

Different faiths have fun uniting at Vacation Bible School

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Children of different faiths, ages pre-school through sixth grade, united July 31-Aug. 4 for Vacation Bible School at Resurrection Lutheran Church in St. Joseph. VBS is coordinated between

Resurrection and St. Joseph Catholic Church by coordinators Rachel Kuebelbeck (Resurrection) and Dawn Carillo (St. Joseph's). Kuebelbeck said about 110 children registered for the program this year.

This year's theme was "Home-town Nazareth: Where Jesus Was

a Kid."

"Participants from other towns, states and many churches come each year to VBS," Kuebelbeck said. "For some children, this is their main connection to the word of God."

Activities included opening prayer with a Bible story and verse

and then rotation of story-telling, games, snacks, crafts and music.

During story-telling, children were encouraged to call "Mary, Mary" and a puppet "Mary" interacted with them. VBS participants then helped Mary clean the house for Passover and learned what happened when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem. The children heard the story from Mary's perspective.

Lisa Hilsgen came to VBS as a parent and volunteer, along with her twin daughters, Amber and Allie.

"I think it is an uplifting experience for the kids," Hilsgen said.

Allie enjoyed the story-telling by "Mary" and how the character "Andrew" got faith and became a believer at the end of VBS.

Amber enjoyed making a necklace out of beads, a rock and a cross.

"When I grab the rock, it means Jesus is our rock and is very special," Amber said.

Participants were divided according to age groups into six color-coded tribes. Lance Anderson and Grant Mueffelmann were part of the blue tribe. During snacks of cheese and crackers, they talked about VBS.

"It's just fun," Mueffelmann said.

"I just like everything," Anderson said.

Mikaela Hanson, 15, was one of the volunteers who worked with VBS participants to decorate Tzedakah boxes, which are boxes used to collect money for the poor. VBS participants were encouraged to collect money and give it away to someone in need.

Miranda Bayerl, a member of the orange tribe, participated in the interactive team-building activities held outdoors. Teams alternated according to the color-coded tribes and took part in activities, such as a pillow toss and water-sponge toss.



photos by Cori Hilsgen
Laura Johannes and her son, Trevor, listen during a story-telling activity at Vacation Bible School.



Members of the orange tribe work on interactive team-building outdoor activities during Vacation Bible School.

"Everybody is always happy," Bayerl said.

VBS students and families donated school supplies that will be given to Anna Marie's Shelter and to Riverwoods, located at the St. Cloud Children's Home.

Minnesota Home Improvements

License #20319433

FREE HOME INSPECTIONS

320.363.4435

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CONTRACTOR...

- ✓ In Business Over 35 Years
- ✓ Fully Licensed, Bonded, and Insured
- ✓ Worker's Compensation
- ✓ In House Safety Program (OSHA approved)
- ✓ Local Contractor (3 Local Offices)
- 8850 Ridgewood Court, St Joseph MN
- 59577 US Hwy 12, Litchfield MN
- 17677 State Hwy 371, Brainerd MN
- ✓ A+ Better Business Bureau Rating
- ✓ Good House Keeping Approval
- ✓ GAF Master Elite Contractor (only 2 in the area)
- ✓ Excellent Warranties
- Lifetime Windows*
- Extended Roof Warranties
- Workmanship Warranties
- LeafGuard Gutters No Clog Warranty
- ✓ Client References
- ✓ Superior Clean Up
- ✓ \$50.00 Rebate Referral Program
- ✓ Local Chamber Members
- ✓ Member CMBA, MMBA
- ✓ MN Remodeler and Members
- ✓ Manufacturer Certifications
- ✓ Written Agreement
- ✓ Call for Monthly Specials

"Let us help with all your home improvement needs"

MNhomeimprovements.com

"Making learning fun!"

Miss Ashley's Music Lessons

Piano • Guitar • Songwriting • Voice • Violin/Fiddle

- ♪ Convenient lesson times
- ♪ Individualized lessons
- ♪ Beginner through advanced
- ♪ Lessons can be taught in your home or mine
- ♪ Affordable
- ♪ Creative methods make lessons enjoyable and informative
- ♪ 7 years of teaching experience

Sign up today for private and group lessons!

