



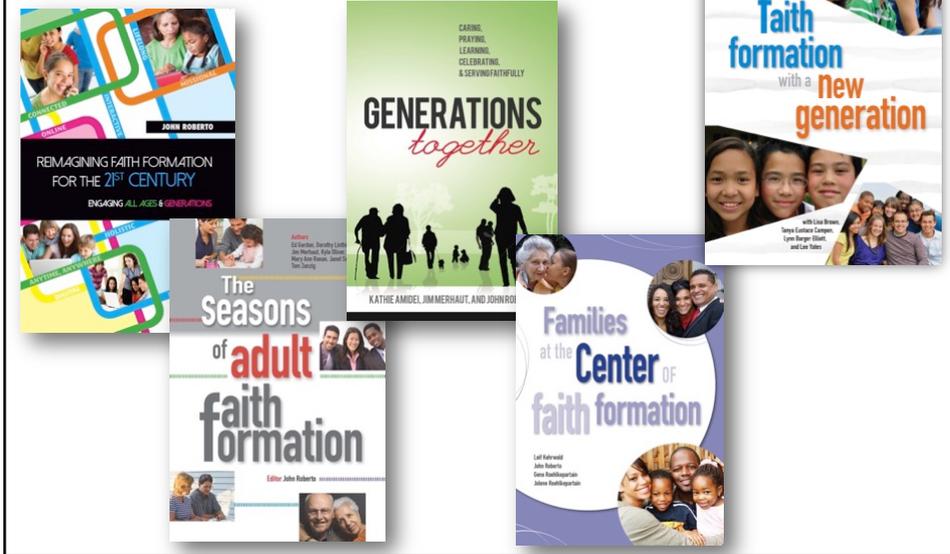
Designing the Future of Faith Formation

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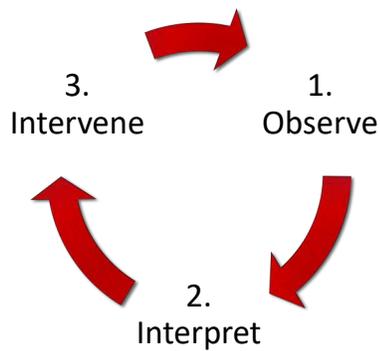
LifelongFaith.com
SeasonsofAdultFaith.com
FamiliesattheCenter.com
VibrantFaith.org

Lifelong Faith Books



FRAMING THE ADAPTIVE CHALLENGE

The Adaptive Process (Heifetz)



1. **Observing** events and patterns around you
2. **Interpreting** what you are observing (developing multiple hypotheses about what is really going on)
3. **Designing** interventions based on the observations & interpretations to address the adaptive challenge you have identified.

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

Digital Transformation



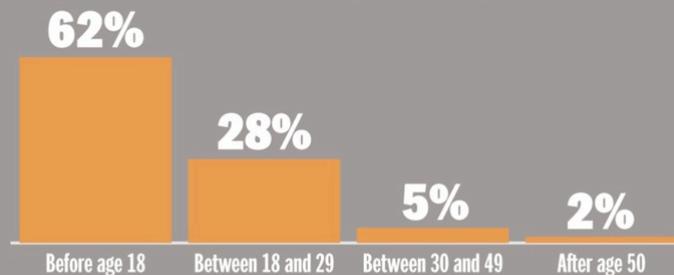
Affiliation & Belonging



Affiliation & Belonging

Many 'nones' lost faith before they finished high school

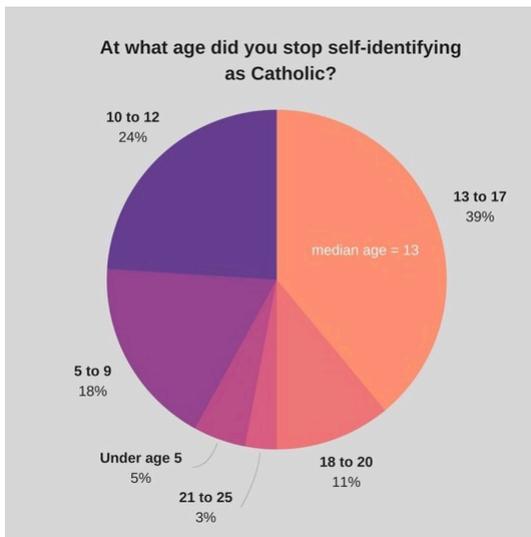
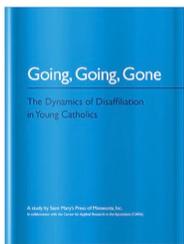
Percentage of religiously unaffiliated Americans raised in a faith group who said they abandoned religious practice at the following time



SOURCE: Public Religion Research Institute

DESERET NEWS GRAPHIC

Affiliation & Belonging



Affiliation & Belonging

Parents and families reflect an increasing diversity in religious beliefs, practices, and affiliation.

- ✓ 23% of Generation Xers and over 34% of Millennials are not religiously affiliated and the number of unaffiliated Millennials is growing.
- ✓ Families of Generation X and Millennial parents are participating less in church life and Sunday worship. Religion and spirituality may be important to families today, but for many it is not usually expressed by participation in churches.

Religious Commitment (NSYR)

In the National Study of Youth and Religion Christian Smith and his colleagues found that young people committing to live their lives for God is one religious experience that is among the most important factors in leading teenagers into the highest levels of emerging adult religion.

- Almost 60 percent (58.8%) made their first commitment to live their lives for God before the age of 14. Most of these probably committed to God during the childhood years.
- Approximately 6% make a first commitment between 14-17, and another 5% between 18-23.
- Thirty-one percent of young adults reported never committing to God as a teenager or emerging adult. Smith says that one can expect that few of them probably ever will.
- *85 percent of young adults who have committed their lives to God appear to have made their first commitment before age 14.*

Religious Commitment (NSYR)

. . . . These findings complement and reinforce one of the larger stories of this research: that *the religious commitments and orientations of most people appear to be set early in life* and very likely follow a consistent trajectory from the early formation through the adolescent and into the emerging adult years.

When it comes to commitment to God, it is not that experiences and changes during the teenage and emerging adult years do not matter religiously for people—they do, especially for some. It is instead simply that *what matters for most even more is what happens religiously before the teenage years, which powerfully conditions most of everything that happens thereafter.*

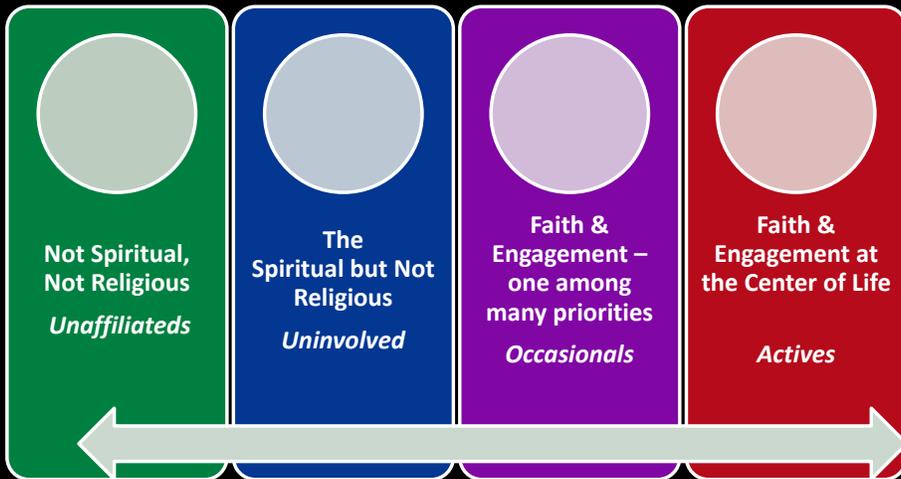
Religious Commitment (NSYR)

Leaving the Catholic Church rarely means becoming an atheist. Many former Catholics still believe in God or some other divine force, and about one-third of them still pray. This is not fundamentally different from emerging adults who are raised in other faiths. It demonstrates a widespread trend in this generation of moving away from organized religion but retaining a belief in and connection with the divine. These youth (and emerging adults) may be open to discussions about the nature of God that are more sophisticated and inviting than some may imagine.

Religious Commitment (NSYR)

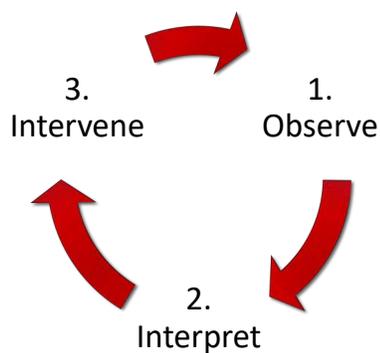
Most Catholic youth today are growing up in environments of major religious pluralism, which can make them hesitate to make strong religious commitments themselves. Catholic youth need to be shown how they can simultaneously seriously believe, practice, and profess their own faith while appropriately respecting and honoring the faith of others who are different.

Diverse Spiritual-Religious Identities



AN ADAPTIVE RESPONSE: THE FUTURE OF FAITH FORMATION

The Adaptive Process (Heifetz)



1. **Observing** events and patterns around you
2. **Interpreting** what you are observing (developing multiple hypotheses about what is really going on)
3. **Designing** interventions based on the observations & interpretations to address the adaptive challenge you have identified.

Naming an Adaptive Challenge

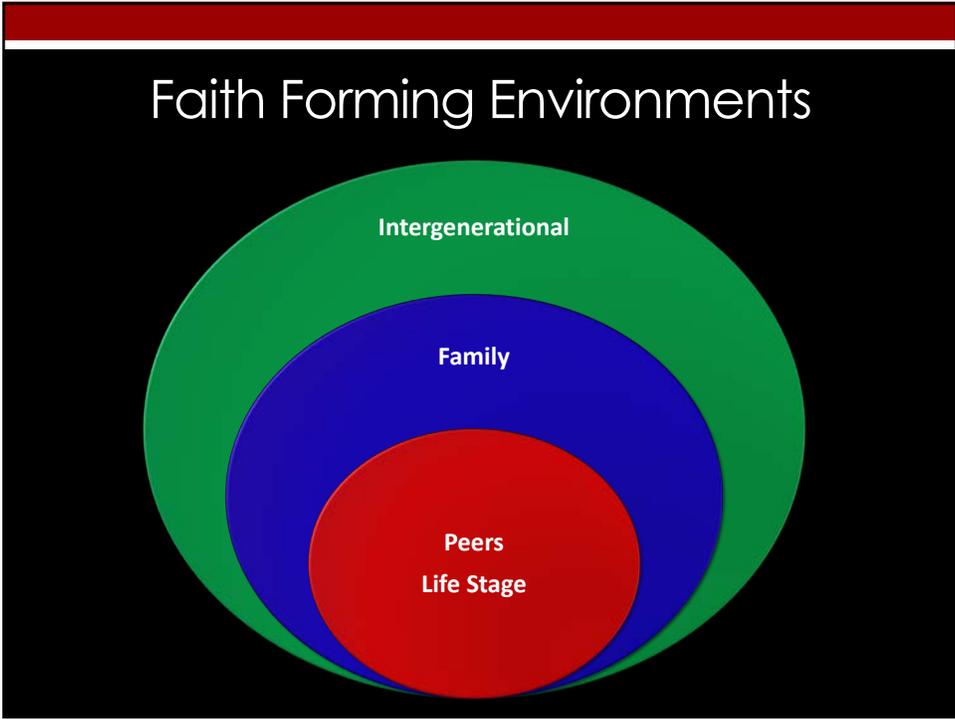
You May Be Facing an Adaptive Challenge if . . .

