

***"Whatever your
hand finds to do,
do it with
all your might."
Ecclesiastes 9:10***

**Preschool Yearly Theme
2011-2012
Ms. Keck
3 Year-Olds**

Why teach children to serve?

Studies show that if you asked young adults 15-20 years ago what would make their lives successful in their eyes, they would answer things like:

- have a family
- be healthy
- have a good job that I enjoy doing

Recent studies asking the same question now bring a different response from our new generation of young people, like:

- be rich
- be famous
- have a high-paying job

We have shifted in our society from thinking of others to thinking of ourselves. One of the biggest things we need to start teaching our children at a very young age is how to help others around them. Be like Jesus! Be a servant!

The main purpose of this year-long unit of study is to cultivate servant hearts in the very youngest of God's kingdom. In so doing, young children will learn first and foremost just how much their heavenly Father loves them. He sees us for who we are (warts and all!), and He uses even our imperfections and weaknesses to grow His kingdom. In fact, our weaknesses are seen as a strength in God's eyes. That is the perfect will and plan of God for us! His mercy and forgiveness are ever-present and make us truly free to serve. And He will never take us where He has not already been.

I pray for God's blessings on this year and this unit!

In Christ,

Ms. Keck

August/September

Unit: All About Me

Me and My School
My Feelings
My Five Senses
My Healthy Body

Jesus Times: Wonderfully Made

God Created Me Special
Blind Bartimaeus
Jesus Heals a Deaf Man
A Lame Man Walks

Color Day: Red

Shape Day: Circle

Special Days: Teddy Bear Friendship Day
Apple Day

Math: Sorting and Matching

Literacy: That's My Name!

Social Skill Focus: Identifying and Expressing Feelings

Fieldtrips: Franklin Street Bakery
Apple Orchard

Speaker: Ambulance

Service Projects: Clean up playground
Decorate midweek meal tables
Cleaning jobs in classroom

October

Unit: Safety Sense

School/Playground Safety
Home/Neighborhood Safety
Seatbelts/Car Seats
Pedestrian Safety/Traffic Signs
9-1-1
Strangers/Good Touch, Bad Touch
Bike Safety
Fire Safety

Jesus Times: Bible Heroes

David and Goliath
Joshua and the Big Wall
Daniel and the Lions
Esther
Moses Leads God's People

Color Day: Orange

Shape Day: Triangle

Special Days: Pajama Party
Bike Day

Math: Patterns

Literacy: Visual/Auditory/Tactile Discrimination
Alphabet (A, B, C, D)

Social Skill Focus: Self-Esteem and Competence

Fieldtrip: Fire Station

Speaker: Police Officer

Service Projects: Cookies for firefighters, visit a senior center

November

Unit: I Belong

Me and My Neighborhood
Me and My Family
God Gives Me a Home
Community Helpers
Transportation
Places We Go

Jesus Times: God Gives Me a Family

Baby Moses
Abraham
Joseph and His Brothers
Ruth
Timothy

Color Day: Brown

Shape Day: Square

Special Days: Thanksgiving Feast Day

Math: Numbers and Counting/One-One Correspondence

Literacy: Retelling/Sequencing
Alphabet (E, F, G, H)

Social Skill Focus: Empathy

Fieldtrip: Children's Museum

Speaker: Invite a City Council member or city official to come in and read to the children and talk about what they do.

Service Projects: Collect Food for Food Shelf
Collect Pennies for a Crisis Nursery

December

Unit: I Belong (cont.)

Jesus Times: The Christmas Story

What Is Advent?

The Promise of a Savior

An Angel Comes to Mary

Travel to Bethlehem

Jesus Is Born

Angels and Shepherds Celebrate a Birthday

Color Day: Yellow

Shape Day: Rectangle

Special Days: Jesus' Birthday Party

Christmas Program

Math: Basic Geometry (Preschool Geometric Gym)

Literacy: Listening/Oral Expression

Alphabet (I, J, K)

Social Skill Focus: Cause and Effect

Fieldtrips:

Service Projects: Continue collecting pennies for Crisis Nursery

January

Unit: Fruits of the Spirit

Jesus Times: Jesus Grows and I Grow, Too!

The Wise Men
Simeon and Anna
Little Boy Jesus
Jesus In the Temple
Jesus Is Baptized

Color Day: White

Shape Day: Star

Special Day: Mitten Day
Sledding Day

Math: Measuring

Literacy: Print Awareness
Alphabet (L, M, N, O)

Social Skill Focus: Problem Solving

Fieldtrip:

Service Projects: Mitten Tree
Make bird feeders

February

Unit: Kindness and Friendship

Jesus Times: My Best Friend Is Jesus
Jesus and the Children
Zacchaeus
Through the Roof
Mary and Martha
The Woman At the Well

Color Day: Purple

Shape Day: Heart

Special Days: Valentine's Day
Groundhog Day

Math: Graphing/Making Comparisons

Literacy: Rhyming Words
Alphabet (P,Q,R, S)

Social Skill Focus: Reframing

Fieldtrip: Post Office

Service Projects: Valentines for Shut-Ins/Letters to Soldiers

March

Unit: Our Wonderful Earth

Our Land (includes trees, forests, wetlands, food chain, plants)

