



Middle School News

February 2010

Sleeping Through the Storm

Years ago a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops.

As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received nothing but refusals. Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer.

"Are you a good farm hand?" the farmer asked him.

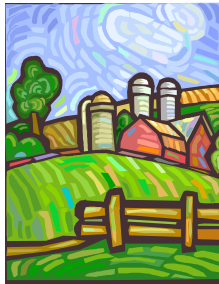
"Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man.

Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they

blow away!"

The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."



Enraged by the old man's response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm.

To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, and he returned to bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

When you're prepared, you have nothing to fear. Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life? The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm. We secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves firmly in the Word of God.

Middle School Sunday School meets in the downstairs youth room every Sunday at 9:15AM. Check it out!



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Confirmation

Confirmation is going great, & hopefully you're having fun, too! As we move into February, things may get a little confusing with Lent approaching, so be sure to read announcements and newsletters! Don't forget to bring a Bible and a highlighter every Wednesday night from 6:30-8:30PM.



- February 3** — Family Potluck
- February 10** — Dan, Tiffany, & Jeff
- February 17** — NO Dinner — Ash Wednesday
- March 3** — Soup Supper
- March 10** — Soup Supper
- March 17** — Soup Supper

(Soup Suppers are held for the entire congregation in the lower level from 6-6:45PM. The earlier you get there, the better your choices for soup! Bring your whole family and some soup or bread to share.)

Here's who's bringing dinner the next couple of months — be sure to remind your parents so they don't forget!

Future Youth Events

Hey all! Tiffany here, just reassuring you that even though I'm leaving, there'll still be youth stuff going on. Confirmation will continue as usual — you might have to help Pastor Dan remember all the words and actions to the fun songs! You'll have to recruit your parents to put on a lock-in for you this spring and take you to Waterworld this summer, but soon enough the church will interview folks and find someone great to lead the youth programs. I hope you will be super nice to that new person! Invite him or her to your games or concerts and give them a chance to get to know you. Heck, invite them over for dinner some-

time! Show them your messy room and your rock collection. Just make him or her feel welcome, and be open to all the new ideas he or she has.

I've had an amazing time working with you guys. You're all so spunky and fun and I love all of your different personalities. My prayer for you as I leave is that you'll read that story on the front of this page and get to know the Bible so you're ready for all the stuff that'll hit you in high school and college. You're a great group and I'll be excited to come back to visit in the future and see what you're up to and how you've grown (spiritually, not just tall!).

Summer Opportunities

Spend a week this summer hiking, singing, white water rafting, and getting closer to God at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp! Registration is now open, and spots are filled on a first come, first served basis, so don't wait and get left out! Go have a great week at camp June 13-19 OR August 15-21 (8th graders, check the website — you'll be going to Senior High Week instead of Junior High Week!). Remember that you can earn half the money for a week at camp by helping out at our fundraisers! Sign up at www.rainbowtrail.org



likely be the best week of your summer! We'll be traveling and working with staff from Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp July 4-10, 2010 (don't worry — we'll see fireworks in Albuquerque Sunday night!).

The trip is limited to eleven youth, so get your deposit turned in ASAP! The trip is also open to parents, relatives, church members, or friends of Ascension youth who would like to experience this incredible week, so feel free to recruit someone to go with you! If you're not sure you'd enjoy it or not, talk to any of the youth who have gone before — yes, it's hard work, but it's a lot of fun, too! And it's great to leave feeling like you've really helped a family and that they've really helped change how you look at the world.

Eighth graders, you are invited to join the high school youth group on the Mission Trip to Mexico. Turn in a deposit of \$100 and reserve your place in the van! A second deposit of \$100 will be due March 1, and we'll fundraise the rest. It will