

APPLE BUTTER HILL NEWS

*For our children
and their families
and friends*

From the ABH Clubhouse

BY PELI

"Grace...Grace where are you?Peli and I need you" Johnny called out. Grace fluttered out of one of the classrooms.

"Johnny what's up?"

" Well, Peli and I have been talking about your idea. It can be a great stewardship project for the children- and even the entire church!"

"You mean we are going to have the "Count Your Blessings" party! I can't wait to start planning!"

"We don't know if it will be a party. We need to think about it."

"I have been looking for you two. Johnny did you ask Grace to help us?"

"Johnny said we are going to have a party!" Grace exclaimed.

"I don't think counting your blessing is a party necessarily-but it is something to celebrate. And the biggest blessing we have is celebrated this month." Peli said.

"I never thought of Lent and Easter as a blessing God gives us" Johnny replied. "But it is a big gift from God-It's his Son."

"Peli- where did Lent come from? I know it's before Easter. And I saw Mrs. Joyce and Mrs. Irene changing the paraments to purple for Ash Wednesday. But where did it come from?" Grace asked.

"We have Lent to prepare for Easter."

Johnny was very proud he knew the answer. "And it's forty days- without Sundays."

"Okay-But where did Lent come from?"

Grace persisted in her questioning.

"Lent is based on a historical practice to prepare people for baptism. In the fourth century a person fasted for 40 days before they were baptized. Later, the fasting period became preparation for Easter." Peli explained.

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Count Your Blessings

“And Easter is the celebration of Jesus resurrection so we have eternal life.”

Johnny added.

“Why aren’t Sundays counted?” Grace asked.

“Sundays are a day of celebration of the resurrection... So every Sunday we celebrate Easter- and Good Friday when we take communion.” Peli continued.

“But we don’t fast for Lent. I don’t understand.” Johnny added.

“For Lutherans Lent is a time for reflection on our lives and our relationship with God. It’s when we think about the wonderful gifts- the blessings- God gave us. Last month our children learned that God created everything and gave it to us.” Peli explained.

Johnny jumped in “This month in Sunday School we learned that God gave us Jesus and eternal life because Jesus died for us. It says so in the Apostle’s Creed in Article Two.”



In Christ we are transformed...

“Okay but let’s get back to the Count Your Blessings party planning” Sometimes Grace can be very focused.

“Grace, good thought- That takes us to Holy Week”. Peli could see he needed to control this conversation. “Holy Week is really a single event where we become part of our own redemption story. Our redemption is a blessing- a big blessing- but it is also a big responsibility.”

“I get it!” Johnny exclaimed. “God created us. He gave us so many things-like food, trees, flowers, shelter, friends, family. But-We messed up.” He paused, “ Then God decided that He had to save us...”

“So God gave us Jesus.” Grace chimed in. She fluttered about with excitement.

Peli could see that Johnny was focused on Lent and Holy Week by the look on his face. “I heard that some people give something up for Lent. I think that we should ask everyone to give one of their blessings to someone or something for Lent, and maybe all year.”

“What does that mean, Johnny?” Grace asked.

“Well, if one of your blessings is time then spend quality time with your family or a friend – maybe reading the Bible, visiting a shut-in. Or give some time to our church to help out with a need we have this year like ushering, assistants or acolytes. There’s lot of needs and always room for more helping hands.”

“Hmmm...maybe someone is a good reader and help with the church service. Johnny that’s an interesting idea. Instead of just counting our blessings, we can give from the multitude of our blessings...and Lent is the perfect time to reflect on how we are blessed. We should talk to Pastor Jim about it.”

“Blessings come in so many different ways! Just think what we could do!” Grace exclaimed then fluttered out the door. “Wait for me, Grace.” Johnny called. “We need to count our blessings, too.”

“I think I better find Pastor Jim. I don’t know what those two are up to now.”

