

The Lyons Community Church

Mid-Week Message

Thursday, August 8, 2014



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Let's Keep Church Weird!

Dear neighbors,

Many people have asked me lately why church is so weird: why we do what we do, why we choose to help others in need, how we keeping offering grace and second chances long after others have given up? All good questions, surely, which have something to do with the way we see the world (God's precious creation) and everyone in it (wonderfully-made children of God).

But those aren't the only weird things about organized religion - there is also the communal singing, the candles and incense and robes, there are the rituals and altar dressings - the way a church is laid out and its function... and many of these are ripped right from the pages of the Bible. Some are out of fashion today, and some are just waiting for their revival. So as the summer winds down, I have a proposition for you:

Let's Keep Church Weird! Let's shed some light on all the funny little things we do at church, talk about why they matter (or don't), and choose how we're going to be in worship together going forward. We'll start with the communal singing this week, but it's only going to get weirder throughout the month of August... so hope to see you in church at 10am on Sunday!

Blessings in the weirdness,

Pastor Emily



Sunday, August 10

Sermon: *Why Can't We Keep from Singing?* - Pastor Emily Flemming

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-20

Reader: Mark Browning

Refreshments: Tanya Data and the children

Flowers: Sam Miller

Greeter: Mark Browning

Children's Time: Tanya Dady

Prayers...

Thanks for 91 people in church last Sunday and a wonderful Camp Noah week for the kids! Carol's new job opportunities and Cody's job search, Jeanne S., Matt F., health of Steve M., Steve B., Brian W., Geneva, and Marty H.; Pat Huebner and family; Emily D's brother's divorce and children, ongoing construction at church and growth of LEAF

From our activity in church last week, Our Arks (what we cling to when trouble comes):

family, home, friends, at school, sharing with my spouse, husband, wife, union, those who love us, health, my children, son, daughter, music, my art, my porch, my bed, sleep, the Stone Cup, my faith, prayer, this church, with all of you, hope, love, this sanctuary, being/sitting still, being in nature, walk in nature, being in the mountains, mountain top, Picture Rock, Sprague Lake, Bible study, God my Lord and Savior, God my refuge and strength, God's help in a rapid move and safe trip home, fishing, my inner self, the world in my head, meditation, listening to God give me assurance, moving forward for me and within me, a world of peace for these children, the outdoors, Lyons Volunteers builds many arks, whatever floats my boat up-water

Announcements

Request from Amy Mathews:

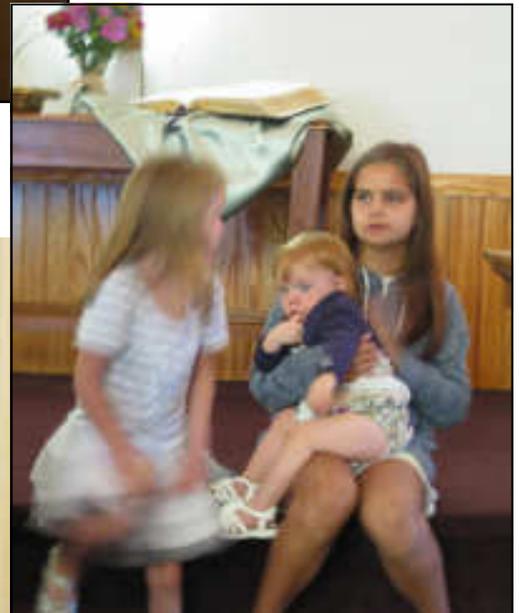
The girls and I are working a Girl Scout project for Project H.O.P.E. We are crocheting plastic mats for project hope by using recycled plastic grocery bags; making "plarn" (plastic yarn) from plastic grocery bags. So, we need plastic grocery bags for the next month and will pick-up each Sunday.

Moving the Food Pantry, which is doing well meeting at the LDS church (we hosted our 3rd week there this week).





Celebration
of Camp
Noah on
July 27



Lyons, Longmont students impacted by flood coping at Camp Noah

By Whitney Bryen

Times-Call community reporter



Eric Hanson, dressed as Noah, reads a chapter out of "The Story of Ruby Bridges" by Robert Coles during Camp Noah Thursday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Lyons. (Matthew Jonas / Longmont Times-Call)

More than 50 kids from Lyons and Longmont screamed at the top of their lungs Monday as a man dressed like Noah, from the biblical story of Noah's arc, stood at the back of a pavilion near the St. Vrain River in Lyons.

