

Immanuel Anglican Church

Orange Shirt Day 2024

For the third year in a row, we ran a program for elementary school children on September 30 to recognize Orange Shirt Day. This year we had 26 participants, 4 tween helpers, 1 teen helper, and 7 adult helpers in addition to Director Maegen Plumb. Reverend Alex Campbell, an Indigenous priest in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle also participated in the morning giving the children his unique perspective on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



We began with the 4 directions prayer, which you can find at the end of this article. The children later coloured the pictures of the Eagle, Wolf, Buffalo, and Bear.

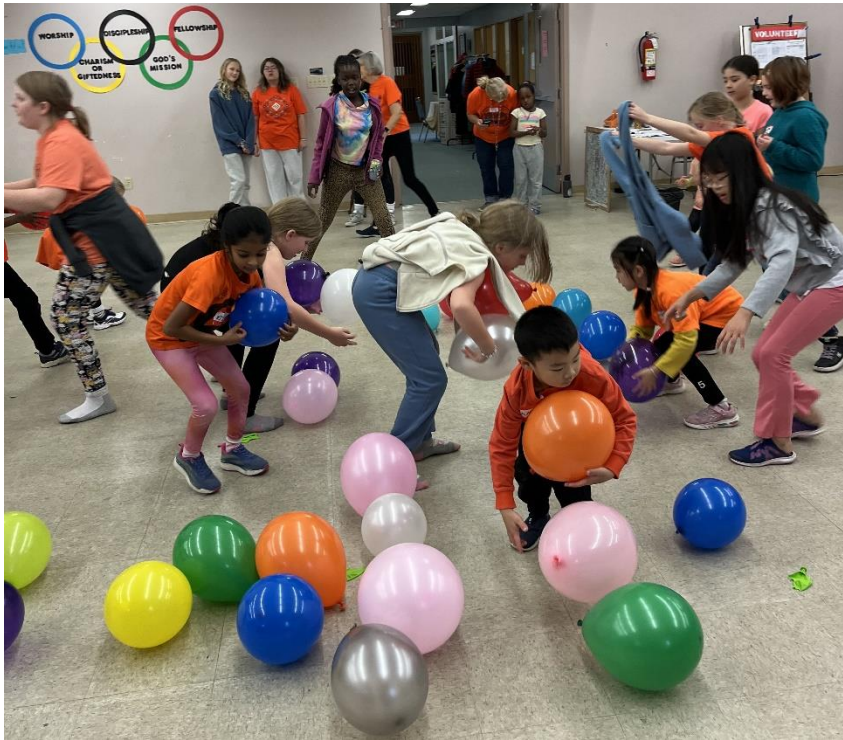
Making Bannock was next on our list. It was chaotic! We used a simple recipe that could be baked. The children mixed the batter, then kneaded it and formed it into individual patties. After they were baked, jam was added, and the children thoroughly enjoyed their treat!



We had planned some outdoor games but alas, the weather did not cooperate. So our tween helpers blew up LOTS of balloons, and organized a couple of indoor games with them. All children seem to love balloons, and they also played with them in free time – and especially loved



putting the balloons on the air vent to see them float.



As always at our VBS School Days Off, we gather to sing grace before lunch. We use the Superman Grace:

Thank you God, for giving us food
Thank you God, for giving us friends
For the food that we eat
For the friends that we meet
Thank you God, for giving everything

In 2022, we began our rock garden at the front of the church, to remember the children who didn't come home from residential schools. Each year we add more rocks to our garden.

This year, we also had some small rocks that could be painted with paint markers and taken home – since the children are always a little sad to leave their rocks with us.



Next on the schedule was story time – with a couple of our tweens reading to the group.



By this time, the rain had cleared, and although it was VERY windy, we headed outside to dig up the rest of the carrots in our Children's Garden.



We ended the day, as all our School Days Off VBS days do – with a movie and popcorn.

And that was a wrap for another year!

Maegen Plumb and Jenny Williams

Four Directions PRAYER

CELEBRANT God the Creator, the strength of the people, we honour you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. We respect the truth of your spirit world and care for your creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north. We honour you by deeds and not words. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life.

FIRST READER Come Great Spirit as we gather in your name. We face East: To your symbol colour gold the breath of the morning sun, to your animal sign the Eagle which soars ever upward in the praise of the Creator and calls us to do the same, to your words calling us to balance our minds in the spirit of humility and truth. We invoke your Spirit of illumination and far-sighted vision. The ways have shown us how to love you and each other with heart, mind, and soul, and we pray.

ALL: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

SECOND READER We turn to the South: To your symbol colour red the hue of revelation, to your animal sign the Wolf...strong and enduring. The ways call us to balance of Spirit and harmony with all nations, tribes and clans. We invoke your wisdom, grace and goodness of the ages, and we pray.

ALL: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

THIRD READER We turn to the West: To your symbol colour black the stillness of night, to your sign thunder mighty and bold, to your animal sign the Buffalo. The ways calls us to balance emotions in the tradition of truth and honesty. We invoke your spirit ways of seeing within the community and its strength to endure, and we pray.

ALL: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

FOURTH READER We turn North: To your symbol colour white the truth of clarity and brightness, to your animal sign, the Bear, which touches us with earthiness and all things growing, to your words calling us to balance of our body in the spirit of a good sense and humour. We invoke your spirit of innocence, trust and love. The ways open our eyes to the sacredness of each living thing, and we pray.

ALL: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

FIFTH READER We turn to complete the circle: To God the Creator who cleanses the world with snow wind and rain, to the Creator's Son, Jesus the Christ, who fills us with mercy and loving embrace of all nations and to the Holy Creator's Spirit who guides us, and we pray.

ALL: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

CELEBRANT Creator, you bent the earth like a bow until it was one, round, shining planet. At your word the land was drawn into mountains and tundra, forests and prairies; the waters were gathered together into rivers, lakes and seas. Many times, when people crossed these seas from other lands they broke the circle of your creation by their greed and violence and they shattered the lives of others. Creator renew the circle of the earth and turn the hearts of all people to one another; that they and all the earth may live and be drawn toward you through the love of Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit in the circle of the Trinity, forever One. **Amen**