

# The WEEKDAY Times

Newsletter of Weekday Ministries Child Care Center

December 2011

***A copy of this newsletter is available online at [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Click on Weekday Ministries and select the newsletter!***

## WEEKDAY MINISTRIES CHILD CARE CENTER HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
6:30am to 6:00 pm

Mettelise Ziegler, MS - Director  
OFFICE HOURS  
8:30am-4:30PM  
(Hours are subject to change.)

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### ***Happy Birthday!***

Children: Dan M. 12/1  
Alexandra K. 12/2  
Austin D. 12/4  
Brendyn M. 12/6  
Joe H. 12/8  
Eva K. 12/12  
Celia M. 12/17  
Lily Z. 12/19  
Donovan C. 12/23  
Georgia M. 12/25

Teachers: Miss Susan 12/5  
Mrs. Merchant 12/7  
Miss Eileen 12/13

The Savior: Jesus 12/25

### ***Important Dates***

12/12	Sarris candy will be delivered by 12:00 Noon.
12/21	Christmas luncheon for the children. No cost to you.
12/21-12/22	PreK3, PreK4 and T class parties
12/23	Teacher's Breakfast
12/26-12/30	CLOSED for Christmas Vacation. Reopen 1/2/12

**WINTER WEATHER WARNING:** It is not too early to make alternative child care plans in case we have a delay or cancellation due to weather! We will post on the three local TV stations by 5:30am. The state requires that we close if we lose water or power. Please refer to your parent handbook for more detailed information. We will be listed as *Mt. Lebanon Weekday Ministries* or *MLUMC Weekday Ministries*. **WPXI has just informed us that in case of long lists, it may choose to display schools only, leaving us off. But, you may sign up for email notification or a text message when there is a posting!**

**RECIPES for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook will be accepted through Dec. 31!**

We WILL NOT raise tuition on January 1, 2012. There has not been an increase since January of 2009. Glory to God!



### **INFANTS**

We say "good-bye" to our friend Rowan and "hello" to Maud. We currently do not have any openings until June of 2012. If you know of anyone who needs childcare, explain the necessity to reserve a spot early in the pregnancy! Jackie Perry

### **SUPERTOTS**

Our lessons during December have to do with the theme, *Jesus is born*. Some of our key words include Christmas tree, Santa, present, reindeer and lights. We are going to make some great art projects, read some wonderful books, sing songs and enjoy the warmth of the season. Happy Holidays to everyone! Alissa Matson

### **TINY TOTS**

Christmas time is nearly here! We are planning to explore our theme through Art, songs and stories. We wish baby Jesus a *Happy Birthday!* Erin Piatt

### **OLDER TODDLERS**

We will develop an understanding of families as we learn about the birth of Baby Jesus and Christmas traditions. We have all sorts of wonderful projects planned to create. Make some room on the refrigerator and on the tree! Heather Buettner

### **PRESCHOOL PALS**

We begin the month with Advent activities. We have an Advent wreath in our room and we are counting down the days to Christmas as we learn about the birth of Jesus. We are also learning about disabilities this month. The children will see how people celebrate Christmas differently around the world. Cathy Helbig

### **PRE-K CLASSES**

December brings a wonderful time of the year. The children are excited to prepare for Christmas. Our themes will be families, holidays and the five senses. We will also focus upon the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. The children will be making several projects, acting out the nativity story and making presents for parents. We will stress that giving is more important than receiving. We will decorate our class tree and room. Our letters are Qq and Gg. Beth Brack & Carol Flaherty



## The Director's Page

Mettelise Ziegler



### ***Are You Ready?***

Advent is a four week Christian season which started on November 27 in preparation for Christmas, but it is not for preparation of decorations and gifts. It is for readying the heart.

Advent is a season of soul-searching. The word *Advent* means *coming*. When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He promised He would come again at an undisclosed future time. He said we have to be ready for Him just like the owner of a house guards his home by being alert for burglars.

<sup>42</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.  
Matthew 24:42-44.

We are not supposed to be scared of this surprise visit. We are supposed to have prepared for it by having hearts that are full of faith in Jesus. For those who are in love with God, the second coming of Jesus will be a great joy!

As parents, we have a duty to make our children ready for life. The only question is this: Will we prepare our children for a life with God or without Him?

The Advent Season is a wonderful time to help our children prepare their hearts and lives for God. In fact, Advent can be more fun and more meaningful than Christmas morning! Here are some ideas to try at home with your children.

- Use an Advent wreath every night at dinner. Light one of the four candles each week until all four are lit the last week. Sing a song or read a Bible verse or Advent devotion. There are scads of them online for every Christian faith. Do a Google search like *Advent devotions for families*.
- Use a nativity set. Display a piece or two each week. Make sure Mary, Joseph and Jesus are put in last, like on Christmas. Or use a plastic nativity set children can play with. Then they can tell the story over and over for themselves.
- Make Jesse tree ornaments. Again, do a Google search. There are many ways to make these ornaments which represent Bible events from the Old Testament to the time of Jesus. They can be wrapped and displayed (one each day) until they are all on the tree for Christmas.
- Advent calendars are popular this time of year. One door is opened each day until Christmas. The more appropriate ones for teaching will have biblical references on them instead of Santa and chocolate!
- Make cookies or crafts together. Play some sacred music. Talk about meaningful things!
- Include your children in shopping for someone less fortunate, like an "angel tree" tag taken from a tree at church. Pray for that person, someone you will never meet.
- Make a stocking for Jesus. Fill it with notes about the things you do out of love for God for someone else during Advent. Did you visit someone elderly? Did you bring cookies to the neighbor?

Have a Great Advent and Christmas at your house this year! Be ready for the blessings that last!