- the solution requires operating in a different way than you do now. . .
- the problem and the solution require learning. . .
- the solution requires some sacrifice of your past ways of working or living. . .
- the solution requires experimenting before you're sure of the answer. . .
- the solution will take a long time. . .
- the challenge connects to people's deeply held values. . .

The Adaptive Challenge at the Heart of the Future of Faith Formation

Creating a new ecology of lifelong Christian faith formation that nurtures and develops the faith of all ages and generations – “making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ”

- ❖ Faith Forming Environments
- ❖ Holistic Faith Formation
- ❖ A Network of Faith Formation
- ❖ Personalized



Designing an Adaptive Response

Holistic faith formation. . .

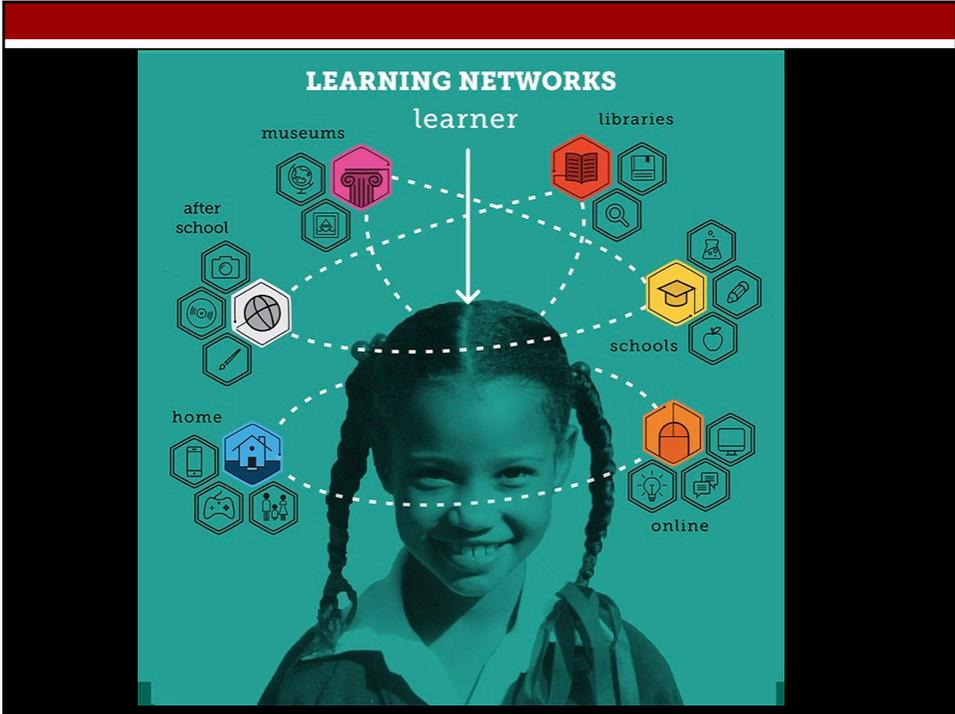
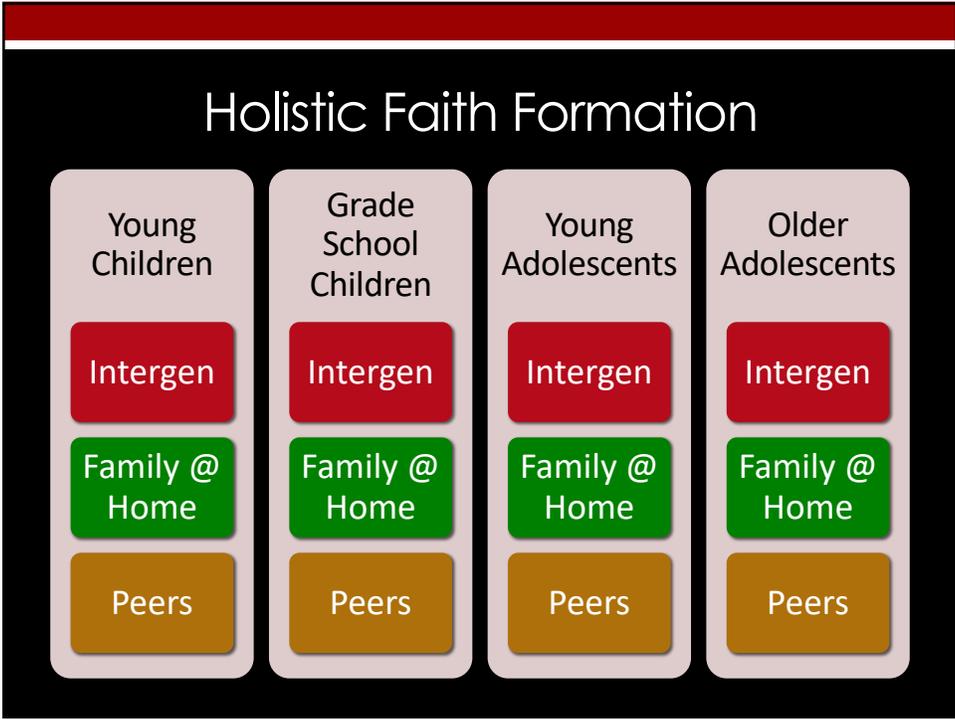
- ✓ Intergenerational faith forming experiences
- ✓ Parent and family faith forming experiences
- ✓ Life stage specific faith-forming experiences
- ✓ Personalized faith forming experiences

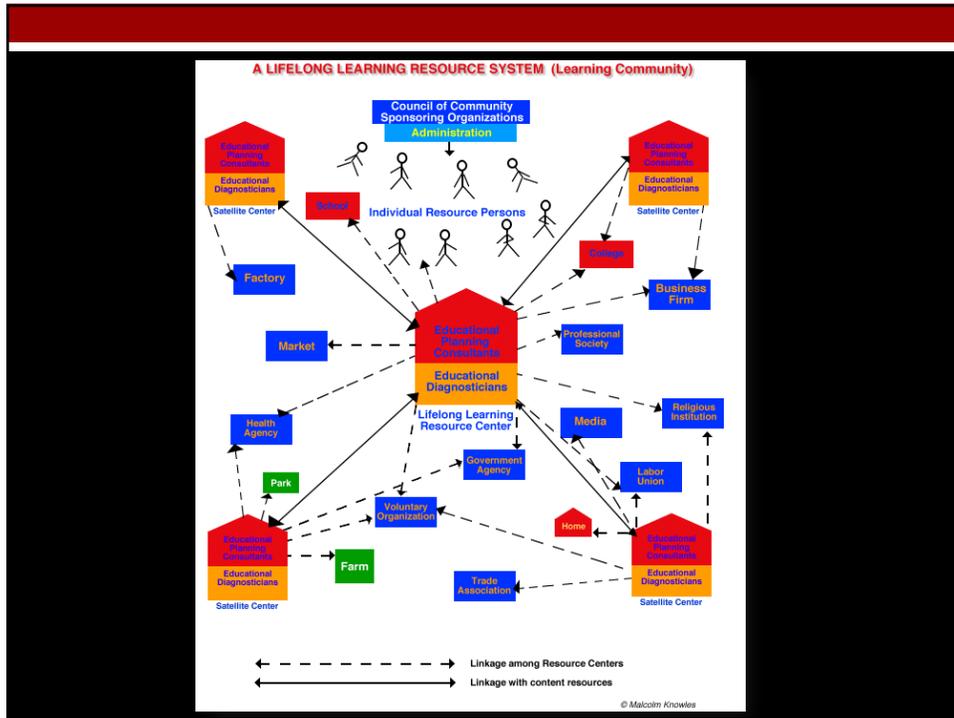
Holistic Faith Formation

Intergenerational



Family





A "Menu" of Faith Formation

KEF

Building relationships with God, family and other congregants.

Building connections to Torah, Shabbat, holidays, Israel.

Building knowledge of Hebrew, history, music, ethics.

Building community within our Temple and Los Angeles.

KEF is a bold new model of Jewish learning. Rather than studying about Judaism, prayer, celebration and Jewish culture, or reading about Jewish literature, the Bible and what makes a Jewish community, participants in KEF will experience it all and be a part of building their own Jewish community.

The goals of the KEF program are:

- to learn about the Jewish tradition through family experiences with prayer, celebration and *tikkun olam*;
- to strengthen the family's connections to one another, to the Jewish tradition, and to the congregation as a whole; and
- to build a community of learners at Temple Emanuel.

The participation of the family as a whole, including younger and older siblings, is welcomed. Families will come together in a *K'vutzah*, the Hebrew word for group. Each *K'vutzah* will have its own *Rosh K'vutzah* (group leader).

