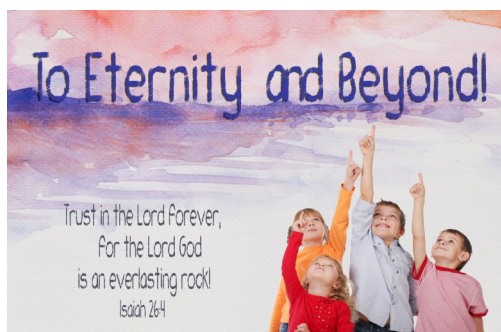


To Eternity and Beyond Early Childhood Conference 2017



Jesus affects every aspect of the day-to-day ministry to children and families. *“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.”* The Rock of our Salvation is Jesus Christ, whom we share every day with children in our centers. They, in-turn, share with their family, the hope we have in Jesus, and the hope of eternal life.

While all sectionals are shared with a ministry to and with children and families, several aspects of the conference focus very intentionally on the mission of Lutheran preschools and early childhood ministries.

Keynote 1: **“To Eternity...and Beyond!”**

Shannon Perry

As educators, God has given us the unique opportunity and charge to teach children in a way that empowers them to impact their families and others for eternity. How can we do this? Is it even possible? Are we really the only teacher in our classroom? We'll find the answers to these questions and more as we learn how to impact eternity....and beyond!



Keynote 2: **“Difference Makers”**

Shannon Perry

Every child deserves to be touched by a “Difference Maker.” One who will serve them, love them and recognize qualities in them that might otherwise be overlooked. “Difference Makers” will invigorate educators to embrace the life-changing opportunity of making a difference when they learn:

- Why “Difference Makers” win with kids and parents

- The cost of successfully being a “Difference Maker” and why it’s worth it

- The vision that sets “Difference Makers” apart

- Why “Difference Makers” must have a sense of humor

- ...and much, much more!



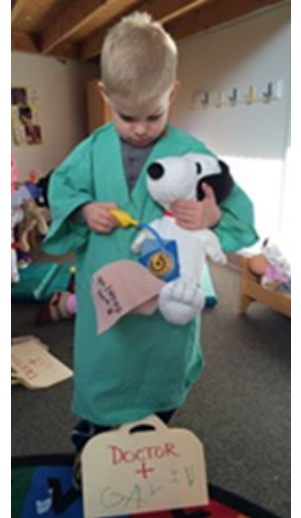
SECTIONAL 1—10 a.m.

From the Restroom to the Classroom...Keeping it Professional – Shannon Perry

Shannon Perry served in the public school system as both a Teacher and Administrator for over 14 years before going into full time ministry. She knows the importance of keeping it professional, wherever we may be. During this session, Shannon focuses on the importance of remaining professional with fellow staff, students and parents as well as what to do on those more challenging days. This session also includes a Question and Answer time with Shannon.

Making Jesus “Real” – All Day Long! – Celeste May

How do you fit all the requirements and objectives for learning academically into your school day AND have time to teach about Jesus? This sectional will give ideas on how to teach Bible stories the children will remember AND how to integrate faith throughout the school day.



Behaviors: Using a Lot of Love and Logic – Sandy Nelson

Each child is AMAZING and as we use the Love and Logic principles, we can help students problem solve social issues. We provide opportunities for children to learn by allowing students to work out things under our gentle leadership. Teachers learn how to neutralize arguing, share control within limits, and guide children to solve their own problems.

Never Too Old to Learn Something New & Never Too Young to Learn Something Old—Sue Ullstead

Children can learn hard stuff! Three, four, and five-year-olds can learn the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and also the hymnody! The hymns are like mini sermons that they can sing throughout their lives to give them peace and comfort. Learn how Sue implements these timeless treasures in her teaching.

Teaching with Toys – Heidi Rains and Chelsea Adams

Exploring Iowa Early Learning Standards through play and project-based learning. Learn how to incorporate all academic areas into an engaging child-driven project. Projects based upon children's interest will include intentional time for play.

Life Begins – Lois Pannkuk

“Life Begins” lesson series provides for a basis for the Christian community to instill values in children that echo God’s Word. “Life Begins” is a curriculum designed to assist early childhood centers, pre-schools and churches in teaching the value God places on human life. We do believe that life begins at conception, and what a blessing it is to be able to teach this in our classrooms and centers.

One size does not fit all! EC Curriculum Design – Rebecca Schmidt

The three Core Considerations of Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) is the foundation for planning curriculum to meet a variety of levels in the early childhood classroom. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves with a “hands on” approach to curriculum design.

SECTIONAL 2—11:05 a.m.

From the Restroom to the Classroom...Keeping it Professional – Shannon Perry

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Teach me what to do! Enhancing Emotional Literacy Skills in Early Childhood – Kristie Vasey

Learn how to provide opportunities for children to begin to understand their emotions, as well as the emotions of others. We will also discuss why it is important to be more intentional about teaching social-emotional skills, especially those that could negatively impact the overall classroom environment.

