FAMILIES AT THE CENTER OF FAITH FORMATION
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ReimagineFaithFormation.com (Family)
LifelongFaith.com (Family Symposium, Presentations)
EVOLUTION OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- Extended Family Approach
- Age-Specific Approach
- Family Involvement Approach
  1. Parent/Family Parallel Model
  2. Family Small Groups Model
  3. Family Connected Model
  4. Family-Intergenerational Model
FAMILIES AT THE CENTER

- Seeing the home as the essential & foundational environment for faith nurture, faith practice, and the healthy development of young people.
- Building faith formation around the lives of the today’s families and parents, rather than having the congregation prescribe the programs and activities that families will participate in.

SEVEN KEY INSIGHTS

1. God is actively present in family life.
2. The family is a community of faith, a “school of discipleship.”
3. Faith is formed through eight essential processes.
4. Faith is formed in intergenerational faith communities.
5. Faith is formed in developmentally-appropriate ways.
6. Parents and the family are the most important religious influence on religious transmission.
7. Parents and families have a diversity of religious-spiritual identities.
DESIGNING: CONTEXTUALIZE

- Diversity of Family Forms: no dominant family form in U.S.
- Variety of Spiritual-Religious Identities: Engaged, Occasionals, Spirituals, Unaffiliated
- Generational Parenting Approaches
  - Gen X parents—tangible practices that will keep their children safe, reasonably happy, well-behaved, and ready to take on life’s challenges. *Protective Parenting*
  - Millennial parents—a more democratic approach to family management, encouraging their children to be open-minded, empathetic, and questioning—and teaching them to be themselves and try new things. *Responsive Parenting*
- Diversity of Ethnicities: distinctive ethnic identities, histories, and religious traditions and practices

DESIGNING: HOLISTIC

GROWTH IN FAITH

- Church Year Seasons
- Learning the Tradition
- Praying Spiritual Formation
- Reading the Bible
- Rituals & Milestones
- Serving Working for Justice Caring for Creation
- Caring Relationships
- Worshipping
DESIGNING: CONNECTED

The design of each strategy needs to connect church life with home life, or home life with church life. The flow goes both ways.

- Congregational experiences (worship, seasons of the year, learning, service, and more) are extended into the home through experiences, activities, and resources that deepen faith.

- Family life issues, concerns, interests, milestones, and more become central to the design of church experiences (celebrations, programming, activities, and more).
DESIGNING: INTERGENERATIONAL

The design of each strategy needs to engage families in the intergenerational life, events, and experiences of the faith community.

This can involve developing intergenerational experiences at church that include family participation (worship, learning, service, social), and preparing families for participation in the central events of church life and the Christian faith and guiding their participation and reflection upon those events.

DESIGNING: INTERGENERATIONAL

Preparation: knowledge & practices for participating fully

Guided Participation: in the events of church life & the Christian Faith

Reflection: on the experience and living its meaning in daily life
DESIGNING: DIGITALLY-ENABLED

![Diagram showing different levels of digitally-enabled learning from fully online to gathered with flipped classroom to gathered with online components beyond the program to gathered program with supportive online content.]

DESIGNING: PLAYLISTS

Playlists are thematic learning plans that integrate a variety of ways to learn, multiple learning environments, and online and physical spaces—from which people can create their own plan.

Example: Just for Parents

1. "First Wednesdays" Webinar Series
2. Learn More About Your Children
3. Book Group: The Secrets of Happy Families by Bruce Feiler
4. Online Video: "Parenting for the Long Haul"
DESIGNING: CURATING & CREATING

A Faith Formation Curator is a trusted guide who continually finds, groups, organizes, evaluates, and connects the best and most relevant content and experiences on a specific topic to match the needs of a specific audience.

