“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” Ecclesiastes 9:10a

Ninth Annual Early Childhood Educator’s Conference
March 11 and 12, 2011
On behalf of Concordia University, the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Early Childhood planning committee, we welcome you to the 9th annual Minnesota Early Childhood Conference.

Our conference strives to provide spiritual enrichment and continuing education for early childhood educators. We believe that early childhood educators must be affirmed, valued, and challenged in their work with young children. We are a Christian conference which strives to help teachers grow professionally but also recognizes that spiritual growth is an area of development as well. To support this mission we will provide worship, motivational keynotes, and sectionals for the unique needs of teachers of children birth to age eight and program directors. Early childhood education is as diverse as the children we teach. We hope to expand your horizons and help you gather information for the best developmentally appropriate practices.

Registration
Pre-registration is preferred. Registration forms must be received by February 18, 2011, for the discount rate. Mail-in registrations will continue to be accepted until March 4, 2011. Conference registration is limited to 400 attendees per day. The conference arrival center is in the Pearson Commons (the commons area of the Library Technology Center) on the west side of the Concordia campus (found on the web: www.csp.edu/AboutUs/CampusMaps/index.html). For questions regarding the conference call 651-641-8857 or email mnecec@gmail.com. Form is on page 5.

Fees
Early registration for the two day conference is $110 per person and includes all workshops, lunch and conference displays. If attending one day, the cost is $70. Registrations received after February 18 will be $115 for two days and $75 for one day. Full Time Student Fee (with valid ID) available. See registration form.

Refunds
Full refunds will be granted upon written request through February 18. Cancellations before March 4 will be assessed a $20 processing fee. Cancellations will not be accepted after March 4, however registrants may transfer their registration to another Early Childhood professional. Contact mnecec@gmail.com for registration transfers.

College Credit
Undergraduate credit is available at the conference from Concordia University. An additional fee of $285 for one undergraduate credit is required to apply. To apply for credit, mark the box on the registration form and additional information will be sent to you. Pre-meetings will be held each day of the conference. Individuals seeking college credit must attend both days of the conference.

Minnesota Core Competencies Content Areas
The sectionals at our conference have been categorized by the “Minnesota Core Competency” content areas. Each content area describes the knowledge and skills practitioners need in order to work with children from birth through school age.

Content area I: Child Growth and Development
Content area II: Learning Environment and Curriculum
Content area III: Assessment and Planning for Individual Needs
Content area IV: Interactions with Children
Content area V: Families and Communities
Content area VI: Health, Safety, and Nutrition
Content area VII: Program Planning and Evaluation
Content area VIII: Professional Development and Leadership

Minnesota Registry Training
The conference continues to understand the complex interconnectedness of training opportunities which exist for providers. In light of the Minnesota Center for Professional Development career lattice, sessions held Friday afternoon not only will earn you hours on your workshop hours but are also listed as approved training with the Center for Professional Development. For more information please visit www.mncpd.org

**If paying by check which includes payment for all center staff, please include a contact name and phone number.
Workshop Verification
Certificates of Attendance will be available to all attendees. Full conference attendance equals 14 hours of in-service credit (7 hours per day).

Displays and Vendors
There will be a variety of vendor options with exciting displays and materials for you to see and purchase. Plan time to explore this area. The following are a sampling of the vendors who will be present:
- Cookie Lee Jewelry
- Edvantage
- Turning a New Page (formerly Growing Communities for Peace)
- Usborne Books & More
- Oleanna Books
- Lakeshore
- Bertelsons
- PURSEoot of Happiness
- MNAEYC/MNSACA
- Concordia University

Food
Continental breakfast, coffee, and lunch is included in your registration fee. Complimentary morning coffee will be served both days from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Evening meals are not provided. Commons Café, Concordia’s own gourmet coffee shop, will be open each day.

Inclement Weather
If weather conditions are severe enough to warrant cancellation of one or both days of the conference an announcement will be posted to the Concordia University Web Page (www.csp.edu), area media will be alerted, and a message added to 651-641-8857. In case of a cancellation, due to our fixed costs of preparing the conference there is no guarantee of a full refund.

From Our Classroom to Yours
Come visit the idea rooms during lunch. You’ll be able to browse a variety of ideas from teachers of activities that they have done with their children infants through early elementary. While it’s not make and take, there will be many ideas and samples for you to snap a picture of so remember to bring your camera.

Housing
Participants needing housing may arrange accommodations with any of the hotels listed below. Be sure to mention ‘Concordia University’ to receive the special rate. Use only the numbers provided to take advantage of the special rate.

