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Lake Union HERALD

April 2024



See inside the April 2024 issue

This month's issue features Adventist education and the importance of the early years of childhood education.

Start Smart From the Beginning

As you delve into this issue of the Herald, which highlights the early childhood education program here in our union, I encourage you to look closely at the confirmation we have from Ellen White of providing care and developmentally appropriate learning environments for younger children, thereby supporting parents today, particularly mothers who have to return to work to support their families.

Read about the development and recent growth of early childhood program offerings, the attention to programming for our younger students, training for early childhood education teachers and directors, our LUC Early Childhood Advisory, recently developed and impactful resources for our educators, staff and students, and more. And, too, see how God rewards the called.

The race is not to the swift, but for those who endure to the end (Ecclesiastes 9:11), so we, together with our students, run with patience the race set before us (Hebrews 12:1). I invite you to journey with Lake Union educators, students, parents, constituents, pastors and leaders, on this upwardly advancing path.

[Read the April 2024 Issue](#)

FEATURED STORIES



Beginning Eternity: Raising Children in Their Early Years

In a series of interviews with the directors of the five early childhood centers operating within the four-state territory of the Lake Union, the story is the same: many parents are choosing Adventist daycares for a variety of reasons. Several centers have a waitlist, even though they do not spend money on advertising.

How did we end up here against a backdrop of dueling philosophies on the best approach for raising children? Economic realities, the physical separation of nuclear families from extended family networks, and a host of other reasons necessitate dedicated, professional early childhood educational centers. In response, early childhood education programs have been developed by local churches across the Lake Union. These were initially grassroots programs started by church members that were successful enough to become full-fledged centers specifically serving preschool children. Today, five centers are state licensed/registered and/or NAD accredited and adhere to all health and safety standards.

- Sarah Gane Burton is a freelance writer based in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Illustration by Karen Jimenez Findley

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The Early Years of Childhood Education: Daycare vs Home

Historically, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has often quoted Ellen G. White's statement from 1872 that "Parents should be the only teacher of their children until they have reached eight or ten years of age."

You may ask, "Why are we starting children so young in our Seventh-day Adventist schools?" I'm always prepared to answer this question. The answer surprises people each time.

- Evelyn Sullivan, MEd, is director for Early Childhood Education at the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Illustration by Karen Jimenez Findley

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ABC EASTER SPECIAL



"We've Got Evidence" to Premier Easter Holiday Weekend

"We've Got Evidence," a special Easter Worship Experience produced by Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in collaboration with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, will air on ABC Television affiliates during this Easter Holiday Weekend – Saturday, March 30, Sunday, March 31,

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Lake Union Herald

8450 M 139 | P.O. Box 287 Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Debbie Michel, director of Communication
Felicia Tonga, assistant director of Communication
Katie Fellows, assistant Communication specialist

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www.lakeunionherald.org

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