



Building His Body By  
Reflecting the Son

**A monthly newsletter for the people of Trinity Lutheran Church of Sealy, Texas**



## You Can't Hit the Ball with Your Eyes Closed

The deceiver comes to Eve in the Garden of Eden in the form of a serpent. He deceives her by saying, "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." What a half-truth! Adam and Eve would know good and evil, but they wouldn't really be like God!

Many times, we run our spiritual lives in a backwards fashion from this thought. We think that we are not sinning if we don't open our eyes to truly see what we are doing, saying, or thinking. If I don't see myself caught in a sin, then it must not be a sin. After all, don't I have to experience it before it is real. Once again, another lie is told but this one we tell ourselves.

The father was trying to teach his little boy to hit a baseball. He went through the proper swing. After a number of times the child had a very good form. And since the father's son was fairly large for his age, the father assumed he would have a lot of power in hitting the ball. Then it came time for the boy to actually swing at the ball. The dad had a tee which he placed the ball upon. He lined up his son and had him take a few swings. After about five tries, the young boy got the swing of it and hit the ball quite a long way. The son then repeated hitting the ball off of a tee for a good distance. Then the father decided it was time for his son to hit a ball being pitched. He stepped back with his glove and ball and threw the pitch to his son. The boy swung and missed the ball by a mile. This occurred again and again and again and again. Finally in frustration, the father asked his son, "Why can you hit a ball off of a tee, yet you don't even come close to a ball pitched to you?" His son responded, "When the ball is on the tee, I can see it. When you throw the ball for me to hit, I get afraid, so I close my eyes and swing away."

Just because we don't see our own sin doesn't mean it doesn't exist. We are truly sinful, yet God doesn't close His eyes to our sin or to us. Instead, He opens our eyes not only to see our sin but to see His amazing, awesome, love for us. He sent Jesus, His Son, to take all of our sins, even those we don't see, to the cross. He takes those sins away and dies for us that as He now lives, we also live. He sends us His Spirit, who opens our eyes to envision how rotten we are and how He restores us in His Son, Jesus.

Let us live out our Christian faith with our eyes open. Let us recognize our sins, confess them, and then fully rely upon His forgiveness and grace in Jesus. And the times when we forget and take God's grace for granted, remember even when we have our eyes closed, God's love continues to embrace us as His children.

In Christ,

*Pastor Ken*

**September  
2024**

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**9:00 am**

Sunday School  
For All Ages

**Worship Service**

10:00 am Sunday

**Church Phone**

979-885-2211

**Preschool Phone**

979-627-7846

**Fax**

979-885-7003

**Website**

[www.tlcsealy.org](http://www.tlcsealy.org)

**Pastor**

Kenneth Bersche

[Pastorken@tlcsealy.org](mailto:Pastorken@tlcsealy.org)

979-885-2211

### ELDERS

Lowell Coody  
Joel Grigar  
Doyle Kornegay  
Mark Romano  
Tracy Schiller  
Ronnie Schmidt  
Stephen Stuessel  
Barry Wolf

**RALLY DAY  
SEPTEMBER 8TH**



**9/8/2024**

# It's Your Birthday!

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

- |                           |                      |                         |                       |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9/02 Taylor Cash          | 9/07 RYLYNN FUREY    | 9/10 Alice Moore        | 9/19 Katy Grigar      |
| 9/02 Deborah Christiansen | 9/07 Drake Grigar    | 9/10 Billy Schaffner    | 9/20 Carol Schuknecht |
| 9/02 Russell Dziadek      | 9/07 GABBY MATUS     | 9/10 Janice Wied        | 9/22 JAYLEE KONESHECK |
| 9/03 Shirley Schier       | 9/08 Scott Einkauf   | 9/10 Andrea Coody       | 9/23 Melissa Bersche  |
| 9/04 Carl Wied            | 9/09 Patricia Grigar | 9/13 Ronnie Thrasher II | 9/27 Rebecca Tipton   |
| 9/05 Loretta Dziadek      | 9/09 Kellie Kainer   | 9/13 Doyle Kornegay     | 9/25 Brandi Pizana    |
| 9/05 Jason Kainer         | 9/09 Jake Schiller   | 9/17 Clarence Einkauf   | 9/27 Briana Kent      |
| 9/05 Ella Niemann         | 9/10 Cory Barrett    | 9/18 Kari Furey         | 9/28 Stacie Leiber    |
| 9/05 Leisha Wied          | 9/10 Aaron Kutra     | 9/18 KAELEE CARR        |                       |

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."

