



# September 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Apples			1 Kindergarten Begins!	2 Kindergarten Begins!	3 <u>September Godly Play:</u>	
Family & Grandparents	5 Labor Day	6 No School	7 Tuition Due	8 First Days of Preschool	9 Jesus and the Children	10 Jesus and the Children
Getting to Know Me	12	13	14 Kindergarten Curriculum Night, 6:30 pm	15 Kindergarten Curriculum Night, 6:30 pm	16 School Supply Drive Ends Today!	17 Creation
Triangles	19	20 "...Get to Know You" Coffees...	21 "...Get to Know You" Coffees...	22 "...Get to Know You" Coffees...	23 The Garden of Eden	24 The Garden of Eden
18 The Color Red	26	27	28 Preschool Curriculum Night, 6:30 pm	29 Preschool Curriculum Night, 6:30 pm	30	
25 The Letters A, G, F						



## Blessings News

### September 2011

(630) 904-9898 [www.littleblessings.org](http://www.littleblessings.org)



**From the Director...**

September is here! Children are arriving with bright smiles and backpacks that are nearly as big as they are. We are off to a great start! We want this to be the best year possible for your child. To facilitate a great year filled with learning and exploration, we use certain tools as a guide to the type of classroom activities that are carried out. The themes for September are thoughtfully selected to help children develop friendships, classroom community, and encourage children to learn about themselves and others. These themes can be found this month (and every month) on the left side of the monthly calendar, located on the back of this newsletter.

Using different themes each month will insure that we cover all of the letters of the alphabet, basic shapes, and common colors by the end of the school year. These themes also provide inspiration for all preschool classes to explore high interest topics such as outer space, construction, insects, and fairy tales, just to name a few. The Illinois Early Learning Standards are also used as Little Blessings teachers plan specific classroom activities. Early childhood educators throughout Illinois designed these standards as a way to help teachers "...plan educational experiences for young children that will help them be ready for kindergarten." <http://illinoisearlylearning.org>. Within these standards are benchmarks of skills a child needs to know or do by the end of the preschool years. These benchmarks are best taught during hands-on activities such as nature walks, dramatic play, science experiments, and participation in music and art projects. Each day will bring something new to explore, and we look forward to a wonderful year!

*...Ms. Stephanie*



**Join us at Alleluia! on September 10 and 11 for "Rally Day"**

The weekend of September 10 and 11 will be an exciting one at Alleluia! Pastor Tim Housholder, our new Senior Pastor, will deliver the message at 5:00pm Saturday, 9:00am and 10:15am Sunday. During the children's chat, children will be invited to participate in a backpack blessing, and then attend our fall Church School kick-off. Afterwards, there will be a Men's Chili Cook-Off and welcome reception for the Housholder family. Join us from 11:30am—1:30pm for the Chili Cook-Off, and vote for your favorite recipe! There will be an ice cream bar and apple dessert throw down. Hot dogs will be available for the children.



### Little Blessing's Curriculum Night

*Learn more about your child's day!*

#### Kindergarten:

Thursday, September 15, 6:30pm

#### 3 day and 5 day Preschool:

Wednesday, September 28, 6:30pm

#### 2 day and 4 day Preschool:

Thursday September 29, 6:30pm

### Children's Chapel



**Our first Children's Chapel for the school year will be held on October 4 and 5. Parents are welcome to attend! Meet us in the Worship Space immediately after drop-off.**



## Little Lambs Consignment Sale



The Little Lambs Consignment sale will be Thursday, September 29 through Saturday, October 1. Now is the time to consider being a seller for this event. Participants will receive 65-75 percent of the sale price of their items. Seller registration will be open until September 19, on a first come first served basis. For more information on becoming a seller for this event contact :

Laurie Cottrill at [littlelambs@alleluia.org](mailto:littlelambs@alleluia.org)

**We are collecting school supplies for needy children.** Through September 16, bring a school supply item to your child's classroom. These items will go to local children in need. **Thank you for your help!**



**Monthly Themes...**Each month our teachers use several themes to guide the planning of classroom activities. Some months, you may not see that your child has "covered" all themes listed on the calendar. That is o.k.! Teachers have flexibility to dig deeper into a theme that the children are especially enjoying, and to further extend learning.

Register now for My Little Hands  
My Little Hands is a program that will help children develop the skills needed for successful handwriting. Through fun and engaging songs and activities, children will learn basic handwriting concepts and letter formation. This class will leave your child excited about making their letters!

Wednesdays, 11:30am—12:30pm,  
September 14 through November 30

Contact the preschool office for more information.



### Join Us for a "Get to Know You" Coffee!



Just as the children are getting to know their new classmates, here is your opportunity to meet other parents from your child's class. You will learn a few facts about your child's teachers, and pick up a copy of the "Friends Phone List." This list can be helpful for arranging play dates.

You may drop off your child in his or her classroom, and then join us in the Fellowship Hall for a light snack. Siblings are welcome!

*Tuesday, September 20, 9:00am*

4 day morning and 5 day morning classes

*Tuesday, September 20, 2:30pm*

All afternoon classes

*Wednesday, September 21, 9:00am*

3 day morning classes

*Thursday, September 22, 9:00am*

2 day morning classes

### Godly Play

At Little Blessings we use the Godly Play curriculum. Each story has a unique set of wooden figures and props that teachers use to help the story unfold and come alive in the minds of the children. We are fortunate to have a large collection of these story boxes. When the teachers are finished telling the story the children may work with the pieces and retell the events, using their own words. This type of storytelling is encouraged "...in order to stimulate children's active participation in story and ritual and to awaken their creativity for the learning of the language, sacred stories, parables, liturgical action and silence of the Christian tradition." [godlyplay.org](http://godlyplay.org) Once per week, classes visit the Godly Play Room to experience a new story. Godly Play stories are listed on the right side of each monthly calendar.