Noah, played by Eric Hanson, has been leading the kids through a weeklong camp at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Lyons that teaches resiliency to children impacted by natural disasters.

"He was like a rockstar with all these kids jumping up and down, screaming and waving their hands," said the camp's site facilitator Emily Flemming. "And then behind him was the river and all this damage and construction that's still there. It was a powerful moment."

About 56 kindergarten through sixth grade students that were impacted by the September flood are learning to cope and move on this week through skits, crafts, group activities and rest at Camp Noah.

The camp was launched in 1997 as a Lutheran vacation bible school in Minnesota in response to flooding in the Red River Valley. In 2006, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota took the program to victims of Hurricane Katrina. The group launched a nonprofit, developed a secularized curriculum and, now, travels the country hosting camps for children impacted by natural disasters.

The organization contacted Emily Flemming, a Lyons resident and pastor at Lyons Community Church, early this year about bringing the camp to Lyons.

Each day of the camp focuses on a different coping skills that will help the students move forward from the flood and deal with new life challenges as they come, Flemming said.

Students celebrated Noah's 600th birthday, as well as their own Monday. Some children didn't get the chance to celebrate this year because flood recovery has created a distraction for many families, Flemming said, so each camper was given a gift and shared cake.

Campers told storm stories Tuesday, talked about their feelings during and after the flood Wednesday and learned about bouncing back Thursday. Activities will focus on helping others Friday.

Flemming hopes students will take the skills they learn this week home to their families, she said.

The Lyons camp is one of about 30 camps that the nonprofit will host this year, including 15 in Moore, Oklahoma following the May 20, 2013, tornado, said the camp's team leader Lisa Hansen.

The camps cost about \$20,000 to put on, Hansen said, and are funded by donations,

continued next page

churches and grants.

Dozens of volunteers are helping 13 national camp staff this week, Flemming said.

Lyons resident Sarah Hunter, a school social worker for Adams 12 Five Star Schools, was the mental health professional on staff at this week's camp.

Hunter offered private counseling and a quiet space for campers who felt overwhelmed or needed additional support throughout the week. Hunter also encouraged two families to consider seeking ongoing support, she said.

Hunter's children, Lauren and Matt, attended the Lyons camp.

"We were sleeping and the sirens went off and woke everybody up, but not me," Lauren, 6, said. "Then a bunch of people came over and it was crowded in our house but I didn't have to share my room."

The Hunter family was trapped in Lyons for three days in their dry, undamaged home that became a hub for five local families before evacuating, Hunter said. The family stayed with friends in Silverthorne, Niwot and then Lafayette before finally returning to Lyons three months after the flood.

The Hunters stayed with family friends in Lafayette, which was like a play date every day and sleepovers every night, Lauren said.

Meanwhile, Matt, 8, was anxious to get home to his room.

"It was crowded," Matt said. "I missed my room the most because I like to go in there and be alone sometimes."

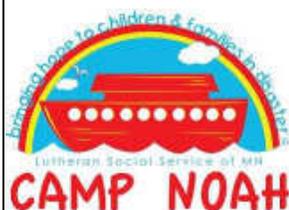
More than 10 months after the flood, Matt said, he doesn't think about the flood much anymore though signs of damage are still everywhere.

"It looks like everything is back to normal but it's not," Matt said. "I miss the parks the most. We don't get to go there very much anymore."

Those are just some of the stories that Matt and Lauren shared at Camp Noah this week with other area students.



Camper Matt Hunter listens as Eric Hanson reads from a book during Camp Noah Thursday. (Matthew Jonas / Longmont Times-Call)



Check out these articles online by clicking on the links below (media from Camp Noah)

http://www.timescall.com/Lifestyle/ci_26253811/Lyons-Longmont-students-impacted-by-flood-coping-at-Camp-Noah

[Http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/storytellers/2014/07/31/storytellers-camp-noah-helps-kids-recover-from-flood/13436821/](http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/storytellers/2014/07/31/storytellers-camp-noah-helps-kids-recover-from-flood/13436821/)



Our many musicians
from this summer.

