

A lot of times adults don't pay full attention to what kids think. Perhaps it's because kids spend so much time in school that we figure they don't know as much as we do. But then every once in a while a kid will say something special, and it's like, "Oh, my gosh. There's more wisdom here than I realized." We appreciate them more.

A lot of times kids don't fully appreciate other kids. They make fun of each other; they get into fights; they say things that hurt each other. But then every once in a while a kid realizes what friendship is. It's something you work at and something you never take for granted.

Luke was our friend. Somehow we thought he'd always be there. We may not have realized how special he was.

Luke was lively. He wanted to try everything, and he wanted it all to go right the first time he tried it. He climbed things and he jumped off things. Luke probably spent as much time in the air as he did on the ground. It seemed like some part of his body was always in a cast. He climbed doorways; he jumped off tables and freezers; he leapt off the high dive feet first, back first – face first; a couple years ago his ATV wrecked; a couple months ago he fell out of a tree; and the day before he died he notched a personal best in the long jump. Luke was Spiderman. He was never afraid to try something.

He won awards at school that made adults proud. He collected CDs that drove adults crazy. But he knew what was important: he helped people in need; he said thanks to those who loved him; he prayed at home and at church; and he wanted world peace.

Luke wouldn't want us to remain sad. His whole life preached the virtue of enthusiasm. There was more wisdom here than we realized.

Jesus prayed, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. "

Jesus reveals wise things to those who have faith. We are here today because we believe this wisdom: "We shall be changed." Paul wrote this to the Corinthians: "The dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. Where, O death, is your victory? Where is your sting?" The victory belongs to Christ. Christ jumps farther than death can reach.

It's important to live a complete life. It is important to treasure every day, to build friendships, to tell people what they mean to us, to have fun, to learn stuff at school, to test the limits of our abilities, to love our family and to worship God. It's all important, and it all makes life complete, no matter how old or young we are.

Today we appreciate how special Luke was. And that's what God thinks of each one of us. Jesus lived and died to share this wisdom with us: This life prepares us for eternal life – a lively, enthusiastic eternal life.