



Faith Journey Summary 2020

Shari Higgins

Being the youth leader at Vernon and now starting with All Saints in January of 2020 has been a bit of a challenge this year. I'm a mover and shaker. I like to plan and execute. I like to work smarter not harder and I believe that every night when I turn my day over to the Lord, he will guide me with the same amounts of challenge no matter what day it is.

Our mission trip that we were going to take to West Virginia was cancelled. I know you are all asking why... it's that 5 letter word COVID. We have all had to make changes to the way we live our lives and move on the best and safest way we can.

This is the first big event that we have had a chance to have both churches unite. I have to say we are unstoppable as a group. This group of youth are all amazing. I am still getting thank you cards from the places that we were able to help. Mike & Jim from the Electric Railway in East Troy were absolutely gob smacked at what our crew accomplished. Most of us don't feel we did much but that's not for us to decide. We are doing God's work with our hand and hearts. Mike and Jim are so grateful to us.

At the Mukwonago Food Pantry things did not go as planned. Timing is key and we had to be flexible. We still got'er done. This was a day of strength and patience and we adjusted to make the most of it. David's dad Terry stayed with us all day. Sue and Ann also help protect us with roadside clean up. Thank you.

Lutherdale was fun as well as a learning, fear and trust day. We learned how to trust one another and how to trim trees. (Parents your kids can help) For fun some of the youth were able to do the rock-climbing wall that is a 40-foot climb to the top. The goal for each participant is to trust and try. With personal determination, encouragement of others, and teamwork, reaching the top becomes a group effort!

Charlie's house was the most challenging service day and the day that we really worked hard. We had a lot to do and motivation, team work and encouragement was our greatest strengths to keep us moving and get it done was hard. It seemed as though the mulch pile was not going down so we really had to push ourselves and help each other to see the ending results. As Michael would say "this is beautiful, I can't believe we did this." To see the joy and excitement of the youth to see the transformation that we did was over whelming for us all. We had Tim Galinsky work with us and had all the tools we needed. Tim thank you for all your hard work and friendship. Pisey, Michael and Abby's sister joined us as well. Thank you, girlfriend. Wendy was so gracious to invite us to her house to chill in her wonderful pool and hot tub. We had dinner at her place. Michael also made Enchiladas to go along with our taco dinner. Michael has some mad cooking skills and we all enjoyed them. Michael said he would cook for us again. Fellowship time? What is fellowship time to the youth? They feel we were sitting around and that's fine. Fellowship time is so very important to me not only as a youth leader but as a friend. Conversations about how they felt about school for the fall, about going back or not was great to hear what they had to say. To learn about what instrument they play, or sport that they like, who is a gamer, who likes to read, sharing about their families and faith. That is what fellowship is about. Interacting with each other that you really don't know and engaging for the greater good.

I am so blessed to have been able to walk this faith journey with all of them. To see them trust and feel comfortable with someone new. The Holy Spirit inspires me every day and I love doing God's work without expecting anything in return, but maybe a simple smile from a stranger. To know that we can help in our own community this year was very important. We have needs that need to be filled right here at home. I can say that this journey we were on has not ended just because the week has. We are now connected together in a different way than when the week started. Thank you to the parents for having trust and faith in me as your leader to grow with you and your youth in their faith. I look forward to so many wonderful things that we can do for each other together.

Ali Galinsky

This year's faith journey trip turned out to be an adventure that I am grateful I got to experience. Being my second mission trip, it was a great week that we got to share with others from All Saints. I have grown in many ways and am ready to use this experience to help me accomplish more in the future and grow in my faith. First, in the future to better obey God I am going to work on going out of my comfort zone and meet and help new people. Second on this journey my faith was strengthened and God showed many signs throughout the week. Between the little things such as the smiles of the people we helped or grander things such as making friendships with others on the trip, I knew God was at work. Now I am noticing things in my personal life such as things such as my gift of being an artist. God knew what he was doing when I decided to make positive notes for the seniors in my Grandma's senior living home. Also, this experience has changed the way I view others and myself. I better understand that others are less fortunate than myself and I have become more grateful for everything. I am especially grateful that I am healthy and able to do God's work. Lastly, one thing I want to take home and remember about this trip is that everything happens for a reason and that God will guide me on the right path. I know He has a plan for me and I am ready to further enjoy the life He has given me.



Jackie thank you so much for the great dinner you made for us on Wednesday. Not much was left. The key lime pie was very cooling and enjoyed.

David Winiarski

The service project where we weeded and landscaped Charlie's front lawn had the biggest impact on me as just seeing how different things were when we arrived to when we ended was so major. The idea that we are helping Charlie as he is unable to do any of this stuff on his own. I learned how to landscape up an entire lawn and that's the most I have done weeding but needing to place down landscaping tarps and mulch was different and helpful to know how to do. When I saw God, I mostly saw him in the weather as he kept it nice and cloudy on days where we needed it and kept rain away for the most part. I drove the pontoon boat by Gail's house while she saved the cookie from burning in the oven. This trip will help me along my faith journey mostly by seeing all the different people in the world who we helped me directly and non-directly this week. Will I participate in next year's trip? It really just depends on what we will be doing.