Program Requirements

Student and at least one adult family member shall participate in the following activities in the course of a year:

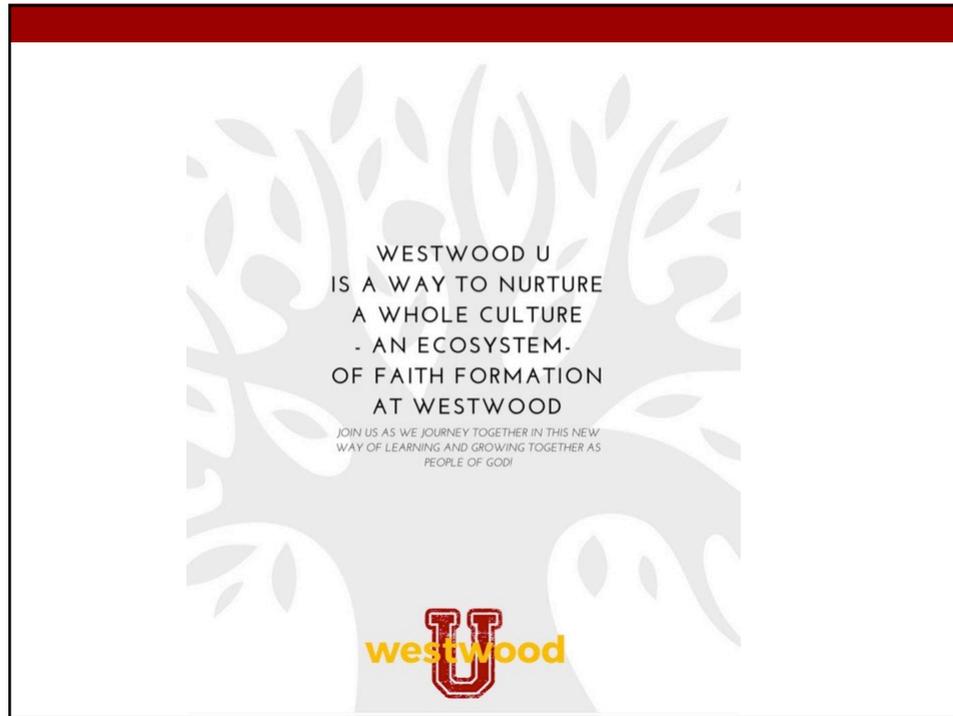
- 4-6 *K'vutzah* activities, including orientation, Shabbat dinners, a class-age based program, book club discussions and the culminating Torah activities;
- 10-12 Shabbat services;
- 6 holiday celebrations or commemorations held at Temple Emanuel; and
- 3-4 cultural programs (in the congregation or around the city).

In addition, each family will be responsible to:

- read books from a selected reading list. (the types and number of books would vary with the students' ages);
- devote 12-18 hours doing work related to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world); and
- do a Torah project (Each year there will be a theme for these Torah projects, e.g., Genesis, Exodus, *mitzvot* in the Torah, the prophet, and the Writings).

What the program will provide:

- a *Rosh K'vutzah* for each Havurah (the rabbis, educators and coordinators will serve as *roshei k'vutzah*), who will meet with each family individually at least twice and with the entire *K'vutzah* several times during the year;
- orientations to worship services and holidays;
- a Torah-related program for children attending the New Emanuel Minyan (during the time the adults participate in Torah reading and text study);
- K'vutzah*-based activities;
- book discussion groups; and
- a Torah project.






FEBRUARY ELECTIVES

Beach Bash Helper (Live)
Friday, February 1, 5-8 PM
 Join us for the second annual Beach Bash on February 1st from 5:30-7:30. Helpers come from 5-8pm to help with set up and clean up. Volunteer opportunities include serving pizza, working on dishes, serve desserts and help kids play games. We hope you can join us!

The Church Sanctuary (Know)
Monday evenings, February 4, 11, 18 + 25 from 6:30-7:30 PM in the sanctuary taught by Cindy Huseeth & Kristi Taft
 The church sanctuary is filled with wonderful history and symbolism. In this course, we will start by learning the meaning and history behind the various areas of the traditional sanctuary and its furnishings (e.g. the narthex, nave, chancel, altar, baptismal font). Then we will look at the symbolism of the smaller items and decorations (e.g. the cross, bells, candles, paraments). Finally, we will identify the 6 seasons of the church year and the colors used during each of them. Put new meaning into your worship experience in the sanctuary!

Community Meal (Live)
Orientation: Wednesday, February 6 from 5:30-6:30 PM; volunteer shifts: February 13, 20, + 27
 Westwood provides a community meal each Wednesday night that is both an internal and external outreach and fellowship opportunity for all who gather! As you can imagine it takes a great team to pull off a meal or 250+ people each week, come learn about this ministry and be a part of the team!

Westwood Wind Ensemble (Live)
Rehearsals Monday, February 11 at 7 PM + Saturday, February 16 at 9 AM
 With worship leadership February 17 at both services. Do you play a wind instrument? Would you like to offer your musical gift in worship? We'd love for you to join the Westwood Wind Ensemble! A short commitment and a great gift to our congregation! 2 rehearsals, and 2 worship services, plus great relationships, and music.

Worship Volunteers (Live)
Wednesday, February 13th, 6-6:30 PM in the Sanctuary, training event, service dates TBD
 Become an integral part of worship life here at Westwood! We will talk about what worship means, why we do some of the things we do, and some of the roles that make us a worshipping community. We will be training in people to be ushers, communion servers, lectors, ProPresenter operators and more. Commitment involves a training event and then engaging in the area of your choice during a worship service one time per month for four months or more if you choose!

Empty Bowls (Live)
Thursday, February 28th at Westwood 5:30-6:30 PM shift
 STEP's annual Empty Bowls event will be held at Westwood. The event is an opportunity for all ages in community to come together and support efforts to eliminate hunger in St. Louis Park. Community members of all ages are invited to join together for a simple meal of soup and bread. Many volunteers are needed to pull off this event, join us in our efforts to eliminate hunger in our community.

Wednesday Night Live (Grow)
6:30-7:30 PM
 Wednesday Night Live is a come as you are, come when you can "youth group" for middle schoolers at Westwood and their friends available every Wednesday that there is not 7 & 8th grade Parent/Student Learning. No need to register unless you are looking for confirmation credit, open to all 7th and 8th graders!

Senior High Youtherans (Grow)
8-9:15 PM
 Open to 9-12th graders and meets twice a month in the youth room.

MARCH ELECTIVES

"Who Is My Neighbor?" Conversations About Race (Know)

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7 from 9:30-10:40 AM in the Westwood Room

As we explore being critics of the common good this year, part of our task is to look at ways that our common good is suffering in our world today, and where we can learn and listen. This Lent, we will be taking a first step in that learning and listening to be better neighbors to one another around the topic of race.

Yoga (Grow)

Mondays, March 4, 11, 18 from 4-5 PM taught by Emily Ball

We often spend much of our day looking forward in fear or looking back in regret. Yoga tells us that all we need for peace and wholeness is already inside of each of us. Come join a supportive community of people practicing being present in the moment through movement, breath, and guided meditation. Whether you are experienced, or a beginner all are welcome and encouraged to join. Bring a mat if you have one, otherwise one will be provided.

Community Meal (Live)

Orientation: Wednesday, March 6 from 5:30-6:30 PM; volunteer shifts: March 13, 20, & 27

Westwood provides a community meal each Wednesday night that is both an internal and external outreach and fellowship opportunity for all who gather! As you can imagine it takes a great team to pull off a meal or 250+ people each week, come learn about this ministry and be a part of the team!

Lenten worship (Grow)

Wednesdays, March 6-April 10 at 6:30 PM

Worship, specifically worship through a liturgical season is an important part of our life together as a church and is helpful in understanding the seasons of the church year. Worship is vital to our life of faith as mature Christians and so we invite ALL confirmation students and their families to worship together during the season of Lent. For the fullness of the Easter Story, Holy week begins April 1st and concludes on Easter Sunday, April 21. Join us for at least 5 of these services for confirmation elective credit. This year's services will feature interview sermons with our African-American partners, who will be sharing stories of their journeys around race and faith.

Be Still with Zentangle (Grow)

Saturday, March 23, 9 AM-noon taught by Tracy Griffin

Zentangle is an art form that anyone can do! Can't draw a straight line or even a convincing stick person? Then this course is for you! If you've ever wanted to turn your mind away from the daily grind or worries, all you need is a pen and paper and a willingness to let them take you to a quieter place. Psalm 46:10 - Be still and know that I am God.

Lenten Worship Assistants (Live)

Wednesday evenings in Lent March 6, April 10, 6:15-7:45 PM in the sanctuary

Lenten contemplative worship is a cherished tradition at Westwood. It takes all kinds of volunteers to make it come together. From candle lighting, prayer station set up, ritual experiences prep, greeting, and ushering, we would love for you to use your gifts to help make the Lenten season meaningful and smooth for our worshipers.

Wednesday Night Live (Grow)

6:30-7:30 PM

Wednesday Night Live is a come as you are, come when you can "youth group" for middle schoolers at Westwood and their friends available every Wednesday that there is not 7 & 8th grade Parent/Student Learning. 6:30-7:30pm on Lower Level 2. No need to register unless you are looking for confirmation credit, open to all 7th and 8th graders!

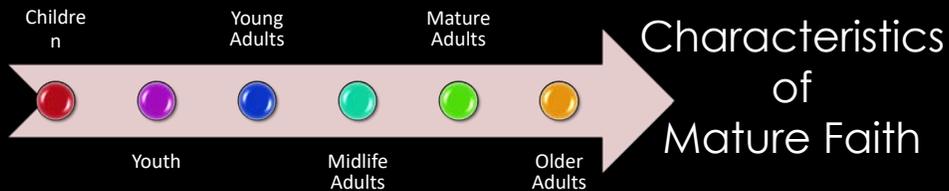
Senior High Youtherans (Grow)

8-9:15 PM

Open to 9-12th graders and meets twice a month in the youth room.



Maturing in Faith Toward What Ends Are We Working



Characteristics

1. Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ
2. Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life
3. Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today
4. Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Christian faith (Trinity, Jesus, creed, morality and ethics) and integrating its meaning into ones life
5. Praying—together and by ourselves, and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines

Characteristics

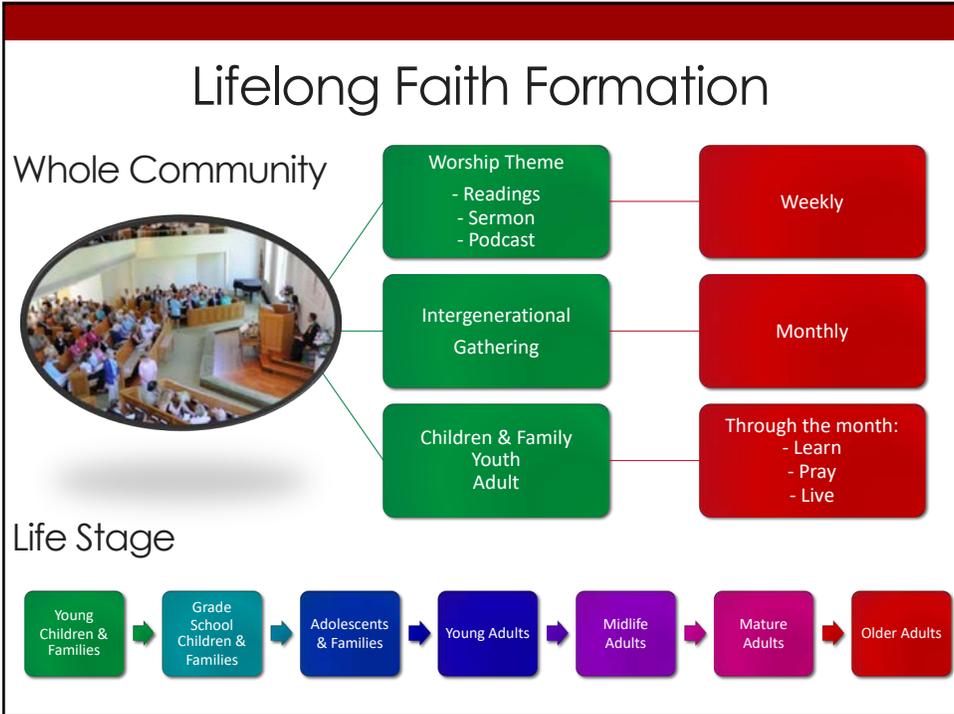
6. Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values
7. Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God's creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace.
8. Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year
9. Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community
10. Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one's gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

Designing a Faith Formation Plan

Faith Maturing Characteristic	Children	Youth	Young Adults	Midlife Adults	Mature Adults	Older Adults	Family
	Intergen- erational						
1.							
	Family						
2.							
	Age Group						
3.							

