



Our mission is to provide a Christ-centered environment in which we guide our children socially, spiritually, intellectually, and physically.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School Newsletter for Families & Friends

February 2012

Issue #61

from the Director-

February is the month when most parents wonder: What will we do during Winter Break? A whole week...and we are not going away. How can I keep my children busy?

My response, from my years with my three children, is...enjoy the time together! Remember how children spell L-O-V-E: "T-I-M-E"! Look at it as an opportunity to be together, doing fun, simple things. Let it be a week that will trigger happy memories when they are grown. Some simple planning can help create a wonderful week. Here are some ideas:

1. First, turn off the TV, computer, electronic games. Yes, really!
2. Listen to music. Fill your house with melodies. Move to the rhythms, waltz around the room, march or dance to the beat, create simple instruments, get loud. Draw songs: imagine what the song might "look" like.
3. Get messy. Finger paint, squish clay, glue sticky collages, bake, stuff some shells for dinner. Sit on the kitchen floor, with or without a plastic tablecloth, and get creative!
4. Have a Winter Picnic. Pack a lunch and go eat in another room with a blanket on the floor. Pretend to fly kites, find creepy critters, take a hike.
5. Have a restaurant night at home: pick a theme (we liked to do Mexican), kids make menus, decorate, set a theme table, escort the family to seats, serve, clear, etc.
6. Stay in your pajamas, crawl under some blankets (make a tent?) and read lots of stories together. Act out your favorites. Be dramatic: use funny voices, facial features, add costumes, and before you know it, you've got a play!
7. Take a break: have quiet time after lunch for naps or just taking a rest.
8. We still have to provide meals, clean, do laundry, etc. Make easy meals the kids can help with, let them match socks, dust the lower surfaces. And remember, thank them!
9. Have a theme day such as "Backwards". Wake up and have dessert then dinner, wear clothes inside-out, learn to say your names and simple phrases backwards, etc. Other themes: safari, tropical, USA, outer space.
10. Cabin fever? Visit a nursing home, library, car wash, winter walk, produce aisle to try a new fruit or vegetable...do something different around town!

-Judy Hinsch

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Valentine's Dance ~ make your reservations by Feb 3!
It's More at the Door!

Lutheran Day at Citi Field MAY 5~ reservations due Feb 15

*"We love, because
God first loved us."*

1 John 4:19



CALENDAR

Feb 1: Tuition payments due for 4 & 8 payment plan (late fee applied 2/13)

Feb 3: 10am ~ Visit from Dr. Charlie (children's dentist) *Children in N2am & N3pm are invited to attend with parent. Please, no siblings.*

Feb 10: Valentine's Dance 6-8 pm

Feb 20-24: NO SCHOOL ~ President's Day and Winter Break

Feb 21: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30-7:30 pm

Feb 22: ASH WEDNESDAY ~ worship & Imposition of Ashes at Good Shepherd ~ 10:30 am & 7:30 pm

March 4: All School Children Sing at 10 am worship service

March 9: NO SCHOOL ~ All Staff Professional Development Day

**MARCH IS LUTHERAN
SCHOOLS MONTH**

Mark Your Calendar Now!

**SCHOOL CLOSED FOR ALL
FAMILY THEATRE DAY ON
JUNE 1 ~ CINDERELLA!**
at the John Engeman Theatre
in Northport



Good Shepherd Lutheran School is a member of the Lutheran Schools Association (Metropolitan New York area) and the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association. We are licensed by the Office of Children & Family Services of New York State and a voluntarily registered Non-Public Pre School with the New York State Department of Education.



from the Pastor ~

Dear Good Shepherd School Family and Friends,

The chill of February always seems to thaw a bit when we pause to remember the holiday of love, Valentine's Day. Here at Good Shepherd we even use this opportunity to introduce our little stars to their first dancing experience!



The story of St. Valentine will be 1,742 years old this year and yet his message that love must prevail is as popular today as ever.

According to legend a priest named Valentine lived in Rome during the third century at the time of the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius had a passion for war. He became enraged because many men who had families were reluctant to join the army. In response the Emperor issued a decree declaring a ban on all marriage ceremonies. Needless to say Pastor Valentine disobeyed Claudius' decree and continued to marry couples in secret until he was caught, arrested and condemned to death.

During his imprisonment many young people came to visit Valentine, bringing him flowers and notes to make him feel loved. It is believed that the daughter of a prison guard risked her own life to visit with him often during those last days even though she violated the law to do so. Her love and devotion inspired and comforted Valentine.

On February 14, 270 AD, Valentine left a note for the jailer's daughter thanking her for the bold and selfless love that she shared with him during his last days. He signed the note, "Love from your Valentine." He was then executed because of his steadfast belief that nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of true love.

As parents and family members of precious children you are well acquainted with sacrificial love. You would do anything to ensure that they grow up healthy and happy. In sending your children to Good Shepherd you are giving your children the priceless gift of knowing God's unconditional and unending love for them. That love will give them strength and hope throughout their life's journey. Thank you for your love for your children and for your commitment to Good Shepherd. If you would like to further enhance your child's Christian education and your own, please join us on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM for our Christian education hour and stay for worship. I'd love to see you there!

Love never ends,

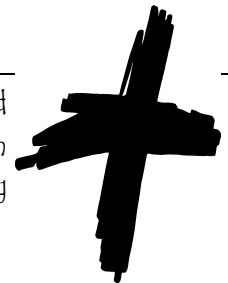
Pastor Eric Olaf Olsen



Our February Offerings

are designated for KEMPS
(Kibeta English
Medium Primary School)
in Bukoba, Tanzania (East
Africa) with whom we are in
partnership through the Metro
NY Synod of the ELCA.

