


The Harbinger

John 14:6 

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

WRITING IS, LIKE, WAY COOL...



A Youth Newsletter? Surely, you can't be serious. With so many kids that are over-scheduled, over-burdened with homework, stressed, and overwhelmed - you often see people walking around with an expression of, if not shock, then one of deep and profound confusion. And that's just the parents.

So, why a newsletter? And, what's up with the name?

First, I'm not generally prone to quoting Wikipedia, but they give a pretty good definition:

"A harbinger is a sign of things to come. Throughout history and literature, harbingers and omens figure prominently, and are responsible for major decisions which have altered the course of both. An example of a harbinger is that of Constantine the Great, who, as legend goes, saw a vision in which either (depending on which version we read) a cross, a fish or a Labarum monogram (a military standard that displayed the first two Greek letters of the word "Christ") was emblazoned in the sky. A loud, steady voice then allegedly told him, "In hoc signo vinces" ("By this as your standard, you will conquer"). He used that standard in battle, and conquer he did, bringing Christianity to the Empire."

The term harbinger often seems to be used in a more ominous sense - "harbinger of doom" or "harbinger of death", but that is not always so. As the title of our youth newsletter, it is precisely in that context, "youth", that we find our meaning: "One that pioneers in or initiates a major change; one that presages or foreshadows what is to come."

Our youth represent the future of our faith. We must agree that this is important, or why else would we bring them to church?

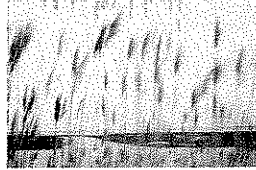
Why a newsletter? For one thing, it's a great way to highlight what's going on with our youth and what events are being planned. In addition, writing is a very effective form of expression, and to do it well is a critical skill. Challenging our youth to express their faith in this manner, one hopes, will lead to a better understanding of their faith, and God's grace in their everyday lives. I hope you will encourage your child to participate in these newsletters - and have fun with it. Write using their voice, personality and about what inspires them and their faith, or even what makes them laugh.

I'm certain that God has a sense of humor. It just explains so much.

SURF REPORT



FAITH IS CURRENTLY LIGHT AND VARIABLE; CONDITIONS SEMI-CLEAN TO SEMI-BUMPY AT TIMES.
 GRACE CONTINUES THIS AFTERNOON, WITH LARGER SWELLS EXPECTED TOWARD EVENING.
 FAITH REDEVELOPS AFTER THAT BUT EXPECT FADING TOWARD THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK.

HARVEY CEDARS YOUTH RETREAT

By Nicholas Dolce

On February 6-8, 2009, Andy Osolin, Ryan Osolin, Greg Provost, Kevin McMurtrie, and I went down to Long Beach Island for a statewide assembly for New Jersey's Lutheran Youth. We were packed into a van along with our chaperone, Mary Ziegler, and we promptly headed down to the shore. Around 200 high school students went to the beautiful, ocean-side resort to discuss and learn about God. The retreat was an ideal event for meeting new people, strengthening faith, and having a great time. Each of us was pre-assembled into a small group, where discussions and games took place. The food was also spectacular. The Christian band Compelled performed up-beat music every few hours, which we all enjoyed a lot. We fondly recall the event as packed with numerous jokes and memorable laughs. All five of us can hardly wait to attend next year, hopefully with more Christ Lutheran Church youth coming along.

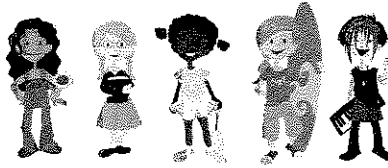
iCHURCH

By Mary Zeigler

The last two years have been very rewarding for me at Christ Lutheran Church. Religion and my faith have always played an important part of my life. My childhood memories of my youth group were the best part of being a teenager and a Christian. Leading iChurch every month has continued to strengthen my faith. As a church, our future lies in getting the young involved at an early age and keeping them involved. Our role is to strengthen their faith, nurture it and keep them active members of our church community. The church cannot thrive unless we fulfill that need for them, and consequently for ourselves. The rewards and benefits I receive far outweigh the time, effort and planning that goes into keeping the youth active. With a supportive youth committee, we are driven to enrich the lives of the young. You have no idea how inspiring our young people are and how faith works in their lives, until you work with them. They keep me young and make me thankful that I am a Christian.

