



# The Early Childhood Encourager

Northwest District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod—1700 NE Knott Street—Portland—Oregon 97212—503-288-8383

*The Early Childhood Encourager is a publication of the LCMS Northwest District Education Department for the betterment of the early childhood teachers and directors as well as Pastors and DCE's of the preschools and early childhood centers the Northwest District.*



Volume 4—Issue 1  
September 2009

## YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last." John 15: 16*

Wow!!! Such powerful words to consider; how special to be chosen by God. Not only have we been chosen, but we have been given a specific task—bear fruit that will last. As the school year begins, once again the privilege and responsibility for children and their families, sent to each school, is foremost in all that is done.

One of the preschools in the Portland area shared that at an open house this past week a parent asked for her son to be baptized. School hasn't formally begun, but God is at work. Isn't it exciting?!!!!

Our prayer for each of you is a year full of joy as you, God's child, work with other children of God bearing the fruit of a continual faith walk .

Blessings,  
Karen and Martha

### A few notes from Karen and Martha:

We are excited with all that is to come in the new school year. We value your opinions and requests, and hopefully what we have scheduled reflects your desires.

A big change in our communication with you will be our effort to send most information via email. Information will come to you via "constant contact" which will include only one or two items of interest at a time. Hopefully this will eliminate your paper pile and provide references as needed.

Any questions or concerns, please let us know.



### District Support

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# I AM A TEACHER

Dr. Judith Christian, Director Children's Ministry and Family Ministry—  
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

*"The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him." (Exodus 15:2)*

**I am a teacher.** Children call me that. I hear, "Teacher, teacher!" at every turn. The cry "Teacher" is often accompanied with the pat of a small hand on my shoulder or even my backside, depending on whether I am sitting or standing. I am honored to be addressed in such a way, for "teacher" is a name my Savior was called.



**I have been chosen.** I am reminded that the Lord has brought the children and me together for a purpose and that the work I have been given to do is a sacred trust. No one ever said that teaching was going to be easy but I know that my Lord has promised to give me strength. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**I am afraid.** I am fearful that this world is a cold and hostile place for some little children. I sometimes feel at a loss to help, because I don't even know exactly what is wrong. I pray for guidance so that through me the children in my care know how much they matter to our Lord. I pray that I am able to show how much they matter to me.

**I want to be child-like.** So, like children, I become vulnerable and take the hand of the one who provides for me and gives me eternal life. I see the children's curiosity, a sense of wonder and an openness to new experiences. Nowhere but in children do I see such receptive, eager, and humble learners. I am reminded daily that in children my Lord Jesus saw the very kingdom of heaven.

**I have a gift to give.** Our Father, in His loving kindness, designed the perfect gift for imperfect human beings: a fresh start—a new beginning. It is a gift my God bestows as often as I come to receive it. How can I give any less than what has been given to me? Each Day is a new beginning! Freely I receive, now freely I give.

**I am not perfect.** I am not always calm, well organized, and cheerful. Sometimes I look at colleagues and wonder, "Why can't I be like that?" Perfection is really not my style, or even in the realm of possibility. I praise God that my good days have not earned His love and my bad days cannot diminish it. Day by day, He keeps on loving me—imperfections and all. I strive to share that same love with the children I teach.

**I am a paradox.** I speak loudest when I listen the most. I ask the Lord to help me teach children by example that one of the most generous and loving things we can do for each other is to "lend an ear."

**I have great wealth,** Material wealth is not one of my goals, but I treasure each child as one who is precious in the sight of God and loved by Him as am I.

**I am a learner.** Learning rarely moves at a steady pace and in reality dips and doubles back and moves on in little spurts of growth. I pray for patience with myself and with the young children I teach. I ask my Father for the sure and steady faith to keep on trying and I listen for His voice which says, "Relax, I am with you!"



## CONTINUED: I AM A TEACHER

**I am a warrior.** Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, I fight against Satan and the evil in the world. I defend the right of children to receive and experience the love of Jesus. Together we praise His name and serve other people, reaching out with His love to all.

**I am a teacher.** I am blessed with the joy of seeing little children grow and I thank God for the opportunity every day!

Blessings as you begin anew!

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Bethani Studebaker, Director

Twin Falls, Idaho

CDC@immanuelf.org



Located in the southeast region of Idaho the Immanuel Lutheran Child Development Center is licensed by the State of Idaho and the City of Twin Falls to care for children from birth up to 12 years. All areas of development are taught with a strong emphasis on Christian principles. Simple Bible truths are taught through the use of Bible stories, devotional stories, related materials, and crafts. The skills of the teacher are used to incorporate moral values into stories and situations.

The choice to blend a Christian atmosphere with a strong curriculum is what makes Immanuel Lutheran Child Development Center an exceptional facility.

