



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

June 2011

Issue #56

from the Director ~

Hands. Your child's hands, your hands, our hands. Thank you for trusting us so much that you placed them in ours this year.

Do you remember some reluctance to separate hands — from them or maybe even you— at the beginning of the school year? How their hands have changed since September! They let go more readily. Their hands have grown, maybe some of the chubbiness has disappeared. Think of the finger paint they have squished, the paper they have cut, the googly eyes they have glued, the letters they have written, the plastic food they have served their friends, the sand they have siftedall that they have done.....without you there beside them! And at the end of the day they place that precious hand, that has experienced so much, back in yours. Happy. Loved. Handed from teacher back to parent.

Hands. When I listen and watch our children sing the many songs they have learned this year, I get teary-

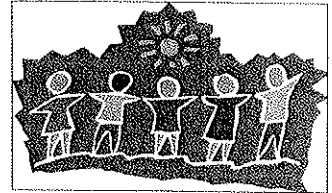
eyed as I observe their faces and hands, trying with all their heart to get the motions to match the words. Words which tell what we can do with God's hand in ours. Hands that say it if the words don't come out.

Hands. To hold. To give God a great big hug and make the sign of the cross. To fold in prayer. To clap. To wipe away a tear. To hold with a friend. To wrap around your neck in a hug. To let go.

Thank you again for placing them into ours this year.

On behalf of the entire staff, we'd like to thank you for a wonderful school year and wish all of our school families a safe, healthy, and happy summer. We'll see many of you during the summer or next year. If you are moving on, please be sure to stop in and visit.

Mrs. Judy Hirsch



*"Now we are
children of God."*

1 John 3:2

CALENDAR

June 1: Tuition Payment due for 8-pay plan 2011-2012

June 2: Wizard Of Oz—school closed for all Nursery & Pre-K programs. Toddlers in session

June 5: School Children sing at Sunday worship—10 am

June 8 & 9: Recognition Programs—7 pm

June 15 & 16: Closing Chapels and End-of-Year Class Parties

June 17: Staff Development Day

June 20-24: Vacation Care

June 27: Full Day Summer Program begins

June 27-July 1: Vacation Bible School (full day summer participates in VBS)



**Happy Father's Day ~ ~ ~
to all who are fathers or fulfill that role!**

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say,

"You're tearing up the grass." "We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys." ~Harmon Killebrew

from the Pastor -

Dear Parents and Friends of Good Shepherd,

My most recent television indulgence is watching *The Voice*. This reality game show hosted by Carson Daly has contestants working with accomplished recording artists in an attempt to find the next "voice". What I like about the show is the personal investment each recording artist makes as a mentor, coach, and teacher helping each vocalist to refine their natural gift. With the exception of the competitive component, it is a lot like what happens here at Good Shepherd. In the school, each beautiful child comes to us bearing precious God given gifts. Our staff works with each of them in a loving way, coaching, mentoring and teaching them to refine their natural gifts so they can be secure in themselves and realize that they are special. We introduce and identify God as our greatest coach, friend, mentor and teacher and we help each child to recognize and celebrate the gift of that beautiful relationship grounded in the unconditional love of Jesus. The children are so uplifted by this great news that they find their voice in song! I know you have heard the songs your children sing; because I am sure they sing them for you at home, in the car and perhaps even at times which might seem inappropriate to you, but which feel just right to them!



I would like to encourage you as parents to reclaim and find your voice and to allow your child to do some mentoring, coaching, and teaching with you. Ask your child to teach you the songs they know about God's love and sing them together on those car rides, before a meal, at bed time, early in the morning and even when you may feel a little embarrassed, but when your child insists. (Last week that time came for me in the middle of a shopping trip at Costco!) If you open yourself up to this opportunity something amazing will happen. You will reclaim your own voice and recognize the relationship that God has with you!

On Sunday, June 5th Good Shepherd Church will be celebrating Youth Sunday and your child is invited and encouraged to invite his or her family to worship. The children will do what they love. They will use their voices to sing to God with all the joy, joy, joy they have in their hearts! The best part about it that all of us big kids will be invited to join in too!

Smiling and Singing about God's Love,

Pastor Eric

We welcome our new Administrative Assistant

Ms. Lindsay Kuefner! (pronounced 'keef-ner')

"Ms. Lindsay" joined the staff on May 16. She is quickly "learning the ropes" and catching on to all the details that make up life in the school office and classrooms. Her engaging smile and cheerful attitude create a welcoming presence both in person and on the phone. Along with her excellent computer skills, creativity and efficiency, we are off to a wonderful start!

Lindsay lives in Islip where she grew up. She went to school at Saint Leo University in Florida for 4 years (2006-2010) and is currently finishing classes online for a degree in marketing. A hard worker, her experiences include being a summer camp counselor for preschoolers as well as a Student Assistant in the admissions office during her college years. Additionally, Lindsay worked for a children's photography studio for 3 years (2008-2011) in both Florida and on Long Island; she quickly discovered that she loves spending time with children! Although she has no children of her own, she has a kitten Milano (like the cookie) that acts like one; Lindsay writes: "he'll be a year old in June and he is the first animal I truly take care of on my own....so for now he is my 'child'."



Our June chapel offerings will be donated to the ELCA Disaster Response to aid those who have sustained losses in the recent tornadoes which have devastated areas of the mid-west and southern United States. It



is a short month with school ending ~ please donate generously to this urgent need.

Note: We will continue gathering items for The New Life Center until June 10.

