

Vacation Bible School 2020

VBS is "cancelled"! Now what?

After much prayer, the decision was made in late April that our traditional in-person Vacation Bible School would not be possible in 2020. It was a difficult decision and, at the time, seemed very disappointing. VBS has always been an opportunity to reach the children in our community and congregation with the love of Jesus. The challenges of COVID-19 made it clear that we would need to do this in new and creative ways in 2020.

With lots of prayer and brainstorming, plans began for an online VBS that included a series of videos plus take-home kits with all the necessary supplies. Registration opened, plans were underway and things got BUSY! An amazing team of volunteers including Lyn Wolff, Tammy and Ava Green, Rachel Moore, James and Jessica Williams and Jordan Gilbertson began working to plan and record the videos for the various VBS stations including Bible stories, crafts, snacks, imagination station, missions and more.

At the same time, the ordering of supplies began! Another team of volunteers including Grace and Jay Milbrath, Michelle Gilbertson and Linda Easto began to assemble boxes and supplies.



The boxes (and the mess) start to grow and grow!



We kept praying, our members kept inviting, and the registration numbers kept growing! In the end, 385 boxes were prepared. Each box included six bags of supplies (one per day plus a "start here" bag). If you do the math, that's 2,310 labeled bags of supplies! Wow!

Partnership with LINC

Reaching kids around Houston!

In late May, we contacted Dorinda Werner, a Director of Christian Education who serves with LINC Houston. LINC is a ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) that specializes in reaching and empowering those who are often overlooked and need the most support. Houston is a large city with 1 in 4 residents being foreign born. LINC believes in true grassroots empowerment. Church planting is a major focus of the work of LINC Houston, with over 50 churches planted, impacting thousands of people with the gospel.

LINC reached out to the churches they support in the Houston area. Through Dorinda's work, over 100 students from seven LINC

supported churches registered for Epiphany's Vacation Bible School!

Through this partnership, Epiphany reached

children we could have never reached with our traditional program!



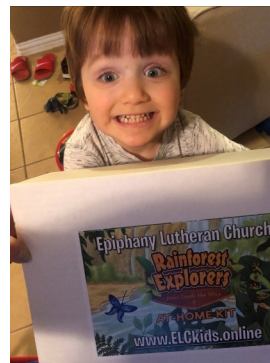
God is SO GOOD!

Take-Home Kits Distributed

*Defeating COVID—Safely
sending out God's Word!*



In mid-June, it was time for the VBS kits to go home with the kids! Some kits were mailed to kids across the country including Wisconsin, Louisiana and Georgia!



Many more kits were safely delivered to the kids through our drive-thru, pick-up line!

*It was
great to
see the
kids'
smiles!*



It's Time for Vacation Bible School

Let the fun and learning begin!

With the kits distributed and the videos made, VBS was ready to begin. From June 22-26, new videos were posted each day on Epiphany's YouTube page to guide the children through VBS.



VBS Reaches Out

God's love keeps spreading!



The kids at VBS were challenged to be missionaries in their homes and communities. They collected trash to take care of God's creation, brought donations for Christian Helping Hands, wrote encouraging notes to far-away friends and family and even found ways to serve their families at home!



Thanks to Dorinda Werner and LINC for sharing the VBS videos with the leaders of an orphanage in Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The kids did not have the VBS kits but the leaders used Epiphany's videos to teach the Bible stories and truths to the children!



How awesome is our God!!

On Day 3 of VBS, the children learned the Bible truth that Jesus is with us! God demonstrated this truth again through VBS. Jesus is always with us and He is not limited to the four walls of a church. In a time when Epiphany's physical doors are closed, the Church is still open and God's Word is still powerful! Please continue to pray for all of the seeds sown during VBS.