



# Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center

## 'Be My Valentine' Party-

On **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**, we will be having a family Pizza Dinner and Valentine-making party. All families are invited to come and join in the festivities. Reservation forms have been placed in your files and should be returned to Karen by Monday, February **6<sup>th</sup>** along with **payment**

(\$6.00/person 11 years and older and \$4.00 for children 10 and younger) which includes Pizza, salad, drinks (pop or milk) and Valentine supplies. Each family will need to bring their own scissors, glue and markers. Everyone will be making Valentines for themselves and for the residents of St. Matthews Nursing Home. Children will walk them over to the resi-

dents later in the week.

A sign up list will be outside



Karen's office if you are able to bring a dessert (peanut-free), help with the planning, setting up or cleaning up of the party. The party will begin at 6 pm. in the church basement and last until approximately 7:30/8 pm.

## Business Name

Volume **12** Issue **2**  
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## Special points of interest:

- ⊙ Tuesday, February **7<sup>th</sup>** Be My Valentine Party" in the Church basement from 6-8 pm
- ⊙ Friday, February **10<sup>th</sup>**- last day for 'priority registration' for Messiah families
- ⊙ Spring Parent-Tot begins Monday, March **19<sup>th</sup>**

## Summer and Fall Registration Forms-

Summer and fall registration forms were distributed to each child's file during the week of January 23rd.

If you are interested in having your child attend Messiah during the summer of 2012 or during the 2012-2013 school year, PLEASE be sure that you return your forms and fees as quickly as you know your plans and PREFERABLY no later than Friday, February **10<sup>th</sup>**. If any days or classes are filled before the **10<sup>th</sup>**, a status board will be posted by Rita and Cathy's office informing families of limitations.

As much as we would like to be able to accommodate every family's registration wishes, **it is simply not always possible to guarantee classroom choices, staff, days, times and classmates.** We will do our best to match children with any requests, but placement will depend on the timing of registration, the filling of certain

class times and/or staffing changes.

**Please be informed, also, that we cannot guarantee any specific teacher for any specific class. Staffing assignments will not be confirmed until school begins, in the fall when all staff members have been assigned to their classrooms.**

**Several positions in each class will be reserved for full and half day students.** If these positions are not filled by September, some limited spots may be opened to people on the 2 1/2 hour waiting list.

After February **10<sup>th</sup>**, all applications received are treated on a first come basis without regard to current enrollment status. Several outside registrations have already been received and will be the first used to fill in any spaces available on the 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, or need additional forms for friends or other family members, please see Karen or Cathy.

## Inside this issue:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Summer and Fall Registrations                    | 1 |
| Be My Valentine Pizza and Valentine Making Party | 1 |
| Spring Parent-Tot Program                        | 2 |
| February Birthdays                               | 2 |
| Miss Rita's Book Recommendations                 | 2 |
| Manna Program                                    | 2 |
| Junior Kindergarten                              | 3 |
| People in our Neighborhood                       | 3 |
| Fun Fair info                                    | 3 |

## Parent-Tot-

Our spring Parent-Tot program will begin on **Monday, March 19th** (and Tuesday, March 20th) and run for 10 weeks. The class will be for parents and children (aged approximately 18-36 months) and will meet once a week on either Monday or Tuesday. There are openings in both the 9:10-10:10 am. classes and the 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday class. On Tuesday, the class will only be offered from 9:10-10:10am.



If you have any questions or if you are interested in receiving an application, please see Karen or Cathy.

## February Birthdays-

- 2 Miss Pat (Dance teacher)
- 3 Alan C.-5 years old
- 3 Miss Joy
- 4 Nathan S.-3 years old
- 9 Brianna M.-4 years old
- 13 Miss Bette
- 15 Jenna A.-4 years old
- 18 Gavin T.-5 years old
- 18 Christian D.-4 years old



Happy Birthdays!!

## Valentine's Day classroom plans-

Each child will receive a classroom notice concerning individual class numbers for Valentines and their plans for Valentine's Day. Please watch for your child's classroom note.



## Tax Forms-

When filling out **Form W-10** (Dependent Care Provider's Identification and Certification), the space labeled 'Provider's Identification Number' can be filled in with the words "**Tax-Exempt**", as per the paragraph (Tax-Exempt dependent Care Provider) found under Part I of the Specific Instructions. If you need a copy of the form for electronic filing see Rita or Karen.