Our Air (includes wind, air cycle, air pollution)

Our Water (includes rain cycle, water pollution, conservation)

Litter and Recycling

Outer Space

Jesus Times: God's Amazing Creation (particular focus on Days 1-5)

Color Day: Green

Shape Day: Diamond

Special Days: National Lutheran Schools Week

Math: Quantitative Concepts

Literacy: Opposite Words/Spatial Words
Alphabet (T, U, V, W)

Social Skill Focus: Responsibility

Fieldtrips: Recycling Center or Nature Center

Service Projects: Recycling at church/school

April

Unit: Our Animal Friends

- Pet Parade
- Down On the Farm
- In the Deep Blue Sea
- Preschool Safari
- Just Buggy
- The Rainforest
- Arctic Adventures
- Dig Those Dinosaurs

Jesus Times: God's Amazing Creation (focus on Days 6 and 7)
Passion Week/Easter

Color Day: Blue

Shape Day: Octagon

Special Days: Pet Day

Math: Simple Computation

Literacy: Creating Stories
Phonemic Awareness
Alphabet (X, Y, Z)

Social Skill Focus: Optimism and Hope

Fieldtrip: Farm

Speaker: Humane Society

Service Projects: Make dog biscuits for Humane Society
Clean up local park
Composting

May

Unit: “To the Ends of the Earth”

Jesus Times: I Am With You Always
The Great Commission
Jesus' Promise
Jesus Knows My Name
God Has a Plan for Me

Color Day: Rainbow

Shape Day:

Special Days: Mother's Tea
School Musical
Graduation

Math:

Literacy:

Social Skill Focus:

Fieldtrip: Valleyfair?

Speaker: Missionary

Preschool Curriculum

Children in the 3 year-old classroom will explore these concepts, but they are not required to master them before moving on to the 4 year-old classroom. I am of the opinion that what is learned in preschool is considered a “bonus”. Children are taught with hands-on materials, songs, games. Much of their learning occurs in play, and is child rather than teacher-directed. Children are assessed by observation and work samples.

Math

- Numerals 1-6
- Counting objects to 6
- One-one correspondence of objects
- Sorting by various attributes: color, shape, size
- Patterns
- Sizes: small, medium, large
- Measurement
- Shapes: square, circle, triangle, rectangle
- Matching: symbols, shapes, patterns, etc.
- Same and different
- Quantitative Concepts: more, less, same
- Time: day and night
- Money: Explore through games, songs, and pretend play

Literacy

- Exposure to alphabet
- Recognize, spell, write first name
- Hold a pencil, marker, crayon correctly
- Retell familiar stories
- Draw pictures and dictate sentences about stories and experiences
- Answer questions about stories
- Repeat simple nursery rhymes and fingerplays

- Concepts of print: left to right direction, holding a book right-side-up
- Building new vocabulary
- Building listening skills
- Strengthen visual and auditory discrimination
- Sequencing
- Develop fine motor skills: play dough, scissors, writing utensils, Legos, etc.

Science

- Explore science tools: magnets, prisms, magnifying glasses, etc.
- Experience the world through nature walks, gardening, and other explorations
- Observe insect life
- Observe plant growth
- Observe weather and plant life during each season
- Measure and mix ingredients in cooking activities
- Identify basic colors and explore color mixing
- Make observational drawings and dictation
- Explore the world with the five senses
- Investigate animals, the homes they live in, the food they eat

Creative Arts

- Explore a variety of art processes: painting, drawing, sculpture, weaving, collage, etc.
- Learn basic concepts such as line, texture, color, form, etc.
- Use a variety of art materials: crayons, tempera paint, watercolor paint, colored pencils, markers, chalk, clay, etc.
- Experiment with mixing paint colors
- Sing traditional songs and songs that enhance the curriculum
- Participate in movement songs and dances
- Use scarves, rhythm sticks, and bean bags to practice rhythms
- Use a variety of children's instruments
- Participate in dramatic play

- Dramatize familiar stories
- Act out the movement and sounds of animals

Social Skills

- Practice problem-solving skills in social situations
- Work in groups or with a partner on a variety of projects
- Share classroom materials with the group
- Practice using manners: please, thank you, excuse me, table manners
- Communicate needs
- Take care of personal needs: clean up, fasten clothing, wash hands, bathroom, use tissue as needed, etc.
- State personal information: first and last name, age, school name, city, state, country
- Explore types of work and workers
- Explore modes of transportation
- Participate in projects to help others

Technology

- Use computer programs
- Use a computer mouse: click, click and drag
- Use the Internet to explore kid-friendly websites

Religion

- Listen to Old and New Testament Bible stories
- Recognize that plants, animals, and human beings are all a part of God's creation
- Recognize that God created families to love and take care of one another
- Learn about God's love and His acts of grace
- Listen to stories of the life and teachings of Jesus
- Apply Jesus' teachings to their lives
- Say simple prayers

Large Motor Development

- Develop large muscle control and coordination
- Develop body strength, balance, flexibility, and stamina
- Use a variety of equipment for physical development
- Develop ability to move their body in space with coordination