Current Roles
- Developing religious content
- Designing programming
- Managing programming
- Teaching/Facilitating programming

Emerging Roles
- Designing faith forming environments—architecture
- Designing Digital Platforms for faith forming content
- Curating faith forming content & experiences
DESIGNING: SEASONS OF PROGRAMMING

Fall Season: Sept 1 – Jan 1
Winter/Spring Season: Jan 1 – May 1
Summer Season: May 1 – Sept 1

EIGHT STRATEGIES

1. Discovering God in Everyday Life
2. Forming Faith at Home through the Life Cycle
3. Forming Faith through Milestones
4. Celebrating Seasonal Events through the Year
5. Encountering God in the Bible through the Year
6. Connecting Families Intergenerationally
7. Developing a Strong Family Life
8. Empowering Parents and Grandparents
#1. DISCOVERING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

- Everyday experiences are the core resources of spiritual narratives, even for those affiliated with traditional religious institutions.
- “People feel most connected to whatever they understand as God, the divine, a Higher Power when they’re deeply engaged in the fabric of everyday life, spending time with family, with friends, preparing and sharing food, enjoying their pets.”

#1. DISCOVERING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Spiritually meaningfully practices
1. enjoying time with family
2. enjoying time with friends
3. enjoying time with pets or other animals
4. preparing and/or sharing food/meals
5. praying
6. enjoying nature
7. listing to/playing music
8. enjoying/creating art
9. physical activity/sports
10. yoga and meditation

On the list of 25 items, the last three items were reading/studying scripture, attending worship, and attending a non-worship activity, event or meeting at church.
#1. DISCOVERING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

The Examen

1. **Become aware of God's presence.** Find a comfortable place where you can secure ten or fifteen quiet minutes.
2. **Review the events and experiences of the day** with gratitude to understand how God is acting in your life. Move through the day as if you were watching it on video.
3. **Pay attention** to the feelings that your experiences evoke. Ask what God is saying through these feelings.
4. **Choose one feature of the day, reflect upon it, and pray from it.**
   How are you discovering God in the midst of your daily life? Are you drawing closer to God or further away?
5. **Look toward tomorrow.** Ask God to give you light for tomorrow’s challenges.

An “Examen for Children” (Tim and Sue Muldoon)

1. Quiet the children before bedtime.
2. Ask them what made them happy over the past day.
3. Ask them what made them sad over the past day.
4. Ask them what they look forward to tomorrow.
5. Remind them to thank God for what made them happy, ask for God’s help when they are sad, and pray for God’s presence in the coming day.
#1. DISCOVERING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

**FAITH5™** (Rich Melheim & FaithInkubators)

1. Share the highs and lows of the day.
2. Read a key Bible verse or story.
3. Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows.
4. Pray for one another’s highs and lows aloud.
5. Bless one another.
# 1. DISCOVERING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Spirituality “may be the name for a longing for more meaning, more feeling, more connection, more life. When I hear people talk about spirituality, that seems to be what they are describing. They know there is more to life than what meets the eye. They have drawn close to this ‘More’ in nature, in love, in art, in grief. They would be happy for someone to teach them how to spend more time in the presence of this deeper reality. . . .”

“. . . the last place most people look is right under their feet, in the everyday activities accidents, and encounters in their lives. . . . the reason so many of us cannot see the red X that marks the spot is because we are standing on it”.

# 1. DISCOVERING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

. . . . To make bread or love, to dig in the earth, to feed an animal or cook for a stranger—these activities require no extensive commentary, no lucid theology. All they require is someone willing to bend, reach, chop, stir. Most of these tasks are so full of pleasure that there is no need to complicate things by calling them holy. And yet these are the same activities that change lives, sometimes all at once and sometimes more slowly, the way dripping water changes stone. In a world where faith is often construed as a way of thinking, bodily practices remind the willing that faith is a way of life.”
### 1. DISCOVERING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Practicing Our Faith</strong></th>
<th><strong>An Altar in the World</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Honoring the body</td>
<td>1. The Practice of Waking Up to God (Vision)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Hospitality</td>
<td>2. The Practice of Paying Attention (Reverence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Household economics</td>
<td>3. The Practice of Wearing Skin (Incarnation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Saying yes and say no</td>
<td>4. The Practice of Walking on the Earth (Groundedness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Keeping Sabbath</td>
<td>5. The Practice of Getting Lost (Wilderness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Testimony</td>
<td>6. The Practice of Encountering Others (Community)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Discernment</td>
<td>7. The Practice of Living with Purpose (Vocation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Shaping communities</td>
<td>8. The Practice of Saying No (Sabbath)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Healing</td>
<td>10. The Practice of Feeling Pain (Breakthrough)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Dying well</td>
<td>11. The Practice of Being Present to God (Prayer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Singing our lives.</td>
<td>12. The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings (Benediction)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. **Yearning** taps into our hunger through the real-life stories of people seeking meaning and purpose for their lives through a particular practice.

