

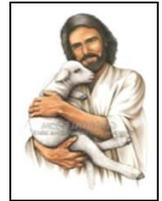
## "News from Your School"

October 2016

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*Feeling overwhelmed with family schedules and responsibilities? Maybe doing less is the key! ☺*

### Parenting Challenges by Cheryl Loomis

Family life can sometimes feel like a juggling act, and most parents strive for balance. Tensions exist between work and play, needs and wants, and Christian values and the effects of culture in modern society. Raising young children to become responsible Christians poses many challenges along the way.

We live in an age of information. We are able to access it on a myriad of parenting topics. A generation ago Dr. Spock gave parents the advice to rely on common sense, to trust your own instincts, and to follow your doctor's directions. Some would contend parenting in that age was easier. Today so much information presents a challenge.

Parenting magazines, blogs, and journals abound, all with differing opinions on the same topic. Previous generations could often rely on immediate family for advice on parenting matters. Now that family origins can be far-flung, parents are left to read and research on their own. Wading through too much information creates stress in trying to decide what is the best way to parent. We might well question what is available. What philosophy forms the basis of the information parents are reading? Parenting books are abundant in many bookstores. Online journals and blogs offer a multitude of perspectives on the same topic. Finding the balance and knowing whom to trust pose challenges.

Balance within a family is another challenge. It manifests itself in a variety of ways but boils down to the fact that we all have the same allotment of 24 hours in a day. How do parents find the time needed to recharge for the day-to-day demands of parenting? How do they balance parenting responsibilities with the need for personal time? Solo parents struggle to find some personal time along with juggling the needs of children, while married partners struggle to find some time to build their relationship as a couple. Many families are over scheduled with too many activities after school,

causing some of them to feel that they are living a hurried, disconnected lifestyle.

Finances also create varying challenges. Families today struggle to make ends meet, and children feel this stress. Entitlement abounds, and raising children to think past the idea that they deserve everything they want is difficult. Teaching children to distinguish between needs and wants is difficult when they live in a consumer society. Guiding children to a wise use of money has been redesigned from a round, pink piggy bank to one that is compartmentalized— save, spend, donate, invest—to help children understand money management.

Teaching values, another challenge, in a culture that is saturated with media influence poses problems. Young children are imitators of superheroes, while older children may be exposed to inappropriate reality TV situations. Ellen Goodman, a *Boston Globe* columnist, once wrote that the main job of parents is to "counter the culture." So much more so for Christian parents, whether it be for sports heroes, clothing, advertising, or social media. Being able to screen the content of things a child sees is a challenge as newer technologies are introduced. Often children are more technologically savvy than their parents.

Raising children with Christian values when the world they see goes contrary to Scripture is the biggest challenge. Modern thinking insists there are no absolutes; people make their own truth. Christian parents know where to look for help in raising the next generation. God's Word gives us the absolute truth. Parents can turn to Scripture for help in meeting the challenges. Open up the Scriptures with your children so that they find the same help for their own challenges.

*Cheryl Loomis is a professor of early childhood education at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN*

PLC Autumn 2011



*(News From Your School; continued)*

*Welcome!* We welcome **Sherri Kammue**ller as this year's Teacher's Aid. Sherri replaces **Angela Carlson**, who is now employed with Great Lakes in Steven's Point. Both of these ladies have been a huge blessing to our school. We pray God blesses them both in their present positions. Thanks, Angela, and welcome, Sherri!



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

**FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**FROZEN TREAT SOCIAL**

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2:00-4:00 pm

**HARVEST LUNCHEON & FESTIVAL**

Sunday, October 9, 11:30 am -2:30 pm

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

Sunday, October 30, 4:30 – 6:30 pm