Accommodations
Best Western Bandana Square
1010 Bandana Blvd. W. (Bandana Square, 1 mi. N. of I-94, off Lexington Pkwy). Free parking, indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna; wireless internet in all rooms; complimentary Express breakfast
(651) 647-1637

Days Inn
2550 Cleveland Ave. N., Roseville
(651) 636-7939 or (651) 636-6730

Holiday Inn Express East
I-94 and McKnight Rd. So., St. Paul
(5 miles east of Concordia)
(651) 731-2220

Radisson Inn
2540 N. Cleveland Ave., Roseville
651-636-4567
Schedule for Friday, March 11, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30–8:15</td>
<td>Registration, Vendors, &amp; Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15-9:15</td>
<td>Session I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15-9:30</td>
<td>Break &amp; Vendors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9:30–11:15| Welcome & Worship  
Keynote Speaker: Jane Kitson                                |
| 11:15-11:30| Break & Vendors                                                  |
| 11:30-1:30| Director DHS session & lunch                                       |
| 11:30-12:30| Session IIA or Lunch & Idea Room                                  |
| 12:30-1:30| Session IIB or Lunch & Idea Room                                   |
| 1:30–1:45| Break & Vendors                                                    |
| 1:45-3:45| Session III (2 hour training in all tracks)                          |

Friday, March 11th Keynote Speaker

Jeff Burkart
Creatively Teaching about the Master Teacher

It has been said that when children enter school they leave their right brains at the classroom door. Every child we teach deserves a “whole brain” environment in which to learn. This presentation will focus on how we can teach about the Master Teacher and develop a classroom environment that encourages creativity in our teaching and “whole brain” student thinking and learning.

Dr. Jeffrey E. Burkart, Emeritus Professor Education Media/Communications and Artist in Residence & Director of Drama Ministry at Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, is a nationally known teacher, author, speaker, dramatist, and musician who has given over 2,500 presentation and has more than 150 publication to his credit including ten books, numerous articles, chancel dramas, Christian musicals, hymns, CD recordings, videos and films.

Dr. Burkart’s ten-year run of Gospel Time in Gospel Rhyme performances (1995-2005) and ten-years of touring with the Good News Players resulted in over 350 performances of more than 40 original plays and musicals at LCMS national and regional youth gatherings, teachers conferences, Lutheran elementary and high schools, churches, Lutheran camps, and Concordia chapel service!
Online registration is now the primary tool to sign up for the Minnesota Early Childhood Conference!

All session information can be found at www.csp.edu/earlychildhood. If you would like to request a printed copy of the sectional descriptions, please contact Sara Mulso at mnecec@gmail.com or 651-641-8857. To register by check, please use the following form and return it to: Minnesota South District, 14301 Grand Avenue South Burnsville, MN 55306-5790

ONE NAME PER FORM
Please duplicate this form for additional attendees.

Name: _________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ☐ Home ☐ School______________________________________________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________________________________State:_______________________ Zip: ________________________________

Workplace: _________________________________________________ City:_______________________________________________________________

Age of children you serve: ___________________________Grade level :_______________________________________________________________

Telephone: Day __________________________________________Evening:_______________________________________________________________

Cell: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Email Address: _____________________________________________CSP Alumni: ___yes___no

Registration form continued on back
Online registration is now the primary tool to sign up for the Minnesota Early Childhood Conference! All session information can be found at www.csp.edu/earlychildhood. If you would like to request a printed copy of the sectional descriptions, please contact Sara Mulso at mnecec@gmail.com or 651-641-8857. To register by check, please use the following form.

Conference Registration

Please make check payable to: MN Early Childhood Educator’s-LCMS. (Checks only please)

Payment must accompany registration to guarantee a space.

Before February 18th  
- Friday ($70) ________  
- Saturday ($70) ________  
- Full Conference ($110) ________

After February 18th  
- Friday ($75) ________  
- Saturday ($75) ________  
- Full Conference: ($115) ________

Student Rate:
- Friday ($30) ________  
- Saturday ($30) ________  
- Full Conference ($45) ________

Register for sessions by number:

**Friday, March 11, 2011**
- Session I (8:15 – 9:15) F__ __ __
- Session IIA/or Lunch (11:30-12:30) F__ __ __
- Session IIB/or Lunch (12:30 – 1:30) F__ __ __
- Session III (1:45 – 3:45) F__ __ __

**Saturday, March 12, 2011**
- Session I (8:15 – 9:15) S__ __ __
- Session IIA/or Lunch (11:30-12:30) S__ __ __
- Session IIB/or Lunch (12:30 – 1:30) S__ __ __
- Session III (1:45 – 3:45) S__ __ __

☐ Please check for undergraduate credit. (Additional information will be sent to you, and there is an additional fee.)

The conference admits participants without regard to age, sex, creed, race, color, national or ethnic origin or disability.

The availability of all sectionals for walk-in registration cannot be guaranteed.

Return this form before February 18, 2010 to receive the discounted rate. Questions or to confirm your registration contact mnecec@gmail.com or call 651-641-8857. Mail-in registration accepted until 3/4/10.
Jeff Johnson

**Attack of the Snoterpillars**

Jeff A. Johnson opened Explorations Early Learning, a family child care program, in 2003 with his wife, Tasha, after spending 16 years directing a child care center and community center for a large non-profit agency. Their program focuses on emergent learning in a play-based and child-centered environment.

According to Jeff, “The best thing about our program is the great kids we get to work with each day. Our days are full of laughs, conversation, play, exploration, discoveries, and fun. We enjoy creating an environment conducive to ‘light bulb moments’ those moments where kids grasp new ideas. It is wonderful to get to see them rediscover the world.”

They keep their family child care program small to accommodate Jeff’s writing and speaking schedule. His audience, as a writer and speaker, is the hardworking caregivers dedicated to doing right by children: early care and education professionals, teachers, and parents.