

# GRACE LUTHERAN ECC & PRESCHOOL



## News and Notes

September 2017

Welcome to our Fall/Winter session at Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Center. We are excited to begin a new session with many new families, some new teachers, and many new ideas.

Just a few reminders for all parents as we begin this new session:

- The 2017/2018 registration packets will be sent home next week. It is very important that all families return the paperwork in a timely matter with their registration fee. Please update any necessary paperwork and return to the office before September 15<sup>th</sup>. Most of the updated paperwork is Wisconsin State Licenses requirements; and to stay current, we must have these items on file in your child's folder. Please note: included in your registration packet is the new revised Parent Handbook. There have been some changes in a few of our policies, so be sure to take time to read it carefully. Please sign and return your statement of acknowledgement to the office. If you have any questions about any of the articles or policies in the registration packet, please feel free to stop and see me on your way in or out of the center.
- Please remember to check your child's clothing basket for season appropriate, and size appropriate clothing. Some of our children have grown in the last few months and may have outgrown the spare clothes that we have for them. It is also time to consider adding a sweater to your child's basket.
- Check the bulletin board just outside the office for upcoming events and important announcements as you sign your child in or out for the day.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** – Church picnic held outside at the school site on Pennsylvania. Brochures available on library table outside the office.

**Tuesday, September 12** – all day- Grace ECC Culvers Night. Stop and enjoy a meal or just some ice cream. A portion of the meal proceeds will be given to Grace ECC for curriculum development. Remember your brochure located on the library table outside the office.

**Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** – Picture Day – Lifetouch will be at our center for most of the morning to take single pictures as well as classroom pictures of all the children in the center. As time approaches order forms as well as information will be distributed to all children.

**Wednesday, September 27**– Grace ECC annual Spaghetti dinner. Information, as well as signup sheets, located on the library table outside the office.

God's Blessings,

Rachel Miliacca

*Rachel Miliacca, Director*

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

15th Annual

**Sunday September 10th**



**10:00 am** Outdoor Worship @ School

Bring your lawn chairs if you like!

**Church, School, ECC PICNIC— Following our Service.**

Hamburgers—Hot dogs served—bring a dish to pass!

Please join us!

As part of our service we will recognize Rachel Miliacca formally as our new ECC Director and acknowledge Judi Behlke, who is a graduate of Concordia Mequon.

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## Parent Night Out

Staff: Rachel Miliacca  
Katie Nowack

Our new session of Parent Night Out will begin in October. For our new families, a little about Parent Night Out. We developed this program about three years ago as an opportunity to give back to our families and the community. Parents can drop off their children at the center any time after 6 PM on event nights and pick them up no later than 10 PM. We staff these events with at least two teachers. The teachers volunteer for this event and are able to use to invest in new learning materials in their classrooms. The event is open to children 6 weeks to 12 years old.

**Our first event will be held  
Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>  
6 PM to 10 PM.**

The children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes. We will play glow stick games, have a special Halloween treat, and close our evening enjoying a movie together. Our Halloween treat will be a cooking project that we will do together. We will be sure to take plenty of pictures and will post them on our bulletin board, as well as on our web site.

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: Rachel Miliacca, Samantha Otzelberger

Our summer session has come to a close for this year. It has been a very busy summer in the Angel (baby) room. Most of the children are now back to their regular schedules. We have welcomed many new families to the Angel room this summer. Please be sure to stop and welcome and introduce yourself to the new families. Welcome to all the new families and children to Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Center.

We have enjoyed the Infant/Toddler playground this summer. The children were able to work on their physical development outside on blankets and the older infants crawled around on the grass. The children that are learning to walk were using the pushing toys outside to maneuver from one side of the playground to the other. This also gave them an opportunity to work on their social development with the one year olds.

The summer months were filled with many outside activities. We continued to combine with the Tigger classroom for our daily stroller rides. All the children participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Now, with the close of our summer session, we will begin to focus on the fall session.

Our main theme for the month of September is "All About Me." We will create posters for each child that will introduce the children and their families to the other children and parents in our center. Be sure to stop and look at the posters on the wall near our classroom. Our bible stories in September will begin with the story of Creation. We will have some mini themes in September four our classroom as well. Watch for your classroom newsletter every month for more details.