Multiple Ways to Foster Faith Maturing



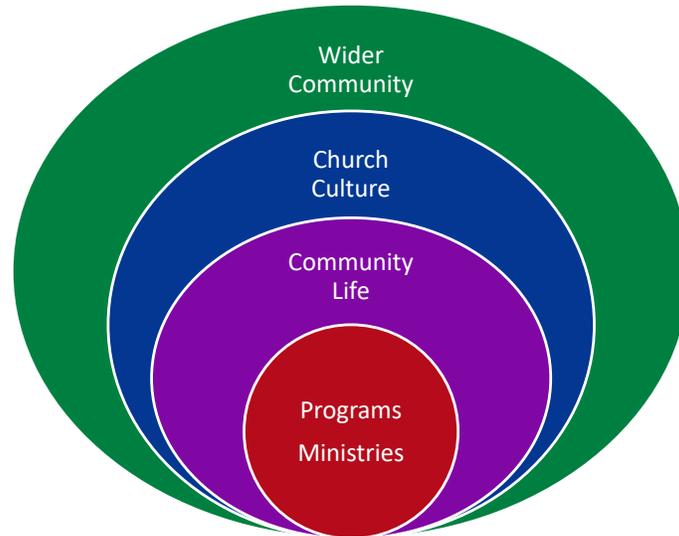


Intergenerational



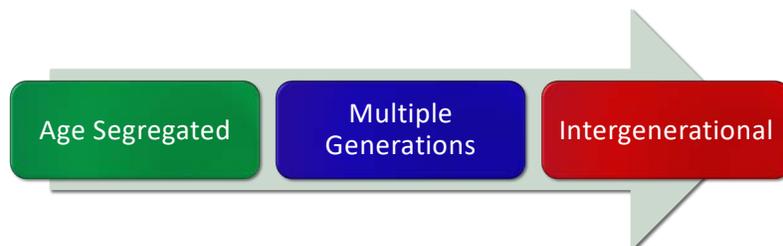
Utilize intergenerational events
Infuse intergenerational into existing programs
Connect the generations through new intergenerational new programs & experiences

Growth of Intergenerational

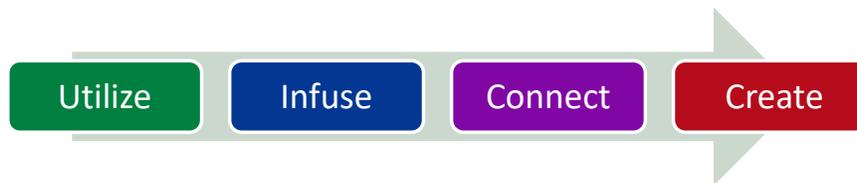


Moving toward Intergenerational

- ◆ Learning
 - seasonal
 - monthly
 - biweekly
 - weekly
- ◆ Sunday Worship
- ◆ Church Year Seasons
- ◆ Retreats
- ◆ Camps
- ◆ Service & Mission Trips
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Community Life
- ◆ Leadership



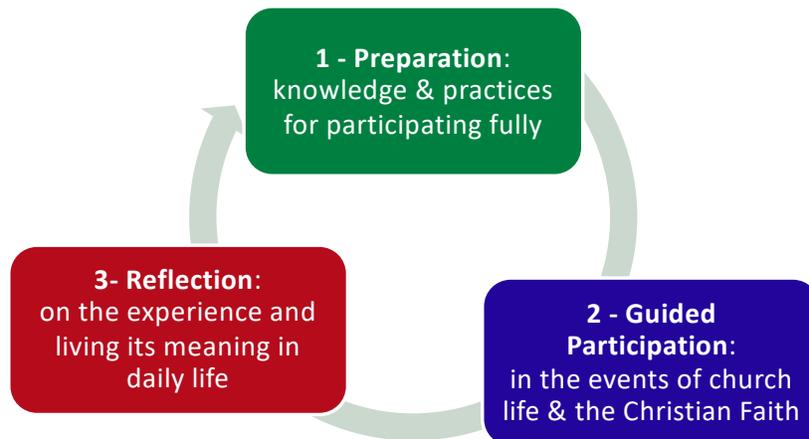
Moving toward Intergenerational



Intergenerational Approaches

- ✦ **Utilizing** the intergenerational events and experiences of church life (community life events, worship and the lectionary, seasons of the year, service and mission projects, prayer and spiritual formation) as a primary “content” in faith formation.
- ✦ **Infusing** intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities.
- ✦ **Connecting** the generations through new intergenerational programs and experiences that bring together all of the generations for learning, celebrating, praying, reading the Bible, serving and working for justice, and worshipping.

Utilizing Events



Infusing Intergenerationality

Infusing intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities, such as bringing mature adults into children and youth programs for interviews, storytelling, and mentoring; and transforming age-group programs (vacation Bible school, service projects) into intergenerational experiences.

- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Service projects and mission trips
- ◆ Age group learning programs
- ◆ Social / community program
- ◆ Sacramental preparation

Connecting & Creating

1. Intergenerational Service
 - Intergenerational Mission Trips
 - Churchwide Service Day
 - Intergenerational Monthly Project
 - Intergenerational Service Nights
 - Intergenerational Service Projects

2. Intergenerational Learning
 - Weekly or Bi-Weekly
 - Monthly
 - Seasonal
 - Small Group & Large Group

Learning

Incorporating Intergenerational Learning in Church Life

1. Age Group Programming
2. Sacramental and Milestone Celebrations
3. Church Year Feasts & Seasons
4. Vacation Bible School
5. Mission Trips & Service Projects
6. Retreat and Camp Experiences

Intergenerational Learning Process

Meal and Community Building

Part 1. Gathering and Prayer

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience

Option 1. Whole Group (together)

Option 2. Age Group (parallel)

Option 3. Activity Center

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and

Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

Examples of IG Learning

1. As the faith formation curriculum for the whole community
2. In Lectionary-based catechesis
3. In sacramental preparation
4. In vacation Bible school
5. In milestone celebrations
6. In intergenerational service projects
7. In liturgical season celebrations
8. In an intergenerational retreat experience or prayer experience

Liturgically-Centered St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Acton, MA

1. September: Stewardship - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 16: 19-31)
2. October: Pray Always - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 18: 1-8)
3. November: Last Things and Heaven - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 21: 5-19)
4. December: Mary - Immaculate Conception (Luke 1: 26-38)
5. January: The Baptism of the Lord (Matthew 13-17)
6. February: You are the Salt of the Earth - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Matthew 5: 13-16)
7. March: The Temptation of Jesus - First Sunday of Lent (Matthew 4: 1-11)
8. April: Palm Sunday (Matthew 26: 14-27)

Thematic Holy Infant Catholic Parish, Durham, NC



Navigating Life with GPS – God's Proven System

Gatherings for 2009-2010

Rules of the Road – God's Commandments

Wednesday	September 9	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	September 10	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	September 11	5:45-8:30pm

Respect and Protect All Life

Wednesday	October 14	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	October 15	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	October 16	5:45-8:30pm

Give Way with Mercy and Forgiveness

Wednesday	November 18	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	November 19	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	November 20	5:45-8:30pm

Stay on the Straight and Narrow Path of Fidelity

Wednesday	February 3	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	February 4	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	February 5	5:45-8:30pm

Navigating with Integrity and Honesty

Wednesday	March 10	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	March 11	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	March 12	5:45-8:30pm

Be a Good Steward of All God's Gifts

Wednesday	April 14	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	April 15	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	April 16	5:45-8:30pm

*Wednesday & Friday Gatherings are for all ages.
Thursday Gatherings are for adults & teens.*

HI-life Gatherings...

Our sixth year of whole community catechesis focuses on Living a Moral Life. Our theme is *Navigating Life with GPS – God’s Proven System*. Christian moral life can be summed up as the recognition of the awesome gift of God’s loving presence in our lives and our continuing effort to respond to that love. During this year we will explore the guidelines that God has given us to live lives of love and faithfulness, including the ten commandments and the beatitudes. We encourage parishioners of all ages to participate in our HI-life Gatherings – our intergenerational learning assemblies that are the foundation of our lifelong faith formation process. Our monthly Gatherings are a time of fellowship, faith formation, and fun.

❖ **Sharing a Simple Meal Together**
No cooking - just come and enjoy

At a typical Gathering you are welcomed by greeters in the Hospitality Room and escorted to a table in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a meal with fellow parishioners of all ages. At your table there might be a single adult, a family of four, a retired person, or an empty-nest couple. There will be a couple of questions on the table to focus our table talk.

❖ **Whole Group Opening Experience**
Introduction of the topic to be experienced by all ages

After the meal, everyone moves to the church for an opening prayer and an activity to set the tone for the evening, such as a story or video segment. Each household receives a HI-life Home Kit and learns to use it throughout the evening.

❖ **Exploring the Topic through Age-Specific Learning Activities**
Learning about the same topic according to one’s age or stage in life

Then the group divides into smaller groups for age-specific learning activities. A typical evening might have adults staying in the church for a speaker and group discussion, young adults in Meeting Room 6, JYM youth in Meeting Room 3, TYM youth in the Hospitality Room, and parents with young children (approximately ages 5-11) together in the Fellowship Hall. There are lead catechists for each group to teach and guide the learning activities of the evening and trained facilitators to assist the parents and children at each table.

❖ **Whole Group Sharing Experience**
Closing of the Gathering for all ages

To conclude our evening, everyone reunites in the church to share what has been learned, to pray together, and to be sent forth to continue learning at home in preparation for the church event or season which is the focus of the month.



