



# Morning Star



# SHINES!

*"Children are our First Priority"*

## December 5-9:

### An Angel Gets His Wings:

But the Angel said to them, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."



## December 12-16:

### The Reason for the Season:

...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. This week we will talk about the true meaning of Christmas. Our children will be performing **The Nativity on December 16th in the Church Sanctuary at 10:00 am.**



## December 19-23:

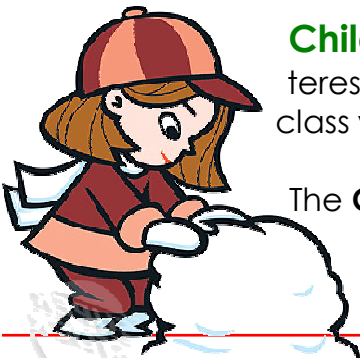
**Holiday Fun:** What does your family do for the Holidays? We will be talking about different ways people celebrate the holiday season.



## December 26-30:

**Children's Choice:** Each child has individual interests as well as interests as a class. This week the class will pick their own themes and explore at least one of their favorite topics.

The **Center is Closed** December 26 and January 2



**Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center**

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**December 2011**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS December 2011

- ☆ December 6th-St. Nick's Day-CW
- ☆ December 7th-Create an Ornament with Parents-CW
- ☆ December 16th-The Nativity Play-10:00 am-P,G,R,O
- ☆ December 19th-23rd - Family Traditions-P,G,R,O
- ☆ December 20th-Library Reads-CW
- ☆ December 26th-Center Closed

### LOOKING AHEAD

- ☆ January 2nd-Center Closed
- ☆ January 10th-Indoor Snow Day
- ☆ January 19th-Wildlife Encounters

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# December 2011

# Fine Arts

## 2011-2012

Date	Themes	Events	Event Dates	Class
<b>December 2011</b>		Baa, Baa Black Sheep Month	Service Project-Diaper Drive	
5-9	An Angel Gets His Wings	St. Nick's Day Create an Ornament w/Parent	Dec. 6 Dec. 7	CW CW
12-16	The Reason for the Season	Nativity Play	Dec. 16	G,R,O
19-23	Holiday Fun	Family Traditions Library reads	Dec. 19-23 Dec. 20	P,G,R,O CW
26-30	Children's Choice	Christmas Observed-Closed	Dec. 26	CW

DECEMBER	
5th	Post Impressionism
12th	Van Gogh
19th	Munch
26th	Fauvism

## Cooking-Deceptively Delicious-December

Date	Activity	Goals
December 7	Chocolate Chip Cookies with Garbanzo Beans	Children will have a chance to apply scientific knowledge when making these sweet treats (with a secret ingredient!) While combining ingredients and watching their cookies come together, they will develop an understanding of cause and effect.
December 21	Chocolate Chip Cupcakes with squash and pumpkin	While discussing the food pyramid, it gives us a chance to develop spatial sense. We use comparison words like more and less to describe what kind of foods we should eat everyday. These yummy and healthy cupcakes are a great recipe to expand our knowledge of all the different food groups we can combine in one recipe.

## Nativity Play



December 16th,  
10:00 am  
Morning Star Lutheran Church  
Sanctuary  
G, R, O

## DIAPER DRIVE



We are collecting diapers for the Lydia House through December 15th



## Family Displays

Please make sure your child has a picture of his/her family in their classroom. Children need the familiarity of family throughout their day.

Ms. Susan's & Ms. Liz's Family Tradition  
Please share your family traditions with us the week of December 19th-23rd

## St Nick's Day

We'll be celebrating St Nick's on December 6th. This is a German tradition where children place their shoe outside the door and after naptime they will find a surprise in every shoe!



# Morning Star Classroom Chatter by Your Child's Teacher



**White Stars**—The babies in the White Star room are growing by leaps and bounds. So many changes every day. Adalyn will be moving up to the Blue Star room this month.

Welcome to new friends Josiah, Jack, Lily, Avery and Colleen. Violet and Ezra are so busy exploring the room and greeting every friend. Owen has started to roll over, Colby and Lucia are discovering what fun it is to pull containers of toys off the shelf. Please also welcome Ms. Kathy to our class; we are very excited to have her join our room.



**Blue Stars**- November was a great month for learning about love and families. We learned how to sign "Grandma and Grandpa" and lots of songs about Grandparents. Our favorite was Grandpa's Farm!

We are now reading stories about the Nativity. Some of our babies can already sign "Baby Jesus!" December is a special month for the Blue and White Stars, as we are the stars of the Nativity on the bulletin board in the hallway. Be sure to watch for this! We would like to welcome Ms. Kathy to our infant rooms. The babies love her already! Aydin will be moving on to the Purple Stars and Adeline will be joining us. We will miss Aydin, as well as Ms. Felicia!



