

Children's programs

After initiating the idea in 2019, Children's Sunday school classes during Church worship services resumed on Jan. 12. A commitment to review this method had been made when launching the plan, so an evaluation was carried out in January. The feedback from parents and volunteers regarding this means of Sunday School delivery was very positive, so it was decided that Children's classes would continue in this manner until June.

In February, Cindy worked on starting an after school club of singing, Bible Study, and snacks at the church, with the intent of running once/month sessions, coinciding with the Parent Council Meetings at the school. Initially, a lack of Volunteer support limited plans, then AHS restrictions made it virtually impossible to carry on with the idea at that time.

As a means of reaching out to community families, Ann sent follow-up cards to the school children who had participated in the Bell Tower Club activities.

Initially, VBS plans were to partner with Christian Fellowship Assembly, using the Group **Rocky Railway Jesus' Power Pulls us Through** material, however, AHS restrictions in March impeded planning. Upon learning that CFA had decided to cancel VBS, intending to do the Rocky Railway program at another time, we decided to save our Rocky Railway program for partnering with CFA when they choose to use it in the future. Rocky Railway Student materials for 10 preschool and 30 elementary students were ordered, in order to be sure they would be available when needed.

Through prayerful waiting on God's direction, and as restrictions lightened, we eventually carried out a smaller, in-person VBS using the Kingdom Caper material, found in storage from a past year. The program ran on Tuesday, Aug. 18 and Thursday, Aug 20 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. We were very pleased to have 17 children participate, including about half who are connected to our church and the other half who were visitors.

Thank you to the VBS volunteers/staff: Ann, Brenda, Cindy, Student Pastor Darcy, Emma, Jess, Justine, Kirstin, Margaret, Noah, Olivia, and Roxy!

Sunday school during church resumed Sept. 13 with Cindy, Laura, and Jess as teachers. Invitations were sent to children who attended VBS. When restrictions on worship services were tightened and our in-person worship services were suspended, children's classes were put on hold. Online efforts (emails and Facebook posts) were made in an effort to reach out to our families. In December, our online Christmas program was developed; this VELC kids' narrated and dramatized presentation of *Donkey Daniel in Bethlehem* was posted to our church Facebook page. Thanks to Cindy, Jess, and the children for putting this together!

Thank you to all of these devoted Children's ministry volunteers!

Adult Sunday School

Carrying on with one of the SMART plan commitments, Roxy lead the corporate prayer time Sunday's at 9:30, as well as the Adult class which followed at 9:45. The class studied Henry Blackaby's program, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the will of God*. As restrictions at first tightened, and then loosened, the class adapted and was able to finish the program in June.

In the fall, it was agreed to change the Sunday Morning corporate prayer time (10:30 a.m.) to follow the adult class (9:30 a.m.). Ann Friesen agreed to be the facilitator, with Roxy as sub. The adult class finished *God Heard Their Cry* and *Fire on the Mountain*, both from Ray Vander Laan's Faith Lessons series.

Thank you to these ladies for this ministry!

Annual joint ParishEd and Deacons meeting

As per the constitution, the ParishEd and Deacon boards held their annual joint meeting on Aug. 31. The VLC SMART plan was reviewed, noting that some items were impacted by restrictions, but we were able to hold VBS. The Sunday Morning Prayer group was reviewed and encouraged to continue with minor adjustments.

Student Pastor Darcy, Chris, and Sarah made plans to start a youth/young adult group.

Confirmation was discussed and it was decided to advertise that it would be offered, if there was interest.

We would love to hear from you regarding areas of study which interest you or ways we could be supporting your Children's Bible learning.

Praise God for the wonder of His word!

*O shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11*

Please continue to pray for God's guidance for our ParishEd ministry activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene Kochendorfer

ParishEd Chair