

# GRACE LUTHERAN ECC & PRESCHOOL



## News and Notes

May 2017

### Living a Chocolate Life

A Monthly Bible Study for Women

The monthly Bible Study for Women, "Living a Chocolate Life," led by Chris Meyer, gathered in the month of April and talked about starting from scratch. It focused on the foundation of the promises that God has given us through the bible. It also focused on how we, as women, can build our faith with the very basics that God has given us. This study was led by Jane Durant and Judi Behlke. At the end of the bible study each of the ladies were given a mason jar with the ingredients for making chocolate, chocolate chip cookies from scratch.



May 24th 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 mothers, neighbors, and 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 April Parent Night Out was very busy. We had 7 children attend in April. We had a ton of fun celebrating Easter with the children.

We started our night with dinner together. As we were eating Miss Katie took on the task of hiding the Easter eggs in the big room. The one and two-year old's were the first ones to search for eggs, followed by the older children. The older children did an excellent job making sure that the young children could find some eggs as well. We followed our Easter egg hunt with a bunny piñata. It was a little hard for the children to break, but with a little help from Miss Rachel and Miss Katie we did get the bunny to open so that the goodies could fall out.

We then headed upstairs to dye Easter eggs and play games with the children. It seems that the favorite game the children played was table top bowling with bunnies and carrots for the pins. Thank you Jill Nowack for your generous donation. The children were so busy playing that we couldn't fit in a movie before parents arrived to pick them up.

Our final Parent Night out for this session will be held May 12th, 2017 from 6pm to 10 pm. Our theme for this last Parent Night out will be a party. We will provide pizza for the children at 6:00 and then we will play some party games with them. If any other parent would like to provide something for our party, please let us know what you are bringing.

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: Tammy Wimer, Samantha Otzelberger

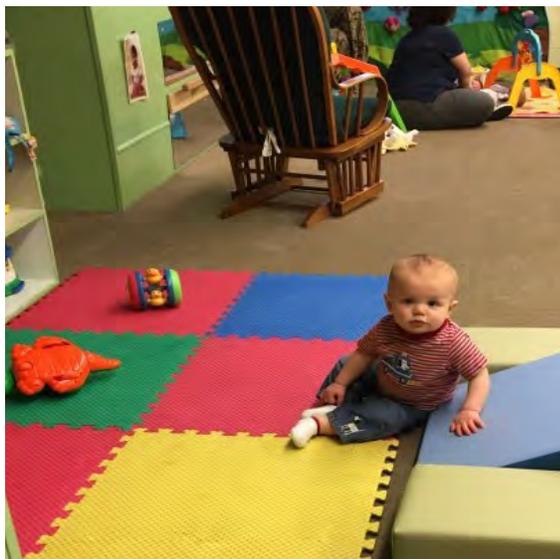
Spring has finally arrived in the Angel (Baby) room. We welcomed spring in with numerous sensory activities to hang on our spring bulletin board. Some of these activities included coffee filter spring flowers, footprint bumble bees, and footprint robins. Although the weather at the beginning and end of the month was very unpredictable, we still have gone on some great walks with the children. While on these walks we have been working on our language development by stopping and “mimicking” the sounds of the dogs and birds. We have also enjoyed socializing with the Tiggers and the Busy Bees.

In April, we welcomed Patrick to our classroom. Patrick also has a big sister in the Busy Bee classroom. We also had to sadly say Good Bye to Elijah as he moved up to the Tiggers classroom. We do, however, get to enjoy breakfast with Elijah every day. We have now begun to transition Edith to the Tigger classroom as well.

Our physical development in April included many walks up and down the hallway with the walkers, and crawling over and under obstacles in the classroom for the crawlers. I have introduced several of the children to using utensils while eating. We are “poking” our food and working on getting it into our mouths. Although, the older children do love to eat pasta with their fingers.

In our Jesus time in April we talked about Jesus in the Garden and how Jesus tell us not to worry. In May our bible stories will include Hannah Prays, Little Boy Samuel, David and Goliath, and David and Jonathan.

We are going to use the month of May for a review of all the signs that we have learned so far this year. That will include “More”, “All Done”, “Sorry”, “Please”, and “Bottle”. The older children are starting to use these signs more often, and before some of the children take off for the summer, it would be good to review them.



Patrick exploring his new environment



Maeve and Lily making new friends.

