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www.LifelongFaith.com
www.ReimagineFaithFormation.com
SeasonsofAdultFaith.com
FamiliesattheCenter.com
www.ReimagineFaithFormation.com

Lifelong Faith Books

$6 discount (shipping)
Coupon Code: Fordham
Not Just an Era of Change but a Change of Eras
Life Span Diversity

Five Generation Diversity

iGeneration (2000-
Millennials (1980-99)
Generation X (1961-1979)
Baby Boomers (1946-60)
Builders (before 1946)
**Family Diversity**

- Married Couple + No Children
- Married Couple + Children (biological or blended)
- Single Parent + Children
- Unmarried Couple + Children or No Children
- Same Sex Couple + Children or No Children
- Multigenerational Family (young adult, grandparents)
- Grandparents as Primary Caregivers

**Spiritual-Religious Diversity**

- The Unaffiliateds
- The Spirituals
- The Occasionals
- The Actives
Spiritual-Religious Diversity

Unaffiliated Make Up Growing Share Across Generations

% of each generation that identifies current religion as atheist, agnostic or nothing in particular

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silent generation (b. 1928-1945)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Boomers (b. 1946-1964)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation X (b. 1965-1980)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>+4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Millennials (b. 1981-1989)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>+9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Millennials (b. 1990-1996)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. All changes are statistically significant.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Spiritual-Religious Diversity

Many ‘nones’ lost faith before they finished high school

Percentage of religiously unaffiliated Americans raised in a faith group who said they abandoned religious practice at the following time:

- 62% before age 18
- 28% between 18 and 29
- 5% between 30 and 49
- 2% after age 50

SOURCE: Public Religion Research Institute

DESERRT NEWS GRAPHIC
Decline in Religious Socialization

Significant indicators, such as religious identification as a Christian, worship attendance, marriages and baptisms in the church, and changing generational patterns, point to a decline in family religious socialization across all denominations.

There is also a decline in religious traditions and practices at home. Gen X and Millennial parents often lack the religious literacy and religious experiences necessary for faith transmission.
The Adaptive Challenges of 21st Century Faith Formation

1. Ten decades of the life cycle
2. Five unique generational identities
3. Diverse family forms and styles
4. Diverse spiritual-religious identities of people
5. Decline in religious transmission (at home) and decline in participation in church life and programs

REIMAGING. . .
AN ECOLOGICAL VIEW
An Ecological View of Faith Formation
1900s-1970s

Church

Community

Family

Ethnic Tradition

MISSIONAL

INTER-
GENERATIONAL

LIFE CYCLE:
children, youth,
young adults,
midlife adults,
mature adults,
older adults

FAMILY

• Digitally enabled & connected
• Digitally enabled & connected
• Digitally enabled & connected
• Digitally enabled & connected

Faith Forming Ecosystem
Holistic Vision of Faith Formation

- A way of the head (inform) demands a discipleship of faith seeking understanding and belief with personal conviction, sustained by study, reflecting, discerning and deciding, all toward spiritual wisdom for life.
- A way of the heart (form) demands a discipleship of right relationships and right desires, community building, hospitality and inclusion, trust in God’s love, and prayer and worship.
- A way of the hands (transform) demands a discipleship of love, justice, peace-making, simplicity, integrity, healing, and repentance.
  
  (Thomas Groome)

Episcopal Church
(The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation)

“Christian faith formation is a lifelong journey with Christ, in Christ, and to Christ. Lifelong Christian faith formation is lifelong growth in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ and is informed by scripture, tradition and reason.”

1. God Invites All People – into the Christian life
2. God Inspires All People – to worship, study Scripture, to learn, to serve
3. God Transforms All People – to do the work of Jesus, be a loving and witnessing community, prophetic action
Christ's method of formation was accomplished by diverse yet interrelated tasks. His example is the most fruitful inspiration for effective catechesis today because it is integral to formation in the Christian faith. Faith must be known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer. So catechesis comprises six fundamental tasks, each of which is related to an aspect of faith in Christ.