God's blessings on the Angel classroom as we move forward in the year, as well as with all the families at Grace.



Grace and her new friend Cole ready for a morning stroller ride.



Madelyn stretching out during floor play time.

# Pooh

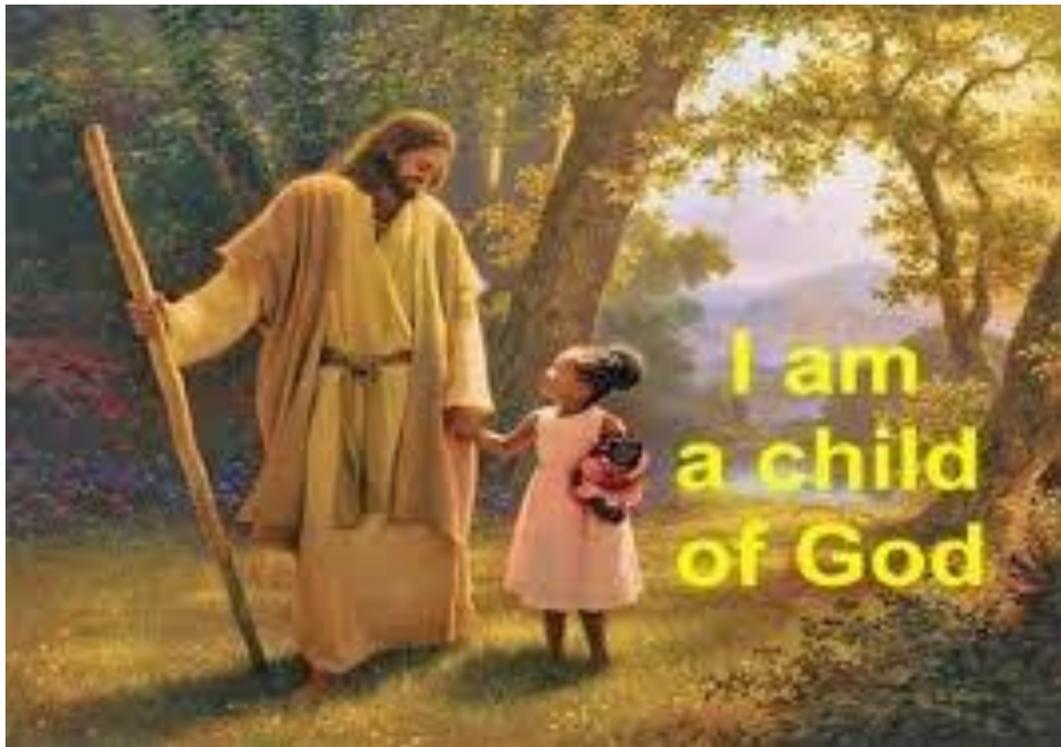
Staff: Kim Haacke

Welcome to Pooh! Our new Pooh room is designed for the children that are 10 to 14 months and are not quite ready to move on to the Tigger Room (1 year old room). Kim Haacke, who is a returning teacher to Grace Lutheran Early Childhood, is the Lead teacher in the Pooh room.

The Pooh room will offer up to four children in that age group individualized care and help with development. The focus on the development will be in all five domains of the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. These are both required by YoungStar and the National Accreditation Commission. Those domains include Health and Physical Development, Social and Emotional Development, Language and Communication development, Approaches to Learning, and Cognitive and general knowledge development.

Miss Kim has an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education and is working toward her Master's degree. She comes to us with a great deal of experience and knowledge. As we develop this room, we will be adding additional staff and moving additional children from the Angel room into Pooh.

Look for more information about our Pooh children in our October newsletter. In the meantime please stop and introduce yourself to Miss Kim and see all the improvements that she has made to this new room.



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

As a new school year begins many children will be returning after they have been off for the summer. Many transitions will be happening and also new teachers will be joining the gang. We look forward to the ‘Pooh’ kids joining us in many fun activities with Miss Kim. We are so blessed to have more children and now an extra room. What a blessing!

