

Summer Fun and Education at Hilltop

Both the annual summer camp and our Vacation Bible School were huge successes at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center.

Center Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh reports that our third annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) ran from August 11th through the 14th and enrollment ran right up to the starting day.

“This year’s VBS topic (was) Serving with the Fruits of the Spirit, connecting the challenges and victories of Joseph with the fruits of the Spirit.” The school ran from 5:30 to 7 each evening and included dinner.

As for the summer camp, Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, said the camp began with a student “pre-assessment in reading.”

“In partnership with United Way, we received four literacy Interns to assist with the one-on-one reading intervention program we used this summer. Campers continued to complete amazing STREAM activities aimed at teaching the scientific method and how science and math concepts are a part of everyday life.”

Among those “everyday life” lessons were the “Recycling Game- The children learned what items are recyclable (ex: glass, plastic, paper/cardboard, metals and non-recyclables) by sorting them into the correct labeled bins provided. Dinosaur Soap Lab - Creating different dinosaur shapes molded from soap all while learning fascinating facts about dinosaurs. Science Specimen Center (Birds)- A hands- on activity that teaches about making observations, recognizing the characteristics of birds, the use of scientific tools and being able to identify major parts of animals.”

Teresa also says nutrition was a hot topic among the campers with assistance from the University of Delaware. “UD Cooperative Extension hosted fun cooking-based activities during the week. Campers learned how to make nutritious snacks and meals. Other fun nutrition-based activities included grocery store bingo, and a health food scavenger hunt.”

Finally, this reminder from Bandon, the “Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center will host an inaugural *Hilltop Heroes Gala*. Board members, Hilltop staff, community members, and more have all been encouraged to gather at the Riverfront Events on Saturday, September 20, 2025. Our organization’s goal is to sell at least 100 tickets to secure funding to go towards the various efforts of community enrichment. This year’s heroes are County Councilman Jea P. Street, Heidi Beck, and Gordon and Fran Fisher. The

evening will consist of impactful words from our keynote speaker, and Hilltop alum, Dr. Daman Harris. There will also be various forms of entertainment throughout the evening.” Tickets may be purchased through PayPal via this link:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/SZTGNF6FGDRMY>

Eric F. Mease

Member, Board of Directors

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