1. Promote Knowledge of the Faith
2. Liturgical Education
3. Moral Formation
4. Teaching to Pray
5. Education for Community Life
6. Missionary Initiative

A Comprehensive View: Eight Faith Forming Processes
Several Key Research Studies

Intergenerational

Connect the generations
Infuse intergenerational relationships & experiences
Create intergenerational experiences
Communities of Practice

*We invite people into the way of life that embodies God’s love, justice, compassion, and reconciliation, by being, doing, and thinking about it together. The best curriculum for forming children, youth, and anyone else in Christian faith is guided participation in a community of practice where people are vibrantly, passionately, risking themselves together in lives of faith in a world crying out for the love of Christ.*

(Joyce Mercer)

Communities of Practice

*Guided participation in a community of practice puts a premium on both participation and practice. . . . We become Christian, taking on the identity of one who is a disciple of Jesus, by acting the way Christians act, and by talking the way Christians talk. Over time through practice, even our hearts and minds are formed in this way of life.*

(Joyce Mercer)
Intergenerational Learning

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

GenOn Ministries
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

Connect Intergeneration & Age-Specific

**Preparation:** knowledge & practices for participating fully

**Reflection:** on the experience and living its meaning in daily life

**Guided Participation:** in the events of church life & the Christian Faith
**Connect Intergenerational & Age-Specific**

**Worship**
1. Learn about worship and how to worship
2. Experience Sunday worship with the faith community
3. Live the Sunday worship experience at home and in daily life

**Bible**
1. Learn about the Bible and how to read it, interpret it, and apply it
2. Experience the Bible at Sunday worship and at home
3. Develop their own practice of Bible study and reading.

---

**Connect Intergenerational & Age-Specific**

**Christian Tradition**
1. Learn about Jesus and the Christian tradition
2. Experience the life of Jesus and the tradition through participation in the lectionary and church year feasts and seasons
3. Live the Christian faith today at home and in daily life

**Service & Justice**
1. Learn about the justice issues of our day and the biblical and church teachings on justice, service, and care for creation
2. Experience acts of justice and service with the faith community—locally and globally
3. Engage in the practices of serving those in need, caring for creation, and working for justice
Enhance Intergenerational Relationships

1. Incorporate intergenerational dialogues into programming
2. Develop mentoring relationships
3. Involve the community in praying for each generation,
4. Organize social and recreational activities that build intergenerational relationships
5. “Intergenerationalize” age-group programming
6. Integrate intergenerational programming into an age-group program plan and calendar
7. Offer service projects and mission trips for all ages
8. Offer simple, one-time intergenerational experiences: arts, music/concerts, drama, social events, service projects, sports, educational experiences

Families at the Center

The Family-at-the Center Approach recognizes that parents and the family are the most powerful influence for virtually every child and youth outcome—personal, academic, social, and spiritual-religious; and that parents are the most important influence on the social and religious lives of children, youth, and emerging adults.

Given the central role of families in shaping the lives of children and youth, the value of engaging, supporting, and educating families should be self-evident to all of us.
Family Makes a Difference in Faith Growth

1. Parents’ personal faith and practice
2. Parent-child relationship: close, warm
3. Parents’ modeling and teaching a religious faith
4. Parents’ involvement in church life and Sunday worship
5. Grandparents’ religious influence & relationship
6. Religious tradition a child is born into
7. Parents of the same faith
8. Family conversations about faith
9. Family religious practices: prayer, reading the Bible, service to others, celebrating holidays/rituals

Family Faith Formation

1. God in Everyday Life
2. Faith Practices at Home
3. Milestones
4. Seasonal Events
5. Encountering God in the Bible
6. Intergenerational Connections
7. Strong Family Life
8. Parents & Grandparents as Faith Formers
Discovering God in Everyday Life

Forming Faith through Milestones

1. Birth / Baptism
2. Starting School Year
3. First Communion
4. Receiving a first Bible
5. Confirmation
6. Graduation (HS, College)
7. Engagement
8. Wedding
9. Retirement
10. Death / Funeral
Forming Faith through Milestones

First year – Baptismal Remembrance (A Gathering for newly baptized)
Toddlers – Creation (Care for the World God made)
Pre-School One – Bible (Receive a Story Bible)
Pre-School Two – Worship (Proclaim Christ and help in worship)
Pre-K – Service (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 Lutheran’s 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 (Living among God’s people with care)
12th Grade – Real World (Tools for living on our own, importance of faith)

Developing a Strong Family Life
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
Developing a Strong Family Life
Developmental Relationships – Search Institute

Express Care: Show that you like me and want the best for me.
- Listen—Pay attention when you are with me.
- Be Warm—Let me know that you like being with me and express positive feelings toward me.
- Invest—Commit time and energy to doing things for and with me.
- Show Interest—Make a priority to understand what I am and what I care about.
- Be Dependable—Iike someone I can count on and trust.

Challenge Growth: Insist that I try to continuously improve.
- Inspire—Help me see future possibilities for myself.
- Expect—Make it clear that you want me to live up to my potential.
- Stretch—Recognize my thoughts and abilities while also pushing me to strengthen them.
- Link—Hold me accountable for appropriate feedback and advice.

Provide Support: Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.
- Encourage—Praise my efforts and achievements.
- Guide—Provide practical assistance and feedback to help me learn.
- Model—Be an example I can learn from and admire.
- Advocate—Stand up for me when I need it.

