



## ECE NEWS AND FOOD FOR THOUGHT



### ECE News

#### **Happy Retirement, Mrs. Powell**

We once again would like to thank Luella Powell for her many years of dedication to Zion Lutheran Preschool and School. She has touched so many lives, she leaves behind a legacy of achievement, encouragement, and work ethic that will forever be imprinted on Zion. May God bless you health and relaxation! Congratulations on your retirement!

#### **First Day of Preschool**

Fall will be here before we know it! The first day of preschool for the 4 year olds will be Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. 3 year olds will begin school Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Food for Thought

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

#### **A Prayer for Your Family Vacation**

‘Family vacation.’ The words conjure up images of lazy days at the lakeshore, campfires with roasted marshmallows, sleepy kids sharing rooms. Road trips full of car games and laughter, stops at quirky gas stations and just the right snacks. Sightseeing and creating memories – enough for a lifetime.

Often those sweet pictures in our head don’t quite match up with the reality of a family vacation. Vacations can be stressful, taking us out of well-developed routines and throwing us at the mercy of compromise. Our kids may spend the trip bickering and scowling, or overtired and cranky. Those well-placed gas stations you imagined might be too little (and sometimes show up too late). Delicate family situations or re-surfacing disagreements can put a damper on fun.

There moments on vacation when you are not giving thanks, joy is hard-pressed, and prayer not be what’s being muttered under your breath. But friends, God is right there with you!

Does that mean your vacation will be perfect? Probably not. Does that mean there will be golden moments of beauty mixed right into the chaos that follows your family? You bet!

With open hearts and an open road, let’s share the love of Christ to all those whom we encounter this summer, not forgetting to include our family among them.

Dear Lord,

Please bless this time of vacation. Help my family to get along, to enjoy one another. May we be able to see the wonder You instill within the chaos of our days – whether we vacation near or far away from home.

Help me to embrace my family, this time of vacation, and the ordinary yet extraordinary gifts You’ve given. Open my eyes to see that vacation will end but the memories of it will remain, and give me the strength to make them sweet. Pour some of that strength into my very being and bring me through to the end of vacation with a thankful heart and unceasing praise. Amen.