Open your hearts, minds and let your faith help them grow. You'll be surprised at how much they have to offer you on all levels. With God's love, our faith and their enthusiasm, we can and will grow as a church. Let's all make it our goal.

iChurch is going strong! The high school youth meet on the last Sunday of each month during the 10:30 AM service. Mary has designed CLC Youth T-shirts for the high school kids, graduating 8th graders and youth leaders. Look for them!

CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMP

By Stefanie Santucci

For the past 5 years, I have attended Christian summer camps - Camp Brookwoods and Camp Deer Run - in Alton, New Hampshire. There are devotions in the morning and evening, gospel singing daily, and on Sundays, of course, church. Everyone at camp is devoted to God and encourages others to accept Christ into their lives. Throughout my years spent at Camp Brookwoods, and also at Camp Deer Run, I have made many close friends. The experience has strengthened my faith in God. It is a home away from home for me, and it is what I look forward to the most every summer!

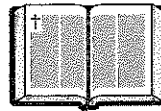
(For more information: <http://www.brookwoods.org/>; 34 Camp Brookwoods Road, Alton, NH 03809; Tel: 603.875.3600; Fax: 603.875.4606; info@christiancamps.net)

STRESS RX

By Kelly Conboy

I honestly don't know what made me remember the bible on my shelf. I was going through an exceptionally tough day. Less than 24 hours before, I had said goodbye to a beloved family member. Something made me open my bible. To my surprise, the page I opened to dealt with putting aside anxiety and relying on God to take care of you and your problems. Suddenly, I was able to stop my tears and think back on his life. The power of God's written word was unbelievable. It took me from complete hopelessness, to truly experiencing God's healing power.

Since then, I've found that it is not just all talk. I've realized that I can bring all my problems to God by putting hope in my faith and His word.



By Ryan Osolin

When I am stressed, I always find prayer to be helpful. It helps me clear my mind and it gives me a feeling of comfort.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIPMOVIE NIGHTS

On Friday, May 8th, the 7th & 8th grade youth were invited to the church for pizza & a movie. The movie was called "Facing the Giants". The film is about a failing high-school football coach who finds that in order to succeed he must convince his team that there's more to sports than fame and glory in an inspirational tale of courage on the gridiron and the power of God's word.

"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."

FIREPROOF

By Stacy Hoenigmann



Our second youth movie night of the year was held on Sunday, May 17th and it was filled with as much food and discussion as the first. We watched "Fireproof", a film about a firefighter going through a rough patch with his wife. He turns to his father for help, who had gone through a similar situation and got through it with the help of Christ. The movie follows the fireman through his journey in reconciling with his wife and finding God at the same time. He finally learns to really love Christ, and this love helps him realize how to appreciate and love his wife. The movie made us think about God's love and the trust we must always have in him. It left the lasting message that with God's help and love, anything is possible.

ON THE HORIZON

HARVEY CEDARS YOUTH EVENTS

Youth Ministry will be promoting future youth encounters at Harvey Cedars in LBI. For 7th/8th graders, there will be a retreat from November 20th thru 22nd. For 9th to 12th grade, there is a January 29th thru 31st event scheduled in 2010. There will be more information to come in the fall issue.

MEXICO MISSION TRIP

There are 8 youth that plan to attend the mission trip to Mexico. Youth Ministry will be exploring ways to raise funds, i.e. Quarter Mile. If you have ideas, or would like to help, contact Valerie Provost.

RUFFIN IT...

Camp CLC? Youth Ministry is discussing the possibility of hosting a camp fire & hot wings for the high school youth in July. Also, a "camp night" is being discussed where families would be invited to pitch tents on the church property, cook out, play games, have a camp fire and enjoy fellowship. Breakfast would be hosted by our own Pastor Peter. *More info to come as this develops...*

POOL NIGHT(S) AT WOODCLIFF LAKE

There will likely be one or more pool outings for families to be held at the Woodcliff Lake Swim Club. Crystal Ramhorst will usually announce via email notice. If you are interested, but are not on the email distribution, please contact Crystal with your information.

