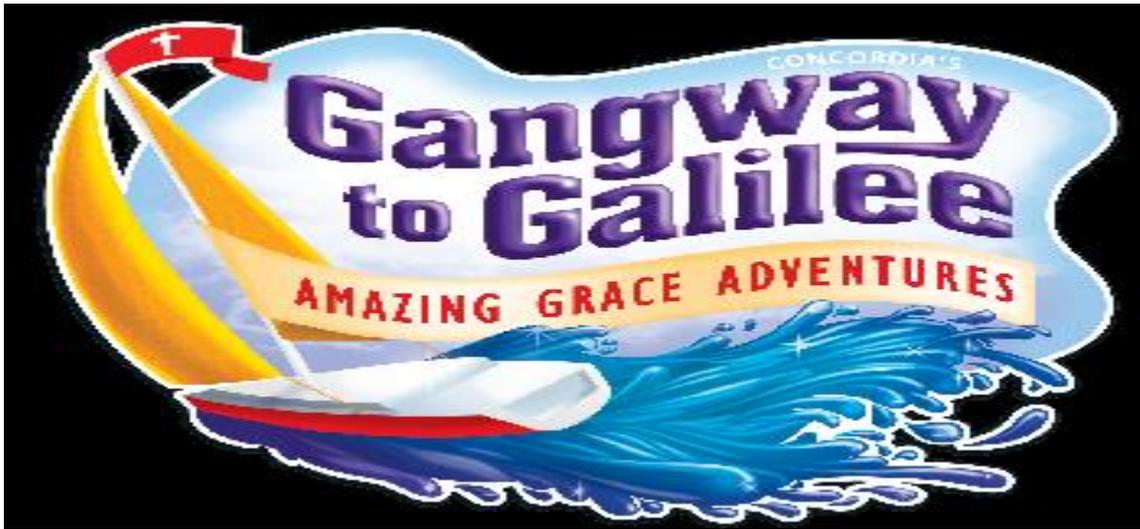


THE ANCHOR



Vacation Bible School Newspaper

Edition #1

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Website: <http://www.holycrosskc.org>

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 Frye

GANGWAY TO GALILEE!

During this week at Vacation Bible School it was a pleasure to stand with our staff and especially our students under God's Amazing Grace shown in the ministry of our Savior Jesus Christ. As we exclaimed together "GANGWAY TO GALILEE" we remain ever thankful that *Jesus calls us, teaches us, keeps us safe, saves us,* and still *provides all we need* for this life and the next. It has been inspiring to see God's Word at work in the children as they listened, learned, and sang about our Savior's grace. It is our prayer that they may follow Jesus in faith all their lives.

From Pastor Stirdivant

We are delighted that you could join us for 2014 VBS “Gangway to Galilee”! This week we have been on board with Jesus Christ, and have seen some mighty works that reveal Him to be the Son of God, our Savior. He called His own disciples to get up from the fishing nets and follow Him, He calmed the wind and waves, and even walked on the water itself! When He suffered for our forgiveness on the cross and rose from the dead, He then called His disciples to proclaim His name. And for all those magnificent events He would choose no other place than our destination—the Sea of Galilee.

All of these miracles and blessings are ours today because through the water of Baptism we have been made children of God. This week’s Bible lessons, skits, crafts, snacks, songs, and times of prayer have made for us a magnificent voyage with our Lord who is always by our side to protect and to guide. Our theme verse for the whole week was “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8) He promised that His grace will always be with us whenever we read our Bible and attend the services of God’s house to receive His gifts.

Water has been a part of God’s Creation ever since the beginning. Jesus used the water of the Sea of Galilee as the backdrop to reveal Himself as the Son of God. He then set aside simple, everyday water to be combined with His Word to become baptism, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and full 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 set sail each day with Christ.

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 while out on Galilee’s water.