Elements of LOGOS

In local churches, LOGOS teams build intergenerational relationships between young people and caring, Christian adults of all ages through a four-part weekly format:

ACTS 2:42 (NRSV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.



Bible Study: A time for each grade, or a combination of grades, to study the Bible as the model for Christ-centered living. Churches can use non-denominational curricula developed by GenOn for LOGOS (either “Faith for Life” or our high school Bible studies) or something of their own choosing.



Family Time: The shared meal is a time to gather regular “table families” of various ages who eat together each week for the entire program year. Kitchen teams prepare dinners that are served family style—with table settings and serving dishes—practicing the art of serving one another.



Worship Skills: Choir, drama, bells, or other arts are rehearsed at LOGOS and then presented regularly in corporate worship. Each church decides the best fit with its own liturgy and worship style.



Recreation: All have great fun in a cooperative atmosphere, often drawing on the hobbies and interests of adults in the congregation willing to share their passions on a one-time basis or longer.

Elements of LOGOS

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

GenOn Ministries
www.genonministries.org

Intergenerational 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

www.messychurch.org.uk



Intergenerational Impact

1. Strengthens relationships among people of all ages, enhances their sense of belonging to the faith community, and increases participation in church life.
2. Has a positive effect on both the older and young populations involved by creating intentional opportunities for young and old to meet together, to share stories, or to create something together.
3. Affirms each person's value in the total community (regardless of age), and promotes understanding of shared values and respect for individuals in all stages and ages of life.

Intergenerational Impact

4. Creates a welcoming and safe environment conducive to promoting faith sharing, group participation, mutual support, and care for one another.
5. Supports families by surrounding them with a community of faith and engaging the whole family in learning and practicing their faith.
6. Helps people learn the beliefs and practices of the Christian faith as they participate with more experienced members of the church community.

Intergenerational Impact

7. Promotes a community where generational differences can be transcended rather than reinforced, where generational understanding and positive intergenerational relationships can be experienced.
8. Forms and strengthens Christian commitment.
9. Provides parents with opportunities to learn from Christians who are practicing their faith.
10. Incorporates real-life application of learning.

Family Faith Formation

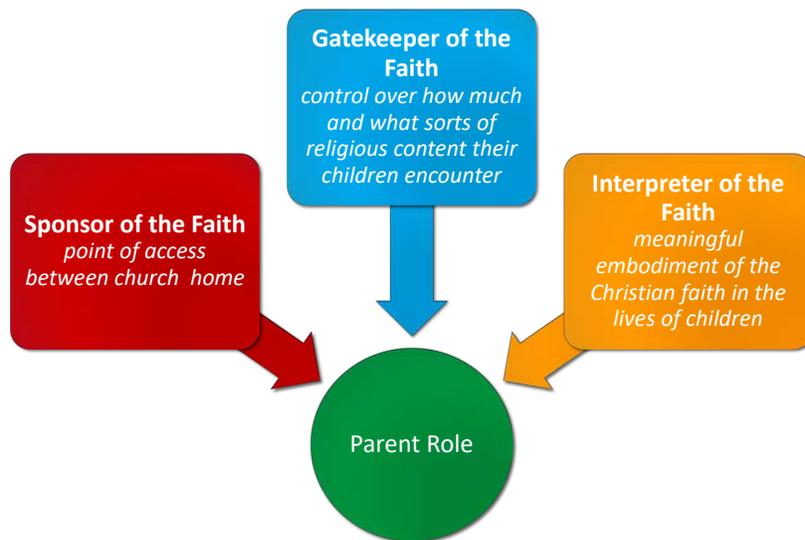


Family Faith Formation



- ✦ Primary Influence on transmission of religious faith and practice: Parents & Family
- ✦ Day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities
- ✦ Secondary Influence: The Congregation and Significant Adults

Parental Influence



One of the most basic suggestions of our findings is that young adults arrive at a sense of their fundamental identity and worldview not by weighing all possible intellectual arguments for and against a proposed way of life, but rather by roughly adopting the worldview of those mentors who left the deepest impression upon them—and who loved them and cared for them the most. It should come as no surprise, then, that the emergence of the new generation of dedicated young Catholics will rise and fall with the choices of their parents.

(American Catholic Religious Parenting, Burtkus and Smith)

Key Factors

Research studies over the past twenty years continue to affirm this truth. We know the factors that make a significant difference in promoting faith in children and adolescents:

- parents' personal faith and practice
- a close and warm parent-child relationship
- parent modeling and teaching a religious faith
- parent involvement in church life and Sunday worship
- grandparent religious influence and relationship
- family conversations about faith
- family faith religious practices including praying, reading the Bible, serving others, and celebrating holidays and rituals

Practices that Make a Difference

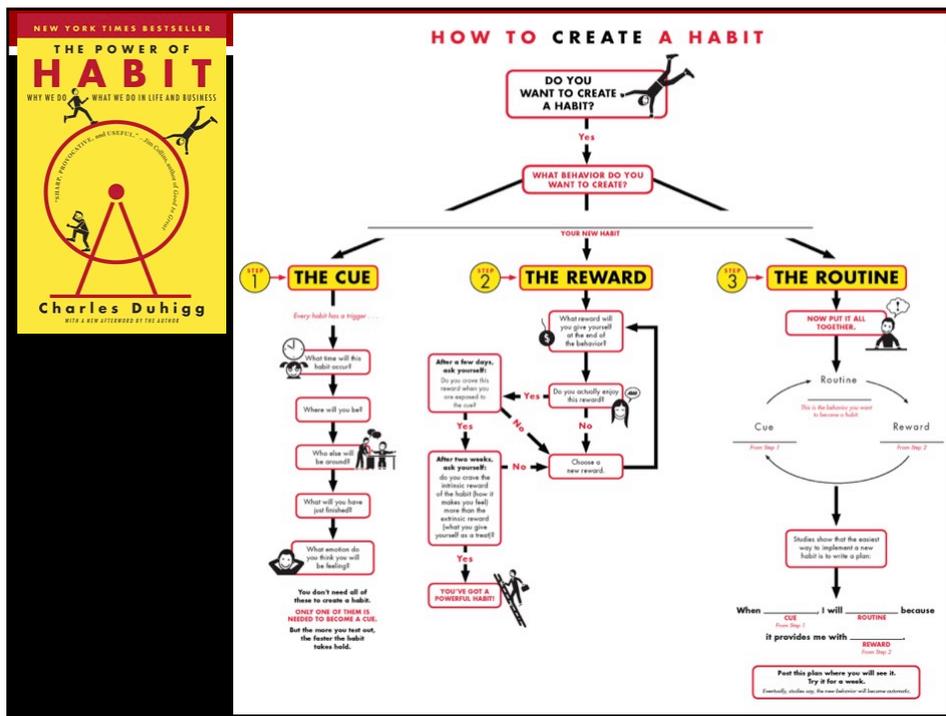
1. Reading the Bible as a family and encouraging young people to read the Bible regularly
2. Praying together as a family and encouraging young people to pray personally
3. Serving people in need as a family and supporting service activities by young people
4. Participating regularly in Sunday worship as a family
5. Being involved in a faith community and serving in church as a family and as young people
6. Eating together as a family
7. Celebrating rituals and holidays at home
8. Having family conversations
9. Talking about faith, religious issues, and questions and doubts
10. Ritualizing important family moments and milestone experiences
11. Celebrating holidays and church year seasons at home
12. Providing moral instruction

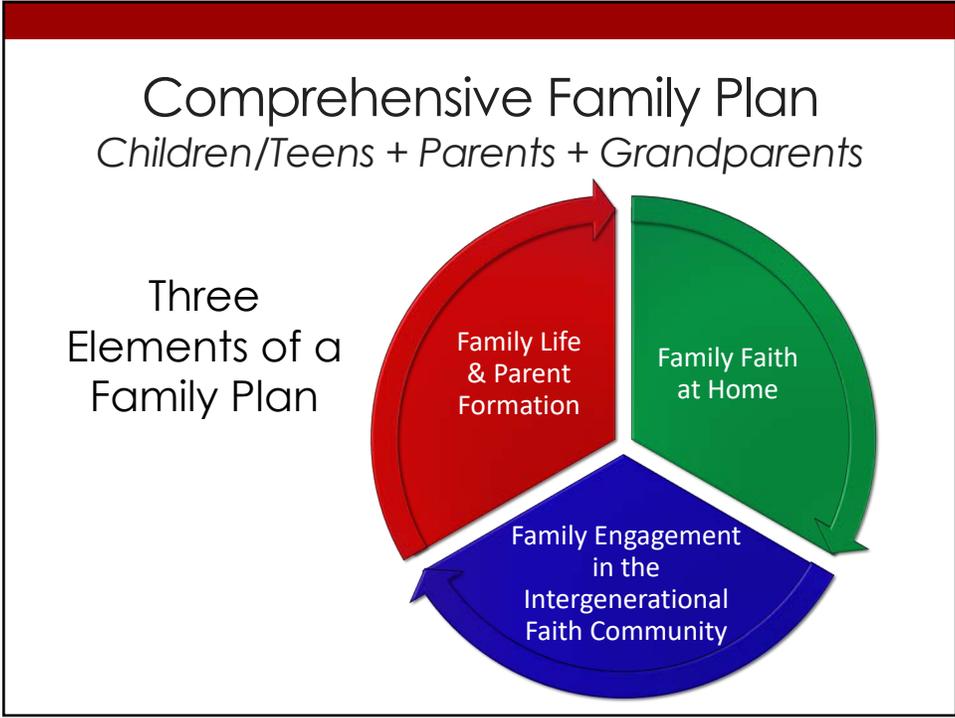
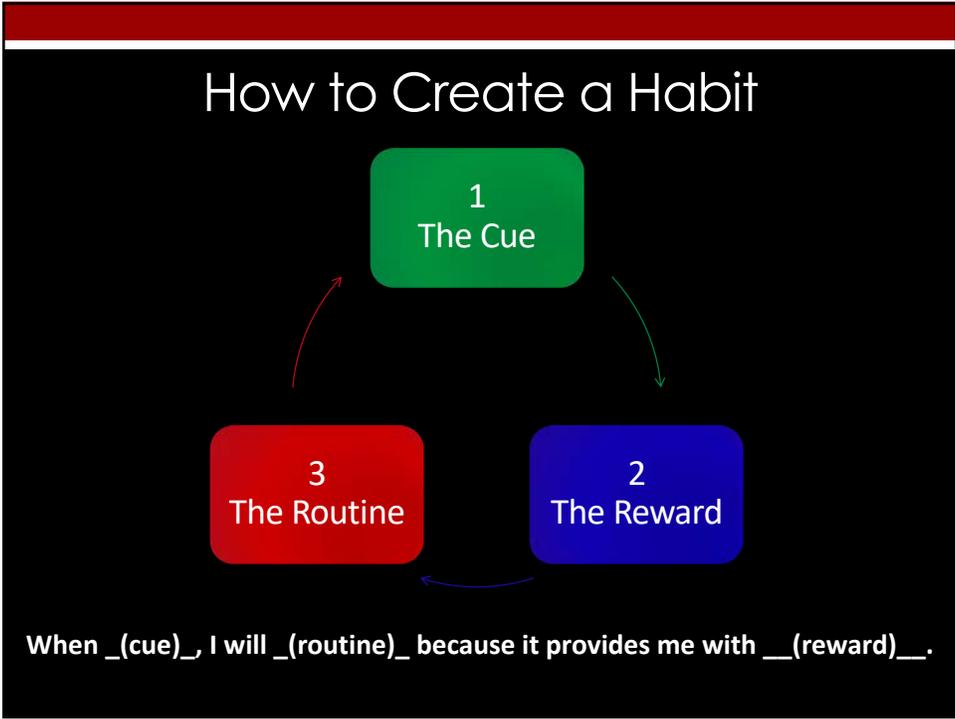
Parent Practices

