

May 16, 2010 – Seventh Sunday of Easter
Address by Connor Lewis, member of the 12th grade class

Good morning.

My name is Connor Lewis. You may know me, and if you do it's probably from the football or baseball field where I spend much of my time. I tell you this because I have played on many different teams and today I would like to talk to you about playing on the most important team of all: God's team.

While playing on teams I have noticed two different types of players. There are those who are on the team to just wear the uniform, take pictures, and take part in the celebrations. These people do the bare minimum just to be on the team and sometimes it's just to be "cool". Then there are players who actually WANT to play and give it their all during practice. This person is the one who takes time to practice on his or her own, asks questions on how they can get better, and listens to their coach. They have a true passion for the game and will do whatever it takes to play and be successful. If a player doesn't practice they get "rusty" and don't perform to their maximum potential.

Just like a sport has a team, God has a team. There are people who just want to wear the uniform and do the bare minimum to be considered a "Christian" so they fit in with their friends. So when a friend asks if you are a Christian you can say, "yea I am a Christian. I go to church." These people may know all of the prayers by heart in the Book of Common Prayer but may not sincerely pray and mean it. They might forget the sermon by the end of lunch. Throughout the week, they don't practice to improve their faith, and instead live for themselves.

I was once told that sitting in your garage won't make you a car, and sitting in church won't make you a Christian.

Instead, we are called by God to be the person who goes to church and takes every word to heart. A person who prays outside of church and practices what the Bible teaches. We should want to get involved in positive activities within the church, work, or even at school. We should constantly practice, in order to improve our faith. We need to share the word of God with friends and family, and want to be a team player. This is what will transform us into Christians.

I recently joined God's team about a year ago when I just so happened to be down at the beach at the same time as our youth beach trip. I wasn't on it but I was at my aunt's beach house in Garden City and my brother knew some of the people on the trip. He would go down to the house and come home late at night with a big smile on his face. He looked like he was having a good time while I was hanging around the house and going down to the beach with my family. I became curious because I always love to have a good time no matter what I'm doing or where I am! I asked if I could go with him one day and surprisingly he allowed me to join him. I met Brian Silldorff for the first time and he seemed like a good guy who always was having fun. I didn't really know him so I sort of kept to myself which didn't last too long because if you know Brian he won't allow it. From then on we started to talk and he kept talking about God and the whole time he would relate it to something fun. One night I was sitting alone with Brian on the porch and we started to talk about life. Come to find out we have gone through a lot of the same things and he kept telling me "just keep praying and everything will work out." I thought about what he said the rest of the weekend. The last day I was remembering the whole weekend and thought

about how much we prayed. It didn't take long for me to realize that we prayed before everything we did and that was a TON of praying. I also realized that we were hard at practice trying to be a team player and were helping each other become a better Christian. Last fall Brian came to me and asked me if I wanted to become a Youth Advisor for the 8th Grade boys. I was really busy with my football and wasn't sure if I had the time or could make any time. I thought about what Brian said, so I started to pray every night and hoped that I would be able to make the right decision. Finally I told Brian that I would love to be an advisor and will try my hardest to help the Junior EYC. For the first time in my life I went to an EYC and it was as an advisor. I had no clue what to do so I watched and followed directions because I was scared to mess up. Brian was my teacher or coach, which made me want to become a team player, act like myself, and of course have a good time! He taught me that there is more to being a Christian than just memorizing the big book we know as the Bible. Although knowing the Bible is a good way to practice being a Christian he said one of the best ways to practice is with fun and fellowship. I have been lucky to have such a good coach who made me wanted to become a coach of my 8th grade boys. My baseball coach always told me if you notice a person who seems to be doing everything right you need to hang out with them and ask them if they have any tips that can help you. I kept trying my hardest to hang out with my new "Coach" so that some of his good vibes could rub off on me and I could become as good a coach as him. I am on Brian's team of advisors but most importantly I keep trying everyday to PLAY on Gods team, the team with the best Coach of all.

The main message I want to share is that just by being here in this church, means you are on the team, have a uniform, and get in the picture. My challenge for you

is if you find you are on the bench, you need to get to work so you can get on the field and PLAY, because that's where God wants you to be. CAN I GET AN AMEN?!