

06-12-2022 WORSHIP SERVICE

VBS PROGRAM & CHILDREN'S DAY

MORNING PRAYER – PASTOR LOIS HARDER

We have heard and seen the children proclaim the greatness of your love, God, and we wholeheartedly add our voices to theirs. We thank you and praise you for the many ways, obvious and mysterious, that you make your presence known to us. Thank you, God, for the children and their families who experienced your love through VBS this week, here and at Tabor and many other churches who hosted Bible School. Thank you for the Jr Hi students and their leaders who participated in Camp 412 two weeks ago. May your Spirit continue to move in the lives of all the students, becoming increasingly significant as they grow and change with whatever life brings. Thank you, God, for our VBS directors, Gayle, Brianna and Chrystiana – bless them now with rest and a sense of contentment and gratitude for a job well-done. Thank you for all the volunteers – an effort like Bible School cannot happen without the many volunteers who give of their time, energy and resources. We thank you and ask for your blessing on those who will volunteer to help create meaningful experiences with you, God, at Camp Mennoscah. We pray for Jacob, Timothy, Lizzie and Peter who will work at Camp this week. We also ask for your blessing on the campers and other staff as they seek you and find you in the midst of your creation and as your Spirit moves among them. O God, you created us with the need for one another, for your Spirit-filled community – thank you for experiences like VBS and Camp when we work and worship and follow you faithfully together.

Thank you, God, for mile-markers in our lives, days and occasions when we can reflect, rejoice and give thanks. Days like birthdays and anniversaries. This morning we thank you particularly for Dennis and Norma Duerksen and their 50 years together of loving one another, loving you, and sharing that love with so many people. Thank you for others who are celebrating anniversaries, birthdays or other meaningful days that mark your faithfulness to us through the passage of time.

We are grateful, God, for organizations like Mennonite Disaster Service, Mennonite Central Committee and others that provide opportunities for us to work together for good. Bless the kitchen-cabinet-building that is starting right here in Goessel, where real action can be taken to help those in need.

Even as we bring our joys and praises to you, loving God, we acknowledge the deep grief and pain in our lives, our communities and our world. Be with those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Be with those who are sick and in need of your healing. O God, be present with those who are in prison or in trouble. Be with all leaders everywhere around your world, God. Give them your wisdom, your compassion, let your Spirit move within them as they make decisions that will affect so many.

And now we pray together, God, as Jesus taught us... Our Father, who art in heaven...