

Living Faith @ HOME

Dear Faith Shapers,

There is a chilliness in the air, thanksgiving meal ingredients are featured on our grocery store shelves, the media is obsessed with pumpkin spice anything- all signs that fall is upon us. As we approach the holiday season, it can be tough to steer kids away from constantly wanting things. The media and stores knows exactly how to reel us in. In this newsletter, you will find a couple great ways to foster a sense of gratitude and thankfulness. A gratitude pumpkin is a great family activity and visual reminder of all God has given us. Page two of this newsletter features a wonderful family worship box idea which I have implemented at my church and it has been amazing! My kids are so much more engaged in worship and my church has been delivering the pictures and prayers that the kids draw to those they visit during the week! Making our boxes was also a great church project. We were able to use the talents of others to make some of the items like our palm crosses. Our church administrator even added symbols in our bulletin to go with the boxes. We are having so much fun with this and I hope you do too!

With gratitude and thankfulness,
Lisa Kammerer, Deacon

November Family Faith Shaping Activity

Gratitude Pumpkin

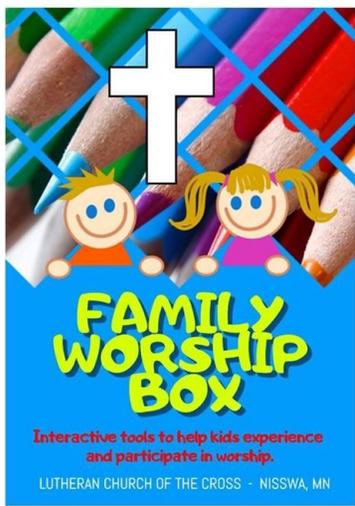
WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR? WRITE ONE THING EACH DAY OF NOVEMBER.



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

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Worship Box Idea from Kari Nilssen Erickson, Director of Children & Family Ministry at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa, MN

These boxes are available for families with small children and are filled with interactive tools to help them experience and participate in worship with their family, while learning the significance of the parts of the service.

Battery Operated Candle– Light your candle when the candles are lit at the front of the church and hold it up high. Turn the candle off between uses and place back in the box. The candle reminds us

that Jesus, the light of the world, is with us.

Wood Palm Cross– Take out the cross and hold it tight during times of prayer. Listen for:

- * Prayer at the beginning of the service called “confession” when we ask God to forgive us.
- * The “prayer of the day” when we pray to begin worship together.
- * The “offertory prayer” when we offer our gifts to God.
- * The “prayers of intercession” when we pray for those who are hurting and places in the world that need God’s help
- * “The Lord’s Prayer
- * “Prayer after communion” when we thank God for the gift of forgiveness.
- * The Benediction

Pouch of Stones– when it is time to share the peace, take one stone from the pouch and give it to someone who is new to you as you share the peace– tell them that each time they hold it in their hand, they are reminded of God’s peace, and to keep Jesus in their heart.

Ribbon Wand– use this ribbon on a stick when you want to move to the music. Gently wave it over your head, down low, or even take it into the aisle to twirl near your seat (be careful not to go very far and don’t get wild and crazy). When the music stops, put it back in the box.

Spark Story Bible– Look in the bulletin for this week’s Gospel. Look up the story for this week, read it and look at the pictures. What do you learn about God and Jesus from reading?

Clipboard– Listen to the Bible readings and other things being talked about in worship. Draw a picture of something you hear or feel during worship today, and/or work on your children’s bulletin or coloring sheets.

Reusable Envelope– use this envelope to give a gift of love to God. You may include money, write a note about something you will do to help others this week, write a prayer, or include the picture you drew in worship today. Place it in the offering plate when it is passed around.

Stickers– as you leave worship, place one of the stickers on your clothing to remember that you are sent into the world to tell others about Jesus.

As worship concludes, be sure all items are back in the box, ready for the next family to use it.

