, Inc. admits students of any race, gender, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded and made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, calling of teachers, hiring of staff, admissions policies, scholarship or loan programs, or athletic and other school administered programs.

ANNUAL NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION Illinois Lutheran Schools insures equal education opportunities to students regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability. Questions in reference to educational opportunities may be directed to the Administrator or the Principal in the main office.

TITLE IX - SECTION 504 HANDICAPPED Illinois Lutheran Schools will not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX and Section 504 of the 1972 Education Amendments. If any person believes that the school has inadequately applied the regulations of Title IX or Section 504 or is in some way discriminatory on the basis of sex, he/she should contact the Title IX coordinator at ILS.



Preschool Goals and Objectives

Illinois Lutheran Preschool takes seriously its obligation to teach and train children in accordance with the Savior's command: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you," (Matthew 28:19-20) and "Feed my lambs," (John 21:15). The goal of our preschool program is to nurture and train God's lambs as followers for our Savior.

Although parents have been given the primary responsibility for the training of their children, the school is to assist the parents in their God-given directive to train their children in the knowledge and instruction of the Lord. Complete cooperation between the home and school is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the children. Therefore, it shall be the objective of this preschool program to:

1. Assist our parents in teaching their children the truths of God's wonderful plan of salvation for all people
2. Help the child grow in Christian stewardship of time, gifts, and talents
3. Help the child give expression of his/her faith as it pertains to his/her relationship with others especially his/her peers
4. Help the child develop his/her mental talents through new learning experiences
5. Help the child develop emotionally
6. Help the child to take care of and to develop his/her body which is the temple of God
7. Help the child become acquainted with the school environment in preparation for Kindergarten.



Curriculum

Even though there is a correlation and an overlapping among spiritual, social, emotional, mental and physical growth, the following specific processes and activities are included in the curriculum:

Spiritual growth includes:

1. Recognizing our sin and the Lord's forgiveness
2. Knowing that God the Father loves and protects us
3. Believing and trusting Jesus as our Savior from sin
4. Believing in heaven
5. Learning that Christ's love should motivate us to live as the Lord expects (recognizing right from wrong)
6. Learning to show our love for Jesus through prayer and our daily life
7. Realizing that the good news of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, is a message to be shared with all people
8. Learning the importance of hearing God's Word since the Holy Spirit gives us faith through that Word.

Mental growth includes:

1. Increasing attention span
2. Beginning deductive thinking
3. Learning simple organizational skills
4. Learning communication skills
5. Developing reasoning and problem solving skills
6. Learning basic mathematical skills.



Social growth includes:

1. Learning independence
2. Accepting compromises
3. Learning to share
4. Assuming responsibility for care of self and possessions
5. Taking turns
6. Recognizing how one's behavior affects others
7. Showing respect to others
8. Developing awareness regarding the behavior and roles of Christian boys and girls.

Physical growth includes:

1. Developing large and small muscle coordination
2. Caring for one's own physical needs (i.e. eating, dressing, personal hygiene).



Emotional growth includes:

1. Learning appropriate ways to respond to others' feelings
2. Learning appropriate ways to express feelings.

Play:

Children learn to use their bodies and minds as they play. Through role playing and the children's free play periods, their experiences will be broadened. The children will be provided with many experiences involving their senses, the God-given doors of perception, which open worlds for the child.



Experiential Learning:

1. Speaking Activities (sharing time, creative dramatics, role playing)
2. Listening Activities (finger plays, story telling, reading books, puppetry)
3. Reading Readiness (names, box labels, traffic signals, letters)
4. Writing Readiness (scribbling, drawing, letters, names)

Music:

Children will learn to use their gift of voice. They will sing praises to their Creator as well as learn fun songs.

Art:

The children will participate in age appropriate art and craft activities each session. The activities will be of an instructional and creative nature.

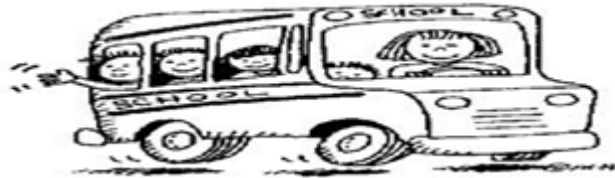


Science:

The children will learn the wonders of God's creation through scientific observation and exploration geared to the interest and experience of young children.

Field Trips:

Field trips are also a part of our Preschool curriculum. Each field trip is taken in order to expand the child's knowledge and awareness of the world.



Preschool Dress

Please think of your child's comfort. Simple clothing that is free of complicated fastenings and easy for them to handle is best. Pants with elastic waist bands are the easiest for young children to manage themselves.

Rubber soled shoes (athletic shoes) are best for active play in and out of the classroom. Velcro shoes are encouraged for this age group. Your child may need a sweater at times – our classroom tends to be cool.

There are times when a student may have a bathroom accident at school. It is good practice to keep an extra set of clothes in the student's backpack. In the event of an

occurrence, the student's soiled clothes will be sent home at the end of the school day to be washed.

