

Living Faith



Dear Faith Shapers,

August is a time of mixed emotions for me. I am always sad that summer is over—no more spur of the moment adventures, summer vacations, outdoor swimming, and neighborhood water fights. I am also feeling happy & excited for the new school year. Excited to have the kids at school, excited for the new things they will be learning, new friends they will be making and most of all excited to be back to some sort of routine. I also like the fresh start of a new school year. We can make new goals, plans, routines, and rituals. What new things are you adding this year? Family fun nights, eating more meals together, sharing highs or lows, reading together, sharing prayers and praises, reading or listening to the Bible, devotions, attending worship as a family, unplugging and connecting with family? We try to pick one thing to work on as a family. We like using the new school year as our start rather than the new year. Also, that gives us a chance to reinvent in January too! Many blessings to you!

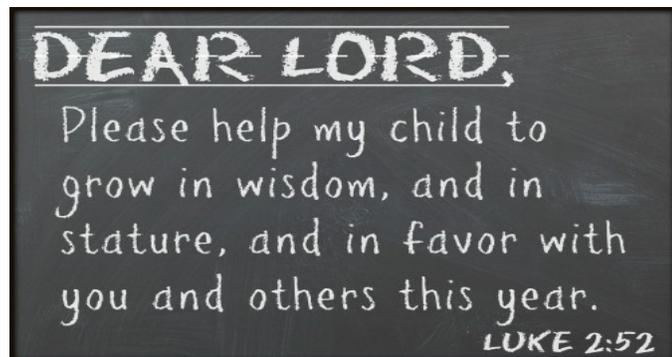
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7 * UP Lifting Ways to Start the New School Year

- 1** Wake UP— decide to have a good day. “This is the day which the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24
- 2** Dress UP— the best way to dress up is to put on a smile!
- 3** Cheer UP— say nice things, have a positive attitude, be a good friend and help others!
- 4** Stand UP— for what you believe in!
- 5** Look UP— to the Lord. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13
- 6** Reach UP— for something higher. Set some great goals and ask God to help you.
- 7** Lift UP— your prayers. God is only a prayer away!



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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Being a Game Changer Online

With today's technology, you can reach in minutes the physical ground that Paul and other

game changers covered in years. Like Paul, you can share your life and how God is moving in it. It's mind-blowing how instantly you can communicate a need, connect others to it, and rally a tidal wave of genuine support from people all over the world.

Here are some ways to be a game changer:

- ⇒ Share what God is up to in your life. Pray for others and invite others to pray with you.
- ⇒ Provide friends and followers with relevant resources or links. Share sermons, books that are meaningful to you, videos that inspire or blog posts that instruct or inspire.
- ⇒ Respect, love, and listen to the people in your online communities. Recognize that they, too, have words of life to share with you. The best teachers are the teachable ones.
- ⇒ Be honest and transparent. We do not need more drama in our lives.
- ⇒ Use open ended questions to spark deeper conversation. You will learn what is on peoples' hearts & minds.
- ⇒ Bring your faith based perspective to conversations during local & global tragedies. Share relief efforts & spur others to action. Your words and actions can be powerful and bring hope to seemingly hopeless situations.
- ⇒ Be kind and compassionate in your tone so you can lovingly respond to others. Engaging in a fight does not help the situation and it hurts your own integrity.
- ⇒ Always use a private message to address sensitive situations and remember, it is impossible to love people if you are busy judging them.

Adapted from [@Sticky Jesus](#) by Tami Heim and Toni Birdsong



“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

Join us in for our ELCA day of service! September 13th is “God’s Work, Our Hands.” Sunday. Rally your Church friends and family for a service project. It’s not too late to come up with a project. Serving with our kids is one of the ways we help them build faith. “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday is awesome because we are serving others AND joining with ELCA churches across the country to be the body of Christ in our world!

How cool is that!



**SHARING FAITH:
BIBLE STORYTELLING STONES**

THESE ARE BIBLE STORYTELLING STONES. YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN BY PAINTING STONES WITH IMAGES FROM A BIBLE STORY. CHILDREN CAN HELP CREATE THE STONES AND THEN RETELL THE STORY USING THE STONES. WE REMEMBER WHAT WE TEACH! THIS IS A GREAT TOOL TO HELP CHILDREN REMEMBER BIBLE STORIES.