

Living Faith @ HOME

Dear Faith Shapers,

Spring is here! Now is the time to start thinking about summer. I hope summer camp is on your list. We have exceptional Lutheran Camps here in Iowa. There are so many reasons to send your kids to camp. I've brought you 6 reasons, but there are so many more! Did you know many of our clergy had camping ministry experience (either as campers or counselors or both)? Camping ministry is God filled, fun and faith shaping!

If you are unable to afford sending your kids to camp, please speak to your church or call camp. There are scholarships available so that every child who wants to attend church camp will get the chance.

I wish you all a very blessed Holy Week and Easter! I pray that your Easter is filled with the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection and that you share that news with others!

Deacon Lisa Kammerer



6 Surprising Things Kids Learn at Camp

My 30 years of camping experience and youth ministry

work have shaped my long held opinion that camp experiences benefit kids in profound ways. Here's a little of what I learned from church campers.

1. **How to Be Happy.** Campers say they learned how to have fun and not worry so much. In a time where many kids struggle with anxiety and depression, it is so refreshing to hear that camp is their happy place!
2. **How to Be Myself.** Campers say they learned to be happy in their own skin, gained confidence in their abilities, learned to speak up for things they believe in, and worried less about what others think. One camper told me, "At camp, I am the best version of myself."
3. **Meet New People & Make Friends.** One camper told me that camp made her more open & caring. Another told me they experienced a sense of belonging that they did not feel at school.
4. **Take Risks & Conquer Fears.** Camp takes students out of their comfort zones and offers new challenging experiences. It's ok even if you fail because you are surrounded by people who care for you, no matter the outcome. It's a great way to build grit!
5. **Unplug and Have a Passion for Nature.** Students need time away from their phones and the chance to experience nature. Experiences and relationships are more vibrant and real when you are able to connect face to face.
6. **Experience God.** Campers tell me they learned to pray, see the holy spirit at work and to serve others. There is nothing cooler than a student learning how much God loves them and that they have God given gifts to share with the world!

This information is prepared for you by the Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network for use by families and local congregations.

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He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

FUN WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE EASTER SEASON

- ⇒ DECORATE A POSTER FOR YOUR WINDOW. TRY ONE OF THESE PHRASES.
"HE IS RISEN!" "MY REDEEMER LIVES" " ALLELUIA"
- ⇒ GARDEN PRAYER. VISIT A GARDEN AND PRAY AND READ LUKE 22: 39-46.
- ⇒ YOU'VE BEEN EGGED. GET A DOZEN EGGS AND FILL 11 OF THEM WITH TREATS AND LEAVE ONE EMPTY. HIDE THE EGGS IN SOMEONE'S YARD AND LEAVE A NOTE SAYING THE EMPTY EGG IS A REMINDER OF THE EMPTY TOMB!
- ⇒ CHALK MESSAGES. WRITE CHALK MESSAGES ON SOMEONE'S DRIVEWAY. "JESUS THINKS YOU ARE EGG-CEPTIONAL" OR "NO BUNNY LOVES YOU LIKE JESUS!"
- ⇒ BAKE RESURRECTION ROLLS OR MAKE RESURRECTION COOKIES. RECIPES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE.
- ⇒ PUT TRICK CANDLES ON A DESSERT.. WHEN THE CANDLES RELIGHT THEMSELVES, TALK ABOUT HOW EVERYONE THOUGHT JESUS' LIGHT HAD DISAPPEARED, BUT IT HADN'T. JESUS IS RISEN AND IS ALIVE!
- ⇒ RETELL THE EASTER STORY WITH RESURRECTION EGGS. YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN RESURRECTION EGGS- SEARCH THE INTERNET TO FIND OUT HOW.