(1 Thessalonians 3:12)

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9/02/1967 Larry and Fay Alexander  | 9/15/2020 Gavin and Mary Ann Thompson |
| 9/07/2002 Jason and Kellie Kainer  | 9/19/1998 Robert and Marie Herridge   |
| 9/08/1990 Tracy and Marty Schiller | 9/20/2008 Dewayne and Kari Furey      |
| 9/12/1998 David and Brenda Cash    | 9/20/1980 Brad and Maggie Kent        |
| 9/12/2015 Al and Codi Konesheck    | 9/25/2000 Danny and Stephanie Darrow  |



**TITHES & OFFERINGS** Thank you for your Tithes and Offerings! Offerings may be dropped off or mailed to 402 Atchison, Sealy, TX 77474. Please use your church offering envelopes requested by Stewardship to ensure that you will be given credit for your contributions.

### Prayers for Nursing Home and Shut Ins

*For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6*

Carrie Steinbach, Hospice at Colonial Living, Sealy  
Joyce Meyer, Colonial Living, 1401 Eagle Lake Rd. Sealy, TX 7747

## SUNDAY SCHOOL kickoff

**Rally Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Begins with Breakfast Then a KICKOFF  
to Sunday School!**

**AND**

**After Church  
Ice Cream Social!**



### Mark Your Calendars!

The Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Team is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social after church on Rally Day!

Who: YOU

What: Ice cream cones with various toppings available aka an ice cream bar and ice cream sandwiches

Where: Church gym

When: Rally Sunday, September 8th - 11am after the Sunday Service

Why: Who doesn't love ice cream? For fellowship and to help celebrate our new Sunday School year.



## THE BLESSING BOX PROJECT

Next Blessing Box Project is Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church gym. For more information, please call Ruth Szymanski at 979-885-9504. This project is growing, and we can use you!



**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF** The gifts you give are an immeasurable blessing to families around the world.

The little girl is warmer because of a quilt sewn. A mother is happy because her children received school supplies and a bag to carry them. A father is learning a new skill that will provide income for his family because he's learning to sew using a Fabric Kit he received. A grandmother has regained her dignity because she was able to bathe using the soap inside a Personal Care Kit. And a baby is sleeping soundly because he is swaddled in a soft blanket from a Baby Care Kit.

Thank you for the items that were donated towards the school supply kits. Now we have a box set out for donating personal care kits. Please, if you can and are able, please gather these items and place in the box in the narthex.

### INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between) 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz. any brand, in original wrapping

ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

Let's see how many personal care kits from Trinity Lutheran Church, Sealy we can send.



## TLWM/LWML News

Many thanks are extended to our outgoing President Aletha Jeske who for many years has given tirelessly of her time and resources to TLWM.

At the August meeting, officers were elected for the 2024-2025 year:

Treasurer: Beth Franke

Secretary: Ruth Szymanski

Co-Vice Presidents: Beth Franke

Ruth Szymanski

President: Trine Hultstrand

### Join us for our next meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the gym!

In August, a Back-to-School luncheon was given for the Trinity Lutheran Church's preschool teachers who are missionaries to our community's little ones and their families. Please lift prayers for these teachers, children, and families!

In September, please donate hygiene products to the World Relief project! Orphan Grain Train box will return later! You may continue to donate diapers and other baby items to the Sealy Pregnancy Center.

### Check the weekly update in your church bulletin for more details as events approach!

## Ladies Aid

Our Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid Group met on August 8. Our next meeting is set for Thursday, October 3rd. We are donating money to the Sealy Food Pantry as the need for food has increased in the Sealy area. We are gearing up to make Christmas gift bags again this year for the shut-ins at our church. We are looking to have a group trip to Colonial Belle Nursing Home soon - including asking the Youth to sing Christmas carols and we bring a dessert. We are looking for volunteers to help with receptions after funerals here at Trinity Lutheran. This would include bringing a dozen sandwiches, a dessert, or helping in the kitchen. Please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway/narthex. For any questions, contact Antoinette Romano. Thank you!