Building an Outdoor Nature Explore Classroom – Joy Brown and Brenda Cook

Fresh air, worms, caterpillars, butterflies, centipedes, digging, creative play, and exploring! If you are interested in any or all of these projects come join us for our presentation! We will describe the process we used to receive our certification and we'll give you ideas on how to achieve results in your classroom.

Yoga in the Preschool Classroom – Sara J. Weis

Get ready to jump in, learn, and have fun with this engaging session of using Yoga in the Preschool Classroom. The many benefits of yoga make this a wonderful addition to any classroom setting. Yoga provides a way to keep children engaged, provide meaningful transitions from one activity to another, and reinforce learning and mindfulness. Yoga is also excellent for promoting a sense of well-being, creativity and teamwork.

Give kids the opportunity to explore, eat, and enjoy real food! – Sue Honkamp

Kids will make choices about food EVERY DAY of their life. While they are young, their eating habits are still being formed and they are so eager to learn. We'll talk about why it's important to educate kids about food by encouraging them to consider where it comes from and learn how it's produced. You'll hear how we've provided an accessible environment to try new things. And, as educators, you'll have the chance to do the very same fun, practical, hands-on, early childhood learning that Real Foods for Kids does in the classroom with early learners! Join us!

www.realfood4kids.com

Making Picture Books Come Alive – Candace Camling

See how local illustrator Candace Camling uses picture books to jumpstart engaging art projects that ignite excitement for literacy. A few project and book combinations will be shown. Also, you'll have the opportunity to make an example art project or two!



SECTIONAL 3—2:05 p.m.

Dialog for Directors – Hosts: Rhonda Mohr with Kristie Vasey (CCRR)

Directors are encouraged to attend this informational sectional where an overview of the proposed training requirements from DHS will be discussed along with other concerns you may have as a director. Also, connect with Iowa District West Executive Assistant on support and encouragement.

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Get ready to jump in, learn, and have fun with this engaging session of using Yoga in the Preschool Classroom. The many benefits of yoga make this a wonderful addition to any classroom setting. Yoga provides a way to keep children engaged, provide meaningful transitions from one activity to another, and reinforce learning and mindfulness. Yoga is also excellent for promoting a sense of well-being, creativity and teamwork.



Connecting Jesus to Parents & Families – Celeste May

Caring for the children in our Lutheran Schools is a “given,” but what about the rest of the family? Learn practical ideas on how to form bonds, care for, minister to, and equip the parents and families in our centers.

For the Love of Science! – Jane Meythaler

The goal of teaching science is to help children understand their world and to help them develop a sense of wonder and curiosity about their world and how things work. In this sectional, we will walk through four different science experiments that explore the concepts of life science, physical science, and earth science.

Building an Outdoor Nature Explore Classroom – Joy Brown and Brenda Cook

Fresh air, worms, caterpillars, butterflies, centipedes, digging, creative play, and exploring! If you are interested in any or all of these projects come join us for our presentation! We will describe the process we used to receive our certification and we'll give you ideas on how to achieve results in your classroom.

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Building Literacy Skills – Carol Taylor

Through activities with storytelling, puppetry and creative drama students gain knowledge of listening, speaking, and writing. What better way to develop a lifelong love of literature than acting it out and playing with puppets!

Presenter Info

Shannon Perry combines her educational experience with a Master's Degree in Education. As a Speaker, Author, Recording Artist and TV Host, she has been privileged to be the Keynote Speaker for thousands of educators at numerous conferences. As a school teacher and counselor for over 14 years, Shannon learned one prominent truth as she served each day: Educators need encouragement and powerful reminders of their insatiable value in the lives of children and their families.

Celeste May began her Early Childhood ministry in 1999, teaching a 4-year old class at St. John Early Childhood in Cypress, Texas, her home congregation since 1969. During that time, she acquired her CDA from the CDA National Credentialing Program and earned an Early Childhood Certificate of Christian Teaching from the Texas District of the LCMS. In 2005, she transitioned to serve as the Children & Family Ministry Coordinator for the preschool. Sharing Jesus with children and their families is an incredible opportunity and privilege and one of her highest joys. She is married, has 3 children, a son-in-law and 5 grandchildren. She enjoys time with her family, hunting, fishing, quilting, antiquing and reading.

Sandy Nelson has been the Preschool Director at Little Friends of Living Faith in Clive for 13 years and is also an independent instructor for Love and Logic®. Since 1977, the Love and Logic Institute has been dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. We provide practical tools and techniques that help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children and help them prepare their children for the real world. All of our work is based on a psychologically sound parenting and teaching philosophy called Love and Logic.

Jane Meythaler has been teaching PreK at Tiny Treasures Lutheran Preschool for 11 years. Prior to working at Tiny Treasures, she was employed at Communication Development Company. When the company was sold and downsized, Jane made a career change and quickly discovered her love for teaching. Since then, she has earned a CDA and an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She enjoys teaching science and believes it is important to help children develop a sense of curiosity about the world around them through hands-on experiences.



