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A PUBLICATION FOR LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS

ECENET—TIDBITS

Meet your LEA ECEnet Leadership Team!

Pictured above is your Early Childhood Education Leadership team. From left: Julie Klopke, Lisa Schmidt, Drew Gerdes, Laura Busse and Cheryl Iverson.

Lisa Schmidt continues to serve you and the ECEnet as the Chair of the Leadership team. She is a Concordia, Seward graduate twice! She received an Early Childhood Masters in 2006. Lisa has over 15 years of early childhood experience and has started and directed two preschools. She currently is serving as director of Redeemer Lutheran Preschool in Lincoln, Nebraska. Redeemer recently went through National Lutheran School Accreditation and received the certificate on October 17, 2006. Redeemer is also in the process of expanding their current half-day to full-day.

Cheryl Iverson - is the former Early Childhood Consultant for the Pacific Southwest District. She has 30 plus years in early childhood education as a teacher, director and adjunct professor at Concordia, Irvine, where she earned her MA degree. Cheryl and her family (including her first grandchild!) now reside in the Seattle area where she is working in the field of therapeutic childcare with children ages one month to kindergarten age who have been abused and/or neglected or are at risk for abuse and/or neglect. This is Cheryl's 6th year serving on YOUR leadership team.

Drew D. Gerdes has served on the LEA ECEnet Leadership Team for two years. He is a kindergarten teacher at Redeemer/Springfield Lutheran School in Springfield, Missouri. He holds a BA from Concordia, St. Paul, MN and an MS in Ed from Missouri State University. In 2006 Drew was the recipient of LEA's Distinguished Early Childhood Educator Award. Drew coordinates the Missouri District EC Conference, serves as Missouri District Early Childhood Consultant and presents at conferences through the Lutheran and public school systems. In his spare time, Drew enjoys reading, traveling, hiking, and landscape work at his home in Battlefield, Missouri.

Laura Busse is in her first year serving on the LEA ECEnet Leadership team. She has 20 years of experience as an early childhood teacher and director. She is presently serving Trinity in Bloomington, IL and is a part time kindergarten teacher and early childhood director there. Laura received her BS and MA from Concordia University, Nebraska and is currently an adjunct instructor in their ECE masters online cohort. Laura enjoys presenting at state and local early childhood conferences and when away from school (which isn't very often) is an avid reader.

Julie Klopke is one of the newest members of the LEA ECEnet team. She also serves as Early Childhood Director/Assistant Principal/Preschool teacher at St. Peter Lutheran Church and School in Arlington Heights, IL. Julie has also had experience working as a Pre-K At– Risk Coordinator in the Carmi-White County Schools in southern Illinois. She is married to Rev. Paul Klopke, pastor at Living Christ Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights and is blessed with two children, Philip, a junior DCE student at Concordia, Chicago and Jillian, a junior at Buffalo Grove HS. Her hobbies are supporting her husband and children in their activities, gardening and scrap booking.

A tidbit for the soul...

The Thankful Child
Drew Gerdes

As early childhood educators we strive for children to say "please", "thank-you" and "you're welcome". Manners are important, courteous and they show respect. When we help a child tie his shoes, button her jacket or share a warm hug, we are doing something special for that child. We are doing something that they cannot yet do. A warm "thank-you" from a child can be a meaningful tidbit in the day. Maybe it gives you a warm feeling to know that your simple actions are appreciated and needed.

We, too, are thankful children. We are children of God. We are thankful for the many blessings He has bestowed among us. The blessings Gad has shared are too numerous to mention, but we know what they are. Do we take them for granted? Sadly too often we do. Those simple "thank-you" comments from children mean a great deal to us. God also appreciates such comments. Throughout the day remember to share short THANK-YOU GOD prayers with our heavenly Father. During this season of Thanksgiving, your LEA Leadership Team wishes to say "Thank YOU" for your ministry to children and their families! Happy Thanksgiving!

A tidbit for the body...

Blessing Mix Lisa Schmidt

Bugles:	Shaped like a Cornucopia or Horn of Plenty, a symbol of God's blessings in abundance.
Nuts, fruit:	The blessings of harvest from the plants and trees that God gives us for food.
Goldfish:	Animals and fish and birds that God created and provides for us.
Pretzels:	Arms folded in prayer. A blessed privilege to come to our Heavenly Father for all we need.
Life cereal:	God gives us the precious gift of life and the promise of life eternal with Him in heaven.
M&M's:	Memories of family and friends, and of those who came before us as great examples of faith.
Candy Corn:	The shape is a triangle to remind us of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Life Saver:	A reminder of our Savior, Jesus, who won the blessing of salvation for us on the cross.
Hershey Kiss:	The love of Jesus that sweetens our lives.

A tidbit for the mind….from Cheryl Iverson

The LEA ECEnet Leadership Institute is coming to a district near you…

- *October 31, 2007 in Seaside, Oregon as a pre-conference event at the Northwest District' annual Lutheran educator's conference..*
- *April 24, 2008 in Minneapolis as a pre-conference event at the LEA's Convocation*
- *June 2008 in Seward, NE as an event sponsored by the Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa-West Districts, following the annual ECE conference held at Concordia, NE.*
- *Please contact the LEA Office (708-209-3343) or Cheryl Iverson (206-788-4145) for more information!*

A tidbit for the creative spirit…

from Julie Klopke

Thanksgiving Table Runners…

Cut long pieces of butcher paper to approximately 6' X 12' in length. Have each child bring in 5 to 10 photos, magazine pictures or drawing of items that they are thankful for (these items will be mounted permanently on the table runner so be sure families know not to send in "keepsake" photos, etc.). On the table runner, have the children write their names so it reads: _____'s Thankfulness Banner. Have the children glue on the items brought from home. They can also add glitter, stickers and die cuts. Date the table runner in some place. Laminate the runners and encourage use on Thanksgiving tables.