

Building Blocks

November 19th, 2005

Coming Up:

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: December 4th at Noon. More info below.

CHRISTMAS STORE: The senior high youth group will be helping with the Christmas Store on December 10th from 10am-2pm. We're also looking for volunteers to help set up at 6pm on the 9th.

CAROLING AND DECORATING: Join us Saturday December 17th at 1pm as we go to some local assisted living centers to sing Christmas carols for the residents. We'll come back to the church for dinner, worship and we'll wrap up our day by putting up the trees and decorations for Christmas!

Hurricane Benefit Concert

Saturday November 12th was the day of the benefit rock concert at Holy Cross in Toms River (the brain child of our own Nick Pole.) It was close to 11 hours of music! 15 groups played included Nick's band "The Fight Within." (Seriously, the best band I heard) But better than that was that between ticket sales and refreshments the event raised over \$3000 for Hurricane victims through Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to everyone who helped out or attended. And great job to Nick for getting this whole thing off the ground.

Holiday Luncheon

The Youth Group is hosting a holiday luncheon for our senior church members on December 4th at noon. This is a great chance for us to hear their stories about life when they were younger, what struggles they had to go through, and how their faith has impacted their lives. We'll have a full out turkey dinner play bingo and even make some crafts to hand out when we go caroling. We'll need a lot of help that day. Be sure to sign up in the Narthex on the big board. There is also a sign up sheet in my office for things you can bring. (stuff like beans, and potatoes and stuff like that.)

Kevin's Korner

There's been a lot going on the church lately. Pastor Linderman took a position filling in at Christ Church in Whiting and as you have most likely heard Pastor Ellison will be undergoing triple bypass surgery on Monday. That leaves quite a void of pastoral leadership here at St. Thomas. Some people wonder if, without that leadership, the church can effectively accomplish its mission. I say, "of course we can." It's not going to be easy at all. But we have two major allies: prayer and the Holy Spirit.

The former is what I want to chat about today. I've struggled throughout my life to keep my prayer life on track. I always wondered why I had to bother praying when God already knew what I wanted and/or needed. But I've come to learn prayer is not about telling God something He doesn't already know. It's about admitting his power and Godness and showing our respect and gratitude for it. **Matthew 21:22 says, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."** That doesn't mean that if I believe in God and ask for a new motorcycle I'm going to get it. It means that if we believe, that is believe **Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."** We know that God will hear our prayers our answer them according to the good that it will do according to his plans. God is the ultimate authority on good and pretty trust worthy in his judgments. **"The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."** -1 **Thessalonians 5:24**

This korner got pretty wordy, I apologize, but prayer is so important in our daily faith. Not only does it show God our devotion for him. Frequent prayer also reminds of our God's ever presence in our lives. I'm praying for you and ask you to pray for me.

This week's cell phone hours: All week 4-6pm (315) 529-3691
Until Next Week,
Kevin

Bible Verse of the week:

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18