

## Choir Corner

*Kat Tomaszewski, Choir Director and Organist*

### GOD IS ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD

Sunday's worship service started like any other. The choir arrived, we practiced and warmed up, I laid my hymnals out, and the livestream team began setting up the microphones. Marilyn Kettler asked a fellow actor from the current play she is in, Lilies of the Field at the Alpena Civic Theater, to come and sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth" for our prelude this week. Music is very important to this church, and to me, and I was really excited to bring in a new person to be a part of our worship service.

Nate arrived at the end of choir rehearsal and Jay and Marilyn were helping him get set up. As I was walking back to the sound room, Bill Dempsey pulled me aside. He had no idea who Nate was or why he was at our church – yet.

Bill asked me if we could start to incorporate some contemporary Christian music into our services. I agreed with him and briefly discussed some ideas, but our conversation was short.

It's now 13 minutes till the service and I go to open our livestream software and each time I try to open the software, the program crashes. Again and again and again. In this moment of panic, I heard Nate warming up, playing the guitar and singing some contemporary worship tunes, just as Bill and I had discussed moments before.

I was able to quickly determine why and what the solution was with our software, but it was going to take some time to fix the issue and get the stream going. When we have 60 people viewing from home and 60 people in the church, we have a responsibility to make sure our stream is always working. I explained what was going on to Lynn Borke and asked her to find Nate and bring him to me. She did, and I asked him if he could play some worship tunes while I fixed our livestream. He was surprised but willing to step up and help!

Here's what I learned:

God knows our needs better than anyone. He knew what was going to happen on Sunday. He knew that Nate's presence would be necessary. He told Nate what to warm up on so it would plant the seed in my mind to ask him to help us fill the space in our service while I fixed our software and stream.

God tells us to trust in him and to find our strength in him. When we first discovered the program bugs, our team could have reacted in many different ways. We could have been stressed, feeling frustrated, flustered and let it affect us. But, we didn't. With God by our side, we can face any challenge. The team leapt into action, bringing all the little pieces together to mend the program as quickly as possible.

Our church is amazing. Nate showed up with the intention of singing one song during the prelude and then leaving to go to his own church. As a new person, he was concerned if he would be welcomed at our church. We showed him love and kindness. After he sang his first few songs while our livestream team fixed the streaming program, I asked the church if they would mind Nate singing one more song, the song he came to sing. He was greeted with excitement and applause, encouraging another song.

We cannot control things sometimes, no matter how hard we try. It's important to recognize the God moments, the God winks, when they happen. Find peace in the unexpected because sometimes the unexpected blessings are so much more than we could ever plan or prepare for.

In my mind, it is in these moments where God shows us he is always with us - in the good times AND the most stressful times. I think it's important to look back and see that and to train ourselves to see it in the moment.

Thank you for your kindness and flexibility shown on Sunday!



God  
IS IN  
control  
(AND)  
His Timing  
IS PERFECT