

# Living Faith @



May, 2012

Grace and Peace to you...

We will be celebrating Pentecost on Sunday, May 27, 2012. The Pentecost story can be found in Acts 2:1-13. Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter Sunday

Just before Jesus was taken up to heaven he told the disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and they would be his witnesses in the whole world (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit continues to call people into service in the world. How is God calling you, your family, and even your church family into service?

Red is the color of the day. Many congregations place red geraniums on the altar for Pentecost Sunday. Plant them outside afterwards. Encourage everyone to dress in red. Even red shoes!

Pentecost is referred as the beginning of the Christian Church. Truly this is a day to celebrate!

Your sister in Christ,

Elayne Werges, Diaconal Minister  
Serving St Paul-Wellsburg and Bethany-Iowa Falls

## A Litany for Flying Kites



## Celebrate Pentecost with a Church Family Event!

*This event will help families of all ages understand the meaning Pentecost, invite people to come and make a kite at church and have a fun day of flying kites.*

Plan a cross-generational event that will be fun for many different ages. Scheduling is always difficult, so be creative. Invite people to bring their kites and incorporate a kite launching into an outdoor worship service. Below is a litany you can use. Maybe you can make kites during the Sunday School hour. What about planning a family fun event? This idea can work in any size congregation or maybe you can invite another congregation to join you.

Do a search on the web for instructions to make homemade kites. If your budget allows you can order "color your own" from Oriental Trading (IN-48/4404). Have supplies available for people to use for decorating such as permanent markers, stamps/ink, glue, string, colorful torn rags for the tail, stencils or templates of doves, flames, and other spring things.

Include a telling of the Pentecost story from Acts 2:1-13. For younger children read from a Story Bible or find a video version. Have costumes available so kids can act out the story. Have a few fans available to blow the air around the room. Tape red streamers onto the fans to show the wind blowing.

Plan a few other activities for the kids to work on such as Pentecost spinners, pinwheels, or coloring pages. An event is never complete without tasty snacks. Decorate kite shaped cookies or make fruit kabobs. Have fun!

**Leader:** Those who fly kites know that kites are earthbound and cannot lift and soar until they are caught by the wind.

**People:** People and churches are earthbound and cannot be themselves until the wind of God's Spirit lifts them to fly.

**Leader:** Kites are not free to thrust and move until they are let go to explore the skies.

**People:** People and churches are not free to love and care until they can let go and catch the Spirit which is love.

**Leader:** Kites have no power and direction unless they are caught and controlled by the wind.

**People:** People and churches have no power and direction unless they allow the Spirit of God to move within them.

**Leader:** Let us pray...Together: O God, may your Spirit lift us from being earthbound. Make us free to soar, to explore, and give us direction and purpose. O God, help us to fly as people freed by your Spirit to live, to serve, and to love our neighbors. Amen!

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

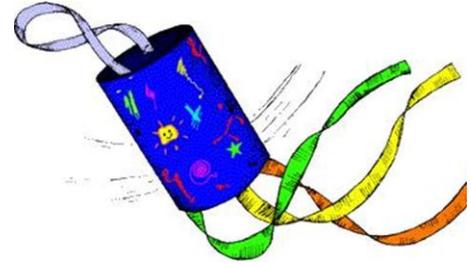
For more ideas about how you can pass on faith in your homes go to:  
[http://www.neiasynod.org/synod\\_resources/YouthFamilyResources.asp](http://www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/YouthFamilyResources.asp)



# Make a Pentecost Windsock

## Supplies:

- ♥ 2 sheets of heavy Red, Orange, and White paper or foam
- ♥ A roll of wide white or red ribbon or streamers-cut in 2 foot pieces
- ♥ Small ribbon or string for the top
- ♥ Hole punch
- ♥ Glue stick or foam glue
- ♥ Scissors
- ♥ A Bible or Story Bible
- ♥ Decorations: markers, fruit, dove, cross, or confetti stickers



## Directions:

1. Enlarge and cut out the dove and flame templates from the bottom of this page, set aside.
2. Trace the template of the dove onto the white paper or foam. Cut out the dove and glue onto a red piece of paper or foam that will become the wind sock. Let dry.
3. Roll a piece of paper or foam into a cylinder.
4. Glue the ends and let it dry.
5. Cut the ribbon into two foot pieces Attach the streamers to the bottom of the cylinder with glue,
6. Trace the flame template onto orange paper or foam. You will need seven. Write the fruits of the spirits on each flame. Glue them on the bottom of the ribbon or streamers, let dry.
7. Punch two holes across from each other. Attach a ribbon to the top for hanging. Decorate with stickers and markers if desired.
8. Hang in a breezy place such as in front of a window or on a deck.
9. Use the conversation starters to talk about the Holy Spirit.

## Conversation:

- ♥ The Holy Spirit is mentioned many times in the New Testament. Look up Galatians 5:22-23. What are the "Fruits of the Spirit"? (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control). Talk about the ways we can or can't do these things.
- ♥ Read about how the Christian Church started in Acts 2.
- ♥ Go outside and feel the wind blow. Talk about how it feel blowing on your face?
- ♥ Talk about where we can see the Holy Spirit active in the world.

