

# GRACE LUTHERAN ECC & PRESCHOOL



## News and Notes

June/July 2017

Welcome to Summer! We have many fun activities planned and all the teachers are excited to begin our Summer Session.

Our summer session will kick off the week of June 12 with two weeks of Nursery Rhymes. We have many felt stories to go along with the lost, but not forgotten, Nursery Rhymes of the old days. Thursday,

June 15 will be "Fly a Kite Day", and we are praying for a windy day so that we can fly a kite in the parking lot.

The last week in June we will celebrate National Camping Week. Teachers are busy planning outdoor activities that we all enjoy while camping as well as enjoying S'mores on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

We cannot forget that June is also National Dairy Month. We have included special dairy days in our June curriculum, and permission slips for tasting our Wisconsin dairy products have gone home. Be sure to return these permission slips so that your child can participate in these tastings.

As we move into the summer months just a reminder for the parents to send sun screen for the children, a hat of some sort for the sunny days, and shoes appropriate for playing. Children can wear sandals to school, however we have found that sandals with some sort of back on them to be the safest for the children when engaging in physical activity. Please to also check your clothes cubbies for spare clothes that are appropriate for the warmer months. Remember that we are close to Lake Michigan and there are times that when the breeze comes off the lake a sweater or sweat shirt if necessary.

In Christ,

*Rachel Miliacca, Director*



# Parent Night Out

Staff: Rachel Miliacca  
Katie Nowack

Our last Parent Night Out for the fall/spring session was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The children enjoyed a pizza party with a donation from Rachel Miliacca of the pizzas. A big thank you to all the families that donated treats to go along with our pizza.

It was great to see some new families take advantage of this service. Some of these families took the time to spend quality time with their spouses and to strengthen the bonds in their relationships. This is what this program is intended to do, as we offer the time for the adults while their children are well taken care of by Early Childhood teachers.

Our next Parent Night out will be held in the month of September. Look for information in August for the specific date.

Pizza Party with all the Parent Night Out children



Our movie of the night was “Moana.” This was the first time many of the children have seen this movie. They seemed to enjoy this Disney movie and may become a favorite.

# Angels (6 weeks to 1 year)

Staff: Rachel Miliacca, Samantha Otzelberger, Sarah Lemberger

It's beginning to look like summer at Grace Early Childhood Center. We are entering the summer schedule and it is time to say Goodbye to some of our Angels. Some of our little Angels will leave for the summer and return in fall as Tiggers. We wish all these families a safe and happy summer. We are transitioning Edith to the Tigger room and wish her well. We will still be able to enjoy her company in the morning for breakfast. A warm welcome to Railynn, Camille, Bailey, and Madelyn as they begin their journey with us in the Angel room this month. Please stop and introduce yourself to these new families and welcome them to Grace Early Childhood Center.

Our focus this month is to move the one year olds up to Tiggers and begin to assess and meet the needs of our new infants. Our physical development in June and throughout the summer will include large muscle development as this is important for walking. We have a small group for the summer and we will be spending some of our time combined with the Tigger's classroom which will give these soon to be walkers plenty of opportunity to develop these muscles. We will also combine with the Tigger's for our art and sensory development.

Our Jesus time in the month of June will include: God Helps Build Things/Solomon Builds a Temple, Praising God/God's House is Wonderful/ Caring for God's House/Jonah, and God Gives Us His Word/Josiah. In our Jesus time we will learn a few new songs of praise, stack with building blocks, practice keeping our room picked up as well as washing our hands and faces.

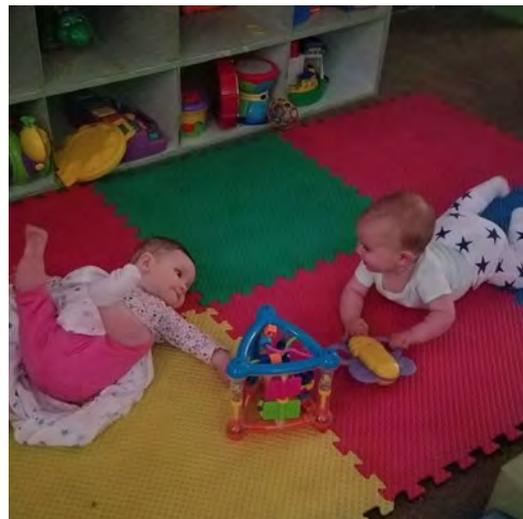
We have continued to take our daily stroller rides through the neighborhood. Spending some time on the toddler playground, crawling in the grass, or using some of the walking toys to walk around the playground are favorite activities for the babies and young toddlers.