2. **Reflecting** gives people an opportunity to become aware of how they experience the basic human need and hunger for the practice in their own lives, and how they may already be living this practice.

3. **Exploring** presents the biblical teaching on the practice and how the practice addresses our basic need and hungers.

4. **Living** provides people with a variety of ways to live the practice—activities, ideas, and strategies.

5. **Praying**.
DISCOVERING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

1. Embed and Equip
   ▶ Worship, learning, sacraments, retreats, and more

2. Create and Sponsor
   ▶ Family/intergenerational programs
   ▶ Small group experiences

3. Equip and Resource
   ▶ Print, audio, and video resources for discovering God and for living practices in everyday life

4. Connect and Engage
   ▶ New settings for spiritual conversations
#2. FORMING FAITH AT HOME

A Household Curriculum

1. **Content**: Eight Faith Forming Processes

2. **Settings**: Home, Intergenerational, Church Life, Parents
   - Home: What are families doing to grow in faith and discipleship in each of the eight faith forming processes?
   - Intergenerational: How are families connected to the other generations at church?
   - Church: How are congregations empowering, resourcing, and supporting families to grow as disciples & practice their faith?
   - Parents: How are congregations empowering, resourcing, and supporting parents as faith formers?

2. FAITH FORMING AT HOME

3. **Developmentally-Appropriate**: Content accommodated to the needs and interests of each stage *and* to the way young people think and assimilate information and values at each life stage.
   - young children (0-5)
   - older children (6-10)
   - young adults (11-14)
   - older adolescents (15-18)
   - emerging adults (19-29)
2. FAITH FORMING AT HOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage:</th>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Intergenerational</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caring Relationships</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrating Seasons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrating Rituals &amp; Milestones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning the Christian Tradition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Praying &amp; Spiritual Formation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading the Bible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serving/Working for Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worshipping God Together</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#3. FORMING FAITH THRU MILESTONES

First Year – Baptismal Remembrance (A gathering for newly baptized)
Toddlers – Creation (Care for the World Coordinate)
Preschool One – Bible (Receive a Story Bible)
Preschool Two – Worship (Proclaim Christ and receive worship)
Pre-Kindergarten – Serve (Serve your neighbor as Jesus commanded)
1st Grade – Lord’s Prayer (Learn about prayer)
2nd Grade – First Communion (Share in the Lord’s Supper)
3rd Grade – Bible (Receive a more age-appropriate Bible)
4th Grade – Baptism (Learn about Lutheran Baptism)
5th Grade – Ten Commandments (What do they really mean?)
6th Grade – Apostle’s Creed (What do Lutherans believe?)
7th Grade – Bible (Receive a Bible with commentary & questions)
8th Grade – Elder Wisdom (Faith through the generations)
9th Grade – Sexuality (Loving and serving our neighbor)
10th Grade – Affirmation of Baptism (Public affirmation of promises)
11th Grade – Vocation (Live among God’s people with care)
12th Grade – Real World (Tools for living on your, importance of faith)
Milestone Ministries

Milestone Ministry is an intentional ministry that connects families to each other and to the community, as we recognize and live out God’s presence throughout the different stages of a child’s life. Milestone Ministry directly reflects our desire to reaffirm the promise that we are a loving extended family, made up of those who believe in the same way.

In our Milestone Ministries, as we learn about God and discover ways we can grow in faith together,

SOLDIER

What are Milestones?

The vision of Milestones Ministry is to provide a model for families to incorporate in a variety of ways the spiritual and practical elements of faith into daily life. The vision is to provide an environment where children and their families can experience faith together in worship, study, mission, and service. Milestones Ministry is an intentional ministry that incorporates growth in faith through faith and family gatherings, and encourages families to integrate faith into all aspects of their lives.

Milestone Ministries for Children, Youth, and Families

More about Milestones

The vision of Milestones Ministry is to provide a model for families to incorporate in a variety of ways the spiritual and practical elements of faith into daily life. The vision is to provide an environment where children and their families can experience faith together in worship, study, mission, and service. Milestone Ministries is an intentional ministry that incorporates growth in faith through faith and family gatherings, and encourages families to integrate faith into all aspects of their lives.