“Jesus said I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”

JOHN 14:6

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (9:30AM)



Johnny Awards

Any child of God can be nominated for this recognition when they apply the Ten Commandments and Gifts of the Spirit.
KINDNESS-Being friendly, caring thoughtful,
considerate
GOODNESS-Showing love through actions that benefit another person

JOY Accepting and sharing our blessings
LOVE Serving God



Adventures of Olivia & Liam

Larry's House

"How was school today?" Larry's grandmother asked. She thought Larry looked a bit distracted.

"It was okay." Larry walked directly over to the bookcase and pulled out a couple of books, then walked down the hall to his room. "I have homework to do tonight. What time is dinner?"

"Oh," Grandma replied. "Well, we can have dinner at 6PM so you can finish your assignments."

"Okay". Larry closed the door to his room. His grandmother watched, unsettled by Larry's actions. She thought to herself "Something must have happened at school. Larry is acting so different." She quietly walked down the hall and listened at his door-but there was no sound.

Inside his room, Larry opened the Bible he took from the bookcase and searched for the book of Acts. "I need to read that story again" he thought. "There must be a catch to this. I must have missed something."

Finally, Larry found the story of the shipwreck. He thought "There. This guy Paul healed somebody so they owed him."

He re-read the story-and that was after the people of Malta provided food and help. "It makes no sense. This Christian stuff makes no sense. There must be an answer in here somewhere."

Larry went to his computer and started searching for information about being Christian. There were a lot of websites.

Next, he tried to search for Lucas and Liam's church website. "What drives them? What's in it for them?" he thought. "No one does something without getting something."

On the church website he found a story about a man named Jesus. "Olivia mentioned him at lunch today. How does he fit into this? This is getting more complicated."

He read through the website and found some Bible references about this Jesus. "He must be a Christian and maybe he knows Paul" Larry thought.

He thumbed through pages of Acts scanning the pages for the word Jesus. "There it is Jesus knew Paul...but Paul persecuted him...and Jesus made him blind. How could he do that? Who is this Jesus?"

Larry went back to the computer to search for Jesus. There were lots of articles and Bible references about Jesus. He knew Liam and Lucas and Olivia all believed in him and prayed to him.

"But why?" he kept asking himself. "And why did they invite me to lunch? Why were Liam and Lucas waiting at the bus steps? What about my team - I guess my former team. I wonder if I prayed to this God He would answer me or help me? Should I ask Liam?"



SPECIAL CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

January 21

February 18

March 17

April 21

May 19

"Children's Special Events

THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR FAITH IS THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. NOW WE WILL START TO BUILD UP OUR HOUSE WITH THE APOSTLES CREED.

JOIN US IN APRIL AS WE LEARN MORE ABOUT WHO GOD IS AND HOW AWESOME HE IS!

Be Kind

Brooke's House

As Brooke opened the door she called out
"Hello Mom. I am home."

"How was school today?"

"School was okay. We did some new math questions that were like solving puzzles. I have to go to the library and get some books for a book report. Maybe we can go on Saturday?"

"Well, I am sure your father would be happy to take you to the library."

Brooke looked startled and confused.
"Why can't you take me?"

"You will be taking a different bus and going to your father's house for the weekend. He called today and asked that you spend this weekend with him."

"Do I have to go this weekend? Olivia and I wanted to work on our assignment together on Saturday."

"Yes. You have to settle in at your father's house for the times you are there. Then, we have to decide when you will stay with him and when you will be here."

"Oh, how often do I have to go there?"

"He wants you to have some time at his house. I also think he wants you to meet some new people. Then we can decide on a schedule so you can be with your father."

The room was quiet for what seemed to be a long time. "It's okay Brooke." her mother said.

Brooke wanted to cry. She felt like her father had abandoned her when her parents told her about the divorce. He hasn't called her or bought her any gifts for months. And now ... Now there are people to meet? What does that mean? He lives in the same school district, Brooke thought, so I probably already know any kids in his neighborhood. Who am I supposed to meet?" Then she remembered Lucas saying his father has a new wife. "Could he?"

Brooke's mother could see she was not taking this news well. "Your Dad said something about going shopping with you. I guess he wants to buy you" She paused "buy you some new outfits and things for your room at his house."

