

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

VBS SHARES

AUGUST 2, 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shivon: Welcome to “Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School Shares” Sunday!

A quick technology note: Make sure you have your Zoom on “gallery view” today. If you find and click on the button in your upper corner that looks like 9 little squares stacked up, that will enable you to see everyone in worship. If we take up more than one screen you can click on the little arrow on the side of your screen to page over and see more Zoom windows. You will see we have some of our VBS families joining us this morning.

Last weekend we delivered VBS resource kits, dressed as engineers and blowing our train whistles, to families that registered to join us for Rocky Railway Online VBS this year. 23 children and youth and additional leaders and parents met on Zoom every morning at 9am this past week. We pretended each of these little Zoom boxes was our own little train car. Let’s welcome each other to worship this morning by waving from our little boxcars. **(kids wave)**

Shivon: Each day we learned a different Bible Point. After hearing our Bible Point, we would pull our train whistle and yell “Trust Jesus!” **(demonstrate the “TRUST JESUS!” response)** Our Call to worship shares our Bible Points from this week. We invite you to pull your whistles and shout the response “TRUST JESUS!”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus’ power helps us do hard things.

TRUST JESUS! **(pull train whistle)**

Jesus’ power gives us hope.

TRUST JESUS! **(pull train whistle)**

Jesus’ power helps us be bold.

TRUST JESUS! **(pull train whistle)**

Jesus’ power goes on forever.

TRUST JESUS! **(pull train whistle)**

Jesus’ power helps us be good friends

TRUST JESUS! **(pull train whistle)**

Jesus - on this Rocky Railway of life, you have the power to pull us through!

Thanks be to God!

Shivon: While it is difficult to share music on Zoom because of our signal differences, each day we learned the lyrics and actions for this year’s songs. Kids then each had a CD in their home or could go onto our Facebook page and sing and dance along with the music videos. We are going to share with you the chorus lyrics and actions. We encourage you to go online and sing the songs later.

GATHERING SONG: “Your Power Will Pull Us Through” (join in saying the lyrics and doing the actions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xS48-KihC0>

We trust, we trust, we trust in you Jesus (two handed downward pull, then point up)
You’re all, You’re all, You’re all that we need. (one hand out to each side and round up in circle)

Your power will pull us through. (arms showing strength, pull up from ground)

We’re trusting in you! (trust pull and point)

We’re trusting in you! (trust pull and point)

You give us hope (fist into hands)

and life that’s forever. (lift arms up in air for forever)

You make us bold. (jump, arms up in air)

And we stand together. (hands on hips)

Your power will pull us through. (strong arms, pull from ground)

We’re trusting in you! (trust pull and point)

We’re trusting in you! (trust pull and point)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: (Per joins as Cam Track)

Shivon: Each day Cam Track, the engineer on the Rocky Railway, joined us. Cam is going to lead us in our Confession and Forgiveness by telling us a little about his week:

Cam Track (Per): Hello Trinity and good to see you again Rocky Railway travelers. This has been a busy week.

On Monday, there was a rockslide in the mountains where I drive my train. Many big boulders blocked the track, stopping the train from moving down the mountain. At first I thought I could move those boulders on my own. Turns out that is hard work.

Shivon: God forgive us when think we can do things on our own.

Per: On Tuesday, the whole community had helped clear the rockslide but the tracks were damaged. It was going to take even longer to get back on the rails. I was really discouraged.

Shivon: God forgive us when we are impatient for signs of good news and lose sight of hope.

Per: On Wednesday, the tracks were repaired and I realized that meant I could drive that train up the steepest mountain and down into the deepest valley I’d ever journeyed through before. I became really nervous.

Shivon: God forgive us when our fears take over. Give us courage. Remind us that you go with us through our mountain highs and valley lows.

Per: By Thursday, I had completed my trek up the mountain and through the valley and made my delivery. I was in a hurry to return to my friends at VBS so I tried to make my steam train go faster. But we ran out of coal, so the train ran out of steam and I ran out of energy.

Shivon: Forgive us when we depend on our own power alone, when we try to push things to happen on our own time and in our own way, instead of trusting you.

Per: On Friday, as we prepared for our next journey, we hired a new fireman on the train crew. We will be working together everyday. I shared with my friends that this was going to be a challenge. The new guy never quits talking. He is really different than me. I was struggling to be kind and inclusive.