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: Jesus Calls Me

In lesson 1 we learned that Jesus Calls Me! Our first Bible account was set on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where “Jesus Calls His Disciples” (*Matthew 4:18-25*) to follow Him. Jesus chose ordinary, sinful men to follow Him and be His disciples. As sinners, we don’t deserve God’s love, forgiveness, life and the salvation Jesus gives, but God gives it to us by grace through faith. Through His Word and in Baptism, Jesus calls us to be His children, makes us His own, and gives us faith in Him. That’s amazing grace! When we see shells, we remember our Baptism and the shore of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus called His disciples to follow Him. By grace, Jesus calls us to follow Him through His Word. *“I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1*



Day 2: Jesus Teaches Me

Jesus teaches from the Boat. *Luke 5:1-11*

In lesson 2 we learned that Jesus Teaches Me! Our second Bible account showed us how Jesus used Peter’s boat to teach the people who followed Him wanting to hear about God and His love. Jesus used the miracle of the big catch of fish to show the disciples that he was calling them to do the same; to teach, preach, and heal. Today Jesus continues to graciously teach us through His Word. Jesus teaches us about the Father’s plan for us now and forever! We’re His big catch! That’s amazing grace! When we see the Bible, God’s Holy Word, we see that God has given us His Word to teach us the Truth about ourselves as sinners and how He forgives us and has saved us now and eternally. *“Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.” Isaiah 25:5*



Day 3: Jesus Keeps Me Safe

In lesson 3 we learned that Jesus Keeps Me Safe! In our third Bible account on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus and His disciples were caught in a fearsome storm. The disciples were afraid. Jesus was asleep. But Jesus revealed Himself as God's own son when He awoke and calmed the storm. Today, we, like the disciples, have times of great fear. Just as Jesus graciously calmed the storm with His Word for the disciples, so He calms and ends the storm of sin and its certain death by taking our sin on himself and dying in our place so we may live eternally. By grace, through faith, we are safe now eternally. That's amazing grace! The boat reminds us that Jesus is always with us to keep us safe, forgive our sins, and care for us! *"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 1:7



Day 4: Jesus Saves Me

In lesson 4 we learned that Jesus Saved Me! In our fourth Bible account Peter asked to walk on the water like Jesus but when he saw the wind, he began to sink. Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and saved Peter from drowning. Jesus saves us too! He is gracious and ready to catch us as we sink in sin and unbelief. His hand is always strong to save us. As we were sinking in sin, Jesus died and rose again. By grace through faith, Jesus saves us and gives us salvation in heaven. That's amazing grace! When our lives are filled with the storms of sin, we can trust in Jesus, our Savior. Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sin. By grace, He gives us forgiveness of sins, salvation, and life, now and forever. Jesus said, *"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."* Matthew 14:27



Day 5: Jesus Provides All I Need

In lesson 5 we learned that Jesus Provides All I Need! In our fifth Bible account, our gracious Jesus provided for the disciples needs as He revealed Himself to them after Easter in another miraculous catch of fish. By grace, just days before in Jerusalem, Jesus took their sins and our sins upon Himself on the cross, where He suffered and died. By grace, he provided our rescue from sin and death. In three days, He rose again from the dead. By grace, through faith, Jesus provided the disciples and us with forgiveness of sins! He provided them with bread and fish for breakfast. He provides for all our needs by giving us daily bread through His Word. He provides what we need the most, salvation! That's amazing grace! The big catch of fish reminds us that Jesus, our Savior, provides all we need now and forever. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."* Ephesians 2:8

From Captain Carl:

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 total registration for the week was 63 children in five classes.



One way we shared the message of the amazing grace Jesus gives is through our Mission Project. Each day, we collected offerings to help new churches throughout the world get the things they need to tell people about Jesus through the Gospel Nets Mission Project. Specifically, our offerings can provide Bibles, Sunday School materials, bicycles for pastors, and roofs for new church buildings.

Thank you, parents, for bringing your children to the Holy Cross Vacation Bible School, Gangway to Galilee 2014. Each one of us sin daily and are in need of The Savior - Jesus Christ is our Savior. VBS Director, Captain Carl (aka Carl Pigors).



Rusty the Cat

During the week of VBS the children were introduced to Rusty the Cat. He was our helper. Rusty operated “Catfish Tours” from the beach on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. In case you didn’t know the Sea of Galilee is a freshwater lake in northern Israel. It isn’t a huge lake- 13 miles long and 7 miles across. It’s deepest part is 150 feet deep.



The first day, Rusty introduced himself to us as “Rusty is my name, and sailing is my game.” Rusty offered us a free sailing lesson, but it was a free sailing lesson with a TOY boat. But then Rusty’s buddy called him and invited us to go sailing with him on a real sailboat, so we followed Rusty over there. Our Bible lesson taught us that Jesus calls us and we follow Him!



The second day, Rusty introduced himself as “Rusty is my name, and fishing is my game.” Rusty offered us a free fishing lesson. The rod was a pretzel stick and the bait was honey and the fish were crackers. It was more like snacking than fishing! Our Bible lesson taught us that Jesus teaches us!



The third day, Rusty introduced himself to us as “Rusty is my name and weather is my game.” We looked through our hand “binoculars” and saw clouds that looked like bunnies and elephants. Rusty said that when the bunnies and elephants are white, no worries. When the bunnies and elephants are gray, don’t go sailing! “Weather” that works or not, our Bible lesson taught us that Jesus keeps us safe!



The fourth day, Rusty introduced himself as “Rusty is my name, and floating is my game.” Rusty explained that water safety is serious business. Wear a life jacket! Then if you fall in the water, you will float-boingy, boingy, boingy! Jesus, our Savior is better than a life jacket! He died to pay for our sin and rose again to give us eternal life!



The last day, Rusty had no free lessons for us, but we gave HIM a surprise! A home! Rusty was living on the beach. No home, no food. Now he lives in a home with a real family. Jesus provides all we need now and forever! That’s amazing grace!

Set Sail Music

The people of God have always used music to sing God's Word and praise His name and mighty deeds. Psalm 98:7-8 states, "Let the sea roar...Let the rivers clap their hands." This year's VBS was a great place for children to gather and sing praise to their mighty God and Jesus our Savior, with all the enthusiasm, joy, and devotion that God gives! The children enjoyed singing the songs and at the same time learning some sign language.

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" Psalm 98:4

Sunrise 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

At Sunrise snacks the children enjoyed nutritious food which helped them remember the Bible stories and Take-home points each day. From the sea shore Rice Krispy treats to banana fruit boats to graham cracker sleeping mats to handprint cookies etc. etc. What else could a VBS snack leader come up with for us to eat?

Splash-tacular 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 Splash-tacular Crafts, the children shared God's Word each day through engaging and fun crafts that help them understand and remember the daily Bible stories and Take-Home Points. Craft making engages hands and hearts so that God's Word sticks. Children can share crafts with a message as they share God's Word with the world.

Seashore Photography

At Seashore Photography the children and staff had their pictures taken in either a fishing boat or by a sailboat as a memento of their week in Vacation Bible School. What a blessing it was to see all the smiling faces as each picture was taken.

Thoughts from the children, teachers & staff when asked the question: "What did you enjoy in this year's VBS?" Their answers were as follows:

Helping with crafts – you never know what the kids are going to say?

Meeting the children.

The whole thing!

Riding in a boat!

The music was outstanding.

Art.

Watching the kids expressions.

The cat.

Smiling faces through the camera lens.

Realistic boat tour with Rusty.

Learning about Jesus our Savior.

Very creative snacks.

Getting to know the kids. Very nice behaviors.

Meeting the children and watching them respond to Christ's Word.

Singing.

Seeing how many children there are.

Variety of personalities.

Jesus our Savior.

I liked the fun crafts.

Very well organized.

Watching the children learn the music.

The Lessons.

Pastor's interacting with children.

Decorating crosses.

Sharing Jesus love.

Jesus takes care of us.

Helping with snacks.

New friends.

Being on the water.

Coloring.

Sand art.

Good job.

The best snacks ever.

Very nice teachers.

Learning and singing the Bible verses.

Kids yelling "Gangway to Galilee!"

Making bracelets.

Eating snacks.

Very fun.

Learning things.

Watching the teachers and craft helpers relate to children in crafts.