Ashley Jean Brown

320-333-9788 • St. Joseph

** Music is what happens when the heart smiles :)*



Lance Anderson (left) and Grant Mueffelmann enjoy snack time during Vacation Bible School. They were part of the blue tribe. Participants were divided according to age into color-coded tribes.



Olivia Kompelien, Allie Hilsgen, Amber Hilsgen and Tanner Tomasek (left to right) participate in the Tzedakah box-decorating activity during Vacation Bible School. Tzedakah boxes are used to collect money for the poor, and VBS students were encouraged to collect money and give it away.

A total of about 60 volunteers worked together to coordinate the fun-filled week for VBS participants.

Laura Johannes also came to VBS, as a parent and volunteer, along with her children Trevor and Kendra.

"It is so uplifting to see the children of the St. Joseph faith community unite to praise God," Johannes said.

Kuebelbeck and Carillo said the volunteers are very important to the program.

"VBS is a special time of year for all of these kids and volunteers," Kuebelbeck said. "It is made possible through our volunteers. It

is volunteer-driven which makes it successful and super fun."

"We are thankful for the tremendous community support and wonderful volunteers who enjoy the week as much as the children do," Carillo said.

VBS coordinators hope participants will have had fun and learned about Jesus when they end the week.

"We hope the participants will have more knowledge of their faith and of the life of Jesus, especially as a child; a deeper experience of community; meeting new people and re-connecting with old friends," Carillo said.

'Everybody Can Save A Life!' offers video contest opportunity

Nineteen people die every day in the United States waiting for a kidney transplant. The team at MatchingDonors.com is working hard to make sure that doesn't

happen by asking the public to help raise awareness about being a living-organ donor through their Everybody Can Save A Life Video Contest! Deadline is Sept.

13.

For more information, visit www.thenewsleaders.com and click Town Crier.

Roofing • Siding • Gutters • Windows

320-257-0100

FREE HOME EXTERIOR INSPECTIONS



"We do what we say we're going to do!"

JNSBUILDERS.COM

Double Check Who You Are Hiring

JNS BUILDERS

vs. Want-to-be contractors

- Fully licensed, bonded and insured
- A+ Better Business Bureau rating
- A rating on Angie's list
- Local contractor
- Office at 3700 W. Division St.
- Gives extended 50-year 100% warranty on all shingles – fully transferrable warranty owner to owner
- Lifetime fade warranties on all siding – fully transferrable warranty owner to owner
- Vinyl siding has lifetime warranty
- Steel siding has 35-year warranty chalk to fade – fully transferrable warranty owner to owner
- Standard 10-year craftsmanship warranty
- Certified roof inspectors for roof and hail damage
- Can do all trade work on insurance claims
- Provides references
- Member of CMBA, Chamber of Commerces
- Gives 2% back to local charities

Your house is most-likely your largest investment – why chance your home's repairs to anyone else?

"The Newsleaders have used JNS Builders on two of our roofing and siding projects and we were very pleased with the professional services and personal touch. Josh and his crews were wonderful to work with and gave us the service we expected. JNS Builders handled everything, including the insurance claim, from start to finish. All it cost us was our deductible."


~ Janelle Von Pinnon, Publisher



• Like us on Facebook and click on Real Reviews.

Lic. #20594693






Ms. Melinda's DANCE STUDIO

Dreams Begin With a Dance ...

Offering classes to all abilities from ages 2 to adult
Recreational and competitive levels

Ballet • Jazz • Tap • Pointe • Hip Hop • Tumbling

Ms. Melinda's focus is on students having fun while learning how to dance and making memories that last a lifetime.



OPEN HOUSES
Aug. 23, 24 & 31
5-7:30 p.m.

Ms. Melinda knows how dreams begin!

446 Great Oak Drive • Waite Park, MN 56387
(320) 257-TOES (8637) • www.msmelindas.com



Treasured Memories

For Precision **MGC** Craftsmanship!
MURPHY GRANITE CARVING, INC.

320 Maple Ave SE, Richmond, MN
(320) 597-3070 • murphygranite.com

Personalized, handcrafted, granite memorials