

Sermonette for June 29th, 2014

Youth Sunday

Today being Youth Sunday we are going to do something a **bit different** for the sermon time—we are going to CELEBRATE OUR YOUTH. As you may remember last week I mentioned that we had **13** children graduate from our preschool pre-kindergarten class on the 20th of this month. The preschool board and I decided that it might be nice, on Youth Sunday, for **you** to see some of the children who go to our preschool. So with their **parent's** permission, **Dar** our preschool director and her daughter **Hannah's** help, and now that our projector is working again—thanks to **Steve** and **Daniel**, we have a short video to show you.

PLEASE BEGIN THE VIDEO.

As I have told you before Youth Sunday is one of my **favorite** Sundays. It is a time when our youth get to shine. It is a time of **enthusiasm** and **opportunity** for them to come before our congregation. During this last week I sent out emails to some of the **parents** of our youth as well as to some of **them** to find out what they are up to **not only** this summer but what they are looking **forward to** in the future. You **may** remember that a couple of weeks ago here in church our quilters gave away **6** quilts to our graduating seniors who now are anticipating the **journey** ahead.

Without using names, I wanted to let you know what some of these youth have in mind. Beginning with the graduates from preschool they wanted to be everything from a **dinosaur**, to a **teacher**, to a **tightrope** walker, to a **fancy man**—which he already was given the fact that he had **turquoise** spiky hair at graduation.

In our congregation we have a wide age group. This summer some of the **younger** children are going to be reading, drawing, dancing, going to the beach and swimming, and spending summer nights at the drive-in with family. Our **middle school age** group are keeping active by playing instruments, we have an avid reader who would like to be **physicist**, there is a love of playing video games and hopefully **designing them** when they get older—or maybe being an **architect**—they're not quite sure yet, and there are those who love theater and singing as well as those who have a keen sense of right and wrong who would like to be a **lawyer** when they are grown.

Our **high school** youth are very active in sports—football, soccer, and water polo are on the list. They love going to the beach, they play instruments in the school band, participate in school plays, they are active in and hold the office of President of Future Farmers of America, they show livestock at various fairs, one is taking college classes along with the regular high school curriculum, one is going to summer school to get ahead as this student would like to work in the field

of **engineering or science**, some are taking piano lessons, one is the manager of the Comedy Sports Team at school, and we cannot forget taking family trips.

The **graduated students** are helping out at food pantries, trying to be a good role model for younger kids as a lifelong dream is to help people who are less fortunate. Some are going off to college and all that goes with living away from mom and dad as well as experiencing dorm life for the **first time**. Others are gathering paperwork together to enter into the **Army** where the hope is to be in **Special Forces** and after that possibly a police officer. **Lastly**, one of our youth is applying for International Service Projects, taking more in depth college classes, working, and studying vocal performance.

These are **just a few** of the things the youth in our congregation are doing. You may be wondering why I am listing these things to you. It is because I want to highlight the **great things that God is doing** in the lives of our youth. There are many children in the world today who are not as blessed to have a **community of faith, families** who love and support them, and the **opportunities** our youth have.

Last but **not** least, I would like to thank the **parents and grandparents** of these wonderful children of God. Without you, these youth might not be the people they are today. May God continue to bless these young people as they

grow in their lives and in their faith in a God who is **always there** for them and who **loves** them so very much. Jesus asked the question: **DO YOU LOVE ME????** I would say for these youth the answer is a **resounding YES**—*thanks be to God.* **AMEN.**