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# Tidbits

Early Childhood Education Newsletter of the Nebraska District LCMS

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## From Eunice's Desk:



For many of you, May is the last month you will spend with the children in your classroom or center. Depending on the child, you may say, "Yea" or "Wow, I hate that they will be moving on." Look beyond those feelings and ask yourself, "What is the one thing I want each of the children to remember when they leave this classroom and building?" Hopefully, your answer would be the following, "Jesus Christ loves them, forgives them, and will always be with them."

The last nine months or more that you have spent with each of the children entrusted to you has had an impact on them for the rest of their lives. You planted the seed; you watered and nurtured it through your daily modeling of Christ's love. There will always be time for them to learn how to spell their name and how to count objects. Almost anyone can teach them how to hop and gallop, or how to build with blocks. What they may not ever have again is someone who will tell them Jesus stories, sing *Jesus Loves Me* with them, and pray with them and for them.

Today at lunch I ran into a high school senior girl I had many years ago in preschool. Her family belonged to a church, but was not active. In visiting with her today I discovered that she has become active in her youth group, gone on servant events, and will be attending a Christian college in

another state. Her mother shared that it is because of the time she spent in preschool learning about Jesus, singing Jesus songs, having prayer time, and other faith-related activities that the family gradually became more active in their church and made Christ a part of their everyday lives.

As you plan the activities for the last few weeks of school think about how you can share Jesus:

- Integrate the faith in everything you do.
- What Bible stories do you still want to share with the children?
- What blurbs can you include in the parent newsletter, on your website, on the parent bulletin board that may make an eternal impact on them?
- What about sending home four or five devotions that the parents can use throughout the summer?
- Can you email the parents a devotion or activity several times throughout the summer?
- What Christian websites can you share with the families?
- How can you share the Good News of Jesus with these children and their families one more time— at your end-of-the-year program/picnic?
- Can you send home a VBS registration form and personally invite them to attend this summer?

## Spotlight—King's Kids Lutheran Preschool, Norfolk

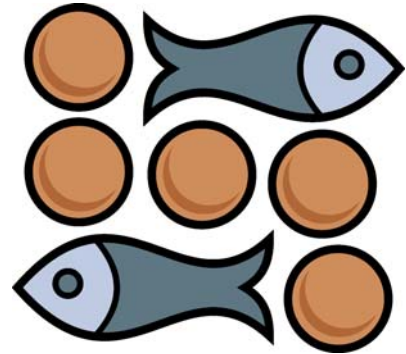
Lisa Pedro is the director and Julia Mortimer is the teacher at King's Kids Lutheran preschool in Norfolk.

Both Julia and Lisa love their jobs and look forward to coming to "work" everyday! They feel one of the most important aspects of their job is being able to teach young children in a Christian environment. It is so rewarding to see how much the children learn and absorb on a regular basis, and then teach that to their friends and family members! Lisa and Julia feel like they have an incredibly rewarding job!

During their Jesus Time one day, they were talking about the Bible story of Jesus Feeding the 5,000. They had been talking in previous weeks about

the many miracles Jesus had performed. Lisa and Julia were trying to help the children understand what miracles are and how Jesus is the only one who can perform them. When Lisa asked the children how they thought Jesus could feed 5,000 people with 2 loaves of bread and 5 fish, one of the children replied with excitement, "With His Jesus magic!!!"

Several parents have commented to Lisa and Julia how much they enjoy hearing their child re-tell various Bible stories to them, as well as to other family members. The children have been taught different prayers before meals, and several of them have now taught their families these prayers and use them at their homes.



"With His Jesus  
magic!!!"



*These pictures represent three of the five classes that Lisa and Julia serve in ministry at King's Kids Lutheran Preschool*

## Professional Growth Opportunities

### Save the Date

The **Early Childhood Conference** at Concordia University, Nebraska will be held on Wednesday, June 16. The cost is \$43 per person for the conference and an additional \$12 for the luncheon.

The day will include sectionals and keynote speaker Drs. George Forman and Ellen Hall on the theme, "Do You See What I See?" The luncheon speaker will be Paul Soulek, who has a passion for equipping God's people in their Christian faith using music.