Sara J. Weis is a creative and passionate teacher who has inspired children for over 18 years. She holds a Master's Degree in Education as well as Bachelor's Degrees in both Early Childhood and Elementary Education. She currently teaches elementary creative writing classes for the West Des Moines School District and leads children's yoga classes for a nationally-known health and fitness club. She is the bestselling author of *Go Go Yoga for Kids: A Complete Guide for Using Yoga with Kids* and the creator of the Kids Yoga Challenge Pose Cards. Sara enjoys visiting schools and introducing children to yoga through a variety of games, poses, music, movement and more. Sara lives in West Des Moines, Iowa, with her husband and three children. She enjoys being outdoors and active with her family.

Susan Ullstead is the preschool teacher and director at Trinity Sonshine Preschool in Boone. She taught 32 years in the public school and 4 years in a Lutheran School. Susan comes from a long line of LCMS Lutherans going back to her great grandparents who were from Lohlbach, Germany, 40 miles from the Wartburg Castle. Five generations of her family belonged to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in rural Boone. Her brother also taught in LCMS schools in Minnesota. She is so thankful that she can teach salvation through Jesus Christ and worship the Triune God with her students.

Kristie Vasey is the Child Care Consultant for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) of Central Iowa. She is a graduate of Iowa State University, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Child and Family Services. As the Child Care Consultant for CCRR, she provides technical assistance and on-site consultation services to child care centers and preschools in Polk County, helps programs maintain DHS licensing requirements, supports programs using ECERS, Creative Curriculum, QPPS, PBIS, and NAEYC accreditation standards, assists programs in the creation of professional development plans, and supports programs working on applying for a rating in the Quality Rating System.



Candace Camling works as a freelance illustrator from her home studio in Des Moines, Iowa. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Illustration from Kendall College of Art and Design in 2007. Candace was proud to graduate as Valedictorian and Studio Excellence Award winner. Candace is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Lois Pannkuk will unveil the heart of "Life Begins." Informed Choice is the only pro-life AAAHC accredited medical group in Iowa, and they are committed to providing God's truth about life to all age groups. Informed Choice partners with Lutheran's For Life and Lutheran Family Service. **Angela Naeve**, a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Humboldt, Iowa, authored the "Life Begins" series in conjunction with **Lois Pannkuk**. The two connected to develop a tool for the necessary conversations with the very young to instill the Word of God and God's design for LIFE into little hearts and minds.

Joy Brown is the Director/Teacher at Trinity Lutheran Preschool in Creston. She has been teaching for over 15 years and was a home day care provider for over 30 years. She holds a position on the state board of Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children and also holds a position on Camp Okoboji's board.

Brenda Cook has been involved with Early Childhood ministry for over 20 years and has served at Trinity Lutheran in Creston for the past 7 years. She loves being outside watching kids explore, learn, and grow. She and her husband and are the proud parents of four children and two grandchildren. In her spare time, Brenda and her husband enjoy camping.

Heidi Rains graduated from Grand View University with a degree in elementary education, with endorsements in early childhood and reading. While attending Grand View University in Des Moines, she married her husband, Jeff. They have three active boys that give them joy each day. Heidi joined the staff at Mount Olive Lutheran School and became the Preschool Director in 2011. Prior to her call at Mount Olive, she taught kindergarten and first grade for ten years in Des Moines Public Schools. In 2014, Heidi completed the colloquy program at Concordia University, St. Paul to earn her Lutheran Teacher Diploma.

Chelsea Adams is a 2009 graduate of Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska with a degree in Elementary Education, an endorsement in Early Childhood Education, and a Lutheran teacher's diploma. She taught first grade at Messiah Lutheran School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for four years before joining Mount Olive in 2013. Miss Adams says that her favorite thing about teaching is partnering with families to raise their children to love and serve God. She also feels blessed to be able to see that moment when something really clicks for a student, especially in the area of reading. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to show her students what a joy reading can be in their lives.

Carol Taylor, a veteran puppeteer/storyteller, has entertained audiences with delightful tales for almost 40 years. She has a BFA in theatre/speech/education from Drake University and also an MGS degree from Drake focusing on creative arts therapy and education. Carol, a former classroom teacher, has conducted workshops throughout the country for students and adults — teachers, librarians and community youth leaders — sharing ideas for using puppets creatively and educationally with young people. She was Education Director at The Des Moines Playhouse for 37 years where she created many innovative programs for all ages. She is on the Artist Roster of the Iowa Arts Council, the Metro Arts Alliance of Greater Des Moines, and Character Counts. She is a member of Puppeteers of America, Northlands Storytelling Association, and the National Storytelling Association. She was a founding member of the Iowa-Nebraska Prairie Guild of Puppetry and Two Rivers Story Spinners in central Iowa.

Rebecca Schmidt serves as Associate Director of Schools for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Her educational background is in elementary education and educational leadership and supervision. Her experience includes serving as a teacher, early childhood director, and principal at schools in Michigan, Arkansas and Missouri.

Kellie Bellile and her husband Kevin own Arrow Academy of Music in Des Moines. They are both Concordia, Seward graduates and have a passion for teaching music. "We feel called by God to bring honor (value) and blessing (empower to prosper in life) to everyone who enters our doors."

Sue Honkamp is a mom of four who is passionate for real food and the great window of opportunity we have to teach kids about where their food comes from, how it's produced, and how they can have a role in creating the food they love to eat. Explore.Eat.Enjoy.