**2024-2025 Preschool**

Teachers are:

Pam Joseph – Two-Year-Old Class

Arielle Pitcock – Three-Year-Old Class and Kristi

Flores – Four-Year-Old Class

Robin Jacobson – Asst. Director

Myself, Maggie Kent – Director

The two new teachers, Pam Joseph and Arielle Pitcock, have experience in working in childcare. They both know how important it is to maintain state licensing standards. They are a great fit here at Trinity. Kristi Flores, Robin Jacobson and I are what we call lifers. We all three have been here over twenty years. I pray for each of our staff to have a great year.

We are grateful and blessed to have our new teachers know the importance of the incredible love of Christ Jesus, our Savior.

The preschool doors open at 8:00 am and locked at 8:15 am. We ask the parents to please arrive by 8:00 am and no later than 8:15 am since the teachers begin their class as soon as your child walks through the door. We all know the importance of starting a day off right!

Your child wants to be here when the other children arrive and enjoy their friendship. By allowing your child time to adjust to the classroom, friends, teacher, and environment will help them feel included and it will have a positive feeling for the rest of the day. Teachers begin the morning with instructions as simple as placing their backpacks where they belong or name recognition that they will miss out on if they are late. There are many things happening early when these children arrive. *Teaching Begins at 8:00 am!*



**Creation/Self/Bible/Friendship/  
Manners/Nursery Rhymes  
and Grandparents Day.**

The spiritual emphasis is to help children discover that the Bible tells us about God and His creation. The children will learn letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. Throughout the year we have a specific teaching calendar, and children learn matching, go-together, sequencing, lotto's, letter sound matches, categorizing, picture sound matches and much more. Ongoing skills are practiced every day, such as listening, following directions, and manners.

Learning centers allow the children to play cooperatively and investigate language, roles,

materials, and relationships and encourage children to learn at their own pace with material that meets individual needs and level of development. While children learn through play, they can learn essential skills such as problem solving, working with others, sharing and much more. In turn, this helps them develop the ability to concentrate.

The children will start off with the Bible stories during Chapel on how God created the world. Children will learn songs; finger plays, pledges, and memorize Bible verses.



**Red/White/Blue Day!** The children may wear Red/White and Blue for Patriot Day on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The colors RED/WHITE and BLUE will represent the 9/11 tragedy. We are going to focus on the fact that so many heroes came out of 9/11 to step up to do the right thing. Even animals can be heroes.



**Preschool Pancake Social!** The preschool starts off the year by having a Pancake Breakfast Social with a Free Will Offering to defray the cost for the pancakes and sausage. The rest of the proceeds help with the cost of FBI background checks or CPR and First Aid.

This will take place on **Monday September 9<sup>th</sup> 7:45 am - 8:30 am**. This special is the day we celebrate Grandparents Day. The students enjoy eating with their grandparents.

This is a great time for the parents to have that special time with their children while getting to know other parents, teachers, children, and church members.

Church members come and meet some of the parents and children. You may know a few of them. Come and enjoy pancakes and sausage with us.

If you are not able to make the pancake social, you can donate to a Free Will Offering to the preschool.



**911 Safety!** Retired State Trooper Gary Pflughaupt will come to the center on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am to talk to the children about the importance of safety. He will also talk to the children about the importance of seat belt safety and why car seats are very important.

It is important that children know what to do during an emergency, especially if an adult is not present. Children need to know how to call 911, and conversely, they need to know that they

should NOT call 911 unless there is an emergency.

Retired Trooper Gary will talk to the children about the person on the other line of 911 who is called a dispatcher and emergency responder. Depending on the call center, emergency dispatchers must follow certain protocols. Sometimes those involve asking very specific questions, and then giving commands.

He will tell the children that it's ok to give information to the dispatcher and then follow their directions. It could be lifesaving! It's always important that children don't answer the door for just anyone. First responders will always announce themselves and it's important that they know and understand it is okay to open the door for them so they can begin treating the injured person. These are all very important lessons for all children to learn.



