

Building Blocks

September 9, 2005

Coming Up:

CANOE TRIP: This is the last weekend to sign up for the canoe trip 2 weeks from tomorrow (Sept. 24th)!!! It should be a pretty easy trip, although I have heard of some shark sightings in the Manasquan River. Sign up in the Narthex.

SR. HIGH SHIN-DIG: Sunday, September 11th at the church at 6:30pm. If you are going into the 10th-12th grade, it would be very helpful if you could be here. If you are going into the 9th grade this year, wait two weeks, and join us on the 25th.

ACOLYTE TRAINING: Sunday, September 18th right after the 11am service. If you came to the training on the 28th please come again for phase II. If you weren't able to make the one on the 28th, come anyway and we'll catch you up. Remember anyone in the 5th-8th grade can be an acolyte. We'd love to see you there.

Remember to sign up for the Synod Youth Summit here on Oct. 1st !!!

Don't get caught

- In Alabama it is illegal to wear a fake moustache that causes laughter in church.
 - Iowa state law forbids any establishment from charging admission to see a one-armed piano player.
 - In Tennessee it is illegal to use a lasso to catch a fish. (I would imagine it's hard too.)
 - In Vermont it is illegal to whistle underwater.
 - Also in Vermont it is illegal to deny the existence of God.
 - In Lang, Kansas it is illegal to ride a mule down Main Street in August, unless the animal is wearing a straw hat.
 - In Natoma, Kansas it is illegal to throw a knife at anyone wearing a striped shirt.
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For 7th and 8th graders

Starting next Sunday the 18th is the brand new Jr. High Forum. What do you mean what is it? It's a bunch of things. It'll be a time to dig into some of the questions that are raised Tuesday nights at confirmation and a time to ask new ones. It'll be a time to talk about what's going on in your life, at school, in the world. It'll be a time to hang out away from your parents. We'll meet at 9:15 in Luther Hall. (If you'd like, you can help me lead music for the little kids.) Then we'll chill for an hour upstairs in the teacher's lounge. Hungry? There will be donuts on the 18th.

Kevin's Korner

In case you haven't heard there was this hurricane that tore through New Orleans and did a lot of damage. Today experts are saying that the death toll won't be the 10's of thousands of people they initially predicted. So it's maybe only 9,000 people? That's still a horrendous lose of life.

I've never been through a hurricane; tornadoes, blizzards, and even a really small earthquake, yes, but never a hurricane. So when news of Katrina approaching land broke it was hard to empathize with the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. I was disconnected enough that I could pass off the coming storm as easily as saying, "Wow, I would not want to be there." And then I could continue to play video and my life was still okay.

Since then, my eyes have been opened with help from continuing news coverage on every channel. Images of bodies, the weak and elderly wading through this toxic sludge can be too much to handle. Maybe you've been affected similarly. So how do you deal with it without just turning off the TV and tuning out of the real world? You can help. The amount of money it's going to take to get the city of New Orleans back on its feet is staggering. There are roughly 295 million people in the U.S. If every person gave 5 dollars to aid the relief it would be almost 1.5 billion dollars. 10 dollars? Nearly \$3,000,000,000. If you'd like to help you can put an offering in the blue global mission envelopes that are in the pews. Write Katrina on it and the people that count the money will know what to do with it. The best part is that more of your money gets to where you want it too. A lot of charities have to pay people that work for them and have lots of administrative costs but if you give the church a dollar, the people who need it get a dollar. It's that simple. The other thing you can do for the thousands of now homeless victims of this devastation is pray. It's simple and all of your prayer goes exactly where you want. You can pray for the victims, for the rescue workers, for our government leaders. Please pray for the people affected by hurricane Katrina and do what you can to help.

This week's cell phone hours: All week 4-6pm

Bible Verse of the week:

"[God says] I therefore command you "Open our hand to the poor and
needy in your land."
-Deuteronomy 15:11b