

Living Faith



Dear Faith Shapers,

Happy Fall! Besides the beauty of this time of year, it's also a wonderful time to bring the generations together, to worship, pray, play and celebrate. What better way to connect all ages and stages of life together than thru worship and celebrations in the church. A study done by Fuller Institute shows that children who grow up having at least 5 caring adults (other than their parents) a part of their faith journey, will continue to have a faith into their adulthood. So the best thing we can do for our kids is to be a part of their lives, living out our faith. Attend worship together, pray together, talk about your faith. Let your kids see you serving, worshipping, reading your Bible, praying, maintaining Christian friendships, and using your talents and gifts to serve the world. May you find ways to connect to a different generation than yourself and may you live out your baptismal promises and shape the faith of the next generation.

Congregations are a vast, untapped potential for bringing the generations together to accompany one another through life's milestones, challenges and celebrations and in the mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. In fact – a faith community is the **ONLY** institution in our society that has the opportunity to consistently gather all **6** generations, who live on our planet, into one space and time.



- ⇒ *Sit next to a different generation than yourself in worship...and be sure to introduce yourself.*
- ⇒ *Offer to babysit for parents of young children.*
- ⇒ *Hold a potluck but when eating you must have one person who represents each generation in the room at your table.*
- ⇒ *Once a month have a Cross+Generational Sunday school class.*
- * *What does the elder have to give that you can't get in a workbook? Time. Experience. Wisdom. Love. Perspective. Patience.*
- * *What does the child have to give that you can't get in a workbook? Wonder. Energy. Innocence. Honesty. Curiosity. Joy.*



This information is prepared for you by the **Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network** for use by families and local congregations. Like our page on Facebook and our posted resources will appear in your newsfeed. Our page is [Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life](#)



History of Halloween & a fun way to Celebrate with Kids

HISTORY: Did you know that Halloween is one of the world's oldest holidays? It has gone through many changes. It was originally a Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced sow-in), marking the end of harvest and the beginning of the new year (November 1st). The druids believed that ghosts and spirits roamed the earth at this time, and they lit bonfires as protection. When the Romans took over the Celtic lands, they adapted the day to honor their own deities. Eventually, the Roman Catholic Church adapted the day as All Hallows' Eve. It was the night before All Saints Day, the day they honored saints who did not have a specific feast day of their own. The name gradually changed to Halloween. The tradition of trick-or-treating dates to All Souls' Days parades in England. Villagers gave poor people "soul cakes" in return for prayers for their dead relatives. In 1920s America, kids began going trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. By this time, Halloween lost its religious meaning and became a holiday where people could wear costumes and become, for one night, something fantastical.



Trunk-or-Treat Nite

Gather the generations together for a potluck supper, then head out into the church parking lot for an evening of fun as the children trick-or-treat from trunk to trunk. It's a fun and safe way to celebrate the holiday as a congregation. And it may even bring in (new) families.

*** October 31 is an important day in our church too. It is the day we celebrate the birth of the Lutheran Church. We call it Reformation Day. It is anniversary of the night that Martin Luther posted the 95 Thesis on the Door of the church in Wittenburg. It was no accident that Luther chose this night to post his letter.*

3 Activities to Celebrate the Reformation with Kids

Try a printing press activity. Apply glue dots to that back of foam letters and stick the letters to wooden blocks. Dip the blocks into ink or paint to spell words.



Color a picture of Martin Luther, the Lutheran Rose or use a quill to write Ephesians 2:8-9.

Read/Watch: Here are Some Suggestions For Kids: "Martin Luther, A Man Who Changed the World" by Paul L. Maier "The Adventures of Martin Luther" by Carolyn Bergt and Art Kirchhoff **For Teens and Adults:** "Luther" (2003) Rated PG13, DVD "Opening the Door to Luther"-Rick Steves- Video about the history and places in Germany where Martin Luther lived and worked. (<http://www.eica.org/Who-We-Are/History/Opening-the-Door-to-Luther.aspx>) **For Everyone:** "Luther's Small Catechism" - By Martin Luther