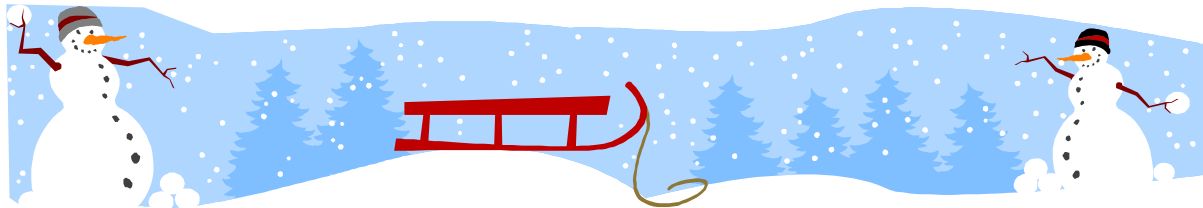


LATE CHILDHOOD HAPPENINGS

VOLUME 8.
ISSUE 1
JANUARY
2010



CONSULTANT'S CORNER

By Kelly Fehn

Wow! I feel like Sally Field accepting her Oscar, "You like me, you really like me!" My sinful nature allows me to feel like I sometimes don't have much to offer or those who are around me already know what I have and are used to it, but this is my first time writing something that more than my family and co-workers are going to read, and I am humbled, truly humbled.

When I was asked if I wanted to help out on the District level by stepping up to be an Early Childhood Consultant, my first reaction was - where am I going to find the time to do that? But, with prayer, some phone calls to people with experience, and some encouragement from friends and family, I decided - let's do this. God has opened this door, see what's behind it, and how you can grow with this new opportunity.

As I write this, I am fresh off my first conference call with the other District Consultants. Once again, what a humbling experience! The people on the line had such good ideas and were so thoughtful, kind, and spiritually uplifting. We ended the call with a prayer, and we were all asked if we

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I will say, Rejoice.
Philippians 4:4

was on this conference call that I decided what I wanted to focus on; yes, there is a point to this article, and that is INTENTIONAL PRAYER and SPIRITUALLY UPLIFTING YOUR STAFF.

Intentional prayer in your center/school should be an important part of the early childhood ministry. Sometimes in EC Centers there is a feeling of being disconnected because you don't get to meet together in the morning for daily devotions. Throughout our call many great ways to enhance and uplift your staff through prayer and scripture were shared, and I would like to highlight a few.

- Prayer partners - Assign or choose a person within your building with whom to be a prayer partner. Pray for that person regularly, let them know you have prayed for them, ask them if they have any specific needs, and perhaps even share a card with them from time to time. Some buildings also buy their partner a gift for special occasions or small trinkets throughout the year. The cost cap that was suggested more than once was \$20.00.
- Invite parents into your classroom for devotions.
- Send a slip home or an e-mail that the parents can send in prayer requests.
- Pray for the families in your building and notify them that they were prayed for either by postcard or e-mail.
- Designate a faculty representative or committee to be the "social" director. This person uses money from the "slush" fund to buy and send cards for different occasions (hospital, thinking of you, funeral etc.).
- Pray for certain families (perhaps alphabetical) in your weekly chapel or include a list of families that should be prayed for at home that week. Post the students who have been prayed for that week on a bulletin board outside the teacher's lounge or another highly visible place. This will encourage the prayers to go out into the homes as well.



(Continued on page 3)

attend your devotion time or your faculty meetings.

This is a key element in your spiritual health as well as the spiritual health of your center. The pastors can be a great resource in knowing who has needs in the congregation.

- Devotions -- If you have the opportunity to participate in daily devotions with your faculty or staff, DO IT! If it is not feasible to do this, then find a way to help them be in the word that day.
 - leave a Portals of Prayer in the lounge or meeting room
 - leave a thought for the day that is either a Bible verse or references a Bible verse on a bulletin board or somewhere highly visible.
 - E-mail your staff a short thought for the day or devotion
- Call your staff on the phone, leave notes in their boxes, e-mail them a warm fuzzy, to let them know that you appreciate them and the job they do. This includes janitorial and secretarial staff.
- Organize a staff appreciation event. For example -- Set-aside a day (or a week ☺) to recognize your faculty. The PTL can host this. You could have a massage therapist come in and offer 20 minute massages.
- Organize a snack schedule for faculty meetings so that your meetings are more productive and your staff is more alert.
- Get parent volunteers to come in and supervise your lunch/recess times. Provide lunch for your workers and allow them the time to reflect and connect with fellow leaders of Kingdom Kids! This allows the opportunity for us to be built up and encouraged, as well as a time for us to pool our resources.



