

Hi Miss Kirsten!

Immanuel Lutheran has been a part of my life for many years. I attended DLS from preschool through fourth grade, and my mom has been a teacher here for 26 years. I began working summer camp during high school, became an aide in 2019, and have been teaching full-time since 2024. Having the opportunity to return to a school that played such an important role in my childhood has made my experience at ILS especially meaningful. It is a privilege to now be part of the same community that helped shape my own childhood and to play a role in the lives of the children growing up here today.

Some of my favorite school events are Lunch on the Lawn, the Fall Carnival, and Christmas Fun Night. I love seeing families come together, build relationships, and make memories as part of our school community. Beyond special events, some of my favorite memories come from everyday moments in the classroom. Whether it is seeing a child's excitement when learning something new, watching friendships develop, or celebrating the little milestones that make preschool so special, there is always something to smile about. Those moments are a big part of what makes teaching so rewarding.

I am from Westville and graduated from Westville High School in 2019. I also earned my associate degree from Danville Area Community College through the Dual Enrollment program that same year, and I plan to continue furthering my education here soon. I am married to my high school sweetheart, and together we have two beautiful daughters who have both attended Immanuel, with one still attending. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family. Being a mom has given me an even greater appreciation for the importance of creating a welcoming, nurturing, and engaging environment for every child.

One of my favorite things about ILS is the strong sense of community. Having grown up here, I understand how meaningful the relationships built within our school can be. I love getting to know each child and family, watching children grow throughout their preschool years, and seeing former students continue to learn and thrive as they move through the school. Preschool is such a special time because children are learning and discovering so much about the world around them. Being able to celebrate those milestones, encourage their curiosity, and help them build confidence is one of the most rewarding parts of my job.

My personal walk with God began when I was 20, and my faith continues to be an important part of my life. My family and I have attended Second Church of Christ since 2021, where we are involved in several ministries, including Celebrate Recovery, Serve Together, and the church nursery. I am grateful for the ways God continues to work in our lives and for His love, grace, and forgiveness. In the classroom, I incorporate faith into our daily routines through Bible stories, prayer, songs, and age-appropriate activities. We also connect biblical lessons to everyday experiences by practicing kindness, helping our friends, showing compassion, and caring for others. One of my favorite parts of my job is being able to openly share my faith and love for Jesus with the children each day. I love seeing their excitement as they learn Bible stories, join in prayer and songs, and begin to understand just how much Jesus loves them. Watching their understanding and love for Jesus grow throughout the school year is truly a highlight for me. My hope is that every child leaves our classroom knowing they are loved by Jesus and learning how to share that love with the people around them.

ILS Connections

~a place to keep families, staff,
and the church congregation connected

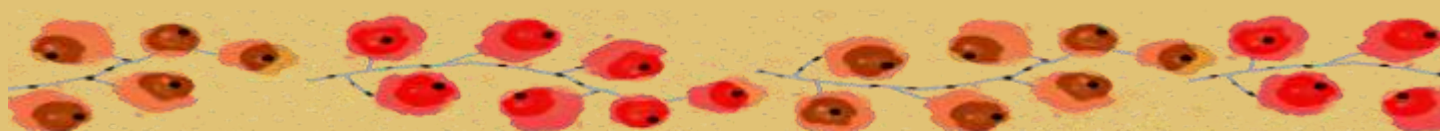
November 2026



From our 4's pre-k: God blessed us with beautiful outdoor weather in October. We started the month jumping in puddles and playing in the mud after a rainy night. We visited the pumpkin patch with Mrs. Hammer's class where we explored pumpkins and other farm animals. We loved the big slide and the tractor ride! We are beginning to get very creative in our classroom. It may look like a mess, but we are building our fine motor skills that we will use to hold pencils and crayons in kindergarten as well as learning to work and play together. In our Jesus time we heard accounts of Moses and the children of Israel as they escaped Egypt and settled in the Promised Land. What a blessing to know that God is faithful to his people even when they disobey and turn away from Him. Counting and patterns have been our focus this month as we learned about changing seasons. We watched a squirrel outside of the window and made patterns with fall shapes and colors.

