



St. James Baden hosts VBS

Effort is one of three schools offered locally to children this summer

By Laura Prust

Three Nith Valley Ministry Area churches bravely stepped into the unknown to offer their respective communities a full-day VBS experience: Bethany Woodstock, St James New Dundee, and St James Baden.

A ton of fun was had playing the three sports, basketball, ball hockey and soccer and sharing the good news of Jesus' story under the theme 'God's Rescue Mission'.

Key take-aways for churches considering this outreach for 2018 and beyond:

Hire Scripture Union, the Christian organization we partnered with for the curriculum, sports equipment, programming and

leadership expertise. All three churches found Scripture Union to be a phenomenal, top-notch partner in delivering a high-quality, fun-packed, faith-based week

Partner with other churches and/or organizations around you to expand your promotional reach and build important working relationships

Fundraise ahead to cover some of the costs so that you can offer a lower cost to campers as part of your outreach ministry.

If at any time you want to bounce ideas around or have questions on this experience, please feel free to contact Laura Prust, camp co-ordinator at St. James in Baden. Her email address is lauraprust@gmail.com



Celebrating Luther's 500th anniversary

There was much mirth and merriment at the 500th anniversary celebrations of Martin Luther's Reformation in the Nith Valley Ministry Area recently.

Organizers from the 14 churches that the area comprises worked together to host a Reformation Fair and medieval feast on Saturday, Nov. 18 followed by a Reformation service on Sunday, Nov. 19.

Events were held at the Shakespeare Community Centre. Thanks to all who donated their time, talents and baking to help make this wonderful event happen.

Also a big thank you to Bishop Michael Pryse and the synod for providing funding to support these events.

See the following pages for photos taken at the two-day event.



Photos
by
Brenda
Hoerle





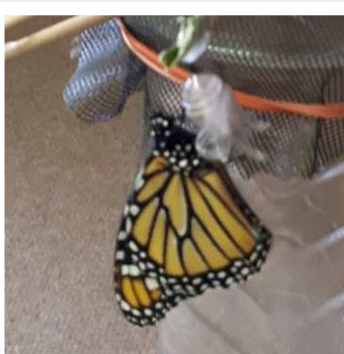
Our medieval feast





250 at Reformation worship





What's new in Sunday School

Monarch butterfly makes surprise visit during BBQ lunch

In Sunday School, we at Zion Philipsburg explored creation and the amazing world that God created for us to live in and take care in September.

Our pollinator garden out front of the church hosted several monarch caterpillars this summer. One of them hatched out before our very eyes at a soup and sandwich luncheon, so people of all ages got a chance to see the crumpled up butterfly emerge from its chrysalis.

It then spent some time stretching and drying off before preparing to fly to

Mexico to winter there. It's an amazing journey the monarch butterfly makes every summer, only to have several generations of butterflies make the return trip to Canada next summer.

This butterfly was tagged as part of a University of Kansas research project, which helps experts study the migration patterns of the butterfly, which is endangered.

Please consider planting your own monarch butterfly/pollinator garden at your church to help boost this amazing creature's declining population. For more information, contact Brenda Hoerle at hoerledale@rogers.com or call 519-746-4273.

Got a neat story and photos you'd like to share about life at your church?

Please send it to

nvmacommunications@gmail.com so we can share it in an upcoming newsletter.



Meet youth worker Heidi Van Schaik

The Nith Valley Ministry Area (NVMA) leadership team is pleased to announce that Heidi Van Schaik has been hired for the Youth Worker position in the ministry area.

Heidi has a wealth of experience in youth ministry.

She facilitated youth ministry at St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kitchener for 17 years, has participated in National Youth Gatherings, chaired two Synodical Youth Gatherings at Camp Edgewood, and co-facilitates Bridges Vacation Bible School, a multi-congregational joint VBS venture.

Heidi's organizational and communication skills will be a real asset to building community, especially within the NVMA.

As Youth Worker, Heidi will be tasked with: organizing and facilitating monthly activities for the 14 congregations of the NVMA; introducing herself to the 14



congregations through parish visits; connecting with youth via social media; and working with congregations to help support their ongoing individual youth ministry initiatives.

Heidi began her one-year contract on August 21.

Funding for this position comes from a Synod Mission Grant, further subsidized by NVMA congregations.

Please join the NVMA leadership team in welcoming Heidi to our ministry area.

And if you want to be included in her NVMA Youth web page or have some ideas to share, email Heidi at hvanschaik@rogers.com.

Save the date for Sunday, January 14th at 1 pm! We will have a meeting on that day at Trinity New Hamburg, for anyone interested in attending CLAY, the Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering happening in Thunder Bay this summer.

Please invite your youth and families to attend. Our hope is to all travel together out to Thunder Bay, and to have one awesome NVMA contingency!

Who we are

Nith Valley Youth encompass Youth from grades 7-12 and their leaders, joining together from 14 Lutheran congregations within the ELCIC. We join together from Stratford, Milverton, Woodstock, New Dundee, New Hamburg, Tavistock, Wellesley, Baden, St. Agatha, East Zorra, Gad's Hill, Milverton and Philipsburg and surrounding areas. We know that when 2 or more are gathered, we can do incredible

things...imagine what we can do when we come together from 14 different congregations?

Where are we going?

We know that when two or more are gathered, we can do incredible things ... imagine what we can do when we come together from 14 different congregations. Together, we can support each other's youth initiatives, make connections with other groups and grow Youth Ministry within Nith Valley.

By Pastor Bonnie Schelter-Brown

At the October Shared Ministry meeting of the Nith Valley Ministry Area, we looked at what we have done and where we are headed.

After thoughtful conversation there was consensus that we can't simply talk about sharing ministry so we have renamed our Shared Ministry group to the ACTION Committee.

Note that the ACT portion of the word is capitalized.

We did this to represent that we...

Act Courageously Together

The things that we felt we could do better together are:

Sub Themes / ACT Themes:

- A Cause Together
- All Crafters Together
- All Cooks Together
- All Christmas Together
- All Comforter Knotters Together

- Act Creatively together
- Art Class Together
- A Choir Together
- A Car Rally Together

If we do these things together, we will start to get to know each other better, share our gifts, and if we have a fundraising event, we could use those funds to make our community better.

Please come and join us as we ACT TOGETHER.

The 14 churches comprising Nith Valley Ministry Area are:

1. Bethany Lutheran Church, Woodstock
www.bethanywoodstock.ca
2. Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hamburg, www.telc.ca
3. Zion Lutheran Church, Philipsburg
www.philipsburglutheranchurch.ca
4. St. James Lutheran Church, Baden
www.stjamesinbaden.org
5. Zion Lutheran Church, St. Agatha



6. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Wellesley,
www.stmarkswellesley.ca
7. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, East Zorra
8. St. James Lutheran Church, New Dundee
www.stjamesnewdundee.com
9. Trinity Lutheran Church, Tavistock, 519-655-2372.
10. St. James Lutheran Church, Perth East, www.stjamesneh.ca
11. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Brunner, 519-595-4689
12. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Gadshill, 519-502-8381
13. Zion Lutheran Church, Stratford,
www.zionstratford.com
14. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Milverton, 519-595-8357