

GOOD SHEPHERD GAZETTE

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Good Shepherd Gazette! I hope you enjoy reading all our news.

Win the world for Jesus Bible Camp



June 20-24 1-4pm

GET READY FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP!!! We need participants 4 yrs old to rising 5th graders and youth volunteers rising 6th grade and above. Please look for registration May 8th and May 15th in the commons.

Kindergarten

The kindergarten class talked about making good choices and that there are ways we can make something good come from a poor decision. We discussed ways we show our love for God and other people, and that it is important to love and care for yourself as well as for others. Our favorite lesson (no surprise) was when we played parts in the "Good Neighbor" story (ch. 21). We have talented actors and actresses in our class! They are also quite artistic. Throughout the year, they have written and drawn pictures for their "Thank You God" books which will be sent home at our last meeting.

We have truly enjoyed getting to know all the children and look forward to watching them grow and seeing how they develop their God-given talents. Thank you.

-Patricia, Judi, and Bill

1st Grade First grade went on a walk outside in the early spring to see all the signs of renewal that correlate to Lenten renewal in our lives. We also have been discussing forgiveness and giving as it relates to lent. We have done some reading about a woman from Haiti in the Rice bowl booklet and saw on a globe how close Haiti is to us. We are learning about different ways of praying including singing, silent prayer and praying with a community. We are learned about the Ten Commandments and the Our Father. We have had a great year and we will miss the children but are excited that they will be going to second grade with all its big firsts. Have a great summer! Ms. Amy and Ms. Tara

2nd Grade

We are continuing to work on the different parts of the mass. Focus has been placed on the consecration of the Bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. Our class has listened many times the story of the Last Supper and of the suffering Jesus endured to save our sins. We have discussed the importance and taking Communion the becoming a greater part of the celebration during mass. We will continue with the Communion preparation

books. Please continue to reinforce the importance of the Eucharist with your child at home.

Mary Cullen and Dede Yoko

3rd Grade

During this quarter, the third graders reviewed in more detail the Liturgical year including some of the less known Feasts of the Lord such as the Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, Presentation of the Lord, Annunciation, the Transfiguration and Christ the King.

We dove into a review of the Celebrations of God's Love which include the Seven Sacraments and learned more about Baptism, the first sacrament we receive, and Confirmation, the sacrament that strengthens us to live our Baptism. The children learned about various sacramentals of the Church including holy water, blessed oils, the crucifix and blessed religious medals. The Celebration of the Eucharist was presented as a special meal and, specifically how the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our life as Catholics was emphasized with the children.

In preparation for Lent, the children were asked to write a "special sacrifice" for Lent on a piece of paper, which was then folded and placed near the prayer corner for the entire Lenten Season. Some of the children were anxious and enthusiastic to tell how well they were doing with their "sacrifice" as the weeks progressed. We learned how prayer (both together and alone), helping others, forgiveness, and reconciliation are all important components of the Lenten Season and should carry through to their daily lives during the rest of the year. We prepared for Holy Week with a discussion on the importance of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

-Allison Barlow and Elizabeth Roberge

4th Grade

Over the past few months, we have been working on the Sacraments and most recently Stations of the Cross. We have spent a lot of time working on a video version of the

Faith Formation of Good Shepherd

Stations and it's been extremely rewarding to see how involved the kids have been in developing the script and acting out the parts. Steven and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such a creative and enthusiastic group of kids and we'd like to thank all of the parents for letting us spend the time this year with them and bringing them to class each week -Stephen Nagy and Rich Stewart

5th Grade

Jack Harris and Patricia Clark enjoyed teaching the 5th grade class very much. They want to congratulate Edward Morris for his near perfect attendance. Kaylynn Maestas, Olivia Blatt, Matthew Clark, Ian Cullen and Heather Natterer all made significant contributions throughout the year and deepened their understanding of the Catholic faith.

-Jack Harris and Patricia Clark

6th Grade The 6th grade has been continuing to discuss the message of the weekly gospels. We are also continuing our work with learning our prayers and how to pray the rosary. We have so enjoyed working with these students this year and look forward to continuing with them next year when we combine 6th and 7th grade.

-Dena Owens and Jody Hall

7th Grade

During our final classes this year, we went over the many ways we can express our prayers (i.e. silently, through song, etc.). We also played a game called "If You Had To Choose?" It was very thought provoking and great conversations came from it... this was a big hit! We also played their favorite... "Bible Jeopardy", where we went over everything we had learned during the year. We have enjoyed working with all of the kids in our 7th grade class this year. Thank you for sharing them with us.

- Kris Modica, Memi Taylor and Mike Dombrowski -

8-12th Grade-

Special thanks to some crazy dads who dressed up as various kings from the past to begin our study of the concept of biblical kingship; Robert Bebermeyer, Greg Pierce, Wayne Stambaugh and Richard Stewart. I appreciate your willingness to act crazy in front of a bunch of teenagers! We finished out our study of the books of the Bible with the prophet Jeremiah and the gospels of Mark and John. Please ask your young men and women which of these books was 'brutally honest', which was 'short and sweet' and which contains the 'bread of life' discourse - they should be able to tell you. Our last session will be on May 1st - it will be BYOS(nacks) to share and we'll have some fun.

Throughout the year many parishioners have come to our sessions Sunday night and shared their faith and talents with wonderful success. I want to invite you all to come back next year. If anyone is interested in sharing a faith story with the youth of this parish please feel free to come talk to me or send me an email. I would love to introduce our youth to adults of faith. Wayne Stambaugh and Claudia Stewart

Youth Group The youth group's year is coming to an end but at the same time it is approaching a new beginning. We held our last official meeting April 10 but we now are in full swing for the planning of our trip to the youth conference this summer. There is a video promoting the conference at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuKw_wCyYzo If you are considering sending your teen you should check out the video. Sign up is until June 1st but we receive a discount if I register the youth by May 1st. We are now selling spring plants to raise money toward this conference. This has been a good year and I have already heard questions like "are we going to get to do that next year" so that puts a smile on my face.

Michelle Lenz

Adult.

Over the summer look for an adult formation gathering on the book, "How to Talk so Kids will Listen and Listen so Kids will Talk" by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish. We will be gathering after Mass beginning in July to discuss the book and do weekly exercises at home. Look for more info. in June.