



AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, Erin May (above left) sat on Amber Mason's lap while she looked over Sage Lohofener's workbook. Alex Bauer (below left) helped measure salt with Lilly Rippe while the kids made brownie mix for the Decatur County Food Pantry.



Kids learn about Jesus and service

Kids learned about Jesus and service work through projects and lessons every morning last week during the annual community Vacation Bible School.

The week-long event, with the theme "StudioGo," centered around the idea that it was like a television studio with three hosts, played by Daniel Jordan, Ethan Merrill and Cheryl Soderlund.

There was music each day, with Susan and Makenzie Nelson in charge.

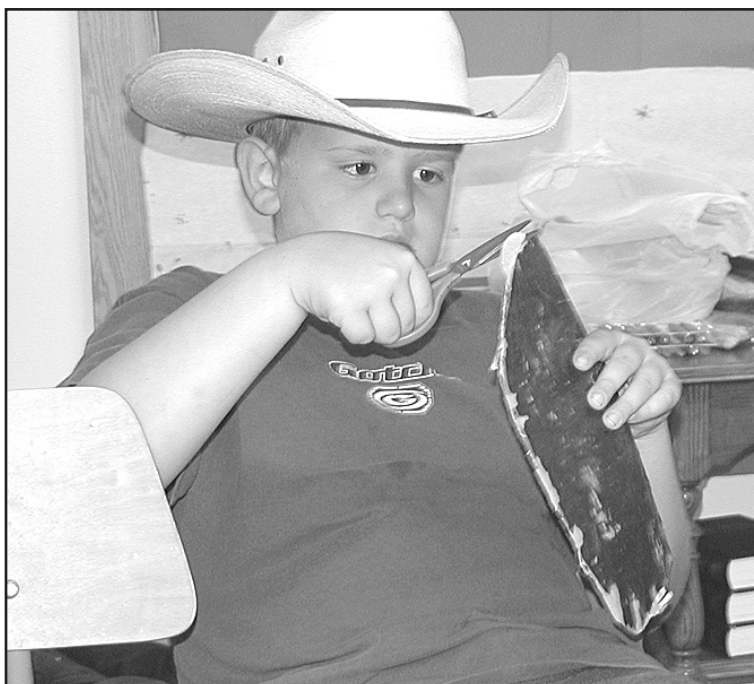
The kids, said Johanna Mason, who helped with the school, did service projects throughout the week, including making brownie mixes in big jars for the Decatur County Food Pantry, decorating luminary sacks for the upcoming Relay for Life, making centerpiece for the Good Samaritan Center dining rooms, and making posters thanking firemen, policemen and hospital staff for what they do.

Mrs. Mason said the kids also brought in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, raising around \$200.

The money, she said, will be used to buy backpacks, pencils and papers to send to the House of Hope in Haiti. Mrs. Mason, who traveled to Haiti this spring with her husband, Pastor Doug Mason, said the ministry is trying to open two new schools.

Pastor Mason said Studio Go brought in about 75 kids throughout the week, averaging in the 50s each day.

Adult volunteers from the sponsoring churches – including Lund Covenant, Oberlin Covenant, United Methodist, St. John's Lutheran, Church of Christ, United and Faith Lutheran – helped with the activities. Vacation Bible School provides a way to have a concentrated message with Biblical teaching and instruction in a fun way, said Mrs. Mason.



— Story and photos by Kimberly Davis

WITH SCISSORS in his hand, Dustin Nichols (above) cut his art project. Downstairs in the United Methodist Church, Alana Raile (left) ate cake baked in an ice-cream cone. Ethan Merrill (right) counted money collected for a service project.