



Augustana Preschool

A Note From Pastor Aune

Gerhard Frost was a semi-nary professor, writer and poet. I have several of his books; mostly reflections and poems about life and faith. One of his books is called *Blessed Is the Ordinary*. One of the Frost's reflections in his book reminds me of prechool children and what they can teach us. It is titled, I Understand:

I used to think
that imagination
is just for "tripping,"
going places, wild places,
meeting people, wild people,
and for setting goals.

Now I understand
that imagination
is for *loving*,
for wearing others' shoes,
getting into others' skins.

How can one care
if one can't imagine,
can't see and feel
from the other side?
Imagination is for caring,
Serving, helping with the
invisible load.

Imagination, the mind's
pleasure cruise,
But the heart's workroom.

-Gerhard Frost *Blessed Is the Ordinary*

Is this why children seem to care so much about others and the many things life brings their way? Is it because they have such active and vivid imaginations that they instinctively do the 'work of the heart' as Frost describes it?

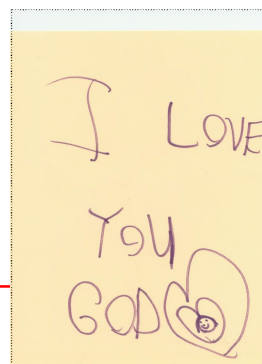
Whenever I get down into the classrooms and watch and listen to the children, I can literally hear their imaginations at work. I watch and I listen and I think to myself; why have I lost the ability to imagine like these children do? Where does it go when we become adults? Perhaps if I allowed myself to imagine more and open my heart and my mind to the imagination; I might learn to love more and to care more and in this process become more aware of God in the world and in my life. If I can imagine what it is like in someone else's skin; I can certainly love that person more and differently. What if we tried this with our children? What if we tried this with our spouses, our friends and even strangers? I suspect it would change those relationships for the better.

Listen to your children.
Watch them and pay atten-

tion to them and how they use their imaginations to create a different world; a world filled with love and caring and hope. Perhaps you will learn something new about yourself or your family and you will see through the imagination of your son or daughter a new and different way of living, loving and caring. My hope and prayer is that your child has been changed after this year at "Pray, Play and Grow." My hope and prayer is that your child's imagination has been allowed to roam far and wide. That they have loved and been loved, cared for others and been cared for and that they have moved a little closer to being ready for Kindergarten and beyond. Thanks for sharing your children with us. We are blessed beyond words by having their imaginations help us in caring and in serving and helping with the invisible load.

See you in September. Grace and peace,

Pastor Mark Aune



Please return Family Surveys. Thank you.

Augustana Lutheran Church

Volume XI, Issue XIII

May 2010

May Birthdays

- ☺ Ella Alden Pope
- ☺ Devin Elsenpeter
- ☺ Anna Erickson
- ☺ Savannah Gardner
- ☺ Ava Garland
- ☺ Marcela Rodriguez
- ☺ Ray Rozales
- ☺ Sydney Schwartz
- ☺ Rafael Frank



Happy Mother's Day!

Teachers' Corner-Mrs. Barie

Dear Families,

The final area of our classroom "tour" is the block area. It is always a popular place for the children to be. They love to construct and create things. We have all kinds of blocks including wood, plastic and cardboard. They also come in many shapes and sizes. We rotate them all on a regular basis. Props such as people, animals, road signs, and cars and trucks are readily available to use in this area as well.

Your children are developing in many ways when playing in this area. Socially and emotionally, they are learning to negotiate with classmates, work together, and exchange ideas. Physically, large and small muscles are being developed by carrying and placing objects. Hand-eye coordination is also exercised. Cognitively, children explore size, shape, numbers, length, patterns, weight, and balance as

they manipulate the blocks. Finally, language is developed when interactions among children and adults take place. The children love to describe their constructions and what is happening.

There are many things we can do to help children when they are busy working with blocks. We can get down on the floor and play with them, ask questions about what they are doing, and help them figure out solutions to problems they may encounter. We do this at school and we encourage you to do it at home as well.

Switching topics entirely, we can't believe the year is almost over! It seems like just yesterday that the children were coming to visit for orientation and their first day of school. We will celebrate the end of

school with our concerts. This year's theme is oceans. We have already started working on our songs so you may hear some "new tunes" around your house! In addition to the children and their wonderful songs, we will take a trip down memory lane with a slide show of pictures taken throughout the year. This is always a highlight (and can be a tear-jerker, so have some tissues handy). Be sure to mark your calendars because you won't want to miss it!

To those families that are moving on, you and your children will be missed. To those who are returning in the fall, we look forward to seeing you in September. To all our preschool families, thanks for making this a great year and we hope you have a safe and happy summer!

Kirsten Barie

Thank You

Thank you to the parents who chaperoned our field trip to Dodge Nature Farm; Annette Youness, Marilee Erickson, Crystal Rozales, Colleen Mens, Kathy Garland and Erika Christopher. Also thank you to the family members who read to us during our April library visit; Trish Ball, Joyce Beaumont and Tracy Crane. Another thank you to Andrew Carlson for being the chef for our family breakfast and lunch.

Spring Concert

We will have a Concerts to complete our year. All 4 and 5's will have their concert on Wednesday, May 26th at noon. This includes the 9-11:30AM, 9AM-1PM and the 12:30-3PM classes. The 3's will have their concert on Thursday, May 27th at 11AM. The concerts will be held upstairs in Fellowship Hall and family and friends are invited. Details to follow.

Walk to McDonalds

On May 11th and 12th the preschoolers will be walking to McDonalds on Robert Street. The purpose of this trip is to give McDonalds all of the pop tabs that we have saved this year. These tabs help to support Ronald McDonald Houses. We usually get a treat, too!

PLEASE RETURN ALL LIBRARY BOOKS BY MAY 15

Pajama Day

On Thursday and Friday, May 20th and 21st, we will have Pajama Day. This is always a fun day and even the teachers wear their pajamas! If your child does not feel comfortable coming to school in pajamas, maybe a robe might work. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Fall 2010

If your child is returning in the fall, please remember that September's tuition payment is due June 1st. Thank you in advance.

Also, we continue to register children for the fall. Contact Julie Leslie with any questions. Tuition Assistance is available.

Last Days of School

The last day of school for the 3's and afternoon 4's is Thursday, May 27th. This is also the 3's concert day. The last day of school for the morning 4 and 5's is Friday, May 28th. Thank you for a great year and have a happy and safe summer. We will miss you!!!!