

## How to Minister to Families in Our Schools

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### **Group Participants:**

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Keith Jopp	St. Paul, Cheney
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### Discussion

- ◆ Pray for the children and families.
- ◆ Host families for all new families (moderate success)
- ◆ Baptism during chapels
- ◆ Something at church to encourage families to come.
  - Singing in church
  - Halloween Party, carnival, “Trunk or Treat”, Easter egg hunt
  - Special Sunday morning kids worship – Paired with families of the church
- ◆ Develop relationships between families that are churched and unchurched (match families already acquainted)
- ◆ Introduce parents early to Concordia pre-school – kindergarten weekly story leaflet so that they recognize and expect it.
- ◆ Ask parents during first contact “What are you looking for in a school” and “How did you hear about our school”
- ◆ Market your school
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Brochures
  - Internet
  - Marketing Lutheran Schools by Bob Rogalski
- ◆ Preschool programs and graduations
- ◆ Include a short encouragement in weekly newsletter, e.g. “Today we learned to pray” then give them a sample prayer
- ◆ Preschool teacher – printed pillow case with iron on lamb, bed time story, prayers, short bible passage etc. (A ladies group could prepare these)
- ◆ Include in scripture in everything – Let the Holy Spirit work through the Word
- ◆ Free meal for families
- ◆ Carnival run by the older kids to encourage pre-school families to stay connected
- ◆ Principal or teacher leads an information class on Sunday morning
- ◆ A more mature family could “adopt” a few new members to do the visit.
- ◆ Pictures of school children for congregation members to select and pray for that child.
- ◆ Give pre-school children picture bibles to teach families how to introduce Jesus to the family
- ◆ Present the devotion book or bible to the child by carrying the gift to their home
- ◆ Angel Food Ministries or Heartland share to just get families into the building – a welcome attitude and non-threatening
- ◆ Children sing for groups meeting during the day e.g. for Senior group
- ◆ “Foster Grandparent Day” or connect “Senior Pals”
- ◆ Share the Word with each contact activity and “Walk the Talk”