As the season changes from summer to fall, so does the atmosphere at the Immanuel Lutheran Child Development Center. Change is constant, but invigorating. We welcome to our facility the new faces of students, parents, and staff members. The changes have not come without the hard work and dedication of all three facets of Immanuel Lutheran- the school, the church and the child development center. The expertise and the patience that each individual offers to our mission is truly the reason for our continued success. The Immanuel Lutheran staff is amongst the "best of the best". From the CDC staff members, parents, and students to the members of the church, the pastors, the school principal, the teachers, and beyond, the institutions at Immanuel Lutheran encompass the true definition of character and value.

As the summer comes to a close it seems natural to reflect on the memories and events of the past several months. The Child Development Center (CDC) says goodbye to the summer of 2009 with style and stride. The children enjoyed a summer involved in a plethora of camps, going swimming, watching movies, and participating in a variety of educational activities. In addition, the CDC opened their doors to a new classroom- The Creepy Crawler Room- a room specifically tailored to serve children that are creeping, crawling, and walking about.

The center is flourishing with over 200 students...a true blessing and joy to experience and the staff of 25 continues to provide a loving, caring environment that caters to each individual child. The skills and enthusiasm that each staff member brings to the facility is awesome.



# Calendar of Events

September 15, 2009

**EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR CONFERENCE CALL**

"Meeting the new District President"- Rev. Paul Linnemann

October 14-16, 2009

**NW DISTRICT TEACHERS CONFERENCE**, Seaside, OR

*Wednesday Early Childhood Leadership Seminar featuring Kim Marxhausen from 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Conference keynote speakers are: Cynthia Tobias, best selling author and Dr. David Buegler, Fifth Vice President, LCMS.*



Early Childhood Conference Highlights- Toybox Leadership, Managing Transitions, Children's Literature and Math- Preschool 3-grade 3, Early Childhood Child Care Panel, Strategies for working with ADD students.

Please visit [http://www.nowlcms.org/Educational\\_Services/conferences.aspx](http://www.nowlcms.org/Educational_Services/conferences.aspx) for more information.

October 20, 2009

**EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR CONFERENCE CALL**

"Early Childhood Accreditation"- Bob Fowls

November 17, 2009

**EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR CONFERENCE CALL**

"Curriculum Development in Early Childhood"- Mary Widenhofer

January 19, 2010

**EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR CONFERENCE CALL**

"Staffing for the Early Childhood Center"- Dr. Mark Wahlers

February 16, 2010

**EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR CONFERENCE CALL**

"Business Plans in the Early Childhood Center"- Denny Stoecklin

March 7-13, 2010

**LCMS NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK**

The theme is "Securing Each Child's Future —  
For A Life of Service" based on 1 Cor. 12:5



March 16, 2010

**EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR CONFERENCE CALL**

"How to be a Board for The Early Childhood Center"- Dick Weniger

April 13, 2010

**EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR CONFERENCE CALL**

"Working With Sensory Development"- Sarah Hadley

April 2010



**2010 NORTHWEST DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE**

Location TBD. It most likely will be held in the Portland area.

October 20-22, 2010

**NW DISTRICT TEACHERS CONFERENCE**, Seaside, OR

# 2009-2010 Early Childhood Center Statistical Report

Your 2009-2010 Annual Statistics Report Form is due on October 5th. Have you had a chance to go online or send it in to the District Office? We would like to encourage all of you to make sure that you are counted.

Why? The form is very important, both to you and to us for a number of reasons.

- The data is **used by congregations and consultants** as they plan for opening a new school.
- The data **enables us to identify trends** and needs that exist throughout our LCMS schools.
- The form provides valuable data for use **with other agencies** within and outside our church. It is very important to be able to share the data on a variety of issues related to our schools with other departments within our church and with leaders that **make decisions that affect schools** such as yours.
- It is also helpful when we make applications **for grants** to be able to cite statistics about our schools.
- The data that we gather from these forms can be data that **you use as you plan** for continued ministries in your school and congregation.

To fill out the form online go to: <https://www.lportal.net>.



**Locate your Statistical Form on the Lutheran School Portal! (Refer to the 'Admin1' heading)**

Fill in the known items immediately; Gather other needed data; Complete form and submit; Keep a copy for your records.

