

THE MOUNTAIN TOP HERALD

Vacation Bible School Newspaper

Edition #1

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church 2003 NE Englewood Rd Kansas City, MO. 64118

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Worship: Sundays: 8:00am & 10:45am Wednesday Evening Worship: 7:00pm.

Adult Bible Study: 9:30am Sunday School: begins at approximately 9:20am with opening devotions in the Sanctuary.

From Pastor Stirdivant

What an exciting week we have had at 2013 VBS "Tell It on the Mountain"! We are so glad that you could join us as we heard of all the mighty things God has done for us on five mountains that are mentioned in the Bible. Mountains are majestic, powerful, towering up to the sky. From the thundering Mount Sinai to the Golgotha on which our Savior saved us by His death, we know that our Lord loves us and He has guaranteed to us everlasting life through Jesus Christ.

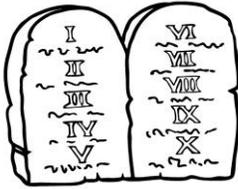
We climbed these five mountains this week through Bible lessons, skits, crafts, snacks, songs, and prayer. Our theme verse for the whole week was John 17:3 in which our Lord prayed: "This is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." We thank God that we no longer need a mountain to approach Him, but we have His assurance that He is with us whenever we read our Bible and attend the services of God's house to receive His gifts.

On the last mountain, in Galilee, Jesus commanded His Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. When you know that you are baptized, you have confidence that your sins have been taken away. That knowledge of our salvation is the most important goal of Vacation Bible School, and we pray that your trust in Jesus will grow strong. Take home the lessons that the children learned as they climbed each Biblical mountain. Relive the story with them, repeat the main points, recite the Bible verses that the kids learned by heart, and pray to the Lord asking for His help that He gave on each mountain.

Once again, thank you very much for coming to VBS at Holy Cross! You are always welcome at our worship services, Bible studies, and special events. Check out our website at:

www.holycrosskc.org!

Day 1 On Mount Sinai: God Is With His People Exodus 19:3–20:20



God is with us!

“Love is the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:10b

Our first mountain was Mount Sinai. God came down on that mountain to be with His people. Just like parents make rules to keep their kids from getting separated from them, God gave His people rules called the Ten Commandments that would keep them with Him and with each other! These rules told His people and tell us how to love God and how to love others. But we can't keep God's rules. We sinned and that separates us from God. So, God sent His own Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus kept all God's rules and paid the debt we owed for our sins. Because of Jesus, God is with us now and forever!

Day 2

On Mount Carmel: God Shows He Is the One True God! 1 Kings 18:17–39



Our God is the one true God!

I trust in You, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.” Psalm 31:14

Day 2: On Mount Carmel, God's people showed their sinfulness by worshiping another god. God showed He is the one true God by sending fire from heaven. What does this mean for us? The world is filled with attractive distractions for kids and adults! Worship of the one true God can be crowded out of a kid's schedule with the competition of school, sports, lessons, and a zillion other activities! Depending on those “gods” is shifting sand! God alone provides the rock-solid foundation for life by His presence in our lives every day. In His Holy Word, He is very near to us. He is the only God to love and worship. We are His number one love. We sin when we make other things our number one love. God shows us our sin and who He is in His Word. We confess our sin and He forgives our sin for the sake of Jesus. By His Spirit, He turns our hearts back to Him, our one true God. Even more than that, God gives us eternal life!

Day 3

On the Mount of Transfiguration: Jesus Is God's Son! Luke 9:28–37



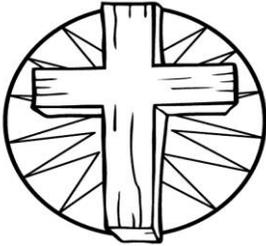
Jesus is God's Son!

"This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" Luke 9:35

On Day 3, we climbed a high mountain with Jesus and three of His disciples. God revealed in breath-taking glory Jesus, His Son. Jesus was transfigured and became dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Him. Then a voice spoke, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" Today, Jesus, God's glorious Son, is very present with us and in us through His Word and Sacraments. Each day is a mountaintop experience as we confess our sin and receive the forgiveness of sin that Jesus, God's Son, gives us. By the power of the Spirit, we grow in Him, trusting in His Word and promises. As we go and tell others Jesus is God's Son, we know that God will work His saving faith in their hearts and lives

Day 4

On Golgotha: Jesus Saves Us All! Mark 15:20b–39; 16:1–7



Jesus is our Savior!

"God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." 1 John 5:11

On Day 4, Jesus, God's own Son, climbed the mount of Golgotha to save us. God sent Jesus, His Son, from heaven to pay for our sins! He lived a life without sin for us. On the cross, Jesus, God's own Son, our Savior, stepped up and took the punishment for our sin. After that, He rose from the dead to show that He had won the victory! Yes! God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. His Words in the Bible are Good News for us and tell us how to give God glory and serve others by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 5

On a Mountain: Jesus Says, "Go to All!" Matthew 28:16–20



Jesus Christ is Lord!

