



# Celebrating Lutheran Schools Week and Week of the Young Child

NLSW—Theme: “Securing Each Child’s Future”  
based on Jeremiah 29:11

**Week of the Young Child: Bring Communities Together for  
Children-Children Bring Communities Together.**

Some ideas from your LEA ECEnet Leadership Team:

- A Family Activity Night where the parents visit a variety of stations with their child in the classroom. Some of the most exciting stations have been planting flowers, making birdfeeders (a piece of bread, lard, and birdseed), playing with Play-Doh® (each child may also have their own snack bag of Play-Doh® to take home), making a snack mix, and constructing a simple craft such as a door hanger.
- A Family Breakfast where families enjoy eating breakfast at school with their child. A simple breakfast could include muffins, fruit salad, juice, and/or milk. Coffee is offered to those who want it.
- For Lutheran Schools Week each classroom decorates its classroom door with something pertaining to the theme. The children all have a chance to participate, making this creation and the doors look wonderful when the grandparents visit on Friday.
- Grandparents Day is the culminating event of LSW for us. Last year we had almost 400 grandparents! The grandparents only stay for the morning, but everyone has a good time.
- Special theme days all week. A Teddy Bear Pajama Party—children and staff bring favorite teddy bears to school and everything centers around the bears. Hawaiian luau with all activities based on Hawaiian or tropical themes. Western Day, again dress like cowboys/girls for a rootin-tootin’ good time.
- Family events like Pancakes with Pastor; have coffee and doughnuts out at the sign-in counter for parents to grab. Invite all families to attend church on the Sunday of NLSW. Get the students involved in the service.
- Did you know that there are specific devotions and activity lessons designed for early childhood classrooms in the NLSW—2008 Worship and Resource Manual? These 5 short “Jesus Time” lessons can be used in any early childhood setting. The easy-to-use accompanying activities are guaranteed to teach children about God’s love and forgiveness. Be sure to order your copy NOW, or check to see if your school principal already has one available! Order now: [www.dcs.lcms.org/school](http://www.dcs.lcms.org/school) or email Calie Vera at [calie.vera@lcms.org](mailto:calie.vera@lcms.org)

Recently I was shopping at Kohl's, and I came across the hardbound copy of *Guess How Much I Love You?* by Sam McBratney as part of their "Kohl's Cares for Kids" Program. This is one of my favorite stories to read to young children, and I was ecstatic to be able to purchase it in hardbound for five dollars. I am always happy to share a bargain with you, but this is not the reason that I am writing to you today.

In the book, Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare attempt to outdo each other in sharing their love. This is very difficult, as love is really immeasurable. Yet there are various ways to share your love through your actions, sometimes in small ways, and other times in larger ways.

How do the children in your classroom share their love with their parents or siblings? How do the children in your classroom share their love with the other children? How do you share love with the children in your classroom?

Jesus showed His love for us in a very BIG way as He gave us His all! Jesus gave His very life for each and every one of us so that we may have eternal life with Him! The listed passages share the definition of love, how God brought that love to us, and how we also may share Jesus' love with others.

1 John 3:16 (NIV) defines love for us: *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

1 John 4:9-11 (NIV) shares God's intentions about love: *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we love one another.*

Romans 8:39 (NIV) explains the extent of God's love: *Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Love.*

As you share the book *Guess How Much I Love You* with the children in your classroom, may you always remember just how much Jesus loves you! May you most importantly share the love of Jesus with your staff, the children you teach, and their families. And may they too come to know just how much Jesus loves them!

### A Tidbit for the Mind from Cheryl Iverson

Lutheran Education Association's Early Childhood Leadership Institute is coming to a district near you!

**April 24, 2008 - A brand new module..."Monopolize Your Preschool Budget" will be offered as a pre-convocation event at the LEA Convocation in Minneapolis!**

This module will focus on the process of creating and developing a budget for your early childhood ministry program; will

look at the collection of tuition and third-source funding; how disbursements and reimbursements are made; policies and procedures related to preschool finances; challenges, issues, roadblocks and even speed bumps; methods for being held financially accountable to your board of education and congregation; the financial relationship between the church and the school and the school and the church; serving as good stewards of the resources God has provided; the realities of preschool finances; financial re-

cord keeping; and financial budgets versus ministry budgets. If you have already attended one of our LEA Early Childhood Institutes, you will enjoy this new module. If you have not, you will leave our time together feeling informed, inspired and even entertained! So "take a chance and do not pass go." See you in Minneapolis!

August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, the Leadership Institute is coming to the Florida-Georgia District!

### A Session Sneak Peek for ECE at the LEA Convocation

*In less than three months early childhood educators and many of their ministry peers will be heading to the LEA Convocation in Minneapolis.*

From the pre-convocation workshops with an event entitled "Monopolize Your Early Childhood Budget" to one of the 99 other sectional workshops, every early childhood professional is sure to participate and enjoy many enriching early childhood professional development experiences. Watch for some of these sectionals in Minneapolis:

Session #1 - Literacy Centers in Action, Growing Children to Share Jesus, Celebrate the Reformation, Playing with the Scientific Method, Intergenerational Ministry, It's Always Jesus Time

Session #2 - Share the Joy of Reading, Raising Boys in the Faith, Beyond Baptism, Is this Rash Contagious, Creating Memorable Chapel/School Year Themes

Session #3 - Family Ministry: A Road Map, Sizzling Summer Camp Ministries, Sensory Art & Play, Connecting Kids for Christ with Speed Stacks, Fairy Tales & Chapel Skits, Bible Bops are Bubblin' Over, Ride the Early Childhood Techno-Train

Session #4—Creative Environments that Work, Beyond Dick & Jane, Music, Movement & the Brain, Hiding God's Word in the Preschool Heart, Christmas Program Boost, Take Home Backpacks

Session #5 - Faith by Numbers, Bringing Missions to the Classroom, Sounds of Language, Integrating an Affective Curriculum, Early Literacy with Flannel Board & Finger Plays, Impacting Children with Music.