

Camp Luther Beacon

Celebrating 65 years!

Keeping the Earth

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called Children of God."
(1 John 3:1)

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Director's Message:

All I can say is, "WOW, what a vespers last night!" Big-time thanks to Pastor Muhly, et al for providing, for me at least, a MCM (memorable camp moment). What a great way to wrap up a great day.

And speaking of wrapping up, some of you have asked why I wrap up my Director's Notes with the word "Mizpah". Well, the word refers to a passage in the bible, Genesis 31: 44-49 to be exact. I'll let you read the verse yourself but basically the word "Mizpah" means "May the Lord watch between you and me when we are absent one from the other." Think of it as a special way of saying "I hope all stays well until we see each other again. (Juniors & Intermediates: You'll learn more about Mizpah when you go to the Senior program.)

Did you know: During the early 1940s Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, came to Camp Caesar and sold war bonds from the porch of the White House (Nurse's Cabin).

Just wonderin': Why is the average ring finger longer than the index finger on men and just the opposite on the average women? And why did you look at your hand just now?

Mizpah,

Key Bible Verse of the Day

"There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."
(Psalm 19:3-4a)

Tomorrow's Weather Forecast:

Tomorrow should be a beautiful day! We expect it to be 84 and partly cloudy.

Senior Camp class update:

Classes continue to be interesting – Pastor Randy surprised the kids with a visit from "Earl," who had some pretty profound things to say about starting small and exponential growth. The silent meditations, through labyrinth, art, and study, helped all of the Seniors to focus on the reasons we are in Camp Luther and in community with one another.

Wednesday Night's Activities:

The Seniors certainly enjoyed their Wednesday evening "Junior / Senior Night" with the Juniors. The hot dogs were delicious, and the tables were turned when the younger campers taught a song to the older kids! Bazooka is sure to be a favorite on the Seniors' song list. After spending time with the Juniors, they headed back up the hill to make up skits and songs in their groups. If you heard a lot of laughter, that's because the skits were hilarious! The Juniors played with Big Red and the parachute in addition to playing soccer, shuffleboard, and four square. It was a great evening!

The Intermediates attempted to go to the lake, but the bugs kept them from making the trip. Instead they played team building game and "get to know you better BINGO" s in front of Mountain Rest until it was time to prepare for the all camp vespers.

Wednesday's All Camp Pajama Vesper Service

The vesper service last night was wonderful. It was fun to see everyone (or almost everyone) in their pajamas - some people even brought their blankets! The message from Senior Camp's Pastor Linda Muhly was informative and inspirational. We all know so much more about the sources of light in nature! The miniature flashlights passed out by Senior camp provided a moving finish to the service and will be a wonderful keepsake from Camp Luther 2010. The inaugural Camp Luther choir was fantastic. Thanks for a wonderful evening!

Go, Light Your World (words and music by Chris Rice)

There is a candle in every soul
Some burning brightly, some dark and cold
There is a Spirit who brings a fire
Ignites a candle and makes His home

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to
Light his own candle some other way
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to
Still holds a candle without a flame

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

We are a family whose hearts are blazing
Let's raise our candles, light up the sky
Pray to our Father in the name of Jesus
Make us a beacon in darkest times

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

Thank you to all the campers and staff members who participated in the Camp Luther Choir. Unfortunately we don't have everyone's names, but we do know that the soloists were Erin O'Neil, Tiffany Howard (seniors), Andrew Miser (junior), and Sabriyah Shabandy (intermediate). The small ensemble members were Sarah Westphal, Nicole Bennett, Darren Hoffman, Cayley Paknik, and Megan Roe. Thanks again - it was wonderful!

Inspection Winners

Junior Camp – Lower Oaks
Intermediate Camp – Anna & Sara (tie), Patrick

Great job, campers!

Meet Jon Gensler, Kathie Calain & Amy Conrad

Jon, Assistant Nature Instructor, who was a 10 year camper, is back at Camp after a six-year hiatus. In previous years he has served as a Junior counselor, Senior counselor & Asst Sports Instructor. He hails from Huntington, WV, and is a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point. Jon served with the Army in Kuwait and Iraq, lived in New Zealand, and has visited five continents. He is currently pursuing two masters degrees - one at MIT and one at Harvard. He will graduate in the spring of 2011, and is currently working for the US Department of Energy in Washington, DC. Jon says, "Of all the places I have seen, this little corner of Appalachia is among the most beautiful and special to me. We have a gift from God in our mountains, and we need to cherish and protect them."