Share Power: Hear my voice and let me share in making decisions.
- Respect—Take me seriously and treat me fairly.
- Negotiate—Give me a voice in making decisions that affect me.
- Respond—Understand and adjust to my needs, interests, and abilities.
- Collaborate—Work with me to accomplish goals and solve problems.

Expand Possibilities: Expand my horizons and connect me to opportunities.
- Explore—Expose me to new ideas, experiences, and places.
- Connect—Introduce me to people who can help me grow.
- Navigate—Help me work through barriers that could stop me from achieving my goals.
Life Cycle Faith Formation

Age group and generational faith formation addresses the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of people at each stage of life.

Life Cycle Faith Formation

- Caring Relationships
- Church Year Feasts & Seasons
- Learning the Tradition
- Prayer & Spiritual Formation
- Reading the Bible
- Rituals & Milestones
- Service & Working for Justice
- Worship

Children

Teens

- Caring Relationships
- Church Year Feasts & Seasons
- Learning the Tradition
- Prayer & Spiritual Formation
- Reading the Bible
- Rituals & Milestones
- Service & Working for Justice
- Worship

Young Adults
Lifelong Cycle Formation

- Caring Relationships
- Church Year Feasts & Seasons
- Learning the Tradition
- Prayer & Spiritual Formation
- Reading the Bible
- Rituals & Milestones
- Service & Working for Justice
- Worship

Mature Adults

- Caring Relationships
- Church Year Feasts & Seasons
- Learning the Tradition
- Prayer & Spiritual Formation
- Reading the Bible
- Rituals & Milestones
- Service & Working for Justice
- Worship

Midlife Adults

- Caring Relationships
- Church Year Feasts & Seasons
- Learning the Tradition
- Prayer & Spiritual Formation
- Reading the Bible
- Rituals & Milestones
- Service & Working for Justice
- Worship

Older Adults

- Caring Relationships
- Church Year Feasts & Seasons
- Learning the Tradition
- Prayer & Spiritual Formation
- Reading the Bible
- Rituals & Milestones
- Service & Working for Justice
- Worship

Missional Faith Formation

- Expand and extend the church’s presence through outreach, connection, relationship building, and engagement with people where they live—moving faith formation out into the community.
- Provide pathways for people to consider or reconsider the Christian faith, to encounter Jesus and the Good News, and to live as disciples in a supportive faith community.
God on Tap

God on Tap Blog

Discussing Creativity at God on Tap Tomorrow Night!

Join us for God on Tap tomorrow night, July 20th at 7 p.m. at Fasto & Milos Brewing, 249 Virginげ改, Auburn, USA. We’re topic: creativity.

When the same person is being sending your signals, it best to pay attention.

Lastly, I’ve been hearing a lot about creativity—how it works, what helps it, what hinders it, and what promotes it.

Then, a great book on the importance of creativity is the importance of creativity, by Elizabeth Gilbert. She describes her writing process in "Eat, Pray, Love." She describes her creative process as something akin to throwing spaghetti against a wall and seeing what happens.

Creativity is a amazing thing. We create all kinds of art, poetry, music, school lessons plans, woodworking, gardens, best, sleeping, writing, business plans, you name it. We may not have created new things, but we do create and craft and shape our lives as we tend to our relationships, work, and callings.
Alpha Course

Alpha: Pathways to Christian Faith

Introduction Dinner: Is there more to life than this?
Week 1: Who is Jesus?
Week 2: Why did Jesus die?
Week 3: How can we have faith?
Week 4: Why and how do I pray?
Week 5: Why and how should I read the Bible?
Week 6: How does God guide us?
Week 7: How can I resist evil?
Week 8: Why & how should we tell others?
Week 9: Does God heal today?
Week 10: What about the Church?
Weekend: Who is the Holy Spirit?
REIMAGINING...
A NETWORK VIEW

The Print Era (1500s - )
The Multimedia Era (1960s - )

The Digital Era (2000s - )
A shift from education to learning anywhere, anytime. A shift from consumption of information to participatory learning. A shift from institutions to networks.
Thinking Like a Network

1. A **variety** of relationships, content, experiences, and resources
2. New **methods**: immersive, multimedia, multi-sensory, highly visual, participatory, experiential
3. New **formats**: episodic, micro-learning, on demand, mobile, 24x7,
4. New **digital** media and digital platforms: websites, apps, video, podcasts, social media
5. Multiple **environments**: self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.
Adult Faith Formation Network

The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation

A Network of Adult Faith Formation Experiences, Programs, Activities, & Resources

Playlists of Content & Experiences

- Adult Living
  - Find resources for being a caregiver and an innovator for joining our caregiver support group.
  - Discover faith-forming activities for grandparents to do with their grandchildren.