PASSING ON VIBRANT FAITH

How important is it to you that you pass on your faith to your children? How about to the youth of CLC? The Passing on Vibrant Faith Conference is designed to provide individuals and congregations with an overall, transformative vision for our ministry, homes and daily lives. Youth Ministry is hoping to have CLC host such a conference, but it will require a commitment from a large part of the congregation to make it happen. We hope to have more information on this conference in the fall letter.



GRADUATES!!



College:

John Monton – Marymount College; Theatre Major, w/ minor in musical theatre

High School:

Brittany DeCotiis – will be attending Rowan University; majoring in Elementary Education

Christopher Drobinski – attending University of New Haven; majoring in Fire Engineering and Fire Science with a minor in Forensics

Christopher Hart – will be attending Wake Forest

John Lamade – undecided (*just one word John, plastics...*)

Collin Letz – will be attending Ramapo College; major undeclared

Jonathan Pasch – will be attending Bergen Community College

Christopher Rodriquez – currently serving in the United States Marine Corps.

Cody Scheidle – will be attending Western New England College on a full ROTC scholarship

Middle School:

John Paul Carbaugh – will be attending Pascack Hill HS

Liam Conboy – will be attending Northern Valley HS in Old Tappan

Chantel Ramhorst – will be attending Pascack Hills HS

First Communion:

Samuel Carbaugh

Tina Casamento

Kalyn Fetter

Travis Laski

Alyssa Osenbruck

Katherine Scheidle

Mattias Stremmler

Congratulations Graduates! We are very proud of you!!

The Harbinger:

Youth Editors: Nicholas Dolce & Stacy Hoenigmann

Content Advisors: John Carbaugh & Mary Zeigler

Youth Advisors: Valerie Provost & Nina Dolce

AMEN CORNER



"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by,
and that has made all the difference."

Robert Frost - American Poet

"Sometimes the road less traveled, is less traveled for a reason."

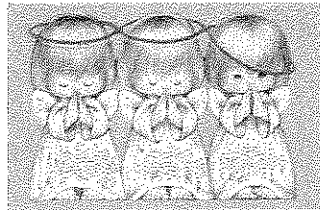
Jerry Seinfeld - Comedian

So, are you a Frost or a Seinfeld? I'm not sure if Jerry believes in what he said above; after all, it was spoken during the course of a sit-com. But it illustrates a good point. Jerry's character was a cynic – he didn't really believe in ideals. Frost was saying "I did not take the easy path, and I'm better for it". For us, and especially our children, it is not a simple thing to follow a more difficult path when the reward is not obvious, or even visible.

Christ did not choose the easy path. We often encourage our children not to take the easy way out. We expect them to work hard, and to stand up for their beliefs. We know it is not easy for them to be a Christian, much less profess their faith to others. Can we set the example? Do we? When I look at the popular culture, and what kids are up against these days, it's a daunting task to follow Christ. Our children are looking to us for the answers more often than we realize. It's not always enough to say, this is just the way it is; this is just the way it's always been done. Maybe there are times in living our faith when we should consider taking the road less traveled by.

It could make all the difference.

P OSTLUDE



Hymns of the Lukewarm Church (God's Frozen People)

The Lukewarm Church announces publication of "Church Songs," whose title, according to the editor, was chosen because "We didn't want to turn anybody off with threatening words that no one understands anymore like 'worship' or 'hymn.' People in today's society get kind of uncomfortable with too much talk about things like commitment and dedication. They'd much rather have a religion that they can turn on or off at will. Our book seeks to meet that need."

Sample Contents:

A Comfy Mattress Is Our God
Joyful, Joyful, We Kinda Like Thee
Amazing Grace, How Interesting the Sound
O God, Our Enabler in Ages Past
Blest Be the Tie That Doesn't Cramp My Style
Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me
Praise God from Whom All Affirmations Flow
I'm Fairly Certain That My Redeemer Lives
Self-Esteem to the World! The Lord is Come

Sit Up, Sit Up for Jesus
Take My Life and Let Me Be
What an Acquaintance We Have in Jesus
When Peace, Like a Trickle. . .
When the Saints Go Sneaking In
Where He Leads Me, I Will Consider Following
Lift Every Voice and Intellectualize

[From Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much]

"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."