**Wear RED Day!** Since the children are learning red for the month, we will have a special color day. On Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, the children can come to preschool dressed in something RED to reinforce the color of the month!



**Individual and Class Pictures!** On Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am a photographer from Lifetouch will begin taking photos. Have your child dressed nicely and bring a change of clothes if need be if you want them changed. A form will be sent home with you to be filled out and be returned to preschool. You will be able to choose pictures online and purchase your packet.



**Back Yard Bash!** On Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, all the preschoolers will have a BACK YARD BASH Day! Each child needs to bring a sack lunch with a drink to school and enjoy the day outside playing! This is a great way for all the children to get to know one another, have fun and create memories. Let's pray that we will have nice weather to enjoy. If not, we will have Trinity's beautiful gym for the children to enjoy their lunch.



**Special Book Week!** Beginning Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> preschool will have Special Book Week! Another way we make reading fun is to have your child bring their favorite book from home (please label with name.) The teacher will read some of the books and let the children share their books with one another. Children can tell each other their story books and open a world of imagination.

Reading is very important in a young child's life. Encouraging reading is important and we try to make it fun! It gives them an opportunity to listen, explore, and imagine what triggers their brain to answer questions after a story is read. Let's get ready to read!



**Bring Snacks for Your Child Each Day!** DO NOT BRING A DRINK!!!! We Will Serve Water! Please bring simple snacks in a plastic zipper snack bag each day for your child. Ideas are cheese nips, any kind of cereals. Sandwich crackers, pretzels, goldfish or whatever you think your child will eat. This is a snack and not a meal. The children have a ten-minute snack time.



**Action Plan or Emergency Response Plan Mandatory by the State** is required by your doctor if your child is allergic to certain foods, asthmatic and or needs an EpiPen. The purpose of this Emergency Response Plan is to establish an organizational structure and procedures for response to major emergencies. It assigns the roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the plan during an emergency following the incident. If you have any questions, please come and talk to me.



**Extra Clothing!** Please send an extra set of clothes in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. Top, bottom, underwear, socks, and old shoes in case they pee on their socks and shoes. It is very important that we have an extra set of clothes in case of spills or accidents.



**Family of the Week!** Family of the week is a program we have that helps children share their family with everyone at preschool and church. Each week a family will be chosen to be Family of the Week.

What this entails is that your child brings about seven to ten pictures of their family to be placed on the preschool bulletin board in the hallway. Always check your calendar of events to see if it is your turn to be family of the week. We will wait until October to begin Families of the Week.



**Reinforcement!** Parents, please help the teachers with the rules of the preschool at home. If your child comes home with a behavior report or the teacher lets you know about your child's day and there was inappropriate behavior, please reinforce and talk to your child about what

happened at preschool. Please help him/her understand the circumstances of inappropriate and appropriate behavior.

The first two weeks of preschool are rules and manners. Ask your child what the rules are in the classroom, snack time, chapel, playground, and gym. When all of us are working together to reinforce the rules, this makes transition easier for your child and the teacher.



**Drills!** The preschool conducts monthly fire drills. This is not to frighten the children but to have them prepared in case of a fire.

Other drills conducted every three months are severe weather, reverse evacuation, shelter in place and lock down drills. If your child comes home and says we had a fire or disaster today, you will know why.



**Emergency Preparedness Plan!** Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool is required by state law and has an Emergency/Disaster Plan to provide safe care for our children, should an emergency or disaster occur during the program day.

Relocation in case of a disaster will be the Austin County Bank located across the street from the church and is within walking distance. A Parent/Guardian from each family is asked to sign that they have knowledge and have reviewed the Disaster Preparedness Plan. When you sign the Parent Handbook Contract this is acknowledgment for the state that you are aware of our Disaster Plan.

I would like to thank all the parents in helping with the emergency plan by providing items needed that help defray the cost to the preschool program. The food not used will be donated to the Christian Food Pantry at the end of the year. This is another way to help the preschool and others in the community.



Please feed your child breakfast at home before preschool begins. Bringing breakfast to school interrupts the rest of the children. If your child does bring breakfast to school, please take him/her to the gym and sit down with your child and finish breakfast. You are responsible for your child to eat breakfast and bring them to the classroom. Your child must be brought to the classroom by you. Please do not let them come to the classroom by themselves.