I hope this leaves you with some old and new ideas that you can pull out to spiritually uplift your staff/center and let all that are involved know that they are valuable and appreciated. God's Blessings on your year and may you have a blessed New Year.



I posed the following question to my class.
If you could give Baby Jesus any gift you could, what would it be?



I would give Him...

A soft robe so when He is cold He could put it on.
A puppy because He saved our lives.

A piece of gold. He is the Lord and He is our Light.
A soccer ball so He could play heavenly soccer.



Gold because when Baby Jesus was born the shepherds gave gold to Him.



A blanket. It could keep Him warm and cozy.



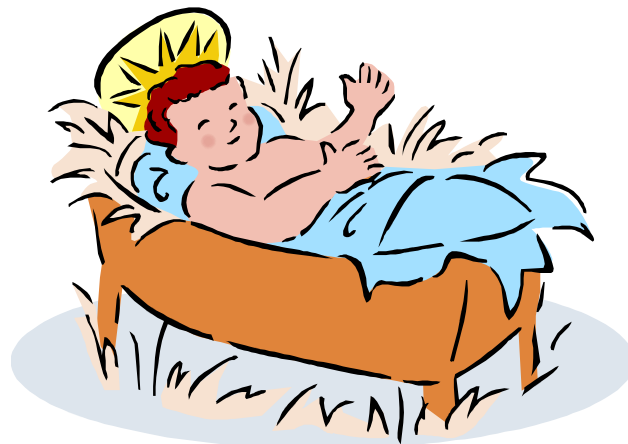
Some food because He is our God, Jesus Christ crucified.
Clothes, baby food, and a toy car because He created the Apostles Creed.



Some clothes because He is a baby.
A blanket so that He would not get cold.
907 pieces of gold because He should be rich.
A clock because He is God.



My heart and my life because Jesus is so great to me in every way.
A play pen and some toys because He would like toys and a play pen.
All my heart. He was the Son of the Lord and He is my Savior.
A giant hug because I love Him.





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TRAINING CHILDREN TO CHURCH

BY JUDY WILLIAMS

We all know it is important for children to be in worship with parents. The Psalmist reminds us, “From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise..” (Psalm 8:2) NIV Jesus even quotes this on Palm Sunday when the children were singing praise to Him, much to the indignation of some church leaders.

But we also know our little ones are movers and shakers and it’s not always that easy for them to remain attentive throughout the hour of worship. Here are some suggestions you might share with parents:

1. Encourage parents to prepare the children for worship: go to the bathroom and get drinks before worship begins.
2. Encourage families with young children to sit near the front so they can better see and hear what’s going on.
3. Have pew packs (church bags) for children which include quiet activities for children to use during worship, i.e. book, children’s bulletin and crayons, snack, quiet toy (like beanie babies)
4. When entering church, sit down quietly and pray asking God to bless your worship and to help you and your child listen, sing and pray.

Get the children involved as much as possible:

- Include a children’s message as part of the worship
- Encourage congregation to greet children as well as adults

- Involve your child to stand and sit with the rest of the congregation

- Encourage adults to point out printed words to hymns and Scripture so children are able to follow along.

- Invite the children to come and receive a blessing during communion

On the way home from worship, talk positively about the service. What are favorite hymns?

Who can we pray for this week? After hearing the sermon, what can we do this week? Etc?

Worship is a joyful and happy time for God’s people. We offer God our praise and thanksgiving and we receive spiritual food through the Word and Sacraments.

You might order copies of “Celebrating our Faith ó Helps for Guiding Children in Worship” for your families. It is available through Children’s Ministry, LCMS, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis MO 63122-7295; order # S28003. Another good resource can be downloaded from www.lcms.org. Look the Nov. 2007 issue of Parent Pages, “Training the Young Worshiper.”