You and your children are welcome to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 10:30 am or 7:30 pm on Wednesday, February 22nd, and gather for Evening Prayer at 7:30 pm each Wednesday during Lent.



Along with many other churches, during this holy season we eliminate the use of the word "Alleluia" in worship. Just before Ash Wednesday, the children will color a sheet of paper with the word "Alleluia", place them in a box, and put the box away. When we come back to school after Easter we will open the box as we joyfully celebrate the new life we all have in Jesus, the Risen Christ. This visual experience helps the children understand what Lent is all about.

Our religion curriculum focuses on Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter; during those weeks and when we return after Easter we will focus on these stories in chapel and in the classroom.

*A Little Bit of Trivia: Why is the date of Easter different every year?
It falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox (first day of spring).*

COMING SOON: 2012 - 2013 Tuition Rates and Summer 2012 Registration Information

Returning families who have registered for September 2012 will be receiving tuition information before the Winter Break. You will be asked to return the Payment Agreement Form, indicating your choice of the one, two, four, or eight payment plan, by March 15. Upon receipt of the agreement, you will receive a set of coupons. The first payment will be due May 1. By late February we will be sending home Early Bird registration forms for our Half Day & Full Day Summer Programs. Be ready: rates will go up for all registrations received after May 15.



Lutheran Day at Citi Field
sponsored by the
Lutheran Schools Association
to support our schools
Saturday, May 5, 2012
at 4:10 p.m.

Mets vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

\$30.00 per ticket

Big Apple Reserved Seats (field level, outfield)

We know it is early, but the deadline to order tickets is

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 15

BOOK FAIR Luau *It's a Reading Celebration!*



BOOK FAIR 2012 was a huge success! Thanks to ALL who supported this fundraiser! Sales well exceeded last year. The BUSY BEES had the best percentage of participation with 14 out of 16 families purchasing books. They earned a Luau Celebration which will take place in their classroom in February, sponsored by Mrs. Hinsch & Miss Lindsay. Congratulations!

Additionally, thanks to the following parents who helped out **Doreen Arato, Stacey Broggy, Samantha Carofano, Lauren Jasinski, Kelly Martin, and Fanny Neamonitis.** and to **Miss Lindsay** who coordinated the daily sales, additional ordering, and wrap-up.

The Staff is grateful for all who participated in the Wish list program ~ it is always good to have new books in our classroom libraries! Thank you parents!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Reservations due February 13

Please use flier that was sent home or come to the office to sign up.



Valentine's Dance & Pizza Party

Friday, Feb. 10 ~ 6:00-8:00 pm

Reservation Deadline: February 3

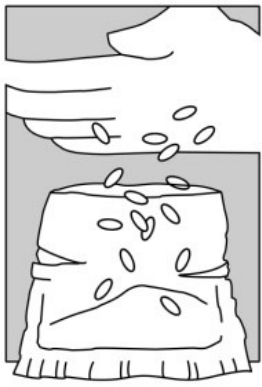
Buy your tickets NOW before the price increases!

\$5/person now ~ \$10/person after Feb 3 and at the door!

Cold Weather Reminders & Safety Notes:

- 1)** Please do not leave your car running when you drop off your child. It would be devastating if a gear slipped.
 - 2)** Do not pull up along the curb; this creates congestion and impaired visibility for other drivers. You will be asked to move.
 - 3)** The snow markers are not to be touched by the children; if bent back and released they can easily injure a child in the head or face. Please supervise your children carefully when you leave the school building.
 - 4)** Sorry, but even on cold, windy, and/or rainy mornings we cannot unlock the doors earlier at drop-off and pick-up times. We suggest you wait in your car if you arrive early.
 - 5)** Those handicapped spots can be very tempting! But they must be kept open for those who have the proper permits.
- Remember, this is all because we love you and your children so very much and want everyone to be safe.**

Thank you for your cooperation!



Attached you will find information about the **HAITI MEAL PACKING EVENT** at LuHi and a registration form if you are interested in participating. Registration is done directly through LuHi.
Dates: April 26—April 28 ~ 2-hour shifts
 Erica Spangler, one of our Pre-K moms, is the Community Coordinator for this event.

Last year some of our families and staff participated and found it to be a life changing event as they helped to pack 300,672 meals.



**GOOD SHEPHERD
 FAMILY & FRIENDS
 SKI TRIP!!!**

We're going skiing! Bring your friends and family for a day of Winter Fun at Belleayre Mountain Ski Resort.

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Bus will leave Good Shepherd at 5:00 am and will return at 7:30 pm.

- \$30 for bus only
- \$68 for skiing & snowboarding
- \$10 for rentals
- Free 1-hour lesson for beginners

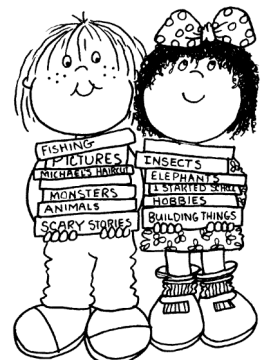
Checks payable to Action Tours must be received in the church office on or before February 17. We need at least 40 people to make this happen - please stop in the school office as soon as possible if you are interested.

**BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB
 BOOKS**

have been added to our library during the past two months in honor of

*Garin Chillemi, Antonio DeRosa,
 Ava Lamantia, Jack Pfeifer,
 Lauren Vallelonga, Matthew Winslow,
 and Matthew Wolanski*

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
 OUR LIBRARY AND HONORING
 YOUR CHILDREN IN THIS VERY
 SPECIAL WAY. OUR FORMER
 STUDENTS LOVE TO COME
 BACK AND FIND THEIR BOOKS
 ON OUR SHELVES!
 IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO
 DEDICATE A BOOK!**



Now is the Time to Mark your Calendar

SCHOOL CLOSED



FRIDAY MARCH 9

All Staff Professional Development Day