Brooke did not know if she should be happy or sad. And what people will she meet?

"Who does Dad want me to meet?" she asked.

"I am not sure" her mother replied. "Do you have homework to do before dinner?"

Brooke's mother knew this news would be difficult for her. "Work on your homework and we can talk after dinner. Your father and I want what's best for you. Don't worry. He will bring you home on Sunday afternoon. Maybe you can meet Olivia then."



Letting your light shine

Let the light of God's love shine through you so that others may get to know Jesus. A simple invitation, a kind word or a helping hand means that you are using the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, the only God some people may ever know is the one they see reflected in you.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you..."

ISAIAH 41:10

FAMILY EVENTS

Johnny Awards are given to our children when they follow the Ten Commandments. Anyone can nominate someone for a Johnny Award. You can see the award on our home page.

March 10 The Apostles Creed Article 2

MARCH 28 7PM Maundy Thursday Service

MARCH 29 7PM Good Friday service

MARCH 31 EASTER
10:30AM He is Risen!
Alleluia!

Family Bible Time

“The Apostles Creed”

INTRODUCTION

Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism as a basic Christian instruction for families with children. He identified three doctrines that every family should know- The Ten Commandments, The Apostle’s Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. The Ten Commandments tell us how God wants us to live our lives. A creed is a statement of belief. The Apostles Creed explains who God is and what He does for us. There are three articles to the Creed.

Article Two of the Creed tells us that God loved His creation (us) so much that when people messed up, He sent His son to the earth to save us.

The second article, God the Redeemer, explains our salvation through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God’s Son. God walked among us in the person of Jesus, a human being. He taught those around him about God’s love. He gave them a template for how to pray (The Lord’s Prayer). He performed miracles. He glorified His Father in heaven in his life and his actions. He experienced pain just as we do. He died for us and took on our sins. He rose from the dead to give us hope for eternal life with the Father.

The story of God’s love for us are in the Christmas, Easter and Ascension stories. These stories are a good way to remember the second article of the Apostle’s Creed.



Our Bible Story

Luke 1: 26- 2:20; Matthew 26:17- 28:10;
Acts 1:1- 1:12

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell, on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.



Jesus was born of the virgin Mary

God chose a young Jewish woman named Mary to be the mother of Jesus. An angel brought this news to Mary and to her fiancé Joseph, a carpenter. Mary and Joseph lived under Roman rule. The emperor declared that everyone must be registered to pay taxes. Mary and Joseph gathered some things and traveled with a large group to the city of their family heritage, Bethlehem, to be registered.

After several days of traveling, they reached Bethlehem. They found many people had arrived ahead of them and there were not enough rooms in the town for everyone. Joseph looked for a place for them and was finally able to get a place in a stable for them to stay. Mary had the baby while they were staying there. God’s son was born, but no one in the city knew about it.

Shepherds out in nearby fields were the first to hear about Jesus. An angel appeared to them, and they traveled to the city to see this child.

A bright new star in the sky brought astrologers, wise men who studied stars, to see this child. They inquired of Herod about the new king of the Jews. Herod did not know about a new king. God revealed to small groups of people that his Son was in the world.

Breaking News

God’s son is born in a stable in Bethlehem.

The world went dark and shook when Jesus died.

Jesus rose again so that we have eternal life.

What’s Important?

- *God sent Jesus into the world for everyone.*
- *We believe that Jesus is God, the Redeemer*
- *Jesus is Lord! Alleluia!*
- *Count your blessings- “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father” (James 1:17)*
- *“Be doers of the word and not hearers only” (James 1:22)*

Family Bible Time Con't

Jesus grew up and began to preach about God's mission to love, bless and save his creation. Some of the Jewish high priests did not like Jesus bringing this message to the Jewish people. They convinced one of Jesus' followers, Judas, to help them bring charges against Jesus. They determined that the Passover, a high holy day for Jews, was the right time to stop Jesus. Judas knew that Jesus and his followers would have the Passover meal then Jesus would go to a garden to pray. This was the right place and time for soldiers to arrest him.