- Parents participated in mission trips as a family as their kids were growing up.
- Parents participated in service projects with their kids as they were growing up.
- Parents frequently shared Christ with unbelievers as their kids were growing up.
- Parents personally read the Bible several times a week or more as their kids were growing up.
- Parents encouraged their teen to serve in the church.
- Parents typically asked for forgiveness when they messed up as their children were growing up.
- Parents encouraged their children's own unique talents and interests as they grew up.
- Parents attended churches that emphasized what the Bible says as their kids were growing up.
- Parents taught their children to tithe as their kids were growing up.

What do we believe about family faith?

- ✳ God is actively present in family life.
- ✳ Parents and the family are the most important religious influence on religious transmission.
- ✳ Faith is formed through the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it.
- ✳ Faith is formed when there is a substantial investment of thought, time, and intimacy by parents in faith transmission.
- ✳ Faith is formed in relationships – at home and in the intergenerational faith community.
- ✳ Faith is formed in developmentally-appropriate ways over time.





#1. Faith Practices @ Home

1. Seasons of the year
2. Rituals and milestones
3. Learning the tradition
4. Prayer and spiritual formation
5. Reading the Bible
6. Service, justice, care for creation



Young
Children

Older
Children

Young
Adolescents

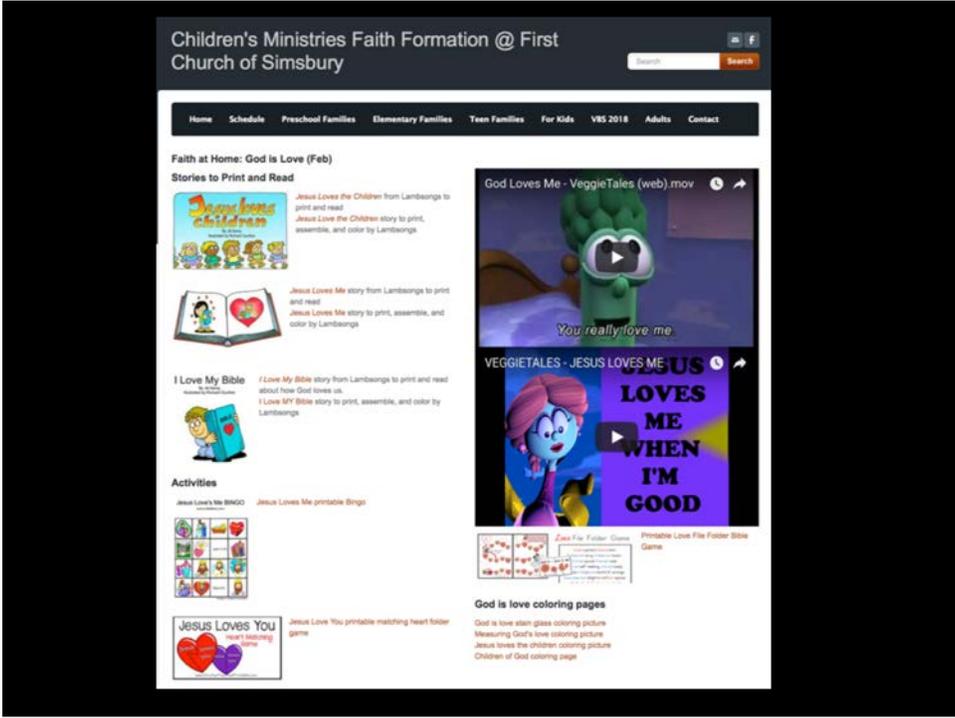
Older
Adolescents

Discovering God in Everyday Life



Examen for Children

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.



#2. Milestones throughout Life



1. Ritual and blessing
2. Home celebration/blessing
3. Learning program –
4. Symbol
5. Supporting continued growth

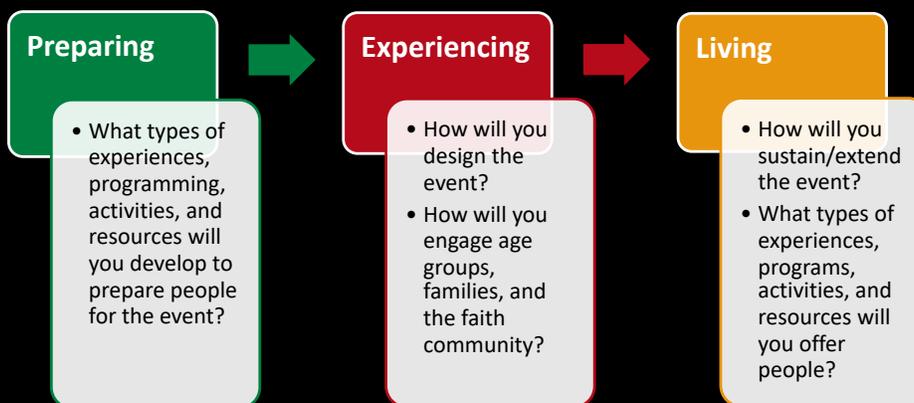
Milestones

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| ✦ Birth / Baptism | 1. Church ritual/blessing |
| ✦ Baptism anniversaries | 2. Home celebration/blessing |
| ✦ First prayers | 3. Learning program – at church or home |
| ✦ First Bible stories | 4. Symbol |
| ✦ Starting school year | 5. Supporting continued growth |
| ✦ Receiving a first Bible | |
| ✦ First Communion | |
| ✦ Confirmation | |
| ✦ Graduation | |

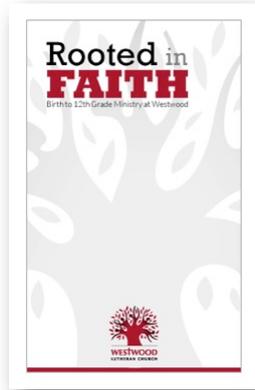
Forming Faith through Milestones

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

Forming Faith through Milestones



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/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 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 own, importance of faith)

Rituals & Milestones

celebrate meaningful, memorable moments in your family

Baptism Anniversary



Share with each of your children the story of their baptism day to celebrate their new life in Christ and embrace their relationship with God as their Father and Creator. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) for the instructions and worksheets.

Starting School



Going off to Preschool or Kindergarten or First Grade for the first time is an exciting milestone for children and their families. As children prepare to venture out from home and begin a new routine at school, they'll need your promise to be with them always. Together, the family will create a visual reminder of your great love for children. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) for the instructions and worksheets.

Getting Ready to Worship



Setting out the door to make it to worship on time can be a trying experience for parents and children. Create a preparation ritual to help your family get ready to worship at your church, whether on Sunday morning, Saturday night, or during the week. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) for the instructions and worksheets.

Birthday Celebrations



Prayer
 God, we come today to give thanks to you for creating the life of _____ (name). We ask your blessing on _____ (name), that he/she may continue to honor and praise you by using the gifts and talents you have given him/her. We ask that _____ (name) continue to grow in age, wisdom and grace – in Jesus' name.

Scripture Reading
 Be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Letter of Paul to the Colossians)

Prayer
 Through Baptism, (name) entered God's special life of love. On this special day of remembrance we ask that (name) may be faithful to God's love and seek wise moral choices in the way forward to live in His love.

Forming Faith through Milestones

High School Graduation Milestone: Equipping Graduates for the Journey

Desired Outcomes

- Celebrate a graduate's decision for an individual faith journey with all the other new believers for his or her future.
- Involve the graduate's dad and his or her family's commitment to pray with, encourage, and bless the graduate's dad and in the congregation.
- Equip with knowledge that keep the graduate in the love and grace of family, congregation, and God.
- Receive a full filled basket of family prayer or other gifts as a practical reminder of the fully filled commitment that will be received the graduate in the new journey.

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Mission Trip Milestone: Community Blessings at Home and Away

Desired Outcomes

- Experience the mission trip as a faith journey for many although traveled by only a few.
- Support those on the mission trip with prayer from the home community.
- Discover new places, people and experiences as a unique faith journey.
- Learn to serve others as an important Christian practice while present together into how others live and experience God in their own lives.
- Gain a new understanding and appreciation of the Christian faith.

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Forming Faith through Milestones

Family Reunion Milestone Moment

Each generation will reap what its generation has sown.
- Proverb

Since a family reunion creates an opportunity to praise and worship and celebrate the completion of the attached and separate an opportunity to experience God's family. Providing an opportunity to meet God's presence in the natural is important. The Milestones presence in the natural is important. The Milestones presence in the natural is important. The Milestones presence in the natural is important.

Retirement Milestone: A Major Life Transition

Retirement is not a destination, it is a journey.
- Richard L. Morgan

Desired Outcomes

- Thank and acknowledge Milestones as an important life of journey.
- Celebrate a person's accomplishments and look to fully live in God or his faith community.
- Learn to live with the reality of retirement.
- Share the reality of retirement and look to fully live in God or his faith community.
- Understand retirement with grace and support to allow God's will in retirement journey.

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#3. Celebrating Seasons

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

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)

Seasons of the Year



The seasons of the year offers a variety of opportunities for families to celebrate, learn, and have fun together. We have selected one family activity for each month of the year, reflecting the calendar seasons and the church year seasons.

1. January: Martin Luther King Jr.
2. February: Ash Wednesday
3. March: The Real St. Patrick
4. April: Easter and New Life
5. May: Mother's Day
6. June: Vacation Travel
7. July: Independence Day
8. August: Back to School
9. September: Fall Harvest
10. October: Helping Halloween
11. November: Thanksgiving
12. December: Christmas is Coming!