**Purple Stars**-November has been a great month in the Purple Star room. This month we talked about

authors, family, turkeys, thanksgiving and mittens. We glued letters to notebook paper the first week for authors. For our Family Unit we glued face collages. Thanksgiving was fun, we glued feathers and learned how to gobble!

A wonderful accomplishment, we learned how to put on "a Mitten!" The Purple Stars were very good at this. We are excited to welcome Aydin to our class in December!

**Green Stars**—The Green Stars are thankful for new friends Landon, Luke and Will and for our new teachers Ms.

Alexes and Ms. Lexi. We featured books by Tad Hills during favorite author week. He writes the Duck & Goose books which have wonderful illustrations and the humorous antics of Duck, Goose and their friends.

The children are still enjoying the family posters so if you have not brought one yet please bring one. We will be leaving them up for several months.

The children discovered texture and smell as they stirred canned pumpkin and spice and then spooned it into pie pans. They also squirted water from turkey basters and washed some dishes in the sensory table.



**Red Stars**—This month we loved learning about the famous children's books author and illustrator, Eric Carle. The children loved learning about his

art techniques and reading his fun books over and over again! This month we talked a lot about being thankful. Many of our talks surrounded God and our families. We took a couple days out of the week to go up to the sanctuary in the church to discuss God's blessings. Each child got an opportunity to say a prayer for what they were thankful for. I am so thankful that I am not bound to what I can or can not say and we are able to freely worship God here at Morning Star Preschool! After talking about church Tessa said she was thankful for "donuts at church and toys!" Aren't we all Tessa!



**Orange Stars Pre-K**—The Orange Stars loved sharing their family blocks during the month of November. Thank you, parents, for sharing! We also enjoyed becoming authors in our publishing company! During December we will change our dramatic play area into a grocery store, and later the center will become "Santa's Workshop." We will also be preparing for our parts for the Nativity Play later this month. However, the highlight of the month will be "Olivia the Pig's" and "Curious George's" adventure as they come home for a few nights with each of us. Don't forget to journal about the adventures and take a few pictures! can't wait to publish this adventure at the end of the month!

## Director's Note:

Dear Parents,

This is a magical time of the year and the children (and teachers) have lots of surprises up their sleeve for the holidays.

The Nativity Play is just around the corner and this always gets me in the Holiday mood! There is something about a 3, 4 and 5 year old dressed up as a biblical figure that

brings the angel out in us all. We'll see everyone on the 16th of December, 10:00 am in the Church Sanctuary.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed some special family time. Christmas is right around the corner and we know that the holidays can be stressful. My hope for everyone is

joy...take a deep breath and remember, your little one only has one Christmas in 2011....this year should be special.

All of the teachers and staff of our Center wish you a joyful Christmas and very happy New Year.

**Susan**

# Bits & Pieces

## Class Christmas Gifts

Shhhh.....The Teachers of the Purple, Green, Red & Orange Stars are hoping for camera's for Christmas.



**We'll have a Christmas Box on the check in desk for contributions.**

### Director

\*Susan A. Snow

### Asst. Director/Records

\*Judy Hollander

### Asst. Dir. Staffing & Events

\*Jill Garrett

### Program Coordinator

\*Marilyn Sander

### Book Keeping

\*Cherie Schnack

### White Star Teachers

\*Marilyn Sander  
\*Sherry Haverman  
\*Ashley Swanson

### Blue Star Teachers

\*Cindy Evans  
\*Brenna Rosenberg  
\*Kathy Gardner

### \*Purple Star Teachers

\*Laura Knudson  
\*Kristen Douglas  
\*Lindsay Taylor

### Green Star Teachers

\*Kathy Widdershoven  
\*Alexes Tiberio  
\*Lexi Varoz

### Red Star Teachers

\*Ashley Riddle  
\*Kylie Nelson  
\*Haley Post

### Orange Star Teachers

\*Jill Garrett  
\*Brian Weaver  
\*Parker Grogan

### Floater

\*Brette Daiss  
\*Jessica Schnieder

### Support Staff

\*Sue Harm  
Kitchen  
\*Keith Haverman  
Kitchen  
\*Ashley Miller  
Kitchen  
\*Ashley Knott  
Art  
\*Ellen Davis  
Spanish  
\*Liz Sampson  
Cooking  
\*Bev McCollum  
Music  
\*CiCi Evans  
Move & Groove

### Parent Advisory Committee

\*Pastor Tom Miller  
\*Susan A. Snow  
\*Chris Hedican  
\*Mark Lust  
\*Margie Bross  
\*Laura Preisman  
\*Karin Waggoner  
\*Jamie Johns



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