Jesus suffered under Pilate and was crucified, died and was buried

After his arrest Jesus was brought before a high priest named Caiaphas, then before Pilate, the Roman governor. While Pilate found no guilt in Jesus, under pressure from Jewish authorities and a potential riot by a mob that gathered, he turned Jesus over to the soldiers. Pilate's soldiers mocked Jesus, but Jesus remained silent.

Jesus was taken outside the city to be crucified, a death reserved for the worst criminals. Darkness fell on the city, and Jesus cried out to God. At the moment Jesus died, the curtain in the temple tore in two and the earth shook as if there was an earthquake. The guards and other people nearby suddenly realized that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was removed from the cross and buried in a nearby tomb.



Jesus rose from the dead

Three days later some women, followers of Jesus, went to the tomb. They found that the large boulder closing the tomb was rolled away. The tomb was empty except for a person inside. The angel said to the women "Jesus is not here. He is risen". The women ran to tell the others what they had seen. Jesus appeared to the disciples several times in the following forty days.



Jesus ascended into heaven and is with God

Finally, Jesus commanded his followers to all gather at a room in Jerusalem. They waited, and Jesus came to them. Jesus told them that that they must stay in Jerusalem to wait for God to send a messenger, the Holy Spirit, to them. After he said this, Jesus was lifted up, a cloud appeared, and he disappeared from their sight. An angel appeared to them and told that that Jesus had returned to God.



With God, Jesus will judge God's people.

Jesus is with God, as judge. We know through scripture that because Jesus died and rose again, we are justified by God's grace through our faith in Him. By our faith, we are transformed. We too can have eternal life with God.

The butterfly is a symbol of our transformation that comes from our justification by grace through faith in God the Father and God the Son.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for your promise
Help us when we face
challenges.
Guide our thoughts, words and
actions so we do not harm
others.
Help us to keep your
commandments. Amen.

Apple Butter Hill Mission Team

ACTIVITY Tissue Paper Cross

Supplies:
Light weight cardboard
Glue
Tissue paper-multiple colors
scissors

Cut out a cross shape. Place a small amount of glue in a section. Begin to crumple the tissue and paste it onto the cardboard. The tissue paper should cover the cardboard.

ACTIVITY God the Redeemer

Supplies : Bible

Make a collage showing what it means to you to be a Christian. Include how Jesus made a difference in your life.

When you finish your collage using your Bible, read Luke 26:17- 28:20 with your family.

With your family list blessings that you have received because Jesus is your Saviour. How can you share those blessings?

ACTIVITY Getting to Know the Bible

Supplies:
A Bible

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple as a baby. _____ and _____ greeted them at the temple (Luke 2:25-38)

“Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place.” What took place? _____(Luke 2:15)

“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?” Who said this? (Matthew 2:2)

He betrayed his friend Jesus for silver, then tried to return the money. Who is he? _____ Matthew 27:3)

They were walking to Emmaus when a stranger joined them. Who was the stranger? _____ (Luke 24:13)

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Why? _____ (John 3:16)

“As they were looking on, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of sight” Who was lifted up? _____ (Acts 1:9)

After his resurrection, Jesus gave the disciples a commandment to travel. What were they instructed to do as they traveled? _____ (Matthew 28:19)

About the ABH Mission Team

The Apple Butter Hill Mission Team are the children of our church.

Our key mission is to bring God's love to those around us.

We use our gifts of the spirit-love, kindness, goodness and joy to be light for others.

We share God's Good News of Jesus.

We invite everyone to join our team and God's mission to love and bless His world.

ABH Editor: Peli Cann
Contributor: Johnny Giraffe
Contributor: Grace Butter-Fly

*Stick your neck out for Christ
Do God things...every day*

Apple Butter Hill Mission Team

Draw a picture to help you remember that God, the Son died for you and rose again to give you eternal life



Count Your Blessings

Make a list of the blessings you have received
Draw a picture of one of them here

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Thank you Jesus for helping us to let our light shine