How do we participate?

Families can participate in the Milestone Ministry through registration and participation in one of the Milestone Ministries. For more information on how you can involve your family, please contact the church office or Jessica Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministry.

Family Gatherings

Family Gatherings are a time to gather, share, and learn about God and faith. For some milestones, the Family Gathering is the same day as the Milestone celebration. At our family gatherings, we will talk about and model faith, incorporated into your every day life.

Welcome to Worship

Welcome to Worship is an event designed for children and families to experience worship together. The event will include worship, Bible study, and prayer. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

Junior/Young Adult

Junior/Young Adult gatherings are designed for youth in grades 6-12. The gatherings will include worship, Bible study, and prayer. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

Senior Recognition

Senior Recognition gatherings are designed for seniors in grades 11-12. The gatherings will include worship, Bible study, and prayer. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

Milestones celebrated at St. John

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Age/Grade</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptism</td>
<td>Any Age</td>
<td>Any Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituals</td>
<td>Any Age</td>
<td>June 1, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayers</td>
<td>Any Age</td>
<td>Nov. 4, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blessings</td>
<td>Any Age</td>
<td>Sept. 16, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>Any Age</td>
<td>Feb. 10, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anniversaries</td>
<td>Any Age</td>
<td>Jan. 28, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirma-</td>
<td>7th Grade</td>
<td>Apr. 28, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthdays</td>
<td>1st Grade</td>
<td>May 19, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrations</td>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
<td>Nov. 11, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestones celebrated at St. John</td>
<td>Age/Grade</td>
<td>When</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
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<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
<td>Jan. 20, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
<td>Feb. 10, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
<td>4th Grade</td>
<td>Apr. 21, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
<td>5th Grade</td>
<td>Sept. 16, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
<td>6th Grade</td>
<td>Dec. 2, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
<td>7th Grade</td>
<td>Oct. 7, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
<td>8th Grade</td>
<td>Nov. 14, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
<td>9th Grade</td>
<td>Dec. 15, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St. John Lutheran Church

Fargo, ND 58103
1710 5th St. S
Phone: 701-232-8521
Fax: 701-232-7983

www.stjohnfargo.com

5/25/16

How do we participate?

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More about Milestones

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#3. MILESTONES FAITH FORMATION

1. a ritual celebration or a blessing marking the milestone with the whole church community
2. a home ritual celebration or blessing marking the milestone
3. a learning program, often for the whole family or intergenerational, that prepares the individual and the whole family for the milestone and for faith practice at home
4. a tangible, visible reminder or symbol of the occasion being marked
5. resources to support continuing faith growth and practice after the milestone

#3. FAMILY MILESTONES: BAPTISM

**Church**
- Mentors/Coaches
- Parent preparation
- Family gathering
- Ritual
- Intergenerational connection
- Celebration of Baptism
- Reunion
- Baptismal anniversaries

**Home**
- Caring conversations and storytelling
- Celebrating rituals
- Learning
- Praying
- Reading the Bible
- Serving
- Worshipping together
## #4. CELEBRATING SEASONS

### Church Year
- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Ash Wednesday
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Pentecost
- St. Francis Day–Blessing the Animals (October 4)
- All Saints and Souls (Nov 1-2)

### Calendar Year
- New Year’s Eve and Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Valentine’s Day
- St. Patrick’s Day
- Earth Day
- Mother’s Day
- Memorial Day
- Father’s Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Start of School
- Halloween
- Thanksgiving

