

Living Faith @



June 2012

Dear Friends,

One of the greatest joys for me as a Christian parent, and now as a grandparent is when my children began praying the meal time and bed time prayers on their own. Even more fun is when they lead the prayers when our extended family gathers for meals.

In the promises made at Baptism, parents, sponsors, and congregations promise to teach the baptized the Lord's Prayer and to "Nurture them in faith and prayer, so they may know to trust God" (ELW page 228).

A child is never too young to pray. Begin with simple meal time and bed time prayers such as the Lord's Prayer or these:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen!

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. Guide me safely through the night and wake me with the morning light.

Amen!

As your child grows encourage them to learn other prayers and as a family take turns praying for what you are thankful for. Add prayers for any concerns for others you have. I pray the ideas in this newsletter will be helpful.

Blessings, Elayne Werges,

Diaconal Minister-St Paul-Wellsburg & Bethany-Iowa Falls



Make Prayer Sticks

Idea: Decorate a small container and make prayer sticks to remind kids of who and what to pray for.

You will need:

Tongue Depressors or Popsicle sticks
Paints or markers
Glue
Pictures of family members or pets
Magazines
A small jar, flower pot, or can
Mod Podge
Paint brushes
Table Cover



Directions:

1. Gather the materials and cover the table as you see fit.
2. Paint the sticks and let dry
3. Cut pictures into a size that will fit onto your sticks. Find magazine pictures of things that are important to your family.
4. Paint or decorate the jar, pot, or can. Attach magazine pictures with Mod Podge (available at craft stores). Let dry
5. Glue the pictures you gathered on one end of the stick. Place in decorated container.
6. While you are working on the project, talk about ways that prayer has made a difference in your life.
7. Each day have child draw a name and you both pray for that person. Fabulous way to teach importance of prayer for others and not just your own wants!!



This information is prepared for you by the
Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network

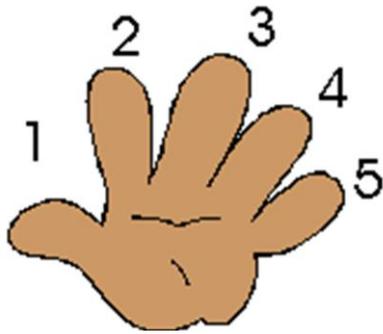
for use by families and local congregations.

For more ideas about how you can pass on faith in your homes go to:

http://www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/YouthFamilyResources.asp

If you have a comment or suggestion for future newsletters or are interested in joining the Home-Life Network please contact the synod office or contact

Elayne Werges at elaynewerges@gmail.com



Pray a Five Finger Prayer

Begin with your thumb (1)-pray for those that are closest to you. People such as your family, friends, and neighbors. They are the easiest to remember to pray for.

The next finger (2) is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.

The next finger is the tallest finger (3). It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion.

The fourth finger is our ring finger. This is our weakest finger. It reminds us to pray for those who are forgotten, in trouble or pain, hurt, or sick.

And lastly comes our little finger (5); the smallest finger of all. This finger reminds us to pray for ourselves last and thank God for all the blessings that God has given you.



Please Pray for:

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- Peanut Butter and Jelly Prayers by Julie Sovig
- Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God (Active Prayer Series) by Sybil McBeth
- Praying in Color Kids' Edition by Sybil McBeth
- The Pray and Play Bible by Group Publishing and Jody Brolsma
- The Pray and Play Bible 2 by Group Publishing and Jody Brolsma

Keep a Family Prayer Journal

Idea: Teach older kids to pray and strengthen the family by praying together.

Things you will need:

Small notebook

Pen or pencil

Pictures to decorate the front

Directions:

1. Have the kids decorate the notebook as you wish.
2. Gather as family. Assign tasks of recorder and prayer leader.
3. Ask for prayer concerns. Have the recorder write them down.
4. Have the prayer leader pray for each of the concerns.
5. Pray the Lord's Prayer together
6. Develop a routine of how you will close your family prayer time.



Make a Prayer Cube

For a fun way to pray for others make a prayer cube.

Find directions at:

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Christian-Education/PrayerCube.aspx>

Prayer Book Suggestions for Kids