Shivon: **Forgive us when we fail to love one another as you have loved us.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Per: But this week at Rocky Railway I heard the good news.

Jesus has the power to help us do hard things...He gives us hope. Jesus' power helps us be bold. His power never ends. Jesus' power even helps us be good friends. Jesus has the power to pull us through! TRUST JESUS!

So hear the good news: Your sins are forgiven. Live in hope because God's love has been poured into your heart through the Holy Spirit and nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shivon: God, thank you for continuing to show up in our lives in new, exciting and unexpected ways. Thank you for your constant presence with us, helping us to do new and hard things. Thank you for loving us through our highs and lows. You give us hope. Give us fresh eyes to see you at work in the world. Reassure us that your power never ends. Work in us that your love may work through us sharing your unconditional love with the world.

Today we thank you for the children and parents that were part of Vacation Bible School this past week. May you continue to encourage them in faith. We thank you for our teen leaders – for their willingness to do hard things and be bold this past week. These children and youth are signs of your hope. Thank you for the adult leaders and for the continued support of this congregation which helps power ongoing programming that shares the good news of your unending love. Amen.

SONG: “In you Alone” *(kids join in saying the lyrics and doing the actions)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymvSuZXgoLs>

God of heaven and earth, you are amazing

(one arm lifted up sideways and back down, arms spread out wide)

You hold me up with your hand, you give me faith.

(one hand out palm up, hand into heart)

And I will put my hope in you alone

(other hand into heart, hope fist pound, one point up)

In you alone

(other point up)

I will put my hope in you, Lord

(thumb into self, other thumb into self, hope fist pound, point up)

You alone are *(other point up)*

Everything I need *(arms spread our wide)*

My hope is in you alone *(fist pound, point up)*

In you alone. *(other point up)*

BIBLE VERSE TO REMEMBER:

Shivon: Today, instead of reading a Psalm for the day, our teen leaders will be sharing our bible verses from the week. We invite you to join them in the actions. They will say it once through to demonstrate and then again so you can join them. **(kids join teens in doing the actions)**

Serena: From Philippians 4:13 “For I can do everything (arms spread wide) through Christ (point up) who gives me strength (strong arms)”

Nissa: From Psalm 31:24 “So be strong and courageous (strong arms), all you (point out at everyone) who put your hope in the Lord! (make the sign for hope, fist on flat hand)”

Avery: From Isaiah 40:29 “He gives power (strong arms) to the weak (slouch) and strength (strong arms) to the powerless (slouch)”

Brayden: From Romans 8:11 “The Spirit of God (sign for spirit), who raised Jesus from the dead (hands at side moving up), lives in you (point out at everyone)”

Sophie: From John 15:12 “Love each other (hug yourself) in the same way (point up) I have loved you (point out at everyone)”.

GOSPEL READING:

Everyday in addition to learning a special Bible verse, we heard and acted out a Bible Story. We are going to share parts of this week’s Bible stories with you. Watch your screen as our VBS Kids join in acting out and showing you activities from this week.

Nissa: On Monday we met Saul. Saul did not like Christians, **(everyone shake their head)** In fact, Saul was traveling from city to city to arrest Christians. He believed they were liars, making up stories to distract people from worshipping God. One day when Saul was on the road traveling to Damascus, a bright light shown down on Saul and he was struck to the ground. He heard the voice of Jesus say “Saul why do you hurt me? When you hurt others you are hurting me.” Saul was blinded. **(put on your glasses with the shades down)** Saul’s friends had to help him into town.

Meanwhile, God spoke to Ananias, telling him to meet Saul at the house where he was staying. Ananias loved Jesus. He had heard of Saul and what Saul was doing to Christians. He was scared to go and see Saul. But Jesus’ helped Ananias do the hard thing. He went to Saul and laying his hands on him, watched as scales fell from his eyes and he could see again. **(Pull the shades up on your glasses and look surprised)**

Saul listened to Ananias tell him the good news about Jesus. Saul was baptized and began boldly telling others about Jesus.

