

# GRACE LUTHERAN ECC & PRESCHOOL



## News and Notes

April 2017

This is an exciting time of the year. The temperature is creeping up a bit and we're enjoying a little more sunshine in the afternoon. We're also busy getting ready to celebrate Easter and the joyful news that Jesus brings us life with Him now and also life in heaven!

Things are also busy at the ECC. We have many changes coming that are exciting. Many have commented on the new and open look for our Little Lambs classroom. I'm also pleased to inform you that we have a brand new teacher starting in our infant room the beginning of April. Her name is Tammy Wimer. She has quite a bit of experience in the infant room and will do a wonderful job as our lead teacher in caring for our littlest ones!

After Tammy's transition into the infant room is complete, Kim Moeller will be moving up to assist Carrie Strup in the Little Lambs room. They'll be a dynamic duo caring for our older children.

Lyn VanKanegan will also have a change of duties. She will be moving from classroom into the office, serving as support for Rachel, the staff and our families of the ECC. She will assist Rachel with some of the office work that needs to be done. She'll also help to cover in some of the classrooms as teachers take their lunch breaks. She'll even help once or twice a week helping to care for the children at the close of day. We're making changes to assure we have the best staffing to care for the needs of our children and families. Thanks for being part of our center and giving us the privilege of caring for your child!

### *Pastor Dummer*



The four-year-old classroom enjoyed a visit from our Grace Day School K4 teacher Ms. Lebeck shared a spring story with the class and worked on some spring art with them.

# Living a Chocolate Life

A monthly Bible Study for Women,

“Living a Chocolate Life,” lead by Chris Meyer gathered in the month of February and talked about comfort.

We, as woman, don't always have to be the comforter, and it is okay for us to look for comfort. We explored how us woman can find comfort in God's Word.



Our next Bible Study will focus on:

## “Starting from Scratch”

April 19th from 6:30 to 7:30pm

Anyone interested in joining our Bible Study at any time can still register.

Sign- up sheet can be found on the Office Bulletin Board

Please invite your Mother's, neighbors, or friends to this special study.

You can register by stopping to see Miss Rachel in the office,

or by emailing her at [rmiliacca@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:rmiliacca@graceoakcreek.org)

---

## Parent Night Out

Staff: Rachel Miliacca  
Katie Nowack

Our March Parent Night Out was cancelled due to the low count of children wanting to attend. We hope to hold a Parent Night Out event in April. We will have our Easter Egg hunt on that night and dye Easter Eggs with the children. Parents take this time to spend a special evening with your significant other. Please be sure to sign up early for this event.

Our next Parent Night out will be held

April 21, 2017  
6pm to 10 pm.

We will have an Easter egg hunt, dye Easter Eggs, and other fun Easter activities.

As always this program is open to any Grace Early Childhood Center child, Grace Lutheran School students, and any members of the community who wish to come. Please look for the sign-up sheets by the ECC office, or call 762-8755 to make a reservation. A minimum \$10 donation for our services is appreciated. We will use the money donated for improvements to our classrooms.

# Angels (6 weeks to 1 year)

Staff: Kim Moeller, Samantha Otzelberger, Rachel Miliacca

Our main theme in February was healthy habits. The older infants have been practicing washing their hands with soap and water in our sink. The younger babies are still washing with soap and a washcloth. We continue to sing our “Washing our hands and face” song to all the babies. As soon as all the babies see the washcloth and hear the song they now know it is time to hold out their hands to be washed. Some babies take the washcloth and wash their own faces. This is also a great opportunity to incorporate some math in our day, by counting fingers as we wash them.

We also did some activities about our teeth. It was a challenge counting some of the baby’s teeth, while about half of the babies are just starting to get them. The babies love to play with our material book about a bear getting ready for a nap and using the attached material toothbrush to brush his teeth. We also had a special visit from Dental Associates for Children’s Dental awareness month. Some of the children were able to practice brushing the teeth of a dinosaur.

The babies were also very busy making Valentines cards for our parents. This was one of our sensory activities for the month which included foot and hand prints. The babies were also given an opportunity to eat red Jell-o and experience cool whip for the first time. Playing in different textures will help in their sensory development.