Please be on time to pick up your child at NOON! A late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be added to your tuition. Please be on time!



**September tuition is due by the 5<sup>th</sup> of September. All tuition is due by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.**



Tuition is due in advance with no deductions for any absences, holidays, illness, or closures due to inclement weather, power outages, or other situations beyond Trinity Lutheran Preschool's control. If tuition is not paid on the day that it is due, a late fee will be added to the tuition for each day that it is late until it is paid in full. When a payment is delinquent for one week or more, care may be suspended until the balance is current and your child's space will not be reserved. Tuition is due regardless of a child's absence from the program for any reason and is required to hold a child's space. Our policy for tuition is as follows:

All accounts are due on the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. Statements come home with each child's monthly newsletter, generally sent home on the last week of the previous month.

If tuition is not paid by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, then a late charge of \$5.00 per day will be added to that month's tuition. All fees must be paid by the first of the following month or your child cannot attend until all fees are paid in full. The late charge will not exceed \$50.00 each month.

After the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, you will be notified by a board member to determine how you wish to pay the balance due or to choose dismissal of care.



Because of the long-term benefits of participation in high-quality early childhood programs, our goal is not to suspend or expel a child from care. Instead, we attempt to collaborate with parents to bring the needed resources and strategies to a situation.

Our hope is that these efforts will result in suspensions and expulsions only being used where there are extraordinary circumstances or a determination of a serious safety threat. While we will make efforts to reduce or eliminate such circumstances and/or threats with the provision of reasonable modifications, we reserve the right to suspend or expel in any situation we deem necessary.

We can and will terminate our childcare arrangements immediately for any of the following reasons (but not solely limited to):  
Failure to comply with the contract.



Destructive or hurtful behavior of child that persists even with parent cooperation in stopping the behavior.

Non-Payment of childcare fees or late and/or recurring late payment of fees.

Failure to show up for 5 days in a row without any communication.

Failure to complete required forms.

Inability to meet the child's needs without additional staff.

Rude and disrespectful behavior towards provider or any employee.

If parents knowingly bring their child ill to school.

Conflict between parent / provider.

Extreme Behavior.

**Class Parties** We have five special parties a year, Harvest, Christmas, Valentine, Easter and End of School party and we ask parents to help with refreshments and supervision of games.

A sign-up list will be posted for parents to help with the activity centers and food items. This will be a first come first serve base. Parents that sign up for a particular party are the ones that can attend. We need parents help by setting up and supervising the activities centers. Supervised activity centers will be on 20-minute increments. Special food and game items will be on the list for parents to purchase and provide for the parties.

A kitchen crew will be needed to prepare the food and drinks and set up the children's tables ready for them to eat and have the kitchen clean before leaving.

We ask all parents to help by setting up the party, tearing down the activity centers, cleaning kitchen, wiping tables, sweeping, and taking out the trash.

The purpose of volunteering is to make sure children are safe, lower stress on everyone, work as a team and have fun with the preschoolers. Since we are a non-profit organization, we appreciate your help in donating items for the parties.



### **Preschoolers Sing in Church Event!**

Preschool has a Sunday set aside for the children to participate and sing in front of the congregation and their families. This is usually a Sunday in February. Everyone's heart fills with joy to hear these children perform. We ask that you set this Sunday aside for your family and watch

your preschooler perform songs they learned in Chapel.

*In Christ, Ms. Maggie*

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES August 12, 2024**

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by John Vrablec. John Vrablec presented the devotion.

Council members present:

John Vrablec – President

Terry Hankins – Vice President

Ruth Szymanski – Treasurer

Joann Dixon – Fellowship Outreach Chairman

Pastor Ken Bersche

David Novosad – Usher Chairman

Kimberly Kornegay – Secretary

Preschool - Maggie Kent, Barbara Havemann

Absent:

Barry Wolf – Elder Chairman

George Wied – Trustee Chairman

Janice Wied – Stewardship Chairman

Nikki Vrablec – Board of Education Chairman

The Minutes from the meeting held on July 15, 2024, were presented. Due to not having a quorum, the minutes could not be approved.