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### EXAMPLE: 40-DAY LENT CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Life</th>
<th>Daily &amp; Home Life</th>
<th>Online Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>• Fasting</td>
<td>• Lenten learning resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lenten Sunday liturgies</td>
<td>• Praying</td>
<td>• Lenten calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Stations of the Cross</td>
<td>• Service/Almsgiving</td>
<td>• Daily Lenten prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lenten prayer</td>
<td>• Lectionary reflection</td>
<td>• Weekly table prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lenten retreat</td>
<td>• Family activities</td>
<td>• Video resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lenten service</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Online retreat experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lenten soup suppers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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5/25/16
## EXAMPLE: EARTH DAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Community cleanup</td>
<td>• Ecumenical prayer service</td>
<td>• Recycling activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Planting a community garden</td>
<td>• Intergenerational program on theology of</td>
<td>• Planting a family garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All ages workshop on caring for</td>
<td>caring for creation</td>
<td>• Meal time creation prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creation</td>
<td>• Church audit</td>
<td>• Daily Bible verses for April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Story time at the library on</td>
<td>• Global project for whole community</td>
<td>• Children’s activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environmental awareness</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Storybooks and videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Home audit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## #5. ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE THROUGH THE YEAR

1. Scripture in Sunday Worship
   - Lectionary
   - Sermon Series
2. Exploring the Bible—Family or Intergenerational Programs
   - A Tour of the Old Testament
   - A Tour of the Gospels
   - Walking with Jesus
   - Journeys of Paul
#5. ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE

**Scripture in Sunday Worship**

**Intergenerational & Home Faith Formation**

September: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
November: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
December: 2nd Sunday of Advent
January: Baptism of the Lord Sunday
February: 1st Sunday of Lent
March: Palm Sunday
April: 4th Sunday of Easter
May: Holy Trinity Sunday
#6. CONNECTING FAMILIES INTERGENERATIONALLY

1. Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational
   - Identify ways families are current connected and engaged intergenerationally in the faith community
   - Develop ways to strengthen IG connection and engagement
   - Create new ways to connect and engage families

2. Intergenerational and Family Learning

3. Intergenerational Family Service

#6. CONNECTING FAMILIES INTERGENERATIONALLY: LEARNING

Meal and Community Building (30 min)
Part 1. Gathering & Prayer (10-15 min)
Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience (20-30 min)
Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience (75-90 min)
   - Option 1. Whole Group (together)
   - Option 2. Age Group (parallel)
   - Option 3. Activity Center
Part 4. Sharing & Application (15-20 min)
Part 5. Closing Prayer (5-10)
#6. CONNECTING FAMILIES INTERGENERATIONALLY: LEARNING

1. Bible Study
2. Family Time
3. Worship Skills
4. Recreation

GenOn Ministries
www.genonministries.org
#6. CONNECTING FAMILIES INTERGENERATIONALLY: LEARNING

- A flexible, relaxed arrival time with drinks and snacks
- Creative exploration of a Bible story/theme through creative experiences for people of different learning styles and of all ages. Children and adults are not separated and are encouraged to explore the story/theme together
- A short but explicit time of worship with story, music and prayers that builds on the creative exploration.
- A generous welcome and hospitality is expressed through a delicious home-cooked, sit-down meal with others

#6. CONNECTING FAMILIES INTERGENERATIONALLY: @ HOME

- Learning - Going Deeper
- Serving/Action Ideas
- Family Conversation
- Rituals
- Prayer/Devotion
- Reading the Bible
#6. CONNECTING FAMILIES INTERGENERATIONALLY: SERVICE

Developmentally-appropriate family service projects:

1. at home
2. with the church community
3. local service/mission projects
4. short-term service/mission
5. weeklong service/mission

Service Ideas

- Annual church-wide service day
- Monthly service project
- Service nights

The Pastoral Circle Process

- Action
- Experience
- Biblical & Theological Reflection
- Social Analysis
#7. DEVELOPING A STRONG FAMILY LIFE

Family faith formation strengthens *family life* by developing the assets/strengths and skills for healthy family life and providing a supportive context for forming faith, living the Christian faith, and promoting positive development in children and youth.

- Developing family assets or strengths
- Promoting character strengths in young people through developmental relationships.

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Family Assets – Search Institute

Nurturing RELATIONSHIPS
- Positive communication
- Affection
- Emotional openness
- Support for sparks

Establishing ROUTINES
- Family meals
- Shared activities
- Meaningful traditions
- Dependability

Maintaining EXPECTATIONS
- Openness about tough topics
- Fair rules
- Defined boundaries
- Clear expectations
- Contributions to family

Adapting to CHALLENGES
- Management of daily commitments
- Adaptability
- Problem solving
- Democratic decision making

Connecting to COMMUNITY
- Neighborhood cohesion
- Relationships with others
- Enriching activities
- Supportive resources
#7. DEVELOPING A STRONG FAMILY LIFE

Create a Family Life Plan for Each Life Cycle Stage

Using the Family Assets and Developmental Relationships, curate and create developmentally-appropriate programs, activities, and resources for families at each stage.

