

April/May 2020 Staff Ministry Update

Church School

- A virtual church school gathering has been offered every other week through May 17. 20-25 families participate for the 20-minute session that includes prayer, bible story, reflection and music.
- A “Games and Gather” Zoom session for 3rd-5th grades has been offered twice, with one remaining, to offer additional discussion and fellowship for older church school kids. 10-12 kids have participated.
- Kids Connect site continues to be a resource for families. Additional devotions, music and enrichment were added for Easter.

Baptisms

- A virtual baptism class was held on Sun May 17 following worship
- When appropriate, 6 baptisms originally scheduled for March-May will be rescheduled

Other Children’s Ministry Highlights

- Over 75 treat bags were delivered in a safe, socially distant manner, to Good Shepherd children ages 3 – 5th grade by Easter bunny (Eric Holmer) and Rick Blum. Treat bags had originally been assembled for the Easter Egg hunt that was cancelled
- Katie, Beth, and Joanne have started research for possibility of virtual VBS or VBS to-go materials.
- COVID-19 task force meeting on May 17 to help provide guidelines for moving forward with programming.

Middle School

- Virtual lunches have continued weekly with 8-20 attendees each time, most of whom are 6th graders.
- About half of the Amped small groups have gathered online with some frequency. Most groups do plan on breaking over the summer though.
- 8th grade families have been notified that if school resumes in the fall, we’ll wrap up confirmation gatherings and celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism on October 18th. If, at that point we are still not able to gather, we’ll find a creative way to make it happen.
- 8th graders will be given a chance to connect with other 8th graders in a zoom gathering each month over the summer. Because of their unique space of heading out of middle school and into high school but not quite there yet, we wanted to give them their own time.

High School

- Virtual lunches have continued weekly with 2-8 attendees each time. Should the average attendees decline, we’ll re-examine if this is a good way to touch base with folks.
- Senior lunches with Sarah started in April and have happened on a biweekly basis. This grew out of the realization that seniors had a unique experience of loss within this pandemic and they needed a space to talk about it together.
- Online youth group moved from Friday nights that we had started in March to the typical Wednesday time (8pm). We’ve had 8-20 attendees each time.
- The high school Pine Ridge summer trip is assumed to be canceled, but Sarah may take the trip in August with the God’s Work, Our Hands group depending on permittance/safety to do so.