

ed. network

A reproducible networking newsletter for the Christian Education Ministries of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, to equip, empower, and encourage believers of all ages to develop their relationship with God and neighbor through faith development and discipleship.

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.
Proverbs 22:6

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Tongues of flame appeared as a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, red is the energetic color for this day. Consider creating red banners or using poles with red streamers in procession. Sunday school classes could easily contribute to such a project. Invite members of the congregation to wear red on that day. Put as much work into arranging for red flowers, such as geraniums or roses, as you did for poinsettias and lilies.

The reading from Acts tells us that God’s Word was proclaimed in many languages. On that day, consider reading a portion of the Scripture in many languages, perhaps simultaneously. Be sure that the message is heard clearly and understood by all before launching into a cacophony of sound. This need not be done for an entire reading. Perhaps the Gospel could be read entirely in English (or your congregation’s primary language), then just a few verses repeated in many languages.

The Gospel speaks of Jesus “breathing” on the disciples as he gives them the Holy Spirit. Organ pipes and other instruments speak a breath in worship. How might air, wind, or breath, be experienced in a different way in worship on this day? Wind chimes or bells could be tied into banners or streamers. Be sure to instruct those who carry them to jiggle them slightly as they process to be sure they will be heard.

To further enhance the Pentecost experience, this would be an excellent day to have your congregation sing in a different language. For some people, this can be very uncomfortable and frustrating, so start slowly. “*Veni, Sancte Spiritus*” (Come, Holy Spirit, *With One Voice* #686) is a simple refrain in Latin (a neutral language), or try a song from Africa, such as “*Wa,wa,wa Emimino*” (Come, O Holy Spirit, Come, *With One Voice* #681). Either song could make an effective, quiet introduction to a rousing entrance hymn, allowing the procession of red streamers and bells (described above) to be experienced and heard by all before launching into the hymn.

“Reprinted from Seeds for the Parish, March-April 2005”

IT’S ASCENSION DAY!

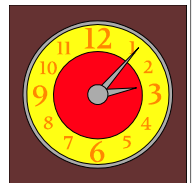
On the Sunday before or after Ascension Day (Thursday, May 1, 2008)

blow bubbles with your class.

Bubbles rise and disappear, but the moisture is still there and sometimes sprays on us—just like Jesus!

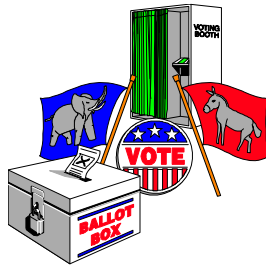
He rose into the sky and disappeared but his presence is still around touching our lives forever.

TAKE TIME TO . . .



One of the problems in Christian Education is that we tie our activities to the public school calendar. While this is not all bad because it ensures a consistent attendance at the Sunday or week-end education hour, it does cause a three month dead time during the summer. Some of this dead time is consumed by Vacation Bible School but this is
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ON THE POLITICAL FRONT



With so much publicity about the primary returns, what does being on the political front mean for Christian educators?

Promote Bible study and prayer for faithful decision-making. God calls us to love our neighbor, seek peace and justice, and care for God's creation. These are at the heart of the political issues sparking the 2008 election cycle. Candidates are talking about poverty, hunger, housing, healthcare, ethics about life and death, global warming, immigration, peace and conflict. Are we hearing what the candidates are saying? Is what they say scripture based?

Scripture quotations are available in the 2008 Voting and Election Participation Guide at:

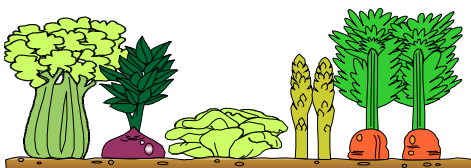
www.elca.org/advocacy/publicchurch/index.html.

Use the prayers in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) to get talking with God about these issues: prayers for Civic Life, Government, Nations are found on pages 76-78; for Social Ministry on page 79; about Stewardship on page 80 in the front section of the ELW. Also in the ELW, at the end of the hymn section, are National Songs [#887-893].

SUMMER IS HERE!

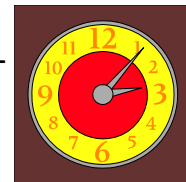
During the spring of the year, those who are gardeners eagerly start looking for the new sprouts to appear. The flower and plant catalogues have already been dog-eared with possible new and exciting projects.

For the past two summers, one Sunday School has planted gardens, usually the week before Memorial Day, as a celebration of the last day of Sunday School before summer. Members of the congregations donate rigid-side children's swimming pools (they can even be used and/or cracked!), potting soil, seeds, and fertilizer. A variety of vegetables are planted in the pools —tomatoes, green peppers, green beans, zucchini, and other vegetables — and left outside on the church lawn. Families sign up for a week at a time to tend the gardens — pull weeds, water if needed, and harvest produce which then goes to the local food pantry. The children love watching the vegetables grow and are sharing in an important service project. Need help in financing this project? Check with your Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Congregation Coordinator. This could count as a hands-on-project and up front funds could be available.

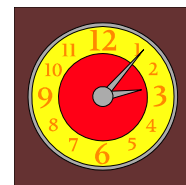


(Time, continued) usually just one week. What do we do the rest of the summer months?

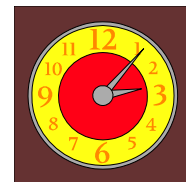
TAKE TIME TO encourage your congregation to do daily devotions during the summer. There are many tools to help in this such as "Our Daily Bread" or "The Upper Room." Look in the ELW for our daily lectionary to use as devotions.



TAKE TIME TO start a summer book club. Meet once a week to read and discuss Christian literature or education help books. Check the Christian Resource Center (www.cts.edu) for materials to borrow. Click on CTS Library and then click on CRC and select from the CRC menu.



TAKE TIME TO organize an educational conference at your church or attend an educational conference which is close by. The Josh Hunt website has conferences listed (www.joshhunt.com/conference2.htm) and there is a professor at Western Michigan University, Dr. Paul Maier, who will travel to your church and give an educational conference. Dr. Maier has developed courses on topics such as "Christianity—the first Three Centuries" and "St. Paul and the Spread of Christianity." His email is maier@wmich.edu.



(More Take Time To . . . Suggestions coming in the next issue of ed.network)