

Children's sermon: January 11, 2009  
"It feels SLINKY"

My friends ... take the "Long and Winding Road" up here ... for a story.  
Who sings this song???? ... you don't know???? ... THE BEATLES!!

It's been a long-and-winding road for two friends we brought back from our vacation in Florida ----  
Fred the dolphin ... and Fred the frog.  
They are not happy with this cold weather and snow ... and ----- they cannot find a church they like in  
Florida. So, they are here ---- in search of a friendly church!!  
When you walk (or swim!!) into a church ... what is the first room you enter???  
THE NARTHEX!!

You see? ... the narthex sets the tone.  
Is it a friendly room?  
Do people smile? ... say "hello"????

Well ... our friends the dolphin and frog are in search of a church (hey, it rhymes!!).

Here is a big fancy church ... with a fancy narthex.  
They enter ... and OHHHHHHHHHHH ... it doesn't feel too good.  
In dolphin and frog language ... they come out and say ---  
*"It feels kind-of prickly in here!!"*  
And look ---- there are "prickly Lutherans" in the narthex ... this is what a "prickly Lutheran"  
looks like ----- not fun!! Nor pretty!!

Well ... they end up seeing another church. It's old ... not very fancy ... and it has a small narthex.  
But ... they try it.  
They enter ... and OHHHHHHHHHHH ... it feels good.  
In dolphin and frog language ... they come out and say ---  
*"It feels slinky in here!!"*

"Slinky" means friendly .... nice ... welcoming.  
Want to see what a "slinky Lutheran" looks like???  
Aren't these cut little creatures??

How about you. Your "heart" is like a "narthex." Are you friendly? ... do you help people? ...  
do you make them feel welcome?  
Do people see Jesus in your face? ... in your "narthex"????

Life is a "long and winding road" ... people need a good narthex ... they need good friends ...  
Here ----- your very own "slinky Lutheran" ...  
It's good to have that "slinky feeling" when you walk (or swim ... or hop) into church!!