## Parent Library-

### Rita's Readings

**#101 What Stories Does My Son Need?** By Michael Gurian This book offers a listing of books and movies for ages preschool thru high school to help "build character in boys". There is a brief description after each title and possible questions to raise for discussion. Having a son myself, this helped me in guiding his exposure to the books and movies available.

**#181 365 Ways to Connect With Your Kids** by Charlene Ann Baumbich Numbered 1 thru 365, this book is easily read. Each "number" is an anecdote from the author's own experiences in which she offers what she learned and how that particular situation helped her connect with her own children. Some concrete activities are given but more than that, it's a book on how to relate to your kids and be there for them. Engaging and delightful.

## Manna Card Order-Note date change for Manna!!

### Orders will be placed on Monday, February 6th!

One of Messiah's most productive fund raisers has been our Manna Card program. We certainly appreciate everyone who has supported our program with their orders.

If you have not yet tried our Manna program, it is easy. Each month (now changed to Monday after the **first** Sunday of the month) we place an order for 'gift cards'. These cards, of course, do not need to be only given as gifts, but can also be used for your own personal shopping. Several families have standing orders for grocery stores (Jewel, Dominicks, Caputos) or gas stations. You use these cards as you would cash. There are many retail stores and restaurants as well. Please check over the list and support Messiah by purchasing a card or two each month.

The cards will be available for you to pick up by Tuesday at noon February 7th, so this month you can use your cards to shop or give for Valentine's Day-**Think Fannie May!!!**

The next Manna order will be placed

on Monday, February 6th at 9am

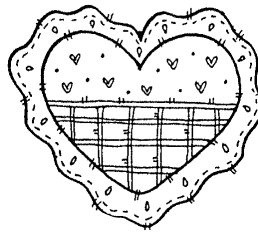
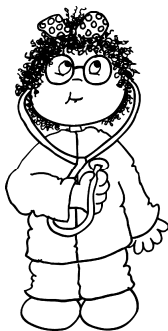
\*\*\*Check on our website: [messiahchildcare.com](http://messiahchildcare.com) for the new

# People in Our Neighborhood-

During the weeks of February 20th and 27th, and March 5th, we will be learning about occupations and people who work in our community. We will be doing a week of 'class rotation', as we did in November. Each classroom will be transformed into a part of the community (doctor's office, ice cream parlor, art studio, etc.) and the children will move to the other rooms and experience their settings. Additionally, we will be doing some parent/community helper presentations. We have scheduled several parents as well as the Park Ridge librarians. We would love to add more helpers, so if you would be interested in sharing your job with the children at Messiah, please see Karen. Each parent or visitor will present a 15-20 minute 'job show and tell' to each group-telling the children about your job, demonstrating some of the things that you do and showing them some of the 'tools/equipment/materials' that you use. You would speak to 4 or 5 classes, beginning at 9:15am and ending about 11:15am.



See Karen for the dates that are still available for parent presentations. See Karen if you are available to help with any of our People in Our Neighborhood activities.



## Drop Off-Pick Up-

Please remember to sign your child in and out **each day** on our sign in sheets located in the staircase hallway. (And wash your child's hands before entering the classroom.) We, also, ask that you remember to stay within your contracted hours when bringing and picking up your children. Children who arrive early or are picked up after their contracted hours will receive a extra time charge for the added time that the child is at school. If you wish to extend your child's contract and allow yourself some timing flexibility, please stop in at Cathy's office and pick up a new contract.

## FUN FAIR- volunteers needed!!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 19th (11:00am-2:00pm) for Messiah's 8th annual fun fair. The day's activities will include pony rides, carnival games, train rides, moon walks, delicious food, prizes and a huge silent auction.

