

Living Faith @



Dear Friends,

This is July, for sure!! The weather has been hot and humid and rainy ... quite the change from some other years. To repeat the words from one of my newspaper articles, the corn is growing right in front of our eyes! My grandma used to say she could hear it growing. I think that might be true this year.

The rivers and creeks are up, the level of water in the ponds and lakes seems to get higher every day. I just hope the corn and beans have deep enough roots to get them through the hot days of dryness in the soil that is sure to come.

Deep roots ... yep, just like us. We need deep roots, too, to be able to sustain us during events of the world that are tough and difficult to understand. The roots we develop with our lessons at worship, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and regularly reading the Bible. This falls on the parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, or others that we like to call faith-shapers. If you're reading this, that might include you! Please share this with others - thank you.

Sue Cira, Pastor, Immanuel Crane Creek Lutheran

We get excited to learn about Jesus at Bible School & at Worship



We need adults and other friends to help us learn ... we discover many things about Jesus by doing crafts, drawing, and listening to you .



We learn to pray

With **August almost here**, it's important to start thinking about fall and school beginning - which means buying supplies. There are many who need help with this, so as you're out finding your supplies, maybe you could slip a few extra items into your shopping bag. Here is the list for school kits collected for Lutheran World Relief ... Learn more at lwr.org

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH KIT

- * FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- * ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- * ONE pencil sharpener
- * ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- * FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- * FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- * ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- * ONE 2 ½" eraser
- * ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard back-packs)

August is hopefully the last vacation of the season, summer sports come to an end and fall sports begin, county fairs are happening, some congregations worship outside in a park or plan special events for a **Rally Day**, you might have a **potluck** or an **ice cream social**, maybe you could plan a special mission project for the fall.

Back pack blessings take place near the first days of school beginning.

Invite members of the congregation to be **prayer partners** with the children and the youth. Print kids names and baptismal anniversary on the cards that will be distributed. Exchange cards and notes through the year. Sometime during the year have a day where you celebrate prayer partners.

Plan for ways to **involve the children or the whole family with children** of the congregation to participate in the worship service. Help them feel included and important!

Don't forget to have fun while in worship - invite everyone to be involved in singing the children's songs. Adults like to clap and stomp their feet too!



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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