In the month of August we had many fun themes. The Tiggers favorite was “Friends”. They had so much fun talking about friendship and sharing. We also talked about pets and animals and we talked about creation and the great flood. The kids enjoyed making handprint spiders and singing the Itsy Bitsy Spider. We also had a chance to catch a warm day this summer and we played in the water table. The Tiggers really had a lot of fun although I think that they got Miss Katie wetter then they got themselves While we have been spending a lot of time with the Busy Bee children we have gotten down to Tigger room a few times near the end of the summer where the Tiggers get to experience some of the new toys that will be out for the “new” school year.

In September the Tiggers will learn all about their families and their neighborhood with the themes of “All about Me” and “My World”. We will start off by looking at each child and how they are alike and different. Each child will get a board made with the help of their parents, the boards will tell us the child’s favorite things and many of their firsts they have experienced.

We will continue the month looking at families. We will continue to develop our family board. Children will practice person to name recognition. This will also help children identify the people in their friend’s families. We will also hit on the fact that no family is the same and practice the song, “A family is Special”. We will also be doing activities with the other teachers to show the children that we are all a family at the ECC and each one of us is important. We will enforce that we are all children of God and that each one of us is important.

We will finish the month looking at community helpers that the Tiggers are used to seeing every day. We will talk about teachers, doctors, nurses, firemen, policemen and mailmen. We will watch on our walks to see how many of these people the Tiggers can identify. We will mail letters to some special people hoping that we get mail back when we talk about mailmen. We will put out “fires” (red cool whip) just like firemen and we will put band aids on our stuffed animals to heal their owies like doctors.



## **Busy Bees** (2 – 3 year olds)

Staff: Jane Durant, Morgan Davies, Sara Durant

Hello parents of the Busy Bee room. We've been busy these past months with summer fun and activities. We had our own Fourth of July parade with the whole daycare in our parking lot. Our trikes/bikes and strollers were decorated and the Busy Bees got to march while playing various instruments. We are entering into a new school year and we want to welcome our newest additions to the Busy Bee room Kaylie, Sadie, Ellorie and Logan. Happy birthday to Kaylie who just had a birthday this past July.

We celebrated Fourth of July with fun red, white and blue snacks with bananas, strawberries and blueberries. We glued stars to make a wreath on a paper plate to celebrate the holiday. We've been having fun picking all the fresh vegetables out of our garden. The tomatoes and cucumbers were huge and tasted awesome as we ate them for snacks. We used the peppers and the green sprout of the onions to paint. We made our little fish bowls by painting our paper plates blue and gluing goldfish on them. Some of the kids had some problems trying not to eat them all. Our transportation theme was a lot of fun. We painted with cars and ate trains for our snack made out of graham crackers and M&M's. For our bug theme week we made a caterpillar out of a paper plate. The children painted the body yellow and cut out or tore a green piece of paper to make the head. We also had a fun bug snack made out of cheese puffs, apple slices, raisins and pretzels.

Our theme for September is "All About Me." We will be doing activities involving our five senses. We will also be talking about our bodies on the inside and out along with our feelings and our families.

Remember, God takes care of us through our prayers and faith. He also wants us to give back and help others who are in need to continue spreading his word. "Let us do good to everyone." Galatians 6:10

God's richest blessings,  
Jane



# Little Little Lambs I and II (3-4 year olds)

Staff: Judi Behlke, Ashanta Tyce

Wow, the summer is nearly over! The saying is true: "Time really flies when you are having fun? The Little Lambs have been busy all summer.

Our themes for the summer have had us learning about Nursery Rhymes (remember what those are – if not I hope your child reminds you). Insects, fairy tales (which we had fun acting out) and closing our summer session with the "Circus."

With the summer session ending and the beginning of our fall session we will get back to the basics of letters, numbers, shapes, as well as learning about how "special" we are. We will explore and learn how special we are from head to toe, inside and out. We will talk about how God has made us special.

Please make sure your  
Send in a family picture for our All About Me board.  
Check your child's cubby daily for notes and projects

On Friday's I will be sending home a weekly highlight sheet of what we covered in the classroom during the week. This will give you an opportunity to re-inforce some of the skills or help to discover new these new skills with your child.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to stop and see me, or to send me a note with your child.

God, Bless you and your families!  
Ms. Judi and Ms. Ashanta



Snack time for some of the Little Lambs and Vivian playing with small manipulatives before the day begins.