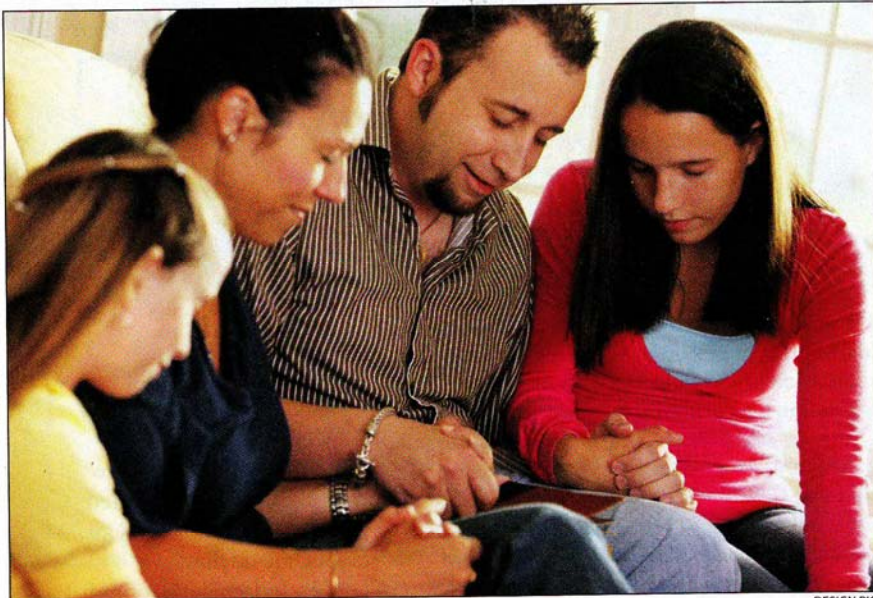
The fun fair committee will soon be sending out forms to Messiah families requesting any silent auction items that you may be able to donate. In addition to donations from local businesses, in past years we have had many families donate sports tickets, new toys, home improvement services, condominium usage, boat cruises, restaurant meals, etc. If there is any item or service that you would be able to donate, to help make our silent auction a success, we would certainly appreciate it. Please see Rita, Cathy or Karen if you can help plan this fund-



## Junior Kindergarten

Throughout the course of Messiah Child Care Center's history, programs have been added (or deleted) according to the needs of the community. Since our opening (as a 'nursery school') in 1966, we have expanded our school to include full day child care, summer pre-school and day camp for children up to 10 years old, Kindergarten, Younger 3's classes, Pre K-3 (for older 4 year olds), afternoon pre-school (the one program no longer available) and Parent-Tot classes.

Over the past several years, many families have felt that their child would benefit from an additional year of schooling before entering the larger public school Kindergarten class. The 2011-2012 school year was the first year of a Junior Kindergarten program at Messiah. This class is for children who are Kindergarten age (by September 1st), but whose parents desire to give their child an extra year before beginning Kindergarten in 2013. Our Pre K-3 class currently serves children who turn 5 after September 1st and are ready for a 5 day/week program. The Junior Kindergarteners will work in association with the current Kindergarten class and join in the afternoon enrichment class from 12:30-1:30. Both the Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten classes will be 5 days/week from 9-noon. Please check out this unique opportunity.



DESIGN PICS

# Addition, not subtraction

## 10 things your family can add this Lent

By Lynne M. Morrow

**A**s the liturgical season of Lent approaches, it's possible some of us aren't anticipating the traditions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving for 40 days. Perhaps you've even wondered if it's really necessary or helpful to "do without." But what if we instead add spiritual practices that enhance our preparation for Easter?

An already busy family *can* add to the season of preparation without adding unnecessary stress. Try at least one of these practices, or think of your own:

**1. Pray together** as a family. If you've never done this, start each day with a breakfast prayer or pray as the kids go out the door to school. Focus morning prayers on "Where will we see God today?"

**2. Designate** a consistent time for "family night" each week. Take turns

picking an activity and selecting the meal. Keep this time sacred (also technology-free) and focus on the sensory parts of the meal. Create special place mats, light candles, change the location (outdoors, basement, garage) to awaken the senses to the presence of God.

**3. Collect** coins during Lent. Last year, our church preschool collected \$759.52 for a food pantry. Just drop all loose change in a container at the end of each day. As a family, decide where to send the money.

**4. Rediscover** the art of writing letters. Choose someone the family hasn't been in touch with (if it's a relationship that needs mending, take the first step). Write a letter or card that everyone signs. And if you end up being short on paper, envelope or stamp, call them and put the family

on speaker (or Skype with them).

**5. Serve** at a community meal, work in a food pantry or find another food-related cause to work at as a family. Your kids will remember it after Lent is over and ask to do this at other times of the year.