Old Business:

No old business.

Chairmen Reports:

Ruth Szymanski – Treasurer

July Report - As of July 31, 2024, the cash balance in the General Fund was \$23,650.69. The Building Fund balance was \$41,127.34 and the Designated Fund balance was \$92,657.45. The Total of All Funds was \$157,435.48. The total contributions for July were \$19,379.60 and total expenses for July were \$27,353.25. The total contributions for the year 2024 were \$162,594.47 while the total expenses for the year were \$160,933.96.

Janice Wied – Stewardship Chairman No report.

Barry Wolf – Elder Chairman No report.

Terry Hankins – Vice President Nothing to report.

Pastor Bersche – Still visiting shut ins.

Official Acts:

Baptism on July 14 of Marty Brack Tipton

Bible Classes:

Sunday Mornings - Matthew 21.

Wednesday Mornings starting in September - 1 John

Confirmation will begin in September. The parents meeting is scheduled for August 25.

Thanked Fellowship Outreach Team and congregation for his Ordination Anniversary Celebration.

Nikki Vrablec - Board of Education Chairman  
No report.

Joann Dixon – Fellowship Outreach Chairman  
The Little Food Pantry in front of the fellowship building is currently closed due to minor issues. Plans are underway for an ice cream social after church on Rally Sunday.

George Wied – Trustee Chairman No report.

David Novosad – Usher Chairman  
Nothing to report.

Preschool - Barbara Havemann, Maggie Kent  
The new Preschool hires are Pam Joseph and Arielle Pitock.

The Preschool Board approved 3 scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year.

Preschool Board officers are:

President - Rebecca Tipton

Vice President - Elizabeth Machala

Secretary - Donna Emshoff

Liaisons - Karina Carr, Pam Epperly, and Barbara Havemann

New Business

No new business.

Meeting was adjourned and Pastor Bersche closed with prayer.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

***John Vrablec-President***

***Kimberly Kornegay- Secretary***

### **A Story from a Pre-K Teacher**

Retired K teacher here. I know it's stressful for little kids, (and their parents), so it's nice to hear a positive beginning of the year story.

My experience has been that most kids do just fine, and the few who struggle to start end up having a great experience! This is one of my favorite beginnings of the year stories.

I had a little guy, we'll call him Johnny, that really struggled to begin with. Every morning for the first two weeks or so his sister took him off the bus

straight to the nurse because he kept crying and saying, "I'm gonna puke, I'm gonna puke!" Every day I went down to the office to get him and walked him back to the classroom with him wailing, "I'm not gonna make it, I'm not gonna make it!" at the top of his lungs. I usually ended up saying something along the lines of, "Johnny, honey, I haven't lost anybody yet, I promise you you ARE gonna make it!"

After 20-30 minutes he would calm down and, while not overly enthusiastic, would participate and do ok. About six weeks into the school year I got a new student, another crying little boy. On his first day I finally get him calmed down and settled with my assistant and went back to the group I was working with-which included Johnny. He taps me on the shoulder, looks me straight in the eye, and says, totally serious, "What kinda kid acts like that on the first day of school?" I stared at him for a second or two, and the look on my face must have been really something, because he just burst out laughing-and then so did I. He was the happiest, most enthusiastic kid I had for the rest of the year!

### **Child's solution "picking out clothes" battle!**

Child: "I'm going to be a police man when I grow up"

My response: "That is a wonderful job. Police help people all the time."

Child: "Oh, I don't care about that. I want to be a police man because they get to wear the same clothes every day and their mom can't tell them to change."

Danielle from Holliston, MA

### **My students aren't afraid to ask questions**

"How do you spell toad?" one of my first-grade students asked. "We just read a story about a toad," I said, then helped him spell it out: "T-O-A-D." Satisfied, he finished writing the story he'd begun, then read it aloud: "I toad my mama I wanted a dog for my birthday."

### **My students can teach me**

While reviewing math symbols with my second-grade pupils, I drew a greater-than (>) and a less-than (<) sign on the chalkboard and asked, "Does anyone remember what these mean?" A boy confidently raised his hand. "One means fast-forward and the other means rewind."