

## Taking Risks Activity

- Beginning something new, doing things in new ways, creating a Missional ethos – all of this involves change, exploration, experimentation and taking risks
- How many of you are risk takers?
- It might depend on what area of our lives we are talking about.....I was willing to take risks as a pastor, trying new things, thinking 'outside the box', etc., but if you take me to an amusement park, that is where my risk stops. I am not getting on any of those rides!
- What is the best way not to fall off a ladder? Don't get on. But sometimes we have to climb a ladder to accomplish a goal – change a light bulb, clean the leaves out of a gutter.
- Someone once said to me, "I would be willing to take a risk, if I knew what was at the other end." What is your response to that? Then it's not a risk. Ok. Hold that thought.
- In jest....You know, I am somewhat of a fortune teller, I am going to tell your fortune, predict your future today. Lol!
- Distribute fortune cookies with scripture verse in them. You can order these from Oriental Trading Co.
- Have participants volunteer, and then stand up and read their fortune to the group.
- Remember the thought that you were holding – If we know what is at the end of a risk, then it is not a risk.
- You do know what, or rather who, is at the end of every risk that you take – God/Jesus.
- And not only is God/Jesus at the end, but at the beginning, and in the middle, and every step along the way.
- As you discern what God is calling you to do, as you develop the purpose and guiding principles for your congregation, God is going to lead you into new ways of mission and ministry, exploring, experimenting, taking risks. You can move forward because God is with you.....every step.....
- Does this mean that you will never fail? Probably not, we are human, we fail.....but when we fail we fall right into the arms of God....and that is not a bad place to be.
- The God I know, let's me rest for a while and then plops me back up on my feet and gives me a little shove and tells me to get moving....living out my baptismal call, accomplishing what God is calling me to do, living out the congregations purpose and guiding principles.

*Please note: Fortune Cookies are available from Oriental Trading – Bible Verse Fortune Cookies – Item # IN-/K365*

*Pastor Nancy Nyland  
Director for Evangelical Mission  
Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA  
[nnyland@iksynod.org](mailto:nnyland@iksynod.org)  
317-625-4057*