

Good Morning!

Beth Coburn

*Good morning, Abby
Good morning, Jonah
Good morning, Gabriel*

Beth Coburn, Director of Christ Lutheran's Little Lamb Preschool, is passionate about the students and staff at the school. She loves to get to know each student by name ... all one hundred forty-one of them. And just as she knows the names of LLP's "Little Lambs", God knows her name, and she has listened to His call many times during her life. Perhaps one of Beth's evident strengths is her enthusiasm for sharing God's love with her students. Trying to catch



Beth before the students arrive can be difficult, but you will see her radiant smile as she whizzes by – always taking the time to say, “Good morning!” – as she competes the finishing touches for the day.

Beth was born in Wisconsin, but moved to Iron Mountain, Michigan, when she was four years old. She is the oldest child and has three younger siblings: Sue and Judy, who both live in Minnesota; and Bob, who lives in Iron Mountain.

Spending time outside, riding her bike, jumping rope, and playing with friends filled many hours. Beth's parents owned a cottage on a lake near Iron



Mountain, and Beth and her friends spent many hours there. Music was a big part of Beth's family: all the kids took piano lessons, and many times one of the kids would accompany their parents as they sang. Beth extended her musical ability to playing the flute in her high school band. Attending Sunday School was a positive experience for Beth; in addition, being raised in the Lutheran tradition helped to build the foundation for her faith-based life. Besides her parents, Beth's Sunday School teachers were excellent role models.

*Good morning, Maggie
Good morning, Payton
Good morning, Liam*

Beth's commitment to her faith and her devotion to children were seen early in her adult life. While attending Michigan Technological University, Beth attended the Lutheran church on the campus and taught Sunday school. It was no surprise that when she met Milan, she put one condition on their dating: he needed to attend church with her. He did.....and in 1978 Milan and Beth were married.



Family life had been important to Beth and continues to be precious to her. Milan and Beth have three sons: Eric born in 1982, Matt born in 1984, and Paul in 1987.

All three boys are now married and the Coburns are blessed with three daughters-in-law: Allison, Jessica and Shalia; ...



and three grandchildren: Vivian, Austin, and Caden.

Good morning, Joshua
Good morning, Grace
Good morning, Audrey

Milan and Beth settled into life in Valparaiso in 1992. Beth was busy as a stay-at-home mom. Being involved at her sons' school as an aide in a first grade classroom at Hayes Leonard was an excellent fit for Beth to continue to become involved with children. At that time members of Christ Lutheran were recognizing Beth's talents and expertise with children. Beth taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School and was invited to become a member of the Little Lamb Preschool Board.

Good morning, Cade
Good morning, Isabella
Good morning, Gavin

Before moving to Valparaiso with her family, Beth had been involved in Bible Study Fellowship. The closest group to Valparaiso when the Coburns moved here was located in Tinley Park, Illinois, but Beth made the significant effort to continue in that program. Members of that group prayed with Beth and encouraged her to be trained as a Children's Leader within their program.

Becoming a teacher on the Little Lamb staff was just a short step away; then followed a request to become the interim director in 1997. Beth states that she felt unqualified to take on this responsibility so she attended classes at Indiana University South Bend to earn a degree in elementary education with an emphasis on early childhood education.

*Good morning, Mason
Good morning, Maddie
Good morning, Iris*

Beth's duties as Director of Little Lamb Preschool are wide and varied. She coordinates the LLP school calendar with those of both the Valparaiso city schools and Christ Lutheran Church. This includes every activity from making sure each LLP class has a regular chapel time, to scheduling school holidays, and the major "extra-curricular"



activities of the preschool. The annual Scholastic Book Fair and the Carnival are the major fund-raisers for the preschool, making possible projects like the new playground. Hiring and supporting staff are also critical to the director's job, as is working with the LLP Board. This year, Beth has led LLP through the rigorous process of re-accreditation by the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association.

*Good morning, Emily
Good morning, Carter
Good morning, Benjamin*

Beth bonds with the children and their parents each year. What a sense of family is created within the walls of LLP! Students who are now seniors in high school and their parents remember the sound foundation that was made available to them through Beth and her staff. Oh, yes, her staff! Beth feels especially close to all of them....she counts them as family. When asked to describe Beth with one word or phrase the following responses from her staff are heart-felt: caring, generous, kind, dedicated, committed, giving of herself, concerned that all is well, loving, compassionate, and a true Christian woman.



Since the beginning of Little Lamb, there have been outstanding staff and board members, and continued strong support for this LLP ministry by the CLC congregation. Beth and her staff are humbled and grateful to be a part of this history and thank all those who have supported LLP in so many ways.

*Good morning, Albert
Good morning, Sophia
Good morning, Olivia*

Beth retires in May. When asked about the future, Beth smiles and says that traveling will definitely be a part of that time...Europe....Ireland; and then....Beth says, "Who knows where God wants me to be." We know she will follow God's call and go with His blessing.

Good morning.....