As we heard the story of Ananias we were reminded that “Jesus’ power helps us do hard things” **TRUST JESUS!**

Brenda: On Tuesday, we met Saul again but now his name had been changed to Paul. Paul had been very busy sharing the good news. But many people still didn’t like Christians. Christians were still being arrested. Paul was arrested for speaking about Jesus. It was decided he would have to travel by ship to stand trial. **(Kids sit on your pillow boat)**

Paul was held below deck on the ship. At first the waters were calm but then a mighty storm came up. **(Rock wildly on your pillow, show the strong rains)**

Waters flooded the boat and the crew started to be very afraid. (continued on next page)

An angel came to Paul and told him “Don’t be afraid, tell everyone the boat will sink but they will all make it safely to shore”. Paul shared this hope with the crew. The crew held onto that hope.

As the boat went down everyone swam to shore. **(jump off your pillow and swim)**

When they got there they counted **(pretend to be counting everyone on screen)**

Everyone was safe.

The story of Paul in the shipwreck, sharing the hope he received from God with the crew, reminds us that “Jesus’ power gives us hope”. **TRUST JESUS!**

Heidi: Everyday kids played with a special Gizmo in Imagination Station. Tuesday’s Gizmo was a “Hope and Hover” Blower. You can see some of the kids playing with the “Hope and Hover” on screen. Hope helps keep us afloat. Sometimes hope gets away from us and it takes a little more effort to hold onto hope. We remembered that Jesus’ power helps us have hope.

Brenda: On Wednesday, we met two more of Jesus’ friends, Peter and John. As the friends were going to the temple in Jerusalem, they saw a man by the temple gate. This man could not walk on his own. People carried him to the gate everyday where he would sit and ask for coins because he was unable to work. Most people never saw the man and if they did they walked on by. But Peter and John did the bold thing. They stopped and talked to the man. They healed him. As others around saw what they were doing, crowds gathered and Peter and John started to boldly teach about Jesus. **(Hold up your bold megaphones and pretend to be teaching)**

Both men were arrested and told to stay silent. But when they were released they announced “We cannot stay silent” and began sharing the good news of Jesus again.

This story is a good reminder that we are to be bold in sharing God’s love with others. “Jesus’ power helps us be bold.” **TRUST JESUS!**

Shivon: Thursday, we were reminded of the story of Jesus’ resurrection. We heard the story of Jesus’ friends who were surprised when Jesus’ showed up after they knew he had died on the cross.

Did you know that when train tracks come to an end there is a giant metal X placed at the end of the track. This X is called a buffer. **(draw the X on your hand and show it)** We drew an X on our hand. Then we turned our hand sideways. **(turn your x sideways)** If you turn an X sideways it looks like a cross. The cross means that God’s love for us will never end. Instead of a track with a buffer at the end, we imagined a circular track that has no end. **(draw the circle on your hand)** We drew a circle on our hand. **(show the circle)** Nothing can stop God’s love for us, not even death. It keeps going and going and going. When we looked at our hands we had an X and an O. We put Xs and Os on letters and cards to remind people they are loved. We are loved by Jesus. Jesus’ power goes on forever! **TRUST JESUS!**

Heidi: Thursday we had another cool Gizmo called “Perpetual Paper”. Kids are showing you how that works. **(show your perpetual paper books)** Each page in our little book reminded us of a different VBS Day. But the coolest part was there was no end, the book just kept going and going and going. A good reminder that the good news of God’s love for us never ends; it keeps going and going and going.

Brenda: Finally on Friday, we heard the story of the early church. We played a game where everyone had to turn off their cameras on Zoom. They could only turn their camera on if they fit the description we gave for joining the group. For example – You can turn on the camera and join the group if you are wearing blue. We talked about feeling excluded and left out of a group. The first Christians wanted to make sure that no one was left out. They wanted every-

one to know and experience God's love. They ate with each other, praised God together- singing and praying, and shared everything they had with one another. And they were always inviting all people to join them. Sometimes this could be hard. They believed that Jesus had the power to help them be good friends.

Shivon: We tried an activity to show how God's love brings us together in surprising ways. Can everyone make a heart with your hands? **(show how to make the hand heart)** Now take the two sections of your heart and hold your hands to the side of your Zoom screen. **(show how to hold up half hearts)** Can you see any full hearts being formed on your screen? We are called to love one another as Jesus loves us, even when it is challenging. This story was a reminder that Jesus' power helps us be good friends. **TRUST JESUS!** All these stories shared the good news that Jesus' has the power to pull us through...Choo! Choo!

