

Dear Faith Shapers,

Spring is here (at least on the calendar day when I'm finishing this newsletter)!! In many of our churches, spring comes and with it comes the end of our programming for the school year. Many churches have wonderful volunteers that help make our programming go smoothly and who work with us in ministering to our children, youth and families. This edition will focus on some ideas for saying thank you to those volunteers. Of course you don't have to use them just in the spring! I'm a fan of thanking our volunteers throughout the year. While we are saying thank you to our volunteers, I want to say thank you to all of you for being faith shapers in the lives of children, youth, parents, volunteers and all those you come into contact with! Blessings on your ministries!

In Christ,
Deb Ford



Saying Thank You!

Here are some suggestions on ways to say thank you to volunteers:

1. Recognize them in worship. Sometimes our congregations don't realize who is helping out with our Sunday schools, after school programs, youth group, and all other kinds of ministry. Invite them to be at worship to say thank you publicly for what they have done and pray for them.
2. Give them a small token of gratitude for their service. There are lots of very cool ideas on Pinterest that you can find (I'll highlight a couple on the other side of this newsletter). It's a cute way of saying thank you.
3. Give them a little bigger token of gratitude in the form of a gift card or something they can use in their lives (flowers they can plant outside, tote bags, reusable grocery bags, etc.)
4. Take them out to a meal together or cook a special meal for them. This is a really nice way to say thank you and who doesn't love a time when they don't have to cook!
This is also a great time to ask volunteers for some feedback on their experience as volunteers and the programs themselves.

WE 
VOLUNTEERS

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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Thank You Ideas found on Pinterest



⇒ Get a pair of mittens and a travel size lotion. Put the lotion in the mittens, use a piece of ribbon to tie a note around it all. The note says: "Thanks for lending a hand to our _____ ministry."



⇒ Buy a coffee drink (or a coffee gift card) with a note attached saying "Thanks a Latte"

⇒ You could give them a starter container of a herb with a tag attached saying "You are sup-herb!"

⇒ Do you have some tea lovers as volunteers? Get them a mug (Dollar Tree!) with some tea included. Note reads: "You are tea-riffic!"



⇒ Sweet tooth volunteers? Give them some jelly beans with a note reading "Thank you for BEAN a volunteer"



Possible times to thank volunteers

Seasons and holidays are a great time to say thank you to volunteers.

Fall: A great time to say thank you for helping as you start the school year or you could do a Halloween themed/All Saints themed thank you.

Winter: Christmas is a nice time to write a note to send Christmas blessings and again to say thank you. For not a lot of money, you could put a flat ornament in a Christmas card to send some Christmas cheer.



Valentine's Day is another time to say "we love that you are volunteering!"

Spring: Doing a summer themed thank you as you wrap up the programming year is a way to look forward to summer.



Ways to involve the kids in saying thank you!

If you plan ahead, you can have the kids help you to say thank you!

1. Take a class picture of your volunteer with the kids they work with. Print off the picture and frame it and gift it to the volunteer.

2. Have the kids write a thank you note to the volunteers

3. Print out the letters to Thank You and take pictures of kids holding up the letters. Put it all together to say thank you.



4. Make balloons out of children's fingerprints with thanks from the bunch of us!