Junior counselor Kathie Calain was a camper for 10 years. It's been 14 years since she was last on staff and she is very, very excited to be back at camp. Her two children, Matthew and Elizabeth Zirkle, are Intermediate campers and she has 5 nieces & nephews here too (David Calain, Brent Addison, Alexis Calain, Christian Calain, & Jessica Addison). Kathy lives in Mabie, WV and works in Philippi for World Vision Appalachia as an administrative assistant.

When you go into the crafts cabin you will find Amy Conrad - another new staff member that attended Camp Luther for 10 years as a camper. She lives in Wheeling, WV and graduated from college in May. Currently she is looking for a job as a surgical assistant. Amy is getting married in August to her high school crush, Curt, who is serving in Iraq at this time. When talking about camp, Amy says "this time/place has been so important to me that I HAD to come back. Life just would not be the same with IT."

AFTERNOON SPORTS FOR FRIDAY:

Juniors Kickball - lower ballfield

Intermediates Flag Football - front lawn
Creek Stomp

Tonight's Activities

The Juniors are going to the Bullpen for Kangaroo Court.

The Intermediates and Seniors are going to the dance.

As usual, today was a very busy afternoon. There was a river walk, a flag football game, a kickball game and a Senior vs Staff basketball game. Wow! There are so many things to do at Camp Luther!

Giggle Corner

The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Lot again... A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Israel.
Israel who?
"Israel" nice to see you.

Greetings from the Camp Luther Mouse!

I've been hearing lots of tidbits about the dance tonight! I'm so excited. I think BR & TA might be going together. The guys in KM's cabin are looking for a special girl to go with MS tonight. ES and SS: what is with the hourly fighting? TS: shot down again! Where's the swagger? EA and CC are escorting each other tonight. HB- how did you get not 1, but 2 girls, to be your "back up plan". MZ "where's my croissant". OLE! Hillshire Farms: Go meats! Was it just me or was there a jack-o-lantern jumping in the pool last night. TR- what was on your face at vespers last night? Darth Vader!? Thanks for the Jimmy Dean sausages, MK and PJFK. Pastor LM and MP- thank you so much for the souvenir flash lights! Hey MK- "oh pickles!" Very shocking that MS and ES were the 1st intermediates to solve the traffic jam game last night! DA- do we get a little Pharaoh. AP and CD, FE and STP, GC and AS, AH and LO: remember no PDA! Stevie MT what's with the snake? We don't need a magnifying glass. KM: no napping at morning meeting. PSS- NO MORE PEANUTS! Who got the seniors to walk in circles without saying a word for 30 minutes? That was really something to see! The Seniors hope the rest of camp enjoyed getting their little blue flashlights for the Pajama Vespers last night...those were the final "prize" in the Seniors' Scavenger Hunt on Tuesday, and they enjoyed sharing their lights with all of camp! The Senior skits and songs were so funny – I even saw some of my little friends, the baby Christ's Chameleons. TC got his cookie. CB had glow-in-the-dark pjs, and he made everyone turn out the lights in the barn to prove it! RL loves to slip and slide – ready for Friday? TH - you sing like an angel! JL, maybe you'll get Gas-X for your 18th birthday? Why couldn't GB and AW wear boxers to the PJ vespers? KC – save some water for the fish...and did you see a full moon this morning? I heard the ELCA approved something new in Senior camp last night. I saw AC sticking her flashlight in her mouth last night – what's up with that? Beware of the large cloud hovering over Trail's End tonight – that's the Senior girls spraying on hairspray and perfume, getting ready for the dance! JY likes to drop his cereal and all. Does JC have a mini me? JL likes to say GRRRRR a lot. Ketchup Man, Mustard Boy, and Super Wiener ROCK!!! MP is a great clapper. The boys cabin in beginning to smell like wet socks?...PEE YEW!! Did MT take his eye out? How many stairs are there at Whippoorwill? Correction: JY is NOT a fan of the rubber chicken. Pastor Seaks' stories are the greatest!!! By the way, did anyone see DO do his handstand this morning in Whippoorwill? I hope he doesn't do repeat performance. Thanks, functional staff, for dinner last night - I really appreciated the small leftovers that you missed when you cleaned up! They were a nice change from the oatmeal that I've been snacking on in the lower ballfield. I also really like visiting Brewed Awakenings and Cafe de Maple in the mornings. Everyone looks so different before they wake up completely! See you tonight at the dance and Kangaroo Court!

