

# Living Faith @



The month of June is a great time to plan summer activities — for the kids, for the adults, and for the whole family. Some days will be jam-packed with some people in the family going one way and others going another... which might cause some scheduling issues. Other days might include times that kids and adults are participating together. Being together as much as possible during the summer can help with faith shaping — even when

intentional faith building activities are not included.

Sometimes just being together counts for more than what you do ... here are a few ideas:

- Fly a kite
- Go fishing
- Have a water gun fight
- Bird watching
- Grow veggies in a garden
- Camp out in the living room
- Write cards to older people
- Go to a ballgame together
- Draw with sidewalk chalk
- Visit a farmers market

Summer provides a necessary break for many families - it can be a time to be out in creation to learn about the Creator - which can help initiate and develop faith conversations. Here are a few ideas to help with faith formation:

- attend Vacation Bible School
- jump rope while reciting Bible verses
- write Bible verses on the sidewalk
- volunteer to help someone with their lawn or garden
- volunteer at a food bank or other “helping” organization
- Visit grandparents, god parents, and other older members of your congregation
- Have a campfire story-telling time
- Invite friends to a movie night (either inside or outside) with popcorn & snacks
- Go on a nature hike to look for parts of God’s creation
- Go to a bookstore or library to find some books to use for devotions or prayer

Enjoy the summer - increase your spirituality - share your observations in a journal, a letter to relatives, or during coffee time at church.

Rev. Sue Cira Zion, Alta Vista & Immanuel Crane Creek, Lawler

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## Prayer

Summer is a good time to practice your prayer life ... and, our relationship with God by following the example Jesus set for us, we can seek to find ways to talk with God. If you could see God's face when we talk with God - when we pray - imagine the delight we would see. The authors of the Psalms knew that prayer was the communication with God that sustained their relationship. They prayed when they were sad, happy, thankful, angry, or hurting. Jesus did the same - prayer was the center of his life and important enough that Jesus taught his disciples how and when to pray. We can learn a lot about prayer from his teachings.



1. Jesus prayed alone. Even though Jesus was in constant demand to heal & care for people, discuss issues, and teach, Jesus would take a break from the disturbances to go off to pray.
2. Jesus prayed with others. Jesus encouraged his disciples (and us) to pray together. God's presence in prayer unites us together. As we become aware of the needs of others, we can provide comfort. We are better together.
3. Jesus prayed before a meal. Jesus used the ritual of praying before a meal to remind his disciples of the blessings God has provided - that God is the source of everything we have.
4. Jesus prayed for others. Jesus prayed for his disciples that God would bless them with perseverance, unity, and spiritual satisfaction during their witness to the world. Jesus prayed for his enemies - to those who persecuted him. Jesus prayed for all people.
5. Jesus prayed for us. Jesus continues to pray for us as our advocate. We too have the Holy Spirit as our advocate because we can do nothing without God. I encourage you to pray today ... every day ... right now.

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## Connect-A-Prayer

A few years ago in our newsletter, Robin Souhrada wrote about a way to pray that could be used during a meeting or in a group setting.

Using a connecting type of toy (like in the picture or a lego), each person takes a piece & says a prayer, adding the piece to another piece. Watch how all the prayers of the community connect and build together.