For registration information, contact [Annette.Oliver@cune.edu](mailto:Annette.Oliver@cune.edu) or go to [www.cune.edu/ece](http://www.cune.edu/ece).



## Ideas and Resources for the end-of-the-year and summer:

- Do Jesus Time focusing on “I am with you always.” Use the ascension story and talk about how Jesus went up to heaven but promises to be with us always—daytime, nighttime, playtime, at the park, when swimming, etc. He said He will never leave us or forget us. Either help the children plant forget-me-not seeds, or send a package of the flower seeds home with each child to remind them that no matter where they go Jesus will not forget them.

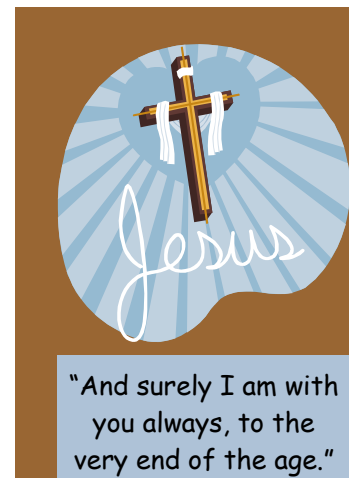


*Forget-me-not*

- Reproduce devotions to send home. They are available from several resources. One source is *FYI to Parents* by Marti Beuschlein and published by CPH.
  - Devotion books to recommend are: *Family Faith Walks* by Kelly J. Haack published by CPH, *52 Fun Family Devotions* by Mike and Amy Nappa published by Augsburg.
  - Make devotion books from your library available for parents to look at and to check out.
  - Christian family websites to recommend: [www.jcparentzone.com](http://www.jcparentzone.com), [www.jcplayzone.com](http://www.jcplayzone.com), [www.familyblueprint.org](http://www.familyblueprint.org), [www.Crosswalk.com](http://www.Crosswalk.com) (Christian parenting), [www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com) (Christian parenting), [www.faithmoments.com](http://www.faithmoments.com).
  - Take unused Bible story lessons or copy some from a reproducible book. Put together a Bible story book for each child to take home the last day of school to use with their family.
  - Invite your pastor, DCE, or someone else who does a good job with children’s messages to come and do a message at the end-of-the-year program or picnic.
  - Obtain all of the parents’ email addresses and send them a parenting tip, word of encouragement, devotion, or some other item to help them in their role as Christian parents. This also lets them know that you really did and do care about them.
- Suggestions:

1. When going on vacation or a trip purchase small surprise gifts to be opened every several hours. These could include gum, snacks, colored pencils and paper, a bible story book, a CD of Christian children’s music, etc.
2. Put several objects such as a spoon, cross, piece of chalk, etc. on a dark piece of paper. Place in direct sunlight for several hours. Bring indoors and see the patterns the sun has made. Use the paper as a centerpiece on the table. Thank God for creating the sunshine.
3. Homemade Sidewalk Chalk: Plaster of Paris, small containers for molds (styrofoam or Dixie cups, or popsicle molds), water, food coloring. Put food coloring in water if desired. Put Plaster of Paris into a small, throw-away container. Add water, stirring until the mixture resembles cake batter. Pour the mixture into molds and let set for at least two hours. Pop out chalk.
4. Nightmares are common and normal for children ages three to five. In a dark room, shadows become scary animals and squeaky floors become monster noises. Follow these guidelines to help alleviate fears and assure children:
  - A. Remind them that God watches over us while we sleep. Repeat the Bible verse, “And surely I am with you always.”
  - B. Say a prayer asking for God’s protection.
  - C. Sit for a while after bad dreams to assure children that they are safe.
  - D. Spray away the “bad monsters” with “monster spray.” (a spray bottle filled with water)
  - E. Turn on a night-light.

- Send home a VBS registration form along with a schedule of church-sponsored family events over the summer.
- Give each child a small cross, picture card of Jesus, or some other inexpensive item for them to take home as a reminder of God’s love.



“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”