January: Serving Others



Observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service—held on the third Monday of January—with your family. Warm the hearts and feet of people seeking help from emergency shelters with socks and personal hygiene supplies.

Try this activity with your family. For instructions follow this link to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

February: Praying through Lent



Teach your children a new prayer (or text) over the course of the 40 days of Lent by taping it by their bed and praying it together every night at bedtime.

Try this activity with your family. For instructions and the special worksheet follow this link to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

[LENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE HOME](#)

March: The Real Patrick



Saint Patrick was a real person, born in Britain in the year 385 C. E. He was once a slave, then voluntarily a priest in Ireland. He brought many people to God at a time when many had turned away from the Lord.

Try this activity with your family. For instructions and the special worksheet follow this link to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

April: New Life



The popular custom of coloring Easter eggs comes from an ancient Christian practice of dyeing, cracking, and treating on eggs as an Easter celebration. Instead of randomly coloring eggs, draw names to decorate and trade eggs for one another.

Integrate Online & Gathered 40-Day Lent Curriculum

Church →	Daily & Home	← Online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday • Lenten Sunday liturgies • Stations of the Cross • Lenten prayer • Lenten retreat • Lenten service • Lenten soup suppers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fasting • Praying • Service/Almsgiving • Lectionary reflection • Family Lenten activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten learning resources • Lenten calendar • Daily Lenten prayer • Weekly table prayer • Video resources • Online retreat experience

Example: Earth Day

Community	Church	Home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community cleanup • Planting a community garden • All ages workshop on caring for creation • Story time at the library on environmental awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenical prayer service • Intergenerational program on theology of caring for creation • Church audit • Global project for whole community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling activities • Planting a family garden • Meal time creation prayer • Daily Bible verses for April • Children's activities • Storybooks and videos • Home audit

#4. Encountering God in the Bible

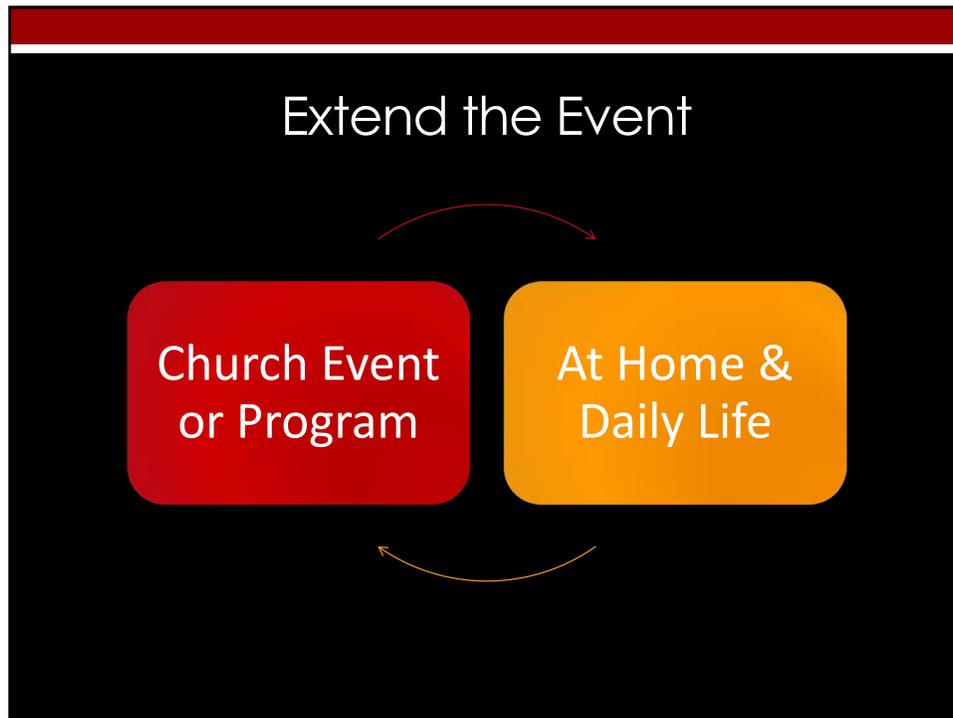
1. Scripture in Sunday Worship
 - Lectionary
 - Sermon Series

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

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



Practical Strategies

1. Develop a family faith formation website.
2. Seasonal family festivals and gatherings.
3. Connect to Sunday worship.
4. Schedule a yearlong plan for milestones.
5. Make faith practices a seasonal focus.
6. Create family immersion experiences.
7. Develop a monthly seasonal event.

Family Learning



Family Worship



Family Camp



Join us for an intergenerational "Adventure Anchored in Christ." This special camp provides grandparents and grandkids with adventure-filled days to pray and play together. Life-long memory-making adventures can be expected!

Grandparents and grandkids entering 1st – 4th grades will stay in the comfortable, adult-friendly accommodations of the Christian Center, but spend their days at Pelican Lake. Feel free to bring your motorhome if you prefer.

2018 FAMILY CAMPS



Imagine a powerful Bible camp experience for all ages – from infants to seniors, and everyone in-between, not just a camp for kids. We've been doing this for almost 50 years! This year we have seven camps to choose from, each one will fill you and your family with an authentic joy and peace that comes only from experiencing the gospel at camp.

We gather together as a community, families and staff from around the nation and even world! Come play, study, and grow in this beautiful, Spirit filled place. Click on camp week # to find out more information and to register.

Tentative Schedule – subject to change. Note: ALL of our 2018 Family Camps will include elements of the "FAMILY BLAST" model we introduced last summer!

Family Mini-Camp #1

June 21-24 – Family Blast Sampler

The Abundant Life

With Ryan Bralcy, Jonathan & Jana Swenson, Dan Baker.

Special outdoor concert with Peder Eide on Friday Night

Family Camp #2

June 30- July 6 – Family Blast

Ephesians: Wake Up Week! + Youth Musical

with Nate Hoff, Dave Wollan

Special Musical for Youth/Children

Family Camp #3

July 7-13

The Mission of God in the Old Testament

with Beth Elness-Hanson, Carl Billings, & Jillian Jones

Family Service



#5. Equipping Parents

Equipping parents and grandparents with the knowledge and skills necessary for faith-forming: how to transmit faith and values to their young people, how to become a Christian role model, and how to build a community of faith at home that nurtures faith growth in the young.

Developing a Strong Family Life

Developmental Relationships – Search Institute



Express Care



Challenge Growth



Provide Support



Share Power



Expand Possibilities

What Makes a Difference

1. Parents participated in mission trips.
2. Parents participated in service projects.
3. Parents frequently shared Christ with unbelievers.
4. Parents personally read the Bible several times a week or more.
5. Parents encouraged their teen to serve in the church.
6. Parents typically asked for forgiveness when they messed up.
7. Parents encouraged their children's unique talents and interests.
8. Parents attended churches that emphasized what the Bible says.
9. Parents taught their children to tithe.

Developing Strong Family Life

Family Life Programming

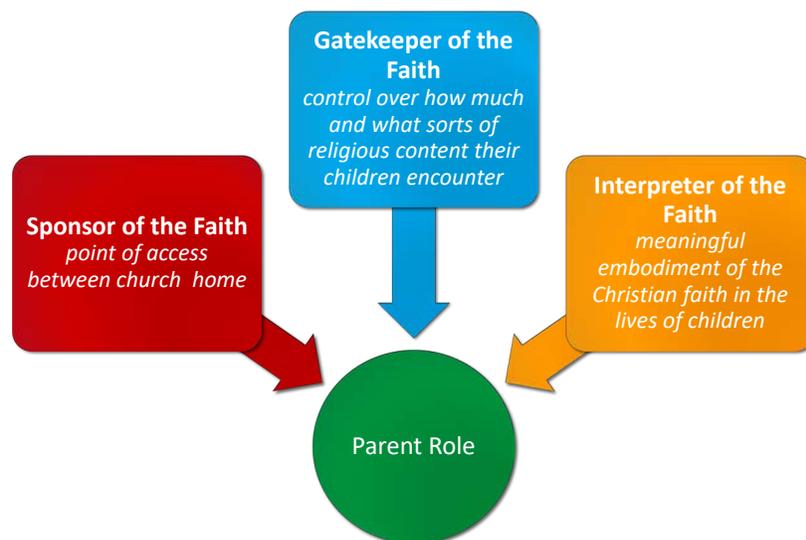
1. Communicating effectively
2. Establishing family routines: family meals, shared activities, daily commitments
3. Celebrating meaningful traditions and rituals
4. Discussing tough topics
5. Making decisions and solving problems as a family
6. Learning how to build strong relationships and express care 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

Empowering Parents

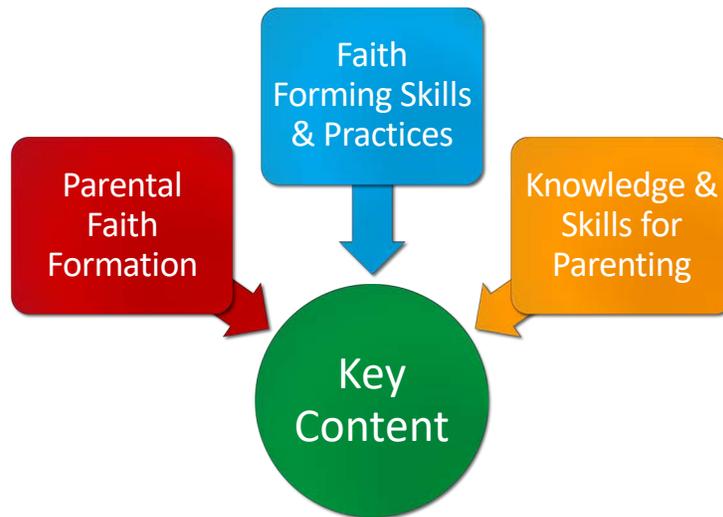
Competencies

- ✓ Expressing care, love, affection, and support for children
- ✓ Balancing time and commitments, managing stress
- ✓ Practicing healthy relationships
- ✓ Disciplining children and learning discipline practices
- ✓ Creating a warm, caring supportive family.
- ✓ Set boundaries and high expectations for children
- ✓ Managing technology and media use
- ✓ Challenging children to grow and continuously improve
- ✓ Providing support to help children complete tasks and achieve goals
- ✓ Sharing power with children so that their voice is heard and they share in making decisions.
- ✓ Expanding possibilities and connecting children to opportunities for growth
- ✓ Developing emotional communication skills
- ✓ Developing positive parent-child interaction skills
- ✓ Learning to respond consistently to their child