May God bless you as you help parents to nurture the faith of God’s precious children.

“FROM THE LIPS
OF CHILDREN AND
INFANTS YOU
HAVE ORDAINED
PRAISE..”
(PSALM 8:2) NIV

OH DEER!

BY MIRIAM SOHN



As if I needed more to do
This busy time of year
I happened to encounter
A very lovely deer!

I saw it come from darkness
It wasn't going far;
But somehow it decided
To run into my car.

I didn't think it very nice
To bother me this way
It really caused a stressful start
To a very busy day!

It was a handsome beast for sure
A hunter would be proud
But I don't think a hunter's yell
Would be "Oh, no" so loud!

The rack on him was handsome
I couldn't count the points
He turned around to run back home
And soothe his aching joints.

Besides the fact that hunting
Was no longer during season
It seems to me the nervous buck
Had panicked without reason.

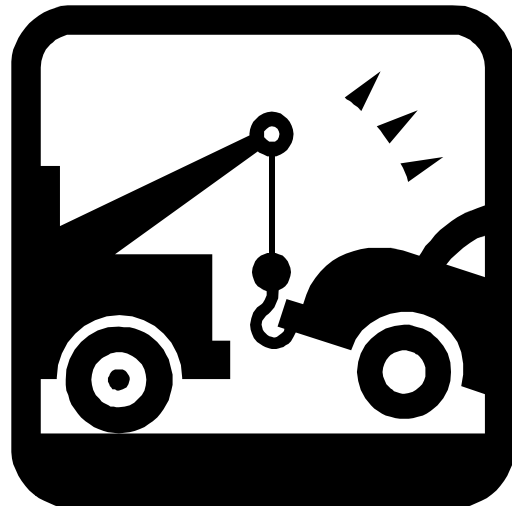
Why did it have to cross three lanes
To find *my* set of wheels
When other cars were whizzing by
Do *you* know how it feels?

I bade my little car goodbye
To visit the body shop
But how was I to get to school?
Run or skip or hop?

My hubby took me several days
When our schedules would agree.
But then one day when ours did not,
I got a loaner free!

But after thirteen lucky days
I finally got my ride
No dents or cracks or bumps to see
I drove it home with pride,

I learned a little lesson then
It isn't just a rumor
That God was watching over me
And has a sense of humor!



Y YES TO NO

A Parenting Program

By Shirley Wallace

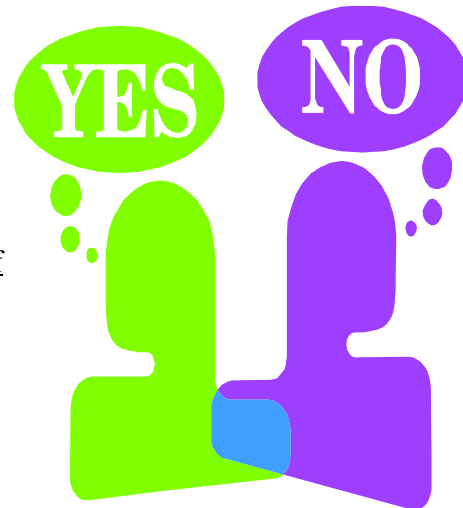
Interesting title for a parent workshop designed to help parents raise happy, self-reliant children. The program was produced by the National Institute on Media and the Family.

Since 1996 the National Institute on Media and the Family has been a trusted voice for educators and families ó helping them navigate the unique challenges of raising kids in the 21st century. In 2007, Dr. David Walsh, founder of the Institute connected with parents and educators across the country with his book No: Why Kids- of All Ages Need to Hear It and Ways Parents Can Say It. Say Yes to No (SYTN) is an evidence-based, parent tested extension of that work.

According to Dr. Walsh, ÷Educators can only do so much. It's up to parents to step up and speak out. And they will ó if they're given the tools and support to navigate the tough conversations. SYTN brings parents together to learn from each other and support each other.

This engaging five-session series teaches parents specific skills for dealing with some of the biggest issues facing families today. The SYTN program is designed to be delivered in small groups that are facilitated by a leader. Everything you need to become a leader ó and deliver the program ó is included in the SYTN kit. The District has purchased this program to be available for loan to congregations.

