

Dear Faith Shapers,
July and August are wonderful months to spend time with family and create lasting memories. Vacations, travel, and adventures are blessings and create opportunities to connect with each one another. May you find plenty of time to enjoy God's wonderful creation together as friends and family. And may you feel and see the many blessings that the Lord has given us each and every day. Try and find some time to grab a meal together and ask each other these questions:

- ⇒ What does the word "blessing" mean to you?
- ⇒ Share a time you were blessed by someone.
- ⇒ What gives you joy?
- ⇒ What has been your greatest joy so far?

Kristin Johnson
Deacon



School Kit Supply List: Learn more at lwr.org

Whether you're back-to-school shopping with your children or grandchildren—or purchasing your own new supplies—now is the perfect time to pick up all that is needed for a Lutheran World Relief School Kit! Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Project Promise School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future. Make a difference today!

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH KIT

- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 ½" eraser
- ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



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 Network](https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternIowaSynodHomeLifeNetwork) [ELCA](http://www.elca.org)



Rally Sunday

During the months of August and September most congregations will celebrate Rally Sunday. This is a time when all the Faith Formation programs start again for the year. It can be said that Rally Sunday sets the tone for the rest of the year. Here are some ideas of things your congregation can do. Keep in mind...no congregation is too large or small to do these things, it just takes a small group of committed individuals to plan and organize the activities.

- ⇒ Worship at a local park—followed with a potluck, of course.
- ⇒ Worship at a church camp—followed by utilizing some of their facilities/programming as a fellowship activity, like horseback riding or swimming in their pool.
- ⇒ Worship with a theme—go to LWR.org or ELCA.org/walk4water to find some great ones like Barnyard Animals (have someone bring some animals for a ‘petting zoo’ in the church yard) or Walk For Water campaign (walk around the block with water jugs, play water games, etc.)
- ⇒ Invite members of the congregation to be prayer partners with the children and the youth. Print kids names and baptismal anniversary on the cards that will be distributed. Exchange cards and notes through the year. Sometime during the year have a day where you celebrate prayer partners.

Rally Sunday is a great time to celebrate as a congregation all the mission work, fun and fellowship you enjoy together as a community!

Worship at a church camp!



Worship at a local park!



Worship with ELCA
Walk4Water