Weather permitting we will venture outside for an on-campus walk or to the playground. Please send your child with proper attire for outdoor play (i.e. jackets, hats, gloves).

A backpack will be needed every day. Please check this bag for your child's projects, school and classroom newsletters, as well as important notes from the teacher.

Face Coverings

According to the ISBE guidelines, "Face coverings must be worn at all times in the school buildings even when social distance is maintained." A face covering is defined as any cloth or disposable style face covering that covers both the individual's nose and mouth at the same time. Families should provide their own face coverings for their children. Since every child is different, parents are encouraged to explore what style mask works best for their children. The school will have a supply of disposable coverings available if a student's mask is lost, soiled, or damaged during the school day.

Lunch

Students who are part of the full day preschool program will need to bring their lunch. They can participate in the school's hot lunch program, School Eatery. Milk will be available through the school's milk program. It is purchased for the entire school year. There is a choice of low-fat white or chocolate. We would encourage you to pack a lunch which the student will enjoy but that also has a good amount of fruits and vegetables. We would also encourage you to stay away from sugary items in your child's lunch since these are empty calories and are not really beneficial to the students. If the student does not take part in the school's milk program, you should also send a drink for your child. Possible choices here might include bottled water and 100% juice drinks.

Snacks

Illinois Lutheran will provide a snack for all students as part of their morning routine and schedule. These snacks might include things such as crackers, pretzels, granola bars, etc.

We ask that the families in 5 Day Preschool provide their child with bottled water for the morning snack.

Students in 3 Day Preschool will be provided with water for snack time. If a different drink is preferred, the families need to provide the drink.

Health and Safety

Your child's health is important to all of us. You must have on file with us a Health form signed by your physician. Your child will be sent home if any symptoms of illness appear at school. Keep your child at home if he or she:

- Has a fever of 100.4 or has had one during the previous 24 hours
- Has a cold that is less than four days old
- Has a heavy nasal discharge
- Has a cough or shortness of breath
- Is fussy, tired and generally out of sorts
- Has symptoms of a possible communicable disease. These symptoms are usually sniffles, red watery eyes, sore throat, headache, abdominal pain and fever.



Birthdays

It's fun to help your child celebrate his/her birthday at school. Birthday treats are welcome however they must be individually packaged. Please inform the teacher before bringing the treat.

Singing

Preschoolers will have the opportunity to sing God's praises during church services. Please mark these dates on your calendar when the dates are given. All children are needed to help.



Book Club

Please watch for a book club order each month. If you are interested in ordering, be sure that you return the order and payment by the deadline which can be found on the back of the order form. Our preschool receives bonus points for each order sent in. These points are used to order books and other useful classroom items. Your orders will help us a lot!

Emergency School Closings

When the weather takes a turn for the worse, school may be cancelled. In order to keep you better informed, Illinois Lutheran Schools, Inc. has adopted an emergency notification system through Swiftreach by PowerSchool. This system allows us to send voice, email, and text messages directly to you. This will keep you up-to-date on cancellations, schedule changes, and important upcoming events. The phone, email, and text numbers that we will be using will be the numbers you have given us for PowerSchool.

In addition you may consult the ILS website at www.Illinoislutheran.org for scheduling updates. We will also make use of the emergency closing system provided by www.emergencyclosings.com. Go to www.emergencyclosings.com/ecc/email_notifiaction.jsp to sign up for email notification of our school closings if you like. You may also receive school closing information through local television and radio outlets.



Mission Offerings

Each Friday the Preschoolers participate in school chapel at Trinity Lutheran Church. A mission offering is collected. It is a great opportunity for the children to assist in spreading God's Word. Gifts collected are sent to mission agencies or mission congregations of our Synod which the faculty decides upon each year. Look for a mission envelope in your child's folder each week. Your child may bring an offering any time.



Preschool Class Options

Illinois Lutheran Schools offers different options for Preschool classes. There are great selections for students easing into the school experience or that are ready for a full day of school.

The 3 Day Preschool option is available for students that are 3 years of age. The class meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for a Half Day of school.

Additionally, the 5 Day Preschool option is available as Half Day or Full Day. This option is available for students that range from 3 to 4 years old. The class meets Monday through Friday.

Preschool Hours

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| 5 Day/ Half Day Program | 8:00 am – 11:30 am |
| 5 Day/ Full Day Program | 8:00 am – 2:55 pm |
| 3 Day/ Half Day Program (Mon/Wed/Fri) | 8:00 am – 11:30 am |

Arrival and Dismissal

Please be prompt at both arrival and dismissal times. If someone other than the parent will be picking up your child, notify the teacher in writing. You must sign your child out before leaving. To pick up 11:30 dismissal preschool students, you can park in front of the school along Cass St. To pick up 2:55 dismissal preschool students, please pull into one of the first parking spots along Elizabeth Street, southbound, and park so that you can enter the building. You may also use the parking spots on the north side of Trinity.

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CHARGERS