

# ZION'S FAITH AT HOME & FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

## theParentLink<sup>SM</sup>

July 2010



## Maximize Your "Together Time"

Summertime is ideal for hanging out together and creating lasting memories. It's also ideal for spending time with God and creating lasting faith. With the economic downturn, many families are now looking for ways to bond on a budget. Thankfully, fancy trips and high-tech gadgets aren't required.

This summer, grow closer to each other and to God with these easy, practical ideas. Make the most of your family time, and have fun in the process. Then continue these habits long after packing away the flip-flops!

**Family Mission Statements**—First, pause to plan out your purpose as a family. Begin with short-term goals for your summer, letting each family member contribute. Then brainstorm big-picture, long-term goals. Ask: "What does our family stand for? What are our values, and how will we live them out?" Then have everyone commit to live according to your family's mission statement.

**On-the-Go Togetherness**—Road trips provide family members with lots of undivided attention. Enjoy long conversations, play games, and sing along to Christian music. Pray aloud for residents of towns you pass and for rescue crews heading to accidents.



**The Wonder of Worship**—During the summer, add variety to your routine by worshipping at a different time. Try a new style of worship or visit other churches together. Take children to vacation Bible school at local churches, and invite friends to go along.

**Come to Awesome God**, potlucks at Zion this summer! Faith at Home ministry will provide the BBQ grills, the paper goods and the drinks. Bring your family and friends and a salad, dessert or meat to share! Come every "last" Wednesday of the month, June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 pm by the Parish House.

PowerSource

### Ask God:

1. To help you safeguard uninterrupted family time.
2. To strengthen your family's bonds.
3. To help your kids value spending time with God.

### Parenting Insights

Dr. David Anderson of the Youth & Family Institute offers these "Four Keys for Daily Living" to nurture faith life in the home:

**Caring Conversations**—Listening and responding to our children's daily concerns makes it easier to have meaningful talks about God's love. We express that love to others.

**Family Devotions**—Infusing caring conversations with "God-talk" elevates them into devotions. We find God in our everyday experiences.

**Rituals and Traditions**— These identify who we are and tell a family's stories. We bless and pray for one another and have bedtime rituals that include God's presence.

**Family Service**—This isn't an obligation but a loving, grateful response to God's love for us. We live our faith.

## OpenTheBook

**"I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you."  
2 Timothy 1:5**

Paul was aware of Timothy's strong faith but also where it came from: Timothy's family. When we spend time with family members and close friends who love the Lord, faith gets passed on.

### Teachable Moments

#### 1. Let It Shine—

Place some floating candles in a kiddie pool, and have children use squirt guns to try to extinguish the candles. Talk about how God wants us to let our light shine for him no matter what tries to extinguish it.

#### 2. Express Yourself—

Use sidewalk chalk to declare your love for one another and God. Fill your driveway or sidewalks with special messages, family portraits, and short Bible passages.

#### 3. Go for "Some More"

—Set out ingredients for S'mores and make them together, assembly-line fashion. As you eat, ask: "When has God done 'some more' for you? Why do you think God wants us to do 'some more' for others?"

## Zion's Mission Trip Students:



This picture is from our retreat to Ravensdale in May. Would you like to follow along with us on our mission trip? Pray for us! We have started our own blog. It's not hard, just three easy steps:

- 1) Go to Youthmark.com
- 2) Under the "Missions" tab, highlight and scroll down to "Mission Team Blogs" and click it.
- 3) Scroll down until you see Zion Lutheran church and click!

See inside Horizon for more details☺

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# LIVING WORD

went to:

# LUTHERHAVEN



Big **thank you** go to our congregation who helped finance this event through the Faith at Home Auction! And of course we couldn't have done it without our volunteers who helped with driving and details. Many hands make light work! Thank you faithful Living Word volunteers.



**"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are **ON THE ROAD**, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

Encourage your children to share their thoughts about how you spend your family time. Use these questions as a springboard for insightful conversations.

1. What times that our family spends together are most special to you, and why? How does that "together time" make you feel?
2. What do you wish we did more of together, and why?
3. What do our favorite things to do as a family say about us? How can we demonstrate our faith during these together times?

Why does Jesus like us to spend time with him?

## How to Cope With Crises and Teenagers' Grief



No matter how hard we try to protect our teenagers, they're bound to face some hardships and sorrows. Unfortunately, kids aren't immune to pain and tragedy. Some of the tough times of adolescence are quite common (broken relationships, not making a team, failing a test), but

they still can seem devastating for teenagers. Other times, life really throws your kids a curve. Friends die in a car accident. A classmate commits suicide. Your family faces a death, divorce, natural disaster, or other major upheaval.

Some of the best impact you can have on kids' lives is during crisis situations. That's when kids need a prepared, focused, engaged, and loving ally. That's also when they're powerfully open to God's healing touch. God is love, and he can't keep himself from moving redemptively into traumatic experiences that land like a bomb in kids' lives. Through God's grace, families often discover strengths,

resilience, and courage that wouldn't have surfaced otherwise.

As a parent, you have the opportunity to be a safe haven during life's storms. Allow kids to tell and retell their stories and share their feelings. Give them space to talk about their doubts and questions about God.

Use crises to develop in your teenagers eyes full of compassion (see Matthew 9: 35-38). And offer hope that God will turn tragedy into something beautiful, according to his will. This issue of "The Parent Link" offers insights and general strategies you can use. For help with specific crises, check out *Group's Emergency Response Handbook for Parents*, available from [www.group.com](http://www.group.com)



**Focus**  
on **Prayer**

### PRAY THAT:

1. God will prepare your teenagers and your family spiritually for times of upheaval and uncertainty and favor.
2. God will provide comfort and peace for your teenagers when grief turns their lives upside-down.
3. You will always be receptive to listening to your kids and will demonstrate Christlike acceptance when they're hurting and enjoying life.
4. During tragedies, God will transform lives and be glorified.

## A Trip to the Ball Game



**Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:30pm**

at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma.

Tacoma Rainiers Game

- Cost is **\$9.95** per person, includes hotdog, chips, soda.
- **first** baseline seat! Sign up outside the church office.

If you have any questions contact Danielle Acay @ [dacay.zionkent@comcast.net](mailto:dacay.zionkent@comcast.net).



## June 6<sup>th</sup> was Graduating High School Senior Sunday



*Each graduating senior was gifted with a Bible, engraved with their name and a personalized quilt from Patch Klatch and Z.L.C.W.*

*What a special moment in time. We pray for each and every student. May God bless them and increase their faith in God.*

### FAITH AT HOME EVENING EVENTS:



## “AWESOME GOD”

### POTLUCK PARISH HOUSE DINNERS

**June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**

**BBQ grills, paper products and drinks are supplied by Faith at Home.**

**Bring your dinner and share a salad or dessert!  
This is a church wide, family, friends and fun event!**

### Important dates:



- ✝ June 30<sup>th</sup>: “AWESOME GOD” Summer potluck dinner event, 6-7:30 pm.
- ✝ July 4<sup>th</sup>: American Independence Day
- ✝ July 9<sup>th</sup>-July 17<sup>th</sup>: High School Mission Trip with Youthmark.
- ✝ July 28<sup>th</sup>: Second “AWESOME GOD” Potluck, 6-7:30 pm.
- ✝ August 15<sup>th</sup>: Tacoma Rainiers Baseball Game, 1:30 pm.
- ✝ August 25<sup>th</sup>: Last “AWESOME GOD” summer night potluck at Zion, 6-7:30 pm.