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

We've been getting ourselves ready for spring in the Tiggers classroom. We've talked about the air changing slowly but surely and have been observing that we do have some nice warm days and some cold days. The Tiggers were also able to plant flowers this past month. What fun they had playing in the dirt and some even tasting it, only to find out it wasn't the best snack and they should stick to cheerios. They learned that each seed will grow in to a beautiful flower just like each one of us grows into a unique child of God. In the month of May each child will have a flower with pictures from birth to present to see how God makes us each grow bigger and bigger just like the trees and the flowers. Hopefully we will be able to plant them into our garden boxes if the weather ever stays warm enough.

In May the Tiggers will learn about many more signs of spring. We will talk about trees, birds, butterflies and kites. We will go on many walks as we watch the bare winter trees turn into wonderful green trees. We will also watch and see how many different kinds of birds we can spot. We hope to see robins, cardinals, and blue jays, as well as many more! We will hope for some windy days also so we can go outside and fly a kite and watch what wind can really do!

A reminder to parents as you bring in great snacks for the Tigger kids. Please think about the healthy aspect. Grains, whole wheat, yogurts, fresh fruits and veggies are great treats to bring. Thanks for all the great snacks you continue to provide.

Please remember Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> is our Brat Fry. It will be held from 9:15-10:15 and 11:30-1:00. This will raise funds to support our healthy snacks as we grow and improve our garden boxes and additional aspects to help with our Gardens to Plate curriculum.



## 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 April flew by so fast. We will be having a fundraiser for new garden beds, since the ones we have are falling apart. This will be a cookout on May 7th after the 10:30 A.M. service so please make sure you join us. We want to welcome our newest additions to the Busy Bee room Julian, Claire and Emily. Happy Birthday to Julian, Gunnar and Wesley!

Our theme of April is “God Brings New Life.” We made birds nests out of paper bags and used our plastic multicolored easter eggs to do some color sorting. Quack, quack, watch out for our rubber duckies. We did some counting as we sang our “Ten little ducks swimming in a pond.” Our greenhouse is finally set up. What lives in the soil and provides food for the birds? Worms, yummy spaghetti worms that we had for our snack. We also did activities that themed around our weather. We glued cotton balls to make clouds, glued rain drops on our clouds and glued multicolored rectangles around a circle to make a sun. We brought in a fan and sprayed water so the children could feel the wind. On our walks we paid attention to what the weather felt like. Painting heart shapes with taped crosses on them shows us how much Jesus loves us because he died on the cross.



We celebrated Palm Sunday by gluing “Hosanna” on our colored green leaf and sing “Ho,ho,ho, Hosanna” while waving our leaves getting ready for Jesus’ arrival into Jerusalem. We opened up our resurrection eggs, one each day to symbolize Jesus death and rising from the dead. Jesus washed his disciples feet on Maundy Thursday. We had fun washing feet just like Jesus did. Lastly, we painted and glued three crosses to represent Jesus’ death on Good Friday.

Our theme in May is “God is our friend.” He helps us to be good friends to others. We celebrate Mother’s Day and Memorial Day as we honor our mothers and soldiers. We will do various crafts with flowers. Other activities will focus on how we dress before we go outside such as jackets, rain boots and umbrellas.

**“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 year olds)

Staff: Carey Strupp, Kim Moeller

We have had some changes in Little Lambs this past month! We even came up with a theme song "We Are the Mighty Mighty Little Lambs." This month we welcome Ms. Kim to the classroom.

We are excited spring has arrived in the classroom. We made paper plate flowers along with talking about the parts of a flower and the water cycle. We have also gone on some long walks and talked about spring and the changes to the environment. The children enjoyed playing "I Spy" and found some numbers and letters along the way.

This month we welcome Kwame back to Little Lambs!!! Kwame is the older brother to Kofi, who is in the Busy Bee classroom.

We called the month of April "exploring and learning" month. We planted corn, carrots and onions in our new Science Center. We are trying to make a sweet potato sprout roots in a cup and have just noticed small roots on our willow branches that we picked up on our walk.. We are busy getting ready for our garden and are excited to plant it. We are working on name recognition and have enjoyed talking about "Freddy the Frog." He helps us talk about the weather and how we need to dress. We are leaning words like Cool, Cold, Cloudy, Sunny, and Snowy.

In our Jesus time in April we talked about Jesus in the Garden, and how Jesus tells us not to worry. In May, our bible stories will include: Hannah Prays, Little Boy Samuel, David and Goliath, and David and Jonathan.

In May we will re-enforce our letters even more by focusing two weeks on each letter. This will help the children build their letter skills. Our classroom themes for the month of May are "The Hungry Caterpillar" and bugs and flowers. We have planted some flowers and vegetables in the classroom and are watching their progress.

God, Bless you and your families!

Ms. Carey, Ms. Kim



Genevieve working on math cubes counting.



# 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 CELEBRATION CONTINUES

