

St. Matthew's/Hope VBS/Soccer Camp

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

BIBLE STORY TODAY: Acts 9 Paul's Conversion



On the last day of camp we are ready to start playing the game of soccer. All the skills we learned are going to be put to use in playing the game. We are excited and ready to put that knowledge to use. It will be a lot of fun to get on the field and attain the goal.

As we end the camp we also look at the lessons we learned about our faith. What we learned is how we are lost sinners, redeemed by the suffering and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are born sinners as **Psalm 51:5** says, **"In sin did my mother conceive me"**.

We are all lost sinners able to do nothing to help ourselves in any way. It is the Holy Spirit "who calls us to faith, than strengthens and enlightens us the one true faith". (Luther's explanation of the third article) What a wonderful gift of a graceful and merciful God. He calls us to faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, strengthens us by the Word of God in the Bible. We hear the Word when we attend church and read our Bibles, attend Bible study and do our own devotion study each day. We are helped by our parents, grandparents and relatives, friends and our workers at church and Christian Day School.

In our lesson for today we see how God took one of the biggest enemies of the new Christian Church, Saul of Tarsus, and by direct intervention called him to be the faithful servant Paul. Paul was to be one of the most important servants of God in the spread of the Word throughout the Middle East.

We too have great joy in learning we are children of God called to be His own. It is that joy that causes us to want to carry out God's wish for all the world. He commanded us to **go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, (Matthew 28:19-20)**, and He gives us His promise that is such a comfort, **I will surely be with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20)**. No matter what, God will always be beside us as we travel in this world till the very last day when Jesus comes again to take all believers to heaven.

"Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?"

Galatians 3:3



Thank You Jesus for Taking Away Our Sins

