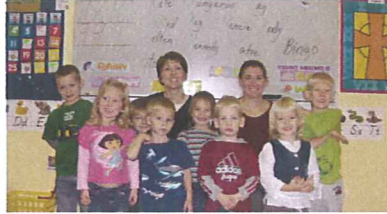


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Tidbits

Early Childhood Education Newsletter of the Nebraska District LCMS

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From
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Desk:



Greetings!

Greetings from the Nebraska District Early Childhood Education (ECE) Consultant and Leadership and Action Teams.

We would like to take the time to introduce you to five individuals who are volunteering their time to be of assistance to you in your ministry as you work with the children and families the Lord has sent to you.

These individuals will serve under the guidance of Donald Weber, the Education Executive of the Nebraska District LCMS.

Eunice McCarty is the Nebraska District ECE Consultant. Eunice serves at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Grand Island as Director of Family Life Ministry.

Please contact Eunice regarding visits from the ECE Leadership Team to meet with directors, teachers, congregations, or boards in regard to your early childhood education ministry.

Eunice will also make yearly visits to preschools and centers throughout Nebraska.

The ECE Leadership Team is made up of Paula Kapels and Lisa Stirtz.

Paula serves as a teacher at St. John, Columbus. Lisa serves as the preschool director of Wee Little Lambs, Gretna.

Paula and Lisa are available to meet with directors, staff, congregations, or Boards in regard to your early childhood education ministry.

The ECE Action Team consists of Glenda Dobbertien and Jane Varner. These ladies have combined teaching experience in Lutheran schools of more than 50 years.

Glenda and Jane will make yearly preschool and center visits.

A monthly newsletter will be sent out with tips for you as directors and teachers, and also items that can be included in your parent newsletter. It is the goal of the consultant and the leadership and action teams to assist you as you minister to the children and families in all areas of their lives: socially, academically, physically, and spiritually.



Advent and Christmas Ideas for Families

Idea 1:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12



Display a pillar candle or set out an Advent wreath (available at most stores). Each evening before bedtime light the candle, read a short Advent devotion (books are available at most schools, churches, or libraries), or pray for one or two families on your Christmas card list as everyone signs the cards.

Idea 2:

"Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ..."

Play Christian Christmas music in the background of the telephone answering machine during the month of December.

Idea 3:

"...I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

When you gather with family or friends to celebrate Jesus' birth, take time to light a candle and read the Christmas story from Luke 2: 1-20. If there are young children, have a birthday party with cake, napkins, and balloons. Be sure to sing *Happy Birthday* to Jesus.

Idea 4:

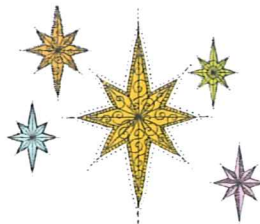
"Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the east, and have come to Worship Him." Matthew 2:2

Some evening during the Christmas week, have a special "star supper." Try to make and arrange as many foods as you can into star shapes. Some ideas include:

- star-shaped ice cubes
- meatloaf in the shape of a star
- place mashed potatoes or macaroni and cheese in the shape of a star on each plate using a cookie cutter
- have star cookies for dessert

Sprinkle star confetti across the table.

After supper read the story of the wise men.



Spotlight

This month's *spotlight* introduces you to **Tidbits**, a new monthly newsletter with a primary focus on Early Childhood Education.

You will read about our preschool and daycare centers of Nebraska. The newsletter will have monthly ideas for you to use or share in your newsletters. You will hear from professionals across the state of Nebraska who will address questions you have or current issues facing our children. Eunice McCarty, Early Childhood Education Consultant, will have words to share with you each month as well.

There will be a request for each preschool and daycare center to be involved with this publication. At some point you will be asked to submit a story from your ministry, share some pictures, and tell us about your staff. Carol Oetting from the District Office will be in contact with you regarding your time for the *Spotlight*.

It is our hope that you will find this newsletter to be enjoyable, helpful, and connect you as preschools and daycare centers to one another in the ultimate ministry of sharing the hope we all have in Christ Jesus our Savior with our children and their families.

Thank you in advance for your help in making this publication a success!

Professionally Speaking

**We pray for a
Blessed Advent season**

For you and your family!

*From Don Weber, Eunice McCarty,
Paula Kapels,
Lisa Stirtz,
Glenda
Dobbertien,
and Jane
Varner*

*Christ
is Coming!*