

LEA ECEnet
Special E-publication
National Lutheran Schools Week
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Lutheran Schools: A Great Place to Grow – Transforming Lives
Based on 2 Corinthians 3:18

Are you ready to celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week -2007? Are you a member of the school planning committee to organize events for the week?

National Lutheran Schools Week – 2007, March 4–10, is just around the corner. Don't stress out attempting to brainstorm what types of special events you will do in your classroom, as this special e-publication is written just for you and will provide you with a jump-start in your planning.

Where exactly does one look for ideas to incorporate into an early childhood classroom relating to NLSW? Perhaps you have a file folder of previous celebrations, or you might ask your principal about what might be already planned. It's okay to admit if you have "Googled" 'Lutheran Schools Week' ...you may have even found some valuable resources!!!

Early childhood teachers are busy! There is no question about that. Planning for a regular week of lessons is challenging, yet alone trying to add meaningful activities for NLSW.

Some families in your early childhood center or classroom may have celebrated NLSW in the past, and some may not even know that Lutheran schools around the country join hands in a week-long celebration of ministry. What better way to share the message of a caring, Christ-centered education with the congregation, school, and community than by making a "BIG DEAL" about our Lutheran School!!!

Members of the ECEnet Leadership Team recently got together with the purpose of gathering a collection of "tried-and-true" ideas geared especially for early childhood teachers to use in their classrooms relating to National Lutheran Schools Week. We pray you enjoy our short collection!! God's richest blessings to you, your school/center, and your students as we join hands across the country in celebrating our Lutheran school!!

Web Resources:

The LCMS School Ministry Department has published a NLSW Worship and Resource Manual for 2007 that contains awesome ideas for celebrating NLSW in both the classroom and congregation. This manual can be downloaded free at <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=1774>. Early childhood educators may especially find the 10 "Jesus Time" worship activities beneficial. These worship devotionals and activities were written especially for the young children we work with!! Be sure to take advantage of their availability.

The ECEnet Leadership Team also invites you to share your ideas with those who participate in the ECEnet listserv. To share an idea or ask questions about what others are doing, send an email to ecenet@listserv.cuis.edu. You'll be amazed at the great responses you will receive!

Classroom Activities:

The following activities were used in some early childhood classrooms during past NLSW celebrations. You may wish to utilize them in your own classroom.

- Share the NLSW Theme (stated above) with families and congregational members. Using a butcher paper tree trunk and green hand cut-outs, make a large tree in the hallway or bulletin board. Write the names of the children in your early childhood center on each tree "leaf." Pictures of the children could also be included. Focusing on the "Transforming" portion of the theme, ask children to draw pictures of what they think they may look like as an adult. Display these near the tree and talk about how Jesus changes us; not only in the way we look as we grow older, but also in our hearts. Our sinful hearts are made clean by Jesus' death and resurrection. God sends us His Holy Spirit in baptism to keep us in the faith. Although we may physically change, God never does! What a comfort to know He is always with us!
- Some schools choose different "dress up days" as a part of their NLSW celebrations. If your school/classroom does not, consider the following idea. Children could learn a color unit during NLSW and wear different colors according to a set schedule.
 - Sunday (NLSW "Kick-Off"): Red Day - This color reminds us of God's Love. Have your child wear something red during worship.
 - Monday: Orange Day – This color reminds us to shine God's love to others.
 - Tuesday: Yellow Day – This color reminds us that Jesus, God's Son, is so bright!
 - Wednesday: Green Day – This color reminds us that we will always grow in Jesus!
 - Thursday: Blue Day – This color reminds us that Jesus was placed in a tomb, but He didn't stay there. He rose again!!
 - Friday: Purple Day – This color reminds us that Jesus is our King!! Because He lives, we do too!!
- Let the community know of your celebrations!! Have the children decorate pictures or placemats to be used at a local restaurant. Make special hats with your center/school name and encourage the children to wear them to the store, library, parents place of employment, etc.
- Don't forget to thank the members of your congregation for their prayers and support. Provide coffee and donuts for families as they drop their children off at school. As a class, deliver a snack to your pastor and other church staff members. Singing during Sunday morning worship services is always such a great idea.

Show your congregation members how their Lutheran School is a *Great Place to Grow!!*

Being involved with the ministry of a Lutheran School really does give reason to celebrate!! Let the children, families, congregation, and community know that your school/early childhood center shares the love of Jesus each and every day. When we are happy about something, such as a favorite restaurant or movie, we want to tell others; let us tell others about the great ministry that happens in a Lutheran school. May God bless you as you share that Lutheran Schools are a *Great Place to Grow!!!*

***Classroom Ideas in this ECEnet e-publication were shared by:

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