



## Early Childhood Leadership Seminar



### AN INVITATION TO:

All Northwest District **Early Childhood Directors** of free standing preschools and child care centers and **Directors** or **Lead Teachers** of the preschools or child care centers of our elementary schools.

This leadership seminar is sponsored by the Early Childhood Department of the Northwest District LCMS. Our purpose is to continue to equip early childhood directors as leaders in ministry, and to link early childhood educators with one another as leaders within their congregation, schools and early childhood centers.

### Schedule:

#### **Tuesday Evening, November 2, 2010:**

7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.      Hospitality at Dick and Martha Weniger's room at the Rivertide Hotel

#### **Wednesday, November 3, 2010**

9:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.      Welcome

9:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.      "Strengthening Families- A Job for all of US!"  
Lenetta Colbert, presenter

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.      Lunch Break

12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.      "Curriculum...building and maintaining a firm foundation  
for your preschool" Mary Widenhofer, presenter



# Registration Form

Early Childhood Leadership Seminar  
Seaside Convention Center  
Seaside, Oregon  
November 3, 2010

**Please return this registration form by September 17, 2010.**

Name of Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Your title (*to use on nametags*): \_\_\_\_\_

School or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone or Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The cost *for the leadership seminar* is \$20.00 which includes lunch. You are responsible for a Tuesday night stay in Seaside. Special rates at Seaside area hotels have been negotiated by the District Teachers Conference Planning Committee. Hotel rates and information can be found in the 2010 Northwest District Teachers Conference Information packet.

Please email ([MarthaW@nowlcms.org](mailto:MarthaW@nowlcms.org)) or mail your registration along with \$20.00 to:



**Martha Weniger, Children's Ministry Consultant**

**Northwest District LCMS Office**

**1700 NE Knott Street**

**Portland, OR 97212**

# Early Childhood Leadership Seminar

November 3, 2010- Seaside, Oregon



## Lenetta Colbert, Presenter



Lenetta Colbert, Open Arms Director, has worked for 21 years in the early childhood field, running her own home-based childcare, starting a center at her church, and most recently as Director of Open Arms. She has a degree in Home Economics with an emphasis in Child Development and Family Life. Introducing young children to Jesus is her passion and she strives to make each endeavor a reflection of agreement with the words of Jesus Christ himself--"unless you become like a little child you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven". She feels that the importance of young children is best supported in quality programs that strive to provide environments that facilitate and optimize the young child's growth in each area of development. She also enjoys working with and teaching young parents. Lenetta, originally from Oregon, has lived in Fairbanks for 3 1/2 years.

She is married to Terry, and together they have four grown children and two grandchildren. She enjoys cross country skiing, knitting, fly fishing, and reading.

**“Strengthening Families- A Job for all of US!** - Strengthening Families is a nationwide initiative intended to help stop abuse and neglect in families and communities, by focusing on the strengths that every family possesses. Based on research conducted by the Center for Social Policy, seven protective factors were identified as necessary for successful families. Many of these protective factors are already being supported in our schools and churches. Often, however, we are not intentional or proactive in identifying when our families need support and exactly how to provide the support that is needed. The workshop will help to identify the protective factors and how to address them in our school communities. It will also define a “Strengths Basis” approach for working with all of our families. The results of supporting families with these seven protective factors gives young children a jump start in life. Choose one or two protective factors to work on your families this school year and see the difference.

## Mary Widenhofer, Presenter



Mary lives in Ft. Wayne, Indiana with her husband David...both were educators and administrators at several Lutheran schools in the Midwest. Although retired they both keep a hand in the mix to effect the love of learning and a deep relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior in our schools. The children are the door to the evangelism in our church and to our future as a church. They are only 20% of our congregation but they are 100% of our future. If you want your families to grow spiritually start with the children. If you want to grow your church, start with the children in preschool.

Mary presently teaches a class entitled Play as Development at Indiana/Purdue University in Fort Wayne. She also plans and executes special events for young children as an outreach to the community at her church. Her retirement enables her to travel out east to see her six grandchildren and be an interactive Grandma to three little Widenhofer girls, one newborn boy and two bigger Widenhofer boys. She has taught in Lutheran schools for 35+ years and has enjoyed spiritual and worshipful connections with her students, parents and fellow teachers. She received her Bachelor's degree in Education at Concordia University in Chicago and earned a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Michigan State University.

**“Curriculum...building and maintaining a firm foundation for your preschool”**- includes a booklet on early childhood philosophy, goals and foundations for Lutheran Preschools.