BIBLE BUDDIES

Every year in addition to Bible verses and Bible Characters, we meet Bible buddies, animals that can remind us of God's love. Each day we added one of these buddies to our Rocky Railway traincars. Let us introduce you to this year's buddies. As you listen I encourage you to consider, which buddy is your favorite? Which one brings you a word from God that you need to hold onto today? **(Kids hold up their Bible buddies to the screen as they are announced)**

Serena: Meet Ramsey – Ramsey is a big horned sheep or a ram. Ramsey has special feet that make him able to balance on rocks in hard and difficult places. **(show how to balance)** Ramsey reminds us that Jesus' power helps us do hard things.

Nissa: Meet Ava – Ava is a red-tailed hawk. Did you know that red-tailed hawks live in nests up to 120 feet off the ground- that is as high as a human tower of 20 teen leaders. They also have a three foot wing span that allows them to soar at great heights. **(show your windspan and soar)** From way up there they can see things from a different perspective. Big things look smaller. While we can't see where the train is going, Ava can see where the tracks lead from way up high. Ava reminds us that God can help us see the world differently. Jesus' power gives us hope.

Brayden: Meet Sierra – a mountain lion. She lives in 21 of the 23 countries of North, South and Central America. She is also known as a puma, a cougar and a panther. **Mountain lions** can jump up to 18 feet high and leap as far as 40 feet. Those are bold jumps. **(show bold leaps)** While they often stay quiet they are known for their loud bold screams. Sierra reminds us that sometimes we need to take bold leaps of faith and boldly share the love of God. Jesus' power helps us be bold. **TRUST JESUS!**

Per: Meet Finn – Finn is a salmon. **(show us your hands making Finn the fish)** Finn is born in a river bank but as he grows he travels into other waters. Salmon however always return home to lay their eggs. This means they have to swim against the current to return home. Nothing can stop them from swimming upstream. Finn reminds us that nothing can stop the love of God from reaching us. God is determined to love you. Jesus' power goes on forever. **TRUST JESUS!**

Sophie: Lastly, meet Lawrence the Elk. Elk live in herds. A herd is kind of like a giant group of friends or a church congregation. Herds help each other. They protect their young. Some of the Elk in the herd are scouts. They keep a look out for hungry animals who might hurt the elk. Elk have those huge antlers to keep trouble away from the herd. **(Make antlers on your head)** Did you know that elk antlers grow as much as 1 inch per day? The antlers grow up to four feet off the top of the elk's head. That's taller than some of the kids coming to VBS. Elk travel together as a herd to help each other find food. In the summer they travel way up into the mountains together.

Shivon: We played a game called "Come to the Herd". Kids - let's show them. **(Play the game once)** We invited all kids to go graze like an Elk in their space. When the scout Elk yelled "Come to the Herd" we all returned to our herd on screen. Elk are a good reminder that we need each other. We can help protect each other, support one another and share so that everyone has what they need. God loves each and every one of us and wants us to love each other. Jesus gives us the power to be good friends. **TRUST JESUS!**

Did you pick your favorite buddy, the buddy that brought you good news today? **VBS kids hold up your favorite character so we can see which one you picked.**

SONG: "We Can Trust Him" (kids join in the words and actions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmiL38ezUWk>

If there's one thing we can count on **(1 finger moved across front)**
It's that God will never let us down and **(point up, push hand down)**
We can trust everything he does **(trust pull)**
He keeps his promises **(fist pound)**
We know because **(point to head)**
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true **(fist pump, bible hands dance)**
We can trust him. **(trust pull)**
We can trust him. **(trust pull)**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic church, The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

Shivon: Programming such as VBS Online are only possible because of your generous giving. Thank you for continuing to support Trinity ministries. This week 23 kids received a resource kit in their home helping them grow in their faith. We continue to celebrate the new ways God is calling Trinity to live into God's mission and love for the world.

Looking for a way to give to support Trinity ministry? We have now launched our Text to Give program. Simply text the amount you'd like to give to 833-610-0635. Kathy will also continue to check the mail and make deposits weekly Thank you for your generous giving that enables continued ministries.