Mrs. Huff





From our 4's pre-k: October was a busy and exciting month in Pre-K! We started the month with our field trip to Hog Wallow Farm. We enjoyed the beautiful weather while playing on the tall slides, feeding the animals, and riding the wagon out to the pumpkin field. We also had a special visit from our local police department! The officers talked to us about their important jobs and showed us their police vehicles. We even had the opportunity to use the siren and lights, which was so exciting! We wrapped up the month with our Halloween parade and party. The children had a wonderful time celebrating with their friends and enjoying all the Halloween fun! During Jesus Time, we learned about several exciting Bible stories, including the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, the Ten Commandments, the Battle of Jericho, and David and Goliath. We continue to learn about God's love and the wonderful things He has done for His people. **Mrs. Hammer**



In everything
give thanks.
1 Thessalonians 5:18, NASB

From our 3's pre-k: WOW! What an exciting, fun-filled month in the Preschool 3's classroom. We explored various themes with our weekly letters: E is for Emotions, F is for Family, G is for Gourds, and H is for Halloween. We made colorful emotion monsters, family trees, painted with gourds and did a spooky Halloween science experiment! We took a class field trip to Hog Wallow Farm. A few of our favorites from the pumpkin patch were the wagon ride, the farm animals, and the BIG slides! We had a special visit from the police station, and we were able to explore the inside of a police car and an emergency response unit vehicle. A few friends even got to try out the loud sirens. We wrapped up the month with our Halloween costume parade for our families followed by a Halloween party. We enjoyed silly games and spooky spider treats! **Mrs. Rouse**





From our 2's: Don't we just love the month of October? We took walks and spent time noticing how our trees were changing every day. We collected pinecones and acorns and used them to create some fun fall crafts. We talked about how leaves change colors and eventually fall off the trees, and we even used leaves to make crafts and decorate our classroom! We also spent some time learning about the letter A, and our acorn craft was the perfect way to kick off our learning! As we moved toward the end of the month, we turned our attention to pumpkins. We started by creating our very own pumpkin patch art, then washed pumpkins and even carved one together as a class! We explored the pumpkin's shape, color, and texture while learning all about this fun fall favorite. We wrapped up our month with our Halloween parade and classroom Halloween party! It was such a fun way to celebrate all the learning and excitement October brought our way! As we look ahead to November, we will spend some time learning about our veterans and getting ready for our Veterans Day concert. We will continue exploring the fall season before ending the month by talking about Thanksgiving and all the wonderful things we have to be thankful for. We will spend time remembering that even in the little things, we have so many blessings to thank God for! Our Bible verse for this season is, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." — Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV) Just as God created the beautiful changing seasons, He gives us so many things to enjoy and be thankful for.

Miss Nicole and Miss Kirsten





Upcoming Dates:

**Nov 4th at 6:30pm,
Veteran's Day
Program at ILS
Gymnasium**

**Nov 11th, Veteran's
Day (No School)**

**Nov 24th, Early
Dismissal for Staff
Institute, 11:30am**

**Nov 25-27,
Thanksgiving Break
(No School)**



Registration Announcement: We will be opening more spaces in our 2's room this January! We have lots of space and are excited to expand our 2's program. If you know anyone looking for this opportunity, please have them email Mrs. S. at ils.schooldirector@gmail.com or call 217-442-5036. We will take children who have turned 2 years old by January 1, 2027, but we also will take children as old as 3 years old (earliest birthday is September 2, 2023) in the classrooms! Thank you!

Bible Verse of the Month:

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:18



How to Carve a Pumpkin by Mrs. Hammer

First step- we cut the top off (Jett)

Second step- clean out the seeds (Harlan)

Third step- scoop out the goo (Hattie)

Fourth step- carve the eyes (Nash)

Fifth step- carve the nose (Hattie)

Sixth step- carve the mouth (Killian)

Seventh step- we put a candle in it (Parker)

Final step- put the top back on (Cassidy)



You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him: bless his name!

Psalms 100:4





Our Autumn Leaf Art by Miss Kirsten

The Inspiration

We noticed the beautiful colors of the leaves outside in autumn. We talked about how leaves change from green to yellow, orange, and brown, and how they eventually fall off the trees.

The Process

We used paper towel rolls to create our own leaves. The children painted with yellow, orange, and brown paint and then stamped the rolls onto paper to make leaf shapes.

What We Learned

The children enjoyed creating their own leaves and loved talking about the different colors of fall. They were excited to share their favorite colors, and it was fun to see how each child's choice was different!

Our Favorite Fall Colors

We voted on our favorite fall leaf colors!

- Orange: 7 votes
- Yellow: 6 votes
- Brown: 4 votes

Our Bible Verse

"He has made everything beautiful in its time." — Ecclesiastes 3:11