For more information, contact Bruce Braun at the District office bruce.braun@michigandistrict.org 888.225.2111.



MICHIGAN DISTRICT EARLY CHILDHOOD CABINET & CONSULTANTS

The Michigan District Early Childhood Cabinet and its consultants are here to serve you and your Early Childhood Center. Please consider them a resource for you.

Judy Williams, Consultant & Chair 586.463.8803; Kathy Prusak 313.561.6265;

Jan Catania 269.465.3868; Kelley Fehn 989.642.5659;

Deb McDonald 248.651.9474; Miriam Sohn 517.882.3550; Dawn States 989.684.3448;

Shirley Wallace 734.676.0144; Rhonda Fishel, Member at Large 517.339.2333

WINTER POEMS

FROM JUDY WILLIAMS

I love winter and enjoy sharing poems about winter with my students. I am sure you do, too. And, I hope you enjoy using some of my favorites:

First Snow

Snow makes whiteness where it falls.
The bushes look like popcorn balls.
And places where I always play
Look like somewhere else today.

--Marie Louise Allen

The More It Snows

The more it SNOWSô tiddely-pom
The more it GOESô tiddely-pom
The more it GOESô tiddely-pom
On snowing.

And nobody KNOWSô tiddely-pom
How cold my TOESô tiddely-pom
How cold my TOESô tiddely-pom
Are growing.

--A. A. Milne

SNOW



Fenceposts wear marshmallow hats on a
snowy day.

Bushes in their nightgowns are
kneeling down to pray
And all the trees have silver skirts
And want to dance away.

--Dorothy Aldis

The Snowflake

When snowflakes swirl and twirl about,
I love to run and play.
A flake lands on my mitten and
I watch it melt away.

--author unknown

Dragon Smoke

Breathe and blow white clouds
with every puff.
It's cold today.
Cold enough to see your breath.
Huff! Breathe dragon smoke today.

--Lillian Moore



Mitten Song

Thumbs in the thumb place
Fingers all together
That is the song
We sing in mitten weather.
When it is cold
It doesn't matter whether
Mittens are wool or of the finest
leather.
This is the song we sing in mitten
Weather.
Thumbs in the thumb place
Fingers all together.

--Mary Louise Allen

There Was a Little Snowman

There was a little snowman
Who had a carrot nose
Along came a bunny
And what do you suppose?
That hungry little bunny
Looking for a lunch
Ate that snowman's carrot nose,
Nibble, Nibble, Crunch.

--author unknown





Sky Bears

Oh, it snowed last night, snowed last night.
The sky bears had a pillow fight;
They tore up every cloud in sight
And tossed down all the feathers white.
Oh, it snowed last night, snowed last night.

--Elizabeth Pilant



Dance Like Snowflakes
(can be sung to: Are You Sleeping?)

Dance like snowflakes.

Dance like snowflakes.

In the air. In the air.

Whirling, twirling snowflakes

Whirling, twirling snowflakes

Here and there. Here and there.

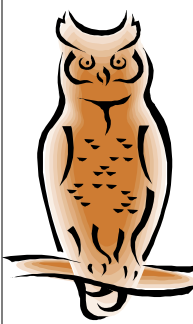
--author unknown



HEARTS FOR JESUS 2009

By Bruce Braun

Airline security has been a major topic around Detroit ever since the Christmas Day bomber was discovered on the approach to Metro Airport. We have read and heard a great deal



about how new security machines can see inside peoples clothes and reveal what's hidden to others. In the same way my wife has a project with her third and fourth graders I always enjoy. They dissect Owl Pellets to determine what their owls been feasting on and to try to figure out other things about their owl specimen.

I am wondering about the role of Christians in 2010. What kind of Christian Pellet would help others examine us and does God ever speak of a way to help others see inside us and view our active faith. I believe in Matthew 7:20 Jesus addresses this when He says *Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.* He is talking about trees but He is also talking about the role of works in the life of a believer. Our human owl pellet could be our check-book and calendar. How do we spend our

money and time? Do they only benefit us and our family or are we like Abraham reminded that we *ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING*. Think for a second about how you spend your time and then reflect on how you spend your money. We have a wonderful opportunity to influence our world by putting our faith in action.