Stop and check on our gardens as you enter the center as we now have flowers and vegetables as a center combined effort to include science and nutrition in our program. It will be exciting for the children to be able to watch the plants grow and develop as they do through the summer session. As these plants start to produce fruits, the older children in the center will be able to sample some of the produce they have grown and taken care of. This garden project is part of the YoungStar "Garden to Plate" program that we have been striving to achieve.

I look forward to a fun and enjoyable summer session with all the children, and thank you parents for sharing your children with me. God's Blessings on your summer!



Lilly and Camille enjoying an afternoon stroller ride.



Camille and Maeve making new friends.

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

Staff: Katie Nowack  
Morgan Davis  
Rosie Miliacca

The Tiggers were finally able to get outside during May and play in the Infant Toddler playground a few times in between the rain. They had so much fun finally being able to play in the sandbox and “mowing” the grass with their bubble mowers. We were finally able to get some of our seeds planted, the Tiggers had much more fun playing in the dirt than planting the seeds. We also had a great time moving the dirt out of our old plant boxes to get ready for our new ones. The old ones will be moved along the church sidewalk to be used for a beautiful flower garden while our new ones will support our healthy “food to plate” curriculum. We’re showing the children all the healthy foods we can grow and harvest ourselves.

We also talked about fairy tales. We read about the 3 bears, 3 pigs, and the BIG BAD WOLF. The Tiggers favorite thing to do was to practice blowing the “houses” down.

Throughout June the Tigger Class will talk about the weather changing from spring to summer. We will hopefully continue to have many chances to get out and enjoy the sunshine as we have already been blessed with beautiful days. Hopefully it gets a bit warmer so we can play in the water (which is a favorite of the children). One thing that we will talk about in June is BUBBLES....The Tiggers love bubbles. We will have many other fun themes to support our summer program.

Please don't forget that your child needs a water bottle, sun hat and sunscreen (if you don't want your Tigger child to use the center provided Water Babies). We want to make sure that we are keeping all of our children safe in the warm summer sun while still having lots of fun.

Please remember as a new snack calendar goes out for the Tigger Room to keep in mind the importance of healthy nutritious snacks (this also supports our Youngstar regulations). If you have any questions, please ask. We are doing a great job so far with Fresh Fruits, vegetables bagels and whole wheat crackers. I think that the children are enjoying the new foods they get to enjoy.



## Busy Bees (2 – 3 year olds)

Staff: Jane Durant, Judy Behlke

Hello parents of the Busy Bee room! The month of May sure flew by fast. We celebrated a few special days such as Mother's Day and Memorial Day. We want to welcome our newest children to the Busy Bee room, Kofi and Logan. Happy Birthday to Franklin and Charlie and wish them God's richest blessings as they enter the Little Lambs classroom.

Our theme for the month of May was "Friendship." God is our friend and he helps us be good friends to others. We had a lot of fun reading the classic fairy tale story "The Three Bears." Each child got to hold onto their favorite stuffed bear from home while reading the story. We compared sizes with our bears (small, medium and large) and grouped and sorted items in threes, which was so much fun. On our walks we have seen many colorful flowers while the children identified what color they were. We painted and glued tissue paper on circle shapes with orange, yellow, red and purple to make flowers. We did various activities related to the weather such as gluing cotton balls to make clouds, finger painting with yellow to make a sun and dressing Wally the Weather Dog on our felt boards. We read the story "David and Goliath" and talked about how God makes us strong through faith. We celebrated Memorial Day by making our own flags to honor those that served our country.

Our theme in June is "Building and Caring for God's House." We will be doing activities that focus on nursery rhymes, weather and camping. We celebrate Father's Day and National Dairy month by eating good foods and spending time with Dad. Finally, summer is here on June 20th! Please remember to bring sunscreen and extra summer clothes as we will be spending a lot of time outside.

"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

God's richest blessings,  
Jane & Judy



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

Staff: Carey Strupp, Kim Moeller

The Little Lambs have had a very busy May. They have been learning to recognize their names as well as working on individual letters within their names. We have gone back to review the basic numbers and shapes before the summer break.

Our theme for May was spring. We have been taking walks around the neighborhood noticing the new blossoms on the trees as well as the flowers that are now blooming. To go along with our spring theme, we talked about recycling and how we can clean our environment both indoors and outdoors. We studied the different types of metals and plastics and how we can save our environment by recycling. We also enjoyed a visit by Jill L. from the Oak Creek Library. One new thing added to our classroom was Freddy Frog. Every morning we talk about the weather and what the children should wear to match the weather by dressing Freddy Frog.

We are calling the month of June "Fun in the Sun!" We have many fun activities planned for the month of June.

In May, Miss Carey shared with the class that she became a Nana to beautiful Mia Evelyn. She was born May 3<sup>rd</sup> and was 7lbs. 12 ozs. The children enjoyed talking about baby Mia and comparing the differences between babies and toddlers.

Please make sure that you have turned in a family picture for our tree wall. Now that it is getting warmer outside, it is time to check the spare clothes in the children's cubbies to make sure they are not only weather appropriate but also that they still fit.

God, Bless you and your families!  
Ms. Carey, Miss Kim

Cameron N and Isaiah R playing with playdough and Kwame Finger painting  
and Ms. Carey's granddaughter, Mia.



# Little Lambs II (4 year olds)

Staff: Amykate Cammarata



We happily welcomed May in our Little Lambs II classroom! The first several weeks of May were dedicated to reviewing shapes, numbers and letters. We made shape cookies, had a classroom shape hunt and tried making shapes by working together with our classmates. For our numbers week we practiced math story problems, played number identification games and sang songs and nursery rhymes like 1,2 Buckle My Shoe. During our letter week we made our own alphabet book, read, “Chicka, Chicka, Boom Boom” and added letters to our own coconut tree. When it was nice outside we went on walks looking for shapes, letters and numbers and we created a Lois Ehlert in-

spired mural outside with paint and toothbrushes. As the warmer weather came we also helped empty some flower boxes to make room for our newly made boxes. We will help fill them with all sorts of plants during the summer.

After our review weeks we had a lot of fun learning about bears, maps and sequencing with our “Going on a Bear Hunt” themed week. We learned where bears live and what they eat. We also sang the bear hunt song and read the book, “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” by Micheal Rosen. After that we sequenced the events in the book and were able to make a map of the children’s journey. We later made binoculars out of construction paper and went on our own bear hunt.

We ended May with a beach week. We discussed the beaches we have been to, plants and animals we might find near a beach and how to keep ourselves safe in the sun and the water. We had so much fun on our Beach Day party pretending to ride the waves, making a beach day craft and having a beach day picnic!

The children have put in a lot of work this year, practicing academic, social and developmental skills that they will take with them whether they are returning to Grace Lutheran Early Childcare Center or continuing on to school.

We are looking forward to the summer program starting in June and all the outside play and learning we will get to do!

Ms. Amy



# GRADUATION NEWS CONGRATULATIONS KATIE NOWACK

As many of you know I have been attending NWTC based in Green Bay. In 2015 I received my Infant Toddler Credential. After accomplishing this great step in my education I decided to continue my journey and take classes toward my associate's degree in Early Childhood education. On Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> I accomplished this event and graduated with my associated degree.

I am going to continue taking classes starting back up in Fall 2017. I am one class away from receiving my Preschool Credential and 3 classes away from my Administration credential. I would also like to look into transferring my credit to UW-Green Bay with the possibility of pursuing my bachelors in Early Childhood. This would then give me the ability to teach in a K5 classroom, which has always been my dream.

I thank everyone that has supported me along the way I could not have done it without the families, staff and congregational support at Grace. Please keep me in your prayers as I decide what my next journey holds.