During our Jesus time we practiced praying together. We will continue to work on folding their hands and saying a short prayer. Our final lesson in February was about how Jesus helps us say “Thank you”. Now anytime we have an opportunity to sign “thank you” to the children we are.

Our main theme in March is Dr. Seuss and other children’s authors/fairy tales. We have purchased some new felt board stories that we will share with the children. During our Jesus time in March we will talk about how Jesus feeds five thousand, Mary and Martha, and the Good Shepherd.

Elijah practicing brushing teeth with a jumbo toothbrush.



Edith enjoying our Valentine’s treats.

## **Tiggers** (1 – 2 year olds) Staff: Katie Nowack, Sarah Lemberger

The Tiggers read many fun stories starting with Dr. Suess books. We read “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish” . The children could count 1, 2, 3. They had a lot of fun reading “The Foot Book” and the “The Eye” book. We are even working on making their own “Foot” and “Eye” book using their own little feet and pictures of their own eyes. We ended the month talking about books by Eric Carle. Some of the children enjoyed a messy project of shaving cream while making their “Hungry hungry Caterpillar” Some did not like the feeling of it and used puffs and paint brushes instead of their hands. We are also working on making our own Handprint and Foot Print “Brown Bear” Book which will go home sometime in April. Your children are working on their colors. They are few are doing really well, and when asked to find different colors in the room they can find something. We were finally able to get outside and go on some very nice walks. The kids (and teachers) really enjoyed being able to get back outside for long periods of time. While we did still have some snow we were finally able to get out and play before it melted away. Welcome Spring.

We have begun to talk about Easter! The children are learning that Jesus died on the cross and rose again through a cute little poem from our “One In Christ” curriculum. It goes to the rhythm of Brown Bear so it was a good one for the Tiggers to work with. If you would like a copy please let me know.

In April the Tiggers will learn about the signs of spring. They will play in the water table, talk about Lions and lambs and also look at how we grow bigger just like flowers. We will also talk about healthy foods as we will hopefully be able to plant some plants in our garden boxes outside. We will begin to plant out seeds and watch them grow in our new Green House (Thanks to the Yeh family for their donation), we will get to play in the dirt and mud and watch as our seeds grow to healthy foods and beautiful flowers. The theme for our entry way bulletin board will be “growing in God’s GRACE” as we remember that each child attending GRACE ECC is growing not only physically and mentally but growing in the Grace of God.

A reminder to parents as you are bringing in such great snacks for the Tigger kids. Please think about the healthy aspect we are working on this month and keep that in mind as you provide snacks for all our Tigger Friends. Thanks for all the great snacks thus far.

Be sure to save the date!!! Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be our ECC Cookout fundraiser. We will be selling brats, hamburgers, and hot dogs and many goodies to go with it. The proceeds will benefit the growth of our gardening experience as we look to new garden boxes and a few other fun things.



## **Busy Bees** (2 – 3 year olds)

Staff: Jane Durant, Judy Behlke

Hello, parents of the Busy Bee room. Spring is finally here! The month of March flew by so fast. We celebrated a few special days such as Dr. Seuss' birthday and St. Patrick's Day. We want to welcome our newest additions to the Busy Bee room Morgan, Kiley and Hazel.

Our theme for the month of March is "God Gives Us Good Things." We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by gluing red and white stripes together to make the hat for the cat. The kids learned how to make a pattern. We also did some foot stamping with red paint for the theme of "The Foot Book" and played I Spy relating to the "The Eye Book." The children were able to identify a lot of shapes and colors with this activity. Make sure to check out our bulletin board in our front entrance which has a few samples of some of our art activities we do throughout the month. We had a picnic to reenact the story of "Jesus Feeds 5,000." Yummy, we ate five oyster crackers to represent the five loaves of bread and two fish crackers to represent the two fish.

St. Patrick's Day was fun, we had shamrock shakes and played "I Spy" something green. We paint stamped with green peppers to make a clover shape and glued three hearts to make our Trinity clovers. Each heart (leaf) represented the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The children identified four different colors that we glued to make our rainbows. We had fun during snack time eating our butterfly cut outs from bread and the antennas were pretzels, yum! We made our "Hungry Caterpillars" by paint stamping with marshmallows. Hand and finger stamping with yellow paint to make our mom and baby chicks were a fun sensory activity. Quack, quack, watch out for our rubber duckies. We did some counting as we sang our "Ten little ducks swimming in a pond."

Our theme in April is "God Brings New Life." We will celebrate new life as we plant seeds and watch them grow. April showers brings May flowers. We will be doing lots activities focused around flowers and what makes them grow, like the sun and rain. We also do activities that represent all the birds and animals that come out in the Spring. Earth Day is another special day in April that we will talk about.

**"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32**

God's richest blessings,

Jane and Judy



## Little Lambs 1 & 2 (3 - 4 year olds)

Staff: Carey Strup Lynn VanKanegan

Happy Spring! Yes, spring has arrived in the Little Lamb's Room. If you have looked around you will have noticed some spring cleaning going on and some new exciting things going on in the room as well. This spring we are welcoming Miss Carey to the room.

We have been very busy discovering new things in the room. Magnet tiles have been the biggest discovery and the children are loving them. We also have more musical instruments out and have discovered how loud we can be. We discovered science and have even done some experiments!! We mixed colors and now know blue and yellow make green!! We are working on sign language of the ABC's and have learned that some people cannot hear and use their hands to speak. We have also started planting in our science area. We planted lavender and carrots and onions in our science root system. Now that it is nice out we are going to get back into taking walks and discovering the outdoors. In math, we are doing shape patterns to make pictures, color sorting bears and beginning patterns. In writing we have learned the letters W and X and have wrote them on the chalk board and in shaving cream and brought many pictures from home to share with our friends.

In the April I hope to be talking more about spring and the changes it brings we will continue working on letters and numbers and celebrating Earth Day and Easter in April.

Please remember to have spare clothes for your children in a zip lock bag and labeled with their names on them. Also, remember to have the right outdoor gear for your children since we live in Wisconsin and we never know what we are going to get hit with in spring.

God Bless you and your families!  
Ms. Carey, Ms. Lynn



Logan and Genevieve using small manipulatives to practice sorting and counting



Sylvia, Molly, Logan, and Genevieve enjoying Sensory Play with Shaving Cream.

# Little Lambs II (4 year olds)

Staff: Amykate Cammarata

We have gotten off to a great start in Little Lambs II! This month we have been focusing on authors Eric Litwin (Pete the Cat), Eric Carle, and Mo Willems (the Pigeon series). We learned from Pete the Cat that things won't always go our way, but we can keep on singing. We practiced making illustrations with tissue paper and paint like Eric Carle and we were able to tell the pigeon "no!" no matter how many reasons he had for wanting to drive the bus.



Little Lambs II also took a week to learn about Saint Patrick's Day. We learned who Saint Patrick was and why we celebrate him every year. We also read some books about leprechauns and how they give you gold if you are able to catch one. We worked hard creating a leprechaun trap, but the leprechaun's ended up being too tricky. We did not catch one, but they did leave us a surprise!

Ms. Jennifer, the K4/k5 teacher from Grace Lutheran visited us on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. She read a book about seeds and we painted a flower, adding a stem and leaves. We talked about how seeds need water, temperature and light to grow. They have roots that grow down and sprouts that grow up! We also planted our own flowers and placed them in the greenhouse in our hallway.

This month we will be focusing on the Easter story, spring, and plants/seeds. We will also be working in smaller groups to learn and write the letters in our name.

Looking forward to April and warmer weather!

Ms. Amy

The Members of Grace invite you to join us!

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Good Friday                      April 14

12:30 pm    Good Friday Service.

6:30 pm    Tenebrae Service (Service of Darkness)

The two Services on Good Friday are both unique and different services -  
you are invited to join us for both!!!

### **April 16 Easter**

Easter Sunrise                  6:00 am

Easter Breakfast                7:00 am – 7:45 am **at Church**

### **Festival of the Resurrection**

8:00 am & 10:00 am (with Communion)

**The Sunrise service is a different service from our 8:00 and 10:00 service.** You are invited to join for both the Sunrise and one of the Festival services.

Easter is the heart of our Christian celebration. Where better to be on Easter than with your brothers and sisters in Christ, celebrating the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus!