OPERATION KID-TO-KID (Get your Alpaca Feet On) (kids put on and show your pillowy alpaca feet)

Shivon: Every year VBS kids from around the world join together to collect funds for an Operation Kid-to-Kid project. Remember our Bible buddy Ramsey who had special feet? We met another animal with special feet - the Alpacas. Alpacas also live in the mountains. They walk on special pillowy feet – you can see some of our kids modeling our Alpaca feet. Alpacas not only have special feet, they have special wool. When an alpaca gets a haircut it can give up to 10 pounds of wool that can be used to make warm clothing for people who live in the mountains. Alpacas also bring hope to low income families in the mountains, providing wool for their small businesses, so that they can support their families' needs. \$10 buys an alpaca for a family in need. If you would like to support this year's Operation Kid-to-Kid outreach project you can send donations to the address below:

Operation Kid-to-Kid Donations, World Vision, P.O. Box 70200, Tacoma, WA 98481-0200

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Fill us again for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE:

Shivon: Each day we made a craft. Our Friday craft was prayer windchimes. **(Kids show the windchimes)** Each chime helped us pray for something different. Please join us in our windchime prayer:

This first chime represents our Love for God. We pray "Help us God to love you". One way we express our love for God is by thanking God. What are you thankful for? Lift those prayers up to God. Hear the chimes and know God hears.

The next chime represents our families. We pray "Help us God to love our families". We pray for families around the world. We invite you to lift the names of the people in your family up to God. Hear the chimes and know God hears.

The third chime represents our friends. We pray "Help us God to love our friends". We pray that God would bring us new friendships. We pray that God would strengthen our friendships and work through them. We give thanks for the friendship of this congregation. Let us take a moment to pray for our friends. Hear the chimes and know God hears.

The last chime represents those that are hard for us to love. We pray "Help us God to love all people and all of your creation". We pray, God warm our hearts and help us love as you love. Hear the chimes and know God hears.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PANNING FOR GOLD / GOD SIGHTINGS

Shivon: This week each kid got a bag full of sand with gold glitter scattered within the grains of sand. The kids poured their sand onto a plate and panned for gold. We talked about how long ago people traveled long distances to join the Gold Rush in the Rocky Mountains. They would pan through dirt and yuck hoping to catch a golden glimpse. They had to be patient and persistent in their search.

We started a new Gold Rush this week – a search for signs of hope. Sometimes all we can see is yuck in our world. We need to be patient and persistent in looking for signs of hope, signs of God at work in the world. We need to share our sightings with others.

We ended each day by sharing: Where have you... seen God this week? Heard God's presence through the sounds around you? Tasted God's goodness? Felt God with you?

Pan for Gold – signs of hope – this week. Take time to share your God sightings with others.

BLESSING

Shivon: Each day closed with our teens blessing our kids, speaking their name and the Bible point for the day. Kids put on blessings stickers as they heard the good news. We don't have stickers today but I invite you to **make the sign of the cross on your forehead as you receive the blessing:**

Sophie: Jesus' power is at work in you – giving you the power to do hard things.

Brayden: May God fill you with hope and give you eyes to see God at work in the world.

Nissa: God make you bold to share the good news with the world.

Avery: God give you the power to love others as Christ loves you.

Serena: May you know that God's love for you will never end.

Per: Jesus has the power to pull you through. Amen.

INVITE: In addition to meeting everyday as a large group on Zoom, our teen leaders hosted Caboose Clubs everyday where they developed relationships with the kids. They led discussion and played games that reinforced our Bible learning. After all morning on Zoom, our teens then created their own videos to be uploaded to Facebook sharing the activities and learnings of the day with additional kids unable to join us live on Zoom. I encourage you to go onto Facebook and watch the videos by our teen leaders. What tremendous creativity, bravery, boldness and leadership our teens showed this week.

SONG: “Everywhere I Go” (kids join in the words and actions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QAWQZF6lq0>

Everywhere I go (hands out to one side and then the other)
on this road, (chug)
high and low (arms up and then down)
Where I go, (point different directions)
I go with you (point up)
So I won't be afraid (move arms across each other)
this my hope, (swing into hope sign)
come what may (nod)
Where I go I go with you. (point in all directions and up)

VBS SLIDESHOW

We invite those that would like to stay on and watch the slideshow of our VBS week together to do so.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!