You are invited to do this by joining the 2010 Hearts for Jesus project to purchase specially treated anti malaria nets for African Children. If you would like to participate but have not received a packet contact Mary Wagoner at 888.225.2111 ext 248 or mary.wagoner@michigandistrict.org and she will arrange for your participation. Last year children in Michigan collected over \$61,000 for Bethania for Kids which serviced children in India.

Thanks for the many ways you are a blessing to others you serve!



WHAT IS HAPPENING?

IMPORTANT DATES

Michigan District Administrators



Date: February 4-5, 2010
 Location: Lexington-Lansing Hotel, Lansing
 Great fellowship and excellent speakers, including Keryn Thompson-Kolar
 Clowning and Characters
 McPhee from School Specialty of Michigan
 More details are online at www.michigandistrict.org/snowtire10.html

National Lutheran Schools Week

Date: March 7-13, 2010

Location: Across the nation.

A celebration of Lutheran Schools around the country. The theme this year,
 For a Life of Service,

12:5.



MANS Public Policy Day

Date: March 24, 2010

Location: Lansing, MI

For MANS members (you are a MANS member). Visit www.m-a-n-s.org

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod 64th Synodical Convention

Date: July 10-17, 2010

Location: Houston, Texas.





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Date: August 3-5, 2010

Watch your mail for further information as it becomes available.

North and West Early Childhood Conference

Date: August 19, 2010

Location: Good Shepherd, Saginaw

Chairperson: Sue Smith, Faith, Bay City

Watch your mail for further information as it becomes available.

South and East Early Childhood Conference

Date: August 20, 2010

Location: Trinity, Clinton Township

Chairperson: Kim Walker, Trinity, Clinton Township

Watch your mail for more information as it becomes available.

Michigan District Regional Teachers

- North and West: October 15, 2010

Location: Messiah, Bullock Creek

Chairperson: Joel Keup, Peace, Saginaw

- South and East: October 22, 2010

Location: Lutheran High North, Macomb

Chairperson: David Waltz, St. John, Fraser

Watch your mail for more information.

Michigan District Administrators

Date: February 3-4, 2011.

Watch your mail for more information.

2011 LEA Convocation

Date: March 24-26, 2011

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

Lutheran Education Association gathering. Visit www.lea.org for details.

*Please send your information about upcoming early childhood and preschool events to carol.williams@michigandistrict.org or 888.225.2111 Ext. 247 for inclusion in the August issue of *Early Childhood Happenings*.*

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ABOVE EVENTS BY VISITING

WWW.MICHIGANDISTRICT.ORG





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- ☞ That each child is a unique, redeemed child of God and that the spiritual welfare of each child is the primary focus for all Early Childhood ministries.
☞ That the family is a child
☞ That Early Childhood Education is an intentional ministry to the families of young children and as such it appreciates, respects, and supports the bond between the child and family.
☞ That Early Childhood Education is an integral part of the congregational mission and ministry.
☞ That Early Childhood Education is a partnership in ministry that involves the family, staff, congregation, and community.
☞ That children learn best through developmentally appropriate activities incorporating play and experimental exploration.
☞ That Early Childhood Education provides a warm, safe, and Christ-centered environment where children develop to their fullest potential spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically.

WE RECOGNIZE: CORE VALUES

- ☞ Assist congregations in developing Christ-centered Early Childhood programs by providing information regarding teacher evaluation, start-ups, colloquy information, visitation/networking, salaries, business plans, staffing, training workshop/in-service, publicity, accreditation, development, third-source funding, and technology
☞ Serve as advocates for Early Childhood education and educators
☞ Educate congregations
☞ Promote and provide Christ-centered professionalism of Early Childhood educators
☞ Support and assist Early Childhood consultants as needed
☞ Promote quality, age-appropriate resources
☞ Uphold the Core Values of the Michigan District Early Childhood Cabinet

WE WILL:

THE MISSION OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT—LCMS EARLY CHILDHOOD CABINET IS TO ENCOURAGE & FACILITATE CHRIST-CENTERED, DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES FOR THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT.