



Pacific Southwest District School Ministries E-Connect

"...speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." -Ephesians 4:15-16

January 4, 2012



Happy 2012! This is the first edition of E-Connect coming to you through Constant Contact. Please excuse any errors as we work out the kinks in these first few weeks. We appreciate your feedback! Please email Rachel.Klitzing@psd-lcms.org with your thoughts.

*The 2012 hands artwork is from **Trinity, Litchfield Park, AZ.**

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him." Lamentation 3:22-23

Happy New Year! As we begin another New Year, we hear a lot of talk of "New Year Resolutions" ~ new resolves for improvement ~ whether those improvements be attitudinal, physical, social, and yes, even spiritual. Most often, though, these are improvements WE will make. In the verses from Lamentations above, the prophet Jeremiah is declaring that even in our sin-sickness and hopelessness, the Lord's steadfast love NEVER ceases, even amid the worst situations and sufferings, and yes, even when we mess up. His grace is NEW each day as we acknowledge our sin and need for our Savior. It is HIS work that makes us NEW, and His love that gives us hope!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the NEW has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

Happy New Year, new creation!

CONGRATULATIONS TO LISA O'BRIEN!

Lisa O'Brien, ECE Director at **Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, AZ**, has been named the **2012 LEA National Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Administrator of the Year!** [Click here](#) for the press release from LEA. Lisa will be honored at a reception at the LEA Conference in Florida. Congratulations, Lisa! We are proud you serve in our district!

JANUARY DEVOTION ON WEBSITE

The January devotion is now posted on our website, www.pswcic.org. It is written by **Rich Nordmeyer**, principal at **Christ, Costa Mesa**. You won't want to miss it! You will be able to find the devotion on the bottom right side of the home page under Newsletter Links. Monthly Devotion is the first category.

REGISTER TO ATTEND THE OCCUE TECH FEST 2012

If you haven't yet registered to attend Orange County CUE's annual tech fest, then make sure you do! The **OCCUE Tech Fest 2012** will take place at **Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, CA**, on **Saturday, January 21, 2012**. The keynote speaker will be the esteemed Rushton Hurley of Nextvista.org. If you have never seen Rushton before, then get prepared for a treat!

Registration for this event is a bargain, and if three teachers from a school register, ***an administrator can attend for free!*** New this year: Tech Fest will also be offering an Administrator strand!

Sign up today at <http://occuetechfest.blogspot.com/>. The

sessions and schedule are posted on this website.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING ECE CONFERENCES!

The PSD Early Childhood Cabinet is pleased to announce this year's conference dates. Please **mark your calendars now** for these continuing educational opportunities!

Early Childhood Spring Conferences:

Theme: How Beautiful Are the Feet - Isaiah 52:7

Keynote Speaker: Paul Brandt

Arizona Spring Conference:

Saturday, February 25, 2012, at Atonement, Glendale, AZ

California Spring Conference:

Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Salem, Orange, CA. Click [here](#) for the Save the Date.

Early Childhood Director's Conference: April 25-27, 2012, at

Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA.

This year's Director's Conference will truly be a spiritual retreat as we explore God's Word - in depth - to seek the strength we need to meet the daily temptations we face.

Registration information will be sent out within two weeks via email and E-Connect. Please watch for it and take special note of the registration deadlines.

SAC NETWORK MEETING

School Age Care Directors - Please join us for the next SAC Network Meeting on **Monday, January 9th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.** at **Hephatha, Anaheim Hills**. We will be discussing topics related to summer programming as well as a discussion on goal setting for our SAC programs. Please check the SAC Network page on our website for the agenda as well as the information to read regarding goal setting. Please RSVP to kim.violette@psd-lcms.org if you plan on attending!

2011 - 2012 REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOPS

We are excited again to offer regional School Board Workshops led by **Paul Brandt**. These workshops have been well received

each year and attendees walk away with great information and tools for their ministry at their schools. Paul Brandt will present two different topics at this year's trainings:

The morning session: The Data-Driven Board: Your School's Key Effectiveness Indicators

The afternoon session: Planning for the Future - The Board's Role

January 28th at Emmaus, Alhambra, CA

February 11th at Ascension, Torrance, CA

February 18th at Grace, Escondido, CA

April 28th at Atonement, Glendale, AZ

Pick a date that works best for your board and make this a priority to attend! [Click here for registration information and more details.](#)

ANNUAL ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 6-7, 2012!

"To Win as Many as Possible", based on 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, is the theme for our 2012 Admissions Directors' Conference. We are very excited to be bringing in **Ryder Smith**, Management Consultant and Principal for Tripepi Smith and Associates. Mr. Smith will be sharing his insight and expertise in two areas: social media basics and understanding your "market". Also presenting will be **Dr. Chip Espinoza**, CEO of Genext Consulting. Dr. Espinoza will be sharing insight and expertise on the impact of multi-generational relationships within our schools and across stakeholder lines.

Since this is an excellent opportunity for admissions directors, school administrators, business managers, and any other key decision-makers at your schools we have structured the registration fees with a discount for teams from schools to attend. Even if your school doesn't employ a specific admissions director, your administration team will benefit greatly from attending this conference.

Registration materials are on the School Ministries website, or click [here](#). *If making reservations at the hotel*, please identify yourself as being with the Pacific Southwest District. The cut-off date for reservations is February 1, 2012. **Plan now to attend!**

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE

National Lutheran Schools Week 2012 takes place **March 4-10**. Materials are now available for purchase. Click [here](#) for the 2012 NLSW Resource Manual and 2012 Equipped Poster order form. Click [here](#) for the order form for two styles of NLSW banners. If you'd like to purchase the electronic Resource Manual by credit card, go to <http://store.lcms.org> to order.

SHAPED AND FIT TO SERVE

Shaped and Fit to Serve is a new section for E-Connect in 2012. Every other week, we will post fitness tips that we are asking "experts in the field" to share with us. Here's the first:

Five Tips to Include Exercise Into Your Work Day:

1. Take a walk on your lunch break.
2. Whenever possible - take the stairs.
3. Stand up while talking on the phone.
4. While seated, do 15 toes raises and hold for two seconds at the top.
5. While sitting at your desk, tighten your abdominals for a 10 second count. Relax for five seconds and repeat 10 times.

2012 ACCELERATED READER CHALLENGE

The annual AR Challenge is set to begin on **January 30, 2012**. Any elementary LCMS school in the United States that is presently using the Accelerated Reader program may enter the contest. All students must be independent readers.

The purpose of this challenge is to provide an incentive and motivation for our children at Lutheran schools to read more, get smarter and have fun. Reading for this contest can occur anywhere the children are - at home, at school, in the car, etc. All reporting of points will be done by each school's coordinator via the AR Challenge web site.

Register before January 30 to take part in the AR Challenge by visiting the St. Paul's (Janesville, Wisconsin) website - www.stpaulsjanesville.com. Click on the school tab [2012 National AR Challenge](#).

LIFE SUNDAY

Life Sunday is January 22. See [resources from Lutherans for Life](#).

STATS AT A GLANCE

Thank you to the many schools who have already completed their PSD Stats at a Glance online. It's easy! Please [click here](#) for the link to complete your school's statistics. Once you hit submit, we will receive them! Thank you in advance for your participation. We will begin sending emails and making phone calls next week to schools we have not heard from.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Each week, prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for teachers, administrators, support staff, pastors, students, and families of the Lutheran schools, early childhood centers, and churches of the Pacific Southwest District are listed. To include names on the list, please send information to anna.preus@psd-lcms.org by noon on Wednesday of each week. This week we pray for:

- The family of **Dr. Eshetu Abate**. Dr. Abate, Professor of Theology at Concordia Irvine, passed away on December 28. Dr. Abate was a dear, beloved faculty member at Concordia who will be remembered for his kindness and dedication to Concordia's students and for his unwavering commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was an intelligent, gifted and hard-working servant of Christ whose work and life were examples for all who call themselves Lutheran Christians. Prior to his funeral and internment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Abate family invites his American friends and colleagues to an open casket visitation this Friday, January 6, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the O'Connor Mortuary chapel in Laguna Hills. The visitation is an opportunity to offer our support and encouragement to Dr. Abate's wife Amarech and his children Miseker (a CUI senior), Eliezer and Benjamin. Once the family returns from Ethiopia later this month, a memorial service for Dr. Abate will be held either at Concordia or a local Lutheran church. The O'Connor Chapel is located at 25301 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills.

January 1:

Pilgrim Lutheran School and Preschool, Chula Vista
St. John's Lutheran Child Care Center, Colton
Christ Lutheran School and Preschool, Rancho Palos Verdes

January 8:

Ramona Lutheran School and Preschool, Ramona
Christ Lutheran School and Preschool, Costa Mesa
Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool, Poway



We are all connected in Christ!