1. Family website
2. Parent programs
3. Family programs
4. Family mentors
5. Life cycle support groups for parents
#7. DEVELOPING A STRONG FAMILY LIFE

Parent Program *(Keep Connected)*

**Family Programming**

1. Communicating effectively
2. Establishing family routines: family meals, shared activities, daily commitments
3. Celebrating meaningful traditions and rituals
4. Discussing tough topics
5. Making decisions and solving problems as a family
6. Learning how to build strong relationships and express care for each other
7. Developing the strengths & potential of children & youth
8. Supporting each other: encouraging and praising, giving feedback, standing up for each other
9. Treating each with respect and dignity
#8. EMPOWERING PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

**Twin Tasks**
1. Promoting the faith growth of parents
2. Developing the faith forming skills of parents

**Content**
- Theological and spiritual formation of parents
- Skills for parenting for faith growth
- Knowledge and skills for parenting

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**Guides for Developing Parent Programming**
1. Address diverse spiritual-religious identities of parents.
2. Have parents practice new skills with their own children during program sessions.
3. Give parents a plan for parenting.
   - Give them a plan for parenting proactively.
   - Show them how it works.
   - Tell them what to do today.
#8. EMPOWERING PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

Guides for Developing Parent Programming

4. Address the levels of partnership with parents.
   - Aware
   - Involved
   - Engaged
   - Invested

5. Design programs that engage parents in the learning experience.

6. Use a variety of environments & methods to engage all parents.

7. Use online platforms and digitally enabled strategies.

#8. EMPOWERING PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

Ideas for Parent Programming

1. Parent website
2. Parent programs—a progression of workshops, webinars, and/or courses for each stage of the lifecycle
3. Laboratory experiences—immersion/hands-on experiences through church events or family/intergenerational programs
4. Parent mentors
5. Lifecycle support groups for parents
6. A parent catechumenate—around key milestone experiences and “moments of return”
A Faith Formation Curator is a trusted guide who continually finds, groups, organizes, evaluates, and connects the best and most relevant content and experiences on a specific topic to match the needs of a specific audience.
DESIGNING: CURATING & CREATING

Current Roles
- Developing religious content
- Designing programming
- Managing programming
- Teaching/Facilitating programming

Emerging Roles
- Designing faith forming environments—architecture
- Designing Digital Platforms for faith forming content
- Curating faith forming content & experiences

WHAT IS CONTENT CURATION (BETH KANTER)

Content curation is the process of sorting through the vast amounts of content on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organized way around a specific theme.

- The work involves sifting, sorting, arranging, and publishing information.
- A content curator picks the best content that is important and relevant to share with their community.
- It isn’t unlike what a museum curator does to produce an exhibition: They identify the theme, they provide the context, they decide which paintings to hang on the wall, how they should be annotated, and how they should be displayed for the public.
CURATING RELIGIOUS CONTENT

Research & Organize Resources

Select & Connect Resources to programming

Identify Potential Resources for Programming

Evaluate Resources

BUILD A CURATION SUPPORT SYSTEM

1. Develop trusted expert curators to assist.
2. Develop a list of high quality online resource centers.
3. Subscribe to faith formation blogs and newsletters.
RESEARCH CHECKLIST

1. Community programs: churches, agencies, organizations,
2. Educational institutions: colleges, seminaries, organizations
3. Retreat and spiritual life centers, monasteries
4. Regional/national denominational programs, events, websites
5. Museums
6. Books (with study guides) & E-books
7. Apps
8. Audio podcasts & audio learning programs
9. Videos & Video learning programs
10. Online courses & online activities
11. Television shows
12. Organizational websites
13. Resource center websites

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Biblical content and interpretation
- Theological content and emphasis
- Developmental appropriateness
- Ethnic-Cultural appropriateness
- Inclusive of diversity
- Respect for diverse ways of learning
- Appearance and visual appeal
- Ease-of-Use
- Quality of Experience
- Applicable: Incorporated into daily/home life