If you do not have access to the Lutheran School Portal, please complete the original form and mail it no later than October 5, 2009 to: Laurie Bredehoff, Northwest District Office, 1700 NE Knott St, Portland, OR 97212, OR, if you would like to complete the form online and you are not a member of the Lutheran School Portal, simply contact [laurieb@nowlcms.org](mailto:laurieb@nowlcms.org) and ask for a 30 day subscription to the Portal and you will be given access online.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

[Preschool/Early Childhood Mailing via The Lutheran School Portal](#) Has your Preschool/Early Childhood Center purchased their subscription for the Early Childhood Mailing for the 2009-10 school year? It's not too late! There are three ways to subscribe: traditional paper copy for \$85.00/annually; email for \$50.00/annually or via The Lutheran School Portal (prices vary, call 1-800-248-1930 ext. 1285). With ten monthly issues, containing 10 publications each that's \$8.50 a month for the paper copy and only \$5.00 a month to receive the mailing via email. What else can be purchased for \$5.00-\$8.50 a month? Starbucks?...People Magazine subscription?...Cable TV?...See, anyway you look at it, the Early Childhood Mailing is a BARGAIN To subscribe, go to: [www.lcms.org/children](http://www.lcms.org/children) and click on Early Childhood Mailing.

[Children's Ministry Leadership Training](#) equips volunteers and professionals in effectiveness as they engage in ministries with and to children and their families. You will find this information at [www.lcms.org/children](http://www.lcms.org/children).

["DIRECTed" is an continuing education program for Early Childhood Directors.](#) DIRECTed serves as a "Professional Learning Community" experience for leaders in Early Childhood ministries. Each workshop is either 4 or 3 weeks in length led by a Concordia University Professor and/or field practitioner. Weekly readings, practical applications and a one-hour conference call connect participants with lively discussion and helpful learning insights. Each **four** week workshop is \$100.00 per person plus materials. Each **three** week course is \$75.00 per person plus materials. Participants receive six hours of CEU upon completion of each 4 week workshop and five hours of CEU upon completion of each 3 week workshop. The Fall/Winter sessions are now open for enrollment! For more information or to register for the workshops, go to [www.lcms.org/children](http://www.lcms.org/children) and click on DIRECTed. **Please note: These courses do not qualify for college credit.**

Coming Soon to Lutheran Church Extension Fund:

# K.I.D.S. Count . . .

## as Members of God's Kingdom

## Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship

Lutheran Church Extension Fund  
10733 Sunset Office Dr., Suite 300  
St. Louis, MO 63127-1020

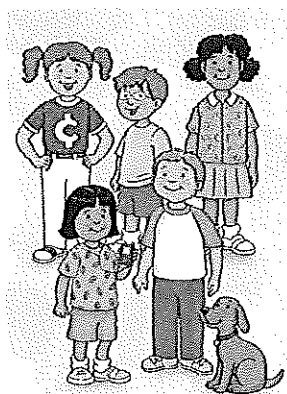
1-800-843-5233

[www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org) and [www.lcefkids.org](http://www.lcefkids.org)



**K.I.D.S. Count** is a resource for students in programs of Christian education, kindergarten through grade 8.

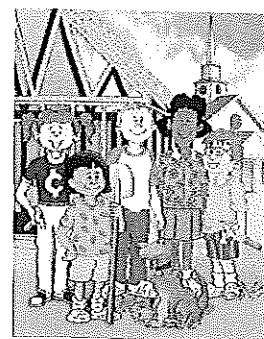
**K.I.D.S. Count** has been developed to be used in conjunction with the Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship (K.I.D.S.) program of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. The goal of these materials is that by the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, students will be led to:



**count their blessings**—thinking of how they might use the unique talents, gifts, and abilities God has given them, along with their financial and other blessings, to serve the Lord as stewards, or managers, of the resources with which He has gifted them;

**know they count**—they are valuable to God, who loves them so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to be their Savior from sin; and

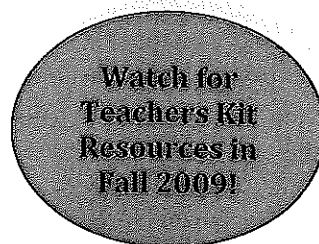
**count on Jesus**—trusting in His grace and mercy, grateful for the forgiveness, life, and salvation He offers.



**K.I.D.S. Count** helps children explore what it means to live for Jesus as a disciple and a steward, it includes lessons in discipleship to involve children in the ministry of the church and teach them about stewardship.

**K.I.D.S. Count** presents stewardship as total stewardship—the use of our time and talents, as well as our treasure.

These flexible materials for grades K-8 can be used in the classroom, Sunday School, midweek, or in the home. Each grade level's materials are developed around themes:



Kindergarten	— Jesus Helps People Give to God
Grade 1	— Jesus Blesses Us So that We Can Be a Blessing
Grade 2	— Jesus Invites Us to Follow Him with all that We Are and Have
Grade 3	— Jesus Helps Us to Share His Love in a Spirit of Gratitude
Grade 4	— Jesus Helps Us to Trust Him in the Sharing Opportunities He Provides
Grade 5	— Jesus Equips Us as Managers of His Blessings
Grade 6	— Jesus, Our Savior, Helps Us to Dedicate Our Whole Self to Him
Grade 7	— Jesus Calls Us to Love and Serve God and Others
Grade 8	— Jesus Teaches Us Total Stewardship from God's Word

