

*Happy Birthday Jesus
December 2011*

Dear Folks at Home,

JESUS is the reason for the season! This is a saying that we hear during the Christmas season. How many of us really stop to think about this as we prepare for the holiday season? Sometimes I find myself getting so caught up in all of the hustle and bustle of the season and am concerned about finding time to do my Christmas baking, decorating and present buying and lose sight of what truly is important. I challenge us all to reflect on if we are putting the emphasis on our Lord and Savior's birth or if we are getting caught up in the commercial holiday hype. Our Heavenly Father sent His one and only son to be born, and later as an adult died on the cross for you and for me! Christ is indeed the greatest gift of ALL! This will be the focus of our "Happy Birthday Jesus" unit!

During our Jesus time we will be focusing on the angel's visits to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds and the birth of our Savior as found in the Gospels! The story will be told through the use of various means. Ask your child about what they learned today!

The children will be given the opportunity to act out the Christmas story in the dramatic play area in a stable with baby Jesus, dress-up clothes and animals. It is fun to see which role each child chooses to play!

We will be celebrating Jesus' birthday with a special program on Tuesday, Dec. 20 (Class 7) and Wednesday, Dec. 21 (Class 6). After the programs we will be having a birthday cake for Jesus' birthday! We thought this would be a great time to share some of our favorite songs and new songs and fingerplays that we have learned to tell of our Savior's birth! We will be having clean activities in the classroom so you will not have to worry about your child getting their clothing dirty in case the children wear more dressy clothes for the program. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Class 7-Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 1:15 in the church sanctuary

Class 6-Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 1:15 in the church sanctuary

Free-Choice Activities:

- Art Table: Christmas present for family, Christmas gift bags and cards*
- Easel: Blue create a candycane with colorful circles, Christmas tree with white paint and Happy Birthday Jesus cake with daubers*
- Science Center: water chimes and lights and wires*
- Sensory Centers: Playdough with Christmas cookie cutters, cut gift wrapping paper, gingerbread man and Nativity scene with raffia*
- Religion Center: God gets ready to send a Savior, Jesus is born, Angels tell the Sheperds and Shepherds worship Jesus*
- Letter of the Week: Jj and Kk*
- Shape of the Week : Star, Christmas Tree and Candy Cane*
- Colors of the Week: Yellow, Green and Red*

*Happy Birthday Jesus
December 2011*

Important Dates to Remember:

- *Parent Association Christmas Party-Everyone is invited to share in this fun event! Tuesday, December 6 from 6:30-8:00*
- *Christmas Program-Tuesday, December 20 at 1:15, (Class 7) and Wednesday, December 21 at 1:15 (Class 6) (Please refer to the info. in the above portion of the letter.)*
- *Christmas break begins on Thursday, December 22 and school resumes on Tuesday, January 3*
- *Chapel-Wednesday, January 4 (Class 6) and Thursday, January 5 (Class 7)*
- *Pajama Day/Apple Turnover-Wednesday, January 11 (Class 6)
Thursday, January 12 (Class 7)*
- *NO SCHOOL-Monday, January 16-Tuesday, January 17*
- *In School Field Trip-Wednesday, January 25 (Class 6)
Thursday, January 26 (Class 7)*

Songs and Fingerplays:

"Ten Little Angels in the Band"

Refrain:

*There was one, there were two, there were three little angels
There were four, there were five, there were six little angels
There were seven, there were eight, there were nine little angels
Ten little angels in the band!*

*Oh wasn't that a band, Christmas morning, Christmas morning,
Christmas morning
Oh wasn't that a band, Christmas morning, Christmas morning soon!*

"Baby Jesus" (Fingerplay)

*Here is baby Jesus (Hold up index finger)
Let's put Him in His bed (Put index finger in opposite hand)
Let's cover Him up, all but His head (Wrap fingers around index finger)
If Jesus should cry, we'll put Him right here (Put index finger on shoulder)
And we'll pretend we're Mary who loves Jesus dear! (Pat index finger with opposite hand)*

Joy and peace in His birth,

Marla Guenther

*"I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to All people."
Luke 2:10*