Calvin Rozinski

This is my first Mission Trip / Faith Journey. Helping Charlie with his lawn I think influence me the most, Because I like helping people clean up their yards to look nice and beautiful. I learned helping people is more important than sitting at home doing nothing. All though I like Video games. I seen God everywhere with people wanting to help us kids and working with us through the day. The trip helped me by opening my eyes and seeing the Holy Spirit is everywhere I look. Yes, I'm excited to see what the trip is for next year.

Michael Knoernschild

The service project that had the biggest impact on me was doing yard work at Charlies because he has been a member of our congregation for years and it's heartbreaking to see his health decline and then unable to take care of his wife's garden. I'm glad we could make his house look great again. I learned that we can all work together really well. I seen God the most during our week together. In all of us because we were all so kind to each other, we worked together really well and we got the job done quickly.



Special thank you to, **Chuck** for coming and making us dinner on Thursday. We loved dinner and as you could see we were hungry.



Terry & Tim we needed your help thank you for being a great leader with us. We look forward to having you with us again. Tim you're a hard worker thank you for helping with all the mulch!

Jake Galinsky

The first thing we did on the faith journey is we went to the Mukwonago food pantry and helped with the dairy truck that donated 2,500lbs of cheese and a lot of milk. Then we had some downtime so we went and did roadside cleanup and picked up a ton of garbage. After that we went mini golfing. The second day we went to Charlie's house and moved rocks around and pulled weeds and maintained his wife's Garden. We put fabric to protect the weeds and did a lot of mulching. Day third we went to Lutherdale and trimmed trees and put dirt around the new walkway. We did the rock-climbing wall and that was pretty cool. On the fourth day we went to the trolley station in East Troy and we're scraping off paint from the picnic tables and painting them and I waxed the main guy's truck and then we got like a 2-hour trolley Adventure ride. We learned lots about Mukwonago and the Phantom on the pontoon boat ride. Overall, it was really fun meeting the new people from All Saints and getting to help the community. I believe I was a good servant for the Lord in helping others and not expecting anything in return. The mission trip was very well put together since our actual mission trip got canceled because of Covid. It was also very different having to wear masks sometimes while we were working. I would say the funniest part of the trip is that the van battery died twice. I am looking forward to next year' trip, hopefully covid will not affect it.

Collin Kenyon

I enjoyed helping with Charlies house. Because it was the hardest job and we worked as a team the best one over all it was a memorable experience and fun to do as well.

I learned how to work as a team more and more about doing other jobs. Not everything is easy and not everything is hard. It was also interesting to see the inside of the train. I seen God the most during Charlies house cleanup, because it felt like we were doing Gods working and spreading our message. As well as helping others and treating others with care.



Wendy thank you so much for your dedication to the youth at All Saints. It was really good to see the kids from both churches get along, seeing that we didn't get a chance to get together before the service week. Oh, my word... I can not thank you enough for letting us come to your house for the pool and dinner on Tuesday. That was such a hard work day and it was wonderful. Thank you, Thank you from all of us. It is a pleasure working with you and I look forward to seeing what we can all do as servant of the Lord.

Abby Knoernschild

This past week may not have been similar to any other mission trips I've gone on in the past, but it still had an impact on me. I thought it was important for us to do something this year, and I'm glad we did something in our own community. It was a new experience to be able to see the impact of our actions. Working on Charlie's had a huge impact on me. Even though we didn't get as much of the yard done like we had planned, it was still a crazy difference from what we started with to what we finished with. I think knowing Charlie was a big reason why this affected me so much. Even though he wasn't there I knew he would be so happy. Also seeing his wife's old garden looking so much better put a smile on all of our faces, even though there was way too much mulching we had to do.

I learned a lot more about Mukwonago, and more about the people I went on this trip with. Before this trip I don't think I ever would've known who these people were and I wouldn't have gone out of my way to spend time with them like I had done during this trip. I never would've known someone could drink seven cokes in a day, or that everyone on this trip were hard workers.

I saw God not just in the work that we were doing, but in the people, I was working with. We all might've been tired at some points, but that didn't stop us from working hard. Even those who left early still worked hard and it was impressive to see how much work we could get done just by working as much as we did.

I think this trip helped me on my faith journey by reminding me that I can do much more when I have a stronger relationship with my faith. I work even harder when I know I have God watching over me. I am looking forward to working with this group again next year.

Wendy Quinn

What a week we had for our local youth mission trip! The weather was beautiful and the youth were ready and willing to jump into whatever opportunities presented themselves! Finding opportunities for mission work was challenging due to the pandemic and everyone taking extra precautions. We were able to use our muscles at the Mukwonago Food Pantry, hone our landscaping skills at the home of an All Saints member, learn how to trim trees at Lutherdale and scrape and paint picnic tables at the East Troy Electric Railway Museum! We also did roadside cleanup for Vernon and All Saints. We had lots of free time to play games, have a pool party, ride on a pontoon boat, go mini golfing and ride the trolley! I enjoyed getting to know new friends from Vernon Lutheran Church. My most fulfilling part of the week was watching the two youth groups blend so well. Thanks to everyone who provided food and other services for our week!