**6. Begin** planting fruits and vegetables indoors with seeds, planning the harvests to coincide with food pantry needs.

**7. Visit** those who are homebound or in the hospital (your pastor may provide a name). Take time to listen and ask questions about their faith, family and life. With their permission, record these experiences with photos, audio or written journals.

**8. Read** something as a family, taking turns reading aloud each evening. Or together drink from the spiritual readings of the Psalms, Exodus, Ecclesiastes or others, poetry or *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

**9. Make time** to share the arts with your family. Discover a new art gallery, begin guitar lessons, experiment with oil painting or attend a concert.

**10. Keep** a family Lenten journal with an entry each day for contributions from all members. Entries can be drawn, created (crafts), written, or audibly or visually recorded (dig out that video camera you haven't used in awhile).

The possibilities for adding spiritual practices to your family's life together are endless. Involving everyone in choosing what to do is key to keeping the practices sacred. And some practices may stick around long after Lent and Easter. □

*Morrow is a mother and pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, Ill., where she spends considerable time with preschoolers.*



Greetings Messiah Families!

Are you ready for some football? With the **Super** Bowl coming up everyone is rooting for their favorite NFL team and preparing for the big event! But there is another "**SOUPER**" Bowl coming up that we'd like to tell you about.

The "Souper Bowl of Caring" was born in 1990 when the youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC addressed the issue of hunger with this Super Bowl Sunday prayer:

**"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game,  
help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."**

The prayer inspired that single church to invite 21 other congregations to join them in collecting \$5,700, which was donated to local charities that provide assistance to the those in need. Over the past 20 years, more than \$50 million has been raised in cash and food for organizations that fight hunger. From a single prayer and a single youth group, the Souper Bowl of Caring has become a powerful nationwide movement that touches more lives each year.

At Messiah, this will be our fifth year participating. This effort has been led by the Messiah Confirmation Students and has resulted in nearly \$4000 and over 1700 food items directly to the Maine Township Food Pantry due to collections around the past 4 Super Bowls! This year we will combine our efforts again with the Child Care Center and Sunday School students to actively participate by helping to build a "Wall of Food".

In conjunction with the Souper Bowl of Caring, the Child Care Center and Sunday School will collect non-perishable food items the rest of the month of January through the Souper Bowl weekend. We will build a "Wall of Food" in the Narthex with the food collection to see how high we can go. What a great way to emphasize Jesus ministry and God's love for all people as the children watch their contributions grow! The food will be presented by students during the 10:15am worship on February 5th, 2012.

Your family may already participate in bringing food items for Chapel on Wednesdays so we thank you for continuing to participate and help build the "Wall of Food" to help fight hunger. With your help, we look forward to multiplying our blessings.

In God's Grace,

Messiah Lutheran Church and Child Care Center

Reverend Lynne M. Morrow  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
[www.messiahparkridge.org](http://www.messiahparkridge.org)

"With Christ, reaching out and welcoming all God's children."

# February

Count all the steps you climb today.

## Groundhog Day

Make shadows indoors and out.

Fill your sink with warm, soapy water and play.

Read or tell the story "The Three Bears."

Find small, medium, and large objects.

Dust the furniture together.

Have you and your child wear something matching today: socks, shirts, hats, etc.

Do ten toe touches.

Tell the important people in your life how special they are to you.

Sort candy conversation hearts by color.



## Thomas Alva Edison's Birthday

Celebrate by counting the electric lights in your home.



## Pancake Day

Serve pancakes in funny shapes.

Help your child cut out paper hearts.

## Valentine's Day

Make a matching game with pairs of identical Valentine's Day cards.

Practice taking baby steps and giant steps.

Spin and twirl with scarves.

Float a plastic container "boat" in the bathtub.



Try picking up a sock or small toy with your toes.

Share some cookies or other treat with a neighbor.

Act out the nursery rhyme "Hey, Diddle, Diddle."

Let your child choose a new fruit or vegetable to try.



Arrange small toys, such as cars or blocks, in the shape of alphabet letters.

Walk backward.

Make up a song about love.

Combine several kinds of cereal to make your own "Breakfast Mix."

Flatten modeling dough into "pancakes."

See who can make the funniest faces.



Make up a game with a deck of playing cards.

**Business Name**

Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

