

# 6/13/21 VBS SUNDAY/WORSHIP SERVICE

## OFFERING PRAYER – PASTOR LOIS

Thank you God, for your amazing love. Thank you for family, for friends, for plenty of food and clothing and houses to live in. As we give our offerings of money and time and energy and effort at church and with the people of the church, we ask for you to bless our offerings. We want to share your love by giving our offerings. We thank you for opportunities to give. Amen.

## 6th GRADE VBS –

I invite Nathaniel Schmucker and the sixth graders to come and join me up here now. They are Jayley Schmidt (Et Cetera), Natalie Church (New Hope Shelter), Cali Stucky (relief kits) and Eli Gaeddert (MCC). We met together for three days from 9-3:30. In the mornings we got in the van and drove to Tabor to pick up their group of 6 sixth graders and a pastor and we went to do a service project. Tuesday we went to the Mennonite Central Committee, Wednesday we went to the Et Cetera Shop and Thursday we went to the New Hope Shelter. Each student is going to tell about what we did at each of those places...

We were welcomed back to the Shelter House each day with a wonderful lunch prepared by Janice Voth – we were ready to eat and we surely appreciated her cooking yummy meals for us each day!

After lunch Nathaniel got the technology figured out so that we could watch 10-15 minute dvd's done by a pastor named Rob Bell. There was a theme in each one – helping us to think about how God is always with us, how God forgives us when we mess up, how God has created and loves each one of us and how we can make daily decisions about how to live our lives in ways that shows God's love to others. And then we did some activities that kind of illustrated or acted out these themes. We also played Dutch Blitz and some other games.

I'm so grateful to have had this time this week with these students – they are thoughtful, creative, funny, hard working and caring. I'm looking forward to spending more time with in the future and getting to know them even better.

And now they each have some thoughts to share about our service assignments.

What things do you have to share with one another this morning?

- Deacons invite everyone on July 4 – Marilyn.
- Thanks to Steve Unruh on sound/tech – he was here much of Friday morning making adjustments and getting the set-up just right.
- Maryanne Esau sent information about her brother, Phil and niece, Abby's services. This Friday, June 18 will be the visitation from 6-8 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church in Lindsborg. On Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> Abby's classmates will gather from 10-11:30 in the morning for a time of remembrance and a butterfly release. The funeral for Phil and Abby together will be at 2:00 on Saturday afternoon at the Bethany Lutheran Church.

## MORNING PRAYER –

O God, we thank you for your beautiful creation – for creating our world and everything in it, including this place where we're gathered right now. We thank you for each person who's here this morning and for those who participated in VBS this week but couldn't be here today. We thank you for sending Jesus into the world and for the power that he gives us – to do hard things, to give us hope, to help us be bold, to let us live forever, to help us be good friends. Thank you for all that we learned together this week, students and grown-ups alike – for the ways our faith grew and the ways we felt your presence with us. Help us to remember what we learned and continue to be with us as we learn and grow in our faith in the days and weeks to come.

We pray for anyone who might be sad or hurting. We pray for Dan Bergen and his family and friends as we grieve the loss of Joyce. We're grateful for her life and all that she has meant to us. We pray for the family and friends of Ben Davis. Be especially with his children in the days and weeks to come. Be with anyone who needs comfort or healing, dear God.

We pray for those who will be going to Camp Mennoscah this week. Help them to have a great time and to learn about Jesus. Be with Jaxson, with Gage, with Grace and with Peter and the other counselors and staff.

Be with all of us now, God – as we play and have lunch together. Be with us in the week to come. Help us to show your love to everyone we meet. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## MEAL BLESSING AND BENEDICTION –

Announcements -

If you haven't had a chance to go into the building to see the set that was created for our week of Rocky Railway I encourage you to go inside and take a look around. It'll give you an even deeper appreciation for all the ways the children were surrounded by the love and effort of the team who put together this week of VBS.

Instructions for lunch – enter the Shelter House through the NW door, go through the serving line and then exit through the north door.

Let's pray. God, please bless this food that has been prepared and that we are about to eat. Give us thankful and generous hearts so that we can be bold in sharing your love. Give us eyes that see you in this world and ears that hear you and hearts that love and follow you. Amen.