



St. John's Lutheran Church - LCMS

109 Maple St. Burt, IA
515-924-3344

www.stjohnsburt.org
churchoffice@stjohnsburt.org



The Salvation Story Vacation Bible School Newsletter

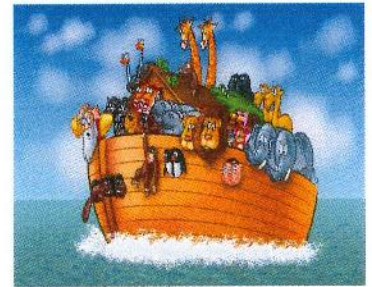
Dear Parents,

We're glad your children could join us for our first week of V.B.S. at St. John's! This Sunday we learned about two of the first chapters of the salvation story: Creation and the Flood.



We learned that God created the entire universe out of nothing and that He created the first two human beings, Adam and Eve, to share His creation with as their heavenly Father. Adam and Eve had everything they would ever need: God's love, the love of each other, a garden in which to live, the Tree of Life and many other trees from which to eat, a river to water their garden... everything! Even when Adam and Eve sinned and brought the curse of death into God's creation, God still loved them and promised to restore His good creation once again - and so begins the salvation story.

We learned how God continued His salvation story with Noah. God told Noah to build an ark for his family and two of every kind of animal because He was going to send a flood to wash away all the sin and death and faithlessness from the earth. That ark was like a Tree of Life for Noah and his family as the waters of the flood formed a new creation - a new garden in which to live with God. At the end of the story we find that Noah and his family were just as sinful as Adam and Eve, but God promised with a rainbow that He would continue to rescue all who trust in Him.



We're excited for your children to join us at our second of three V.B.S. Sundays next **Sunday, July 7th from 3:00-6:00**. We'll be continuing the salvation story with Joseph and the famine as well as Moses and the Exodus. Feel free to invite friends to join, even if they weren't able to come last week.

As always, if you ever have any questions about God, the Bible, the Christian faith, or St. John's Lutheran Church feel free to contact Pastor Thomas Cowell at pastor@stjohnsburt.org or 319-464-5548 (Pastor's cell). God bless your week!

Sincerely,

St. John's Education Board

These things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:31



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Dear Parents,

We're glad your children could join us for our second week of V.B.S. at St. John's! This Sunday we learned about two very important chapters in the salvation story: the life of Joseph and the Exodus of God's people from Egypt.



We learned how God preserved Joseph from death by the hands of his brothers, imprisonment in Egypt, and a seven-year famine. God saved His people through Joseph by bringing Joseph to life from the bottom of a well of water, leading Joseph to provide a tree of life for many nations by storing grain before the famine, and giving to His people a new garden in the land of Goshen to live.

The salvation story continued with God saving His people from slavery under Pharaoh in Egypt. God blessed His people in Egypt with several trees of life where His presence and salvation could be found: the burning bush, the staff of Moses, and the doorposts of the houses covered with the blood of the Passover lamb. God's greatest act of salvation happened when He used Moses to lead His people through the Red Sea. From there God sent His people on a journey to the Promised Land, the new garden where He and His people would live together in peace.



We're excited for your children to join us at our final V.B.S. Sunday next **Sunday, July 14th from 3:00-5:30**. We'll be finishing up the salvation story with the accounts of the birth of Jesus and the death and resurrection of Jesus. At **5:30** parents and friends are welcome to join us in the sanctuary for our V.B.S. closing program, followed by a hotdog supper around 6:00.

As always, if you ever have any questions about God, the Bible, the Christian faith, or St. John's Lutheran Church feel free to contact Pastor Thomas Cowell at pastor@stjohnsburt.org or 319-464-5548 (Pastor's cell). God bless your week!

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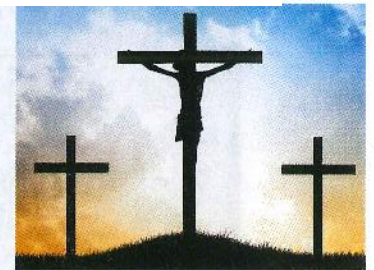
Dear Parents

We're glad your children could join us for our final week of V.B.S. at St. John's! This Sunday we learned about the two most important chapters in the salvation story: the birth of Jesus and the death and resurrection of Jesus.



First we learned how the birth of Jesus began the creation of a brand new Garden of Eden. When Jesus was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, it was like a new Adam was born into creation: a perfect, sinless Adam who is made in the image of God because He is God. The manger where Jesus first lay was a new tree of life, because in Jesus God was present with His people on earth. Many generations later, the seed of the woman that God had promised to Eve in the garden had been born: Jesus, who would save His people from our sins.

Next we learned about the completion of God's new creation at the death and resurrection of Jesus. In order for all people to live with God forever, which God has desired since the beginning of time, God had to provide a tree of life that would take away sin which separates us from Him. God did provide such a tree of life when Jesus hung on the cross and died to pay for our sins. Jesus' body and blood given and shed for us on the cross and risen victoriously from the grave on the third day is the fruit of the tree which we receive by faith in order to live in peace with God and with one another forever. The body of Jesus is our Garden of Eden. All who trust in the crucified and risen Jesus for their salvation receive eternal life with God. The salvation story has reached its end!



During the V.B.S. closing program we learned that we get the joy of living in the epilogue of the salvation story today. The Christian Church, which is often called the body of Christ, is the garden that God gave to us at Jesus' death and resurrection. The crosses in our church buildings and homes are an ever-present sign of the tree that gives us life. The river running through our garden is Holy Baptism. The Word which creates and preserves all things is Holy Scripture. The fruit of the tree that energizes us for serving God and our neighbor is the body and blood of Jesus present at the Lord's Supper. Our fellow Christians are the family of God, Adams and Eves being fruitful and multiplying by spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

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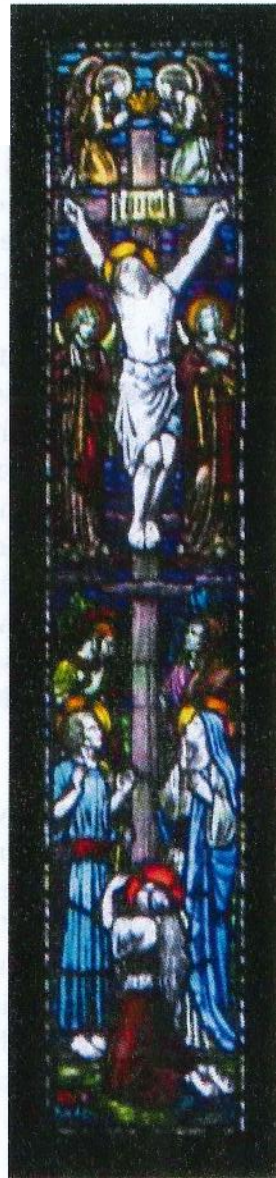
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If you are not connected with a Christian congregation we would love for you to join our church family here at St. John's. God desires for all people to receive the forgiveness, life, and salvation which He has won for us, and we are eager for the opportunity to deliver those gifts of God to you here among our congregation. If you'd like more information about St. John's Lutheran Church, or the Christian faith in general, feel free to email Pastor Thomas Cowell at pastor@stjohnsburt.org, call or text him at 319-464-5548, or stop by the St. John's office (typically Tues., Wed., and Thurs. mornings, and sometimes afternoons). God bless your week!



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