Jesus says, "You will be My witnesses . . . to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Our final climb up a mountain was with the eleven disciples. Jesus told them to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee after His resurrection. On that mountain, Jesus appeared to them. Just Jesus. On other mountains there have been clouds, fire, voices, earthquakes, and the sound of trumpets. This time, it was just Jesus—risen, alive; our Savior. Just Jesus is enough.

The eleven disciples worshiped Him. Then Jesus gave instructions to make sure everyone would get His invitation. Jesus said to them, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." Not just to their friends and family but to all! Jesus promised to be with them always. A short time later on another mountain, Jesus ascended into heaven. But even though we can't see Jesus, He is with us! God puts faith in our hearts to believe. God speaks to us in His Holy Word and in His Sacraments. We know and believe JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

From Mountain Man

We had a great time sharing the love of Christ **our One and Only way to salvation** with the children and each other. We thank God for all those who gave of their time, talents and treasures in support of this year's VBS.

Our attendance this year was 69 children in seven classes.

The offerings from our VBS this year are going to the "Ready Now: Disaster Response Fund." With these offerings we can share Christ's mercy with children whose lives have been turned upside down by natural disasters. They will help children and families as they rebuild their lives in weeks, months and years following disaster.

Thank you, parents, for bringing your children to the Holy Cross Vacation Bible School, 2013. We cannot save ourselves, as each one of us sin daily and are in need of The Savior - Jesus Christ is our Savior. VBS Superintendent Mountain Man (aka Carl Pigors)

Rocky the Mountain Goat

During the week of VBS the children were introduced to Rocky the Mountain Goat. He was our helper. Mountain goats live on the mountains, eat plants, and can run on tiny rocky ledges without falling.



The first day, Rocky was “leaping over the speed limit” and met who? That’s right! A police officer! Rocky found our God loves us and gives us rules to keep us safe and close to Him.

The second day, Rocky met a miner who helped him tell the real thing from what? That’s right! Fakes! Rocky learned our God is REAL!

The third day, Rocky didn’t listen very well, but you kids helped him find what? That’s right! His watch! Rocky learned that God said to listen to Jesus, His Son!

The fourth day was a little scary! Rocky fell and was saved by who? That’s right! A St. Bernard! Rocky learned that Jesus saved us all and gives us eternal life!

The last day, Rocky learned a new word that begins with *W*? That’s right! *Witnesses*. He learned God gives us His Word and power to be His witnesses to the whole world! We were glad Rocky could be with us this week!

Music Mountain

At Music Mountain the children & teachers had a mountaintop experience that made you want to burst into song! All creation praises God! The people of God have always used music to sing God’s Word and praise His name and mighty deeds. VBS was a great place for kids to gather to sing from the mountains about their mighty God with all the enthusiasm, joy, and devotion that God gives!

“Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!” Psalm 105:2

Trailside Snacks

“The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.” Psalm 145:15–16

You know that rock climbing takes a lot of energy. Eating healthy food and drinking water regularly is vital! At Trailside Snacks the children received a snack each day such as Mount Sinai Munch which consisted of square cereal, dried cranberries, mini marshmallows, pretzels, and chocolate chips. Another favorite was Elijah’s Altar which was a bagel with blueberry cream cheese and a strawberry on top. There were other yummy snacks throughout the week which we all enjoyed.

Vista Crafts

“Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!” Psalm 90:17

At Vista Crafts each day your child shared God’s Word through engaging and fun crafts that help kids understand and remember the daily Bible stories and Take-Home Points. Craft making engages hands and heart so that God’s Word sticks. Your child/children can share crafts with a message and “Tell it!” with the craft as they share God’s Word with the world.

Thoughts from the children, teachers & staff when asked the question “What did you enjoy in this year’s VBS? Answers were:

Rocky	Sharing the Bible
Hanging with friends	Happy to share God’s Word with the children
The Crafts	New paper towel holders installed
The pictures	New toilet paper holders installed
The music	Eating leftovers
The snacks	The mountains
Closing skits	New friends
Lessons	Haven’t had a bagel & cream cheese for years
The music theatre	
Excited talking about Jesus	
Getting to know the children – Enthusiastic	
Color Orange	
Climbing mountains	
Coming from a mountain area I enjoyed the mountains	
Marshmallows	
Sand art	
Getting to meet new people	
Mommy saw a rainbow	
I like camping	
Harp	
Singing Go Tell it on the Mountain	
Singing with a harmonica	
Making projects	
It’s all about Jesus	
Cooking marshmallows	
Members of Holy Cross taking time to share the love of Christ with the children	
Touched by students bringing older siblings to help with VBS	
Hearing the singing of songs enthusiastically about Jesus	