

Dear Faith Shapers,

Summer is rapidly approaching. Summer is a time and love and also dread. I love that the kids are all home but I also feel pressure to be fun all the time. And sometimes I am just plain wore out! I'm sure some of you feel the same way. After you've watched your kids ball games and feed them dinner, all you want to do is sit! Our life will be getting even crazier this summer as we have adopted a 2 year old girl, Naomi, from Ethiopia. Big changes for my house of 4 boys. So I was brainstorming ways to plan fun but still be flexible for the ups and downs as our little Naomi adjusts to life in our family. So I've come up with the summer bucket list. I hope you will join me. The Summer Bucket List will be fun without the stress of fitting things in. We will pick and choose our activities each week and praise God for our family time together.

In Christ's Service,  
Lisa Kammerer  
Associate in Ministry



## Your Summer Bucket List of Family Fun

Summer is a great time to add family fun! Here are some ideas of great family experiences. Make a giant list and fit them in as you can. Flexibility and fun! Sign me up! Here are some ideas.

- \* Grow Something and Eat It
- \* Throw a Backyard Party
- \* Have a Picnic
- \* Read a Book Together
- \* Mail Someone a Surprise
- \* Visit a New Park
- \* Teach your Granny to Text
- \* Visit a Museum
- \* Have a Family Talent Show
- \* Do Random Acts of Kindness
- \* Learn a New Skill
- \* Visit a Zoo
- \* Go Geocaching
- \* Fly a Kite
- \* Have a Neighborhood Water Fight
- \* Sleep in a Tent
- \* Try a Science Experiment
- \* Have a Backwards Dinner
- \* Find a constellation
- \* Make Smores
- \* Plant a Tree
- \* Have a Scavenger Hunt
- \* Help a Neighbor
- \* Take a Hike
- \* Mail a Party in a Box
- \* Script and Film Your Own Movie
- \* Enter a Contest at the Fair
- \* Go to an Outdoor Worship Service
- \* Build a Fort
- \* Recycle your Toys
- \* Go to a Baseball Game
- \* Cook Something from Scratch
- \* Attend an Outdoor Concert
- \* Make Homemade Ice Cream
- \* Catch Lightening Bugs



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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# Outdoor Movie



There is just something sweet about watching a movie on your lawn with your friends! You can project the movie or simply move your big TV outside for the evening. Invite the whole neighborhood, pop loads of popcorn, and be sure to talk about the movie. Check out these movie review sites to spur conversation. [www.allmovie.com](http://www.allmovie.com) or [www.rogerebert.com](http://www.rogerebert.com).



## Technology Corner

Kiva is an amazing non-profit that provides micro loans to people in other countries. Here's how Kiva works.

1. You pick a person to make a loan to. Each person lists their business plan. Loan amounts start at \$25.
2. Get updates. Throughout the life of the loan you will get updates on the progress.
3. Get paid back. As the borrower repays the loan, you will receive Kiva credit which you can reinvest in another loan or cash out.

This is a very cool ministry that helps people build businesses so that they can provide for themselves and their families. Have your kids or students help pick out the loan and give it a try. Access Kiva on the internet at [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org) or download the free app (available for apple and android).

## 10 THINGS TO MAIL TO SUMMER CAMPERS

1. YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE
2. A FRISBEE
3. A CROSS NECKLACE OR BRACELET
4. A BLESSING WRITTEN FOR THEM
5. A BALL
6. YOUR FAVORITE CAMP MEMORY
7. A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
8. SOMETHING YOU MADE
9. A CAMPING JOKE
10. YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THEIR FAITH JOURNEY WITH A PRAYER



## Summer Read Out Loud Books

- [Tuck Everlasting](#) by Natalie Babbitt
- [My Life in Dog Years](#) by Gary Paulson
- [Frindle](#) by Andrew Clements
- [The Indian in the Cupboard](#) by Lynne Reid Banks
- [The Chronicles of Narnia](#) by C.S. Lewis
- [The Bridge to Terabithia](#) by Katherine Patterson
- [Holes](#) by Louis Sachar
- [The Slave Dancer](#) by Paula Fox
- [The Swiss Family Robinson](#) by Johann D. Wyss
- [Mr. Popper's Penguins](#) by Richard & Florence At-

water