Three Parental Faith Roles

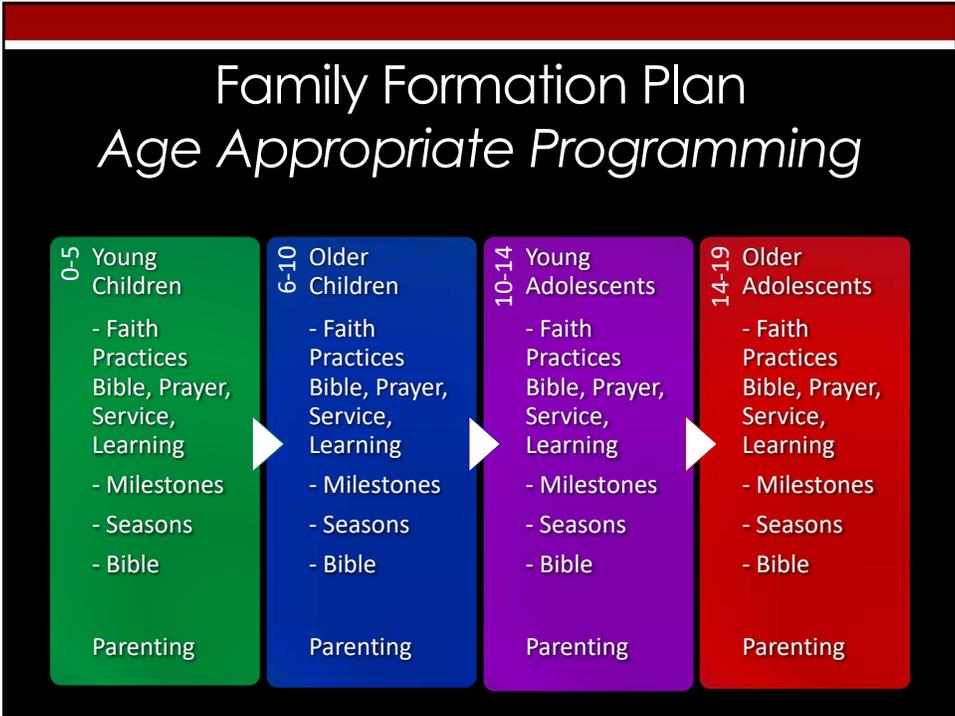


Empowering Parents



Parent Programming

1. Parent website
2. Parent programs: Progression of parent workshops, webinars, or courses for each life stage
3. Laboratory experiences
4. Parent mentors
5. Life cycle or affinity groups for parents
6. Have parents practice new skills with their own children during program sessions.
7. Design programs that engage parents in the learning experience.
8. Use a variety of environments and methods to engage all parents, anytime and anywhere.
9. Use online platforms and digitally enabled strategies.
10. Give parents a plan.



The Seasons of Adulthood

Seasons of Life

- Children (1-10)
 - Gen Alpha and Gen Z
- Adolescents (11-19)
 - Gen Z
- Young Adults (20s-30s)
 - Millennial Generation
- Midlife Adults (40s-mid 50s)
 - Generation X
- Mature Adults (mid 50s–75)
 - Baby Boom Generation
- Older Adults (75+)
 - Builder Generation

Life Issues

1. Physical & Cognitive Changes
2. Developmental Tasks
3. Life Situations
4. Family Life Cycle
5. Faith Development
6. Spiritual-Religious Identities
7. Generational Characteristics

Twenty-First Century Learning



Characteristics of 21st Century Learning

1. Blended Learning
2. Micro-Learning
3. Immersive Learning Environments
4. Multiple Ways of Learning
5. Multisensory Learning
6. Project-Based Learning
7. Collaborative Learning
8. Visual Learning
9. Practice-Oriented Learning
10. Storytelling

Virtual Learning Academy



VLACS provides full time and part time online virtual learning opportunities for both Middle & High School students. Our new online Adult Education program will be available in 2016.

Choose Your Path



Middle School & High School

VLACS is an online virtual public middle and high school offering students the opportunity to learn at their own pace, full or part time.



Adult Education

Learn something for fun, develop new tech skills, learn a second language, and more at VLACS Adult Ed. Now accepting enrollments!

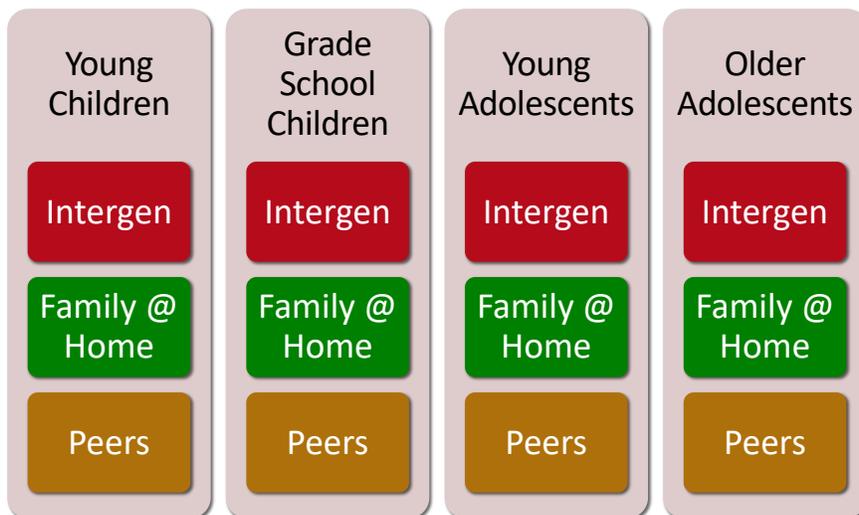
Summit's PERSONALIZED SCHOOLS

A personalized school is designed to meet the needs of **each & every individual student.**

At Summit, we focus on four key elements of college and career readiness, and empower students to drive their learning and own their success.



Designing Faith Formation



Two Ways to Approach Personalizing

Approach One: Personalize the Pathway for People

- ✦ Develop pathways of faith maturing
- ✦ Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
- ✦ Upload playlists to a digital platform

Approach Two: Personalize the Offerings

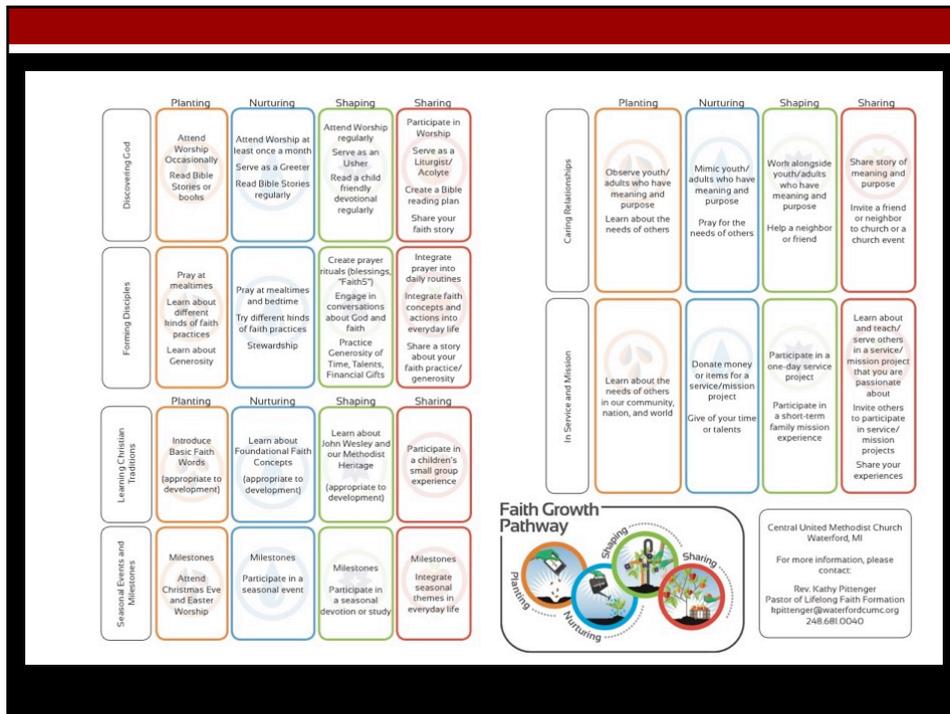
- ✦ Offer a variety of content, experiences, and activities tailored to different spiritual-religious identities and the life stage needs of people
 - Getting Started ---- Growing ---- Going Deeper*
- ✦ Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities
- ✦ Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs

Pathways of Faith Growth



A Pathways Model

- **A Pathway is a process** for helping people discern where they are in their faith journey and to chart a path for faith growth—to get from where they are to a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper practice of the Christian faith.
- **A Pathway is life-centered**, reaching into every area of a person’s life.
- **A Pathway is holistic** incorporating the whole person: head, heart, and hands.
- **A Pathway focuses on faith maturing.**



spiritual assessment

knowing God

- 1 I understand the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, and feel confident that I could explain them to a non-religious friend. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 2 I have a good knowledge of the Bible, including its major events and themes, and I know how to read it for maximum understanding. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 3 If someone were to ask me, "What do United Methodists believe?" I feel confident in my ability to answer them. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 4 I understand basic Christian ethics, and I know how to draw upon my faith to come to conclusions about important moral and ethical issues. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 5 I have a good understanding of God's will for human beings, and I know how to discern his will for my life in particular. 0 1 2 3 4 5

loving God

- 1 I know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to whatever that may lead in my life. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 2 I lay aside my own desires and sense of importance and admit to God's will for my life. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 3 As a means of growing in Christ, I regularly practice various spiritual disciplines in my life. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 4 I am experiencing "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life, like, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 5 I have a group of friends who grow in faith together and challenge each other to grow deeper in Christ. 0 1 2 3 4 5

serving God

- 1 I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 2 I know my God-given spiritual gifts, and I am actively serving Christ by using those gifts. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 3 I give back to Christ by giving to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 4 I spend time serving in God's world by helping meet critical needs and showing what it means to follow Jesus Christ. 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 5 I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others, sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ. 0 1 2 3 4 5

Place your self-assessment number for each question below and add across, giving you an overall total.

Knowing: 1 2 3 4 5 Total Head

Loving: 1 2 3 4 5 Total Heart

Serving: 1 2 3 4 5 Total Hands

No one can concentrate on too many things at once. Look first at the individual questions, and then turn to the inside of this folder to consider next steps. Seek to find one or more areas in which you can grow in your relationship with God. Use the following scale as a general guide to the three levels:

Knowing God

We can't never fully understand God (if we could, we wouldn't have much of a God). But the mysteries and questions are not obstacles to growth—they are an invitation to continually journey deeper in our understanding of God and the Kingdom to which he invites us. As we increase our understanding of the God we worship and serve, which is what the word "theology" means, we increase our capacity to live the life God designed us to live. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the knowing designation will lead you to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of the