- Discover Faith
  - Discover Jesus and the Christian Faith with two of our educational experiences:
    1. Basics of Christianity - explore the series on your own; join a basic small group experience
    2. Explore the Christian Faith through the ten-session Alpha Course with a small group of inquirers

- Faith Enrichment
  - Grow deeper in your Christian faith with one or more of our offerings:
    1. A yearlong journey into the Christian Faith - a 13 session program, monthly at church
    2. Living the Spirit Alive Life Course
    3. Practice Makes a Christian - a small group study program
    4. Pracitcing Our Faith - a self-study or group study for growing in the practice of the Christian Faith
    5. Sacraments 101 - a video-based introduction or refresher on the Catholic sacraments

- Scripture
  - The focus for each season of Scripture Enrichment is one gospel - Matthew, Mark, or Luke. We are offering a variety of ways for you to study and read the scriptures:
    1. Participate in the Gospel Presentation Series
    2. Participate in a Small Group Gospel Bible Study
    3. Explore the Gospel On Your Own
    4. Take an Online Course
    5. Develop a Gospel Study Plan using a Bible App
    6. Discover Online Devotions and Bible Studies
Whole Community Network

Welcome to a Life Worth Living
A Community-Wide Yearlong Faith Formation Experience

- Gratitude (September)
- Generosity (October)
- Service (November)
- Peace (December)

Personalizing Faith Formation

1. Assessing Learning Needs & Competencies
2. Working with a Mentor to Develop a Plan
3. Finding Programs and Resources
4. Engaging in Learning
5. Sharing with the Others
6. Reflecting on Growth and Identifying New Needs
Which Pathway to Faith Will I Follow?

Heart, Mind, Soul or Strength?

Review the traits listed under each pathway and see which pathway best describes you. You may have a primary path and a close secondary path. It is even possible that you see reflections of yourself in all four pathways.

Pathway of the Heart
- I cherish warmth in my relationships.
- My decisions are led by my feelings.
- There are stories in the Bible that warm my heart.
- I value harmony and peace.
- I connect with people through emotions.
- I express myself by connecting with others frequently.
- I tend to project possibilities.
- I seek out the spiritual gift of serving others.
- I experience God best when serving others.
- My decisions are led by my relationships.
- I have a strong desire to make life better for the poor and oppressed.
- I look for objective information.
- I try to determine the cause and effect of things.
- I tend to project possibilities.
- I connect with people through emotions.
- I value harmony and peace.
- I feel and experience emotions.
- I express myself by connecting with others frequently.
- I tend to project possibilities.
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- I value harmony and peace.
Spiritual-Religious Identities

- The Unaffiliateds
- The Spirituals
- The Occasionals
- The Actives

Personalizing - Pathways

- Program
  - Path 1: Mentors/Small Groups, Resources
  - Path 2: Mentors/Small Groups, Resources
  - Path 3: Mentors/Small Groups, Resources
Digitally Enabled & Digitally Connected
Faith Formation

Extend the Event

Church or School Event or Program  At Home & Daily Life
Sunday Worship
Tri-Saints Lutheran Church

Website • Digital Content to Extend & Deepen Event

Event • Interaction

Social Media • Connection

Multiple Formats • Communication

• Demonstration

• Offering the Event in New Formats
Build on an Event/Experience
(Sacraments, VBS, Mission Trip, and much more)

Preparing
• What types of experiences, programming, activities, and resources will you develop to prepare people for the event?

Experiencing
• How will you design the event?
• How will you engage age groups, families, and the faith community?

Living
• How will you sustain/extend the event?
• What types of experiences, programs, activities, and resources will you offer people?

Celebrating 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
Flip the Model

@ Home / Daily Life
Exploring the Content
- print, audio, video, activities

@ The Program
Applying the Content:
Create – Practice - Perform - Participate

Christian Initiation & New Member Formation

Intro to The Basics of Christianity
by Pastor Bill Crabtree of Silverdale Lutheran Church
Confirmation

Integrate Online and Gathered

Church with a Clean Slate

The Slate Project

WHAT'S NEW

The Slate Project is a new kind of Christian community that gathers both on-line and face-to-face in Baltimore, Maryland.

We are a movement to change the church from inside the inside out.

We are committed to following the way of Jesus together: into our local and digital neighborhoods and discerning in community how to be the church in the 21st century.
**Online 40-Day Lent Curriculum**

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

**Online Prayer**

![Online Prayer Image]
Pastoral Care

Online Learning
Emerging Roles of Faith Formation Leaders

Balancing Both Roles

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 religious content and experiences