

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, I saw a photo in *The County Line*, of April Arndt, the Ontario Public Library Director, highlighting the "Ontario StoryWalk" in Palen Park. The "StoryWalk" is an opportunity for young people to go for a walk and read a children's book along the way. The route is set so that at each stop, there are one or two consecutive pages of a children's book displayed behind plexiglass. The young people walk, stop, and read. In this way, they can finish the entire story by the time they reach the last stop! This is a healthy, fun, safe, socially distanced, positive activity for children to enjoy during this time of the pandemic. It encourages children to exercise, read, and experience God's creation.

Thinking of the "Ontario StoryWalk" reminded me of churches that have been encouraging people to make chalk drawings on sidewalks. The idea behind this is that people can make drawings about Biblical characters or retell a Bible story. A story can be started by one person's drawing and continued by the addition of other persons' drawings. Families may wish to make chalk drawings of their favorite Bible stories, too. One family member can add their drawing to the drawing of another family member, and so on, to recreate an entire Bible story! In the past, I have asked our confirmation students to recreate what they have learned through chalk drawings. After they finished, I would typically take photos of their work. Perhaps you would like to do this too, as you create a fun memory!

But now, another idea has come to my mind. What if individuals or families read a Bible story together, and recreated it through chalk drawings. After each person added their drawing, they could take photos and send them to April Arndt for posting on the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Facebook page!

If you don't have a sidewalk by your house or farm, and you need some sidewalk space, we have plenty around and between the church and the parsonage. If you need chalk, we have some of that, too. Feel free to come over and share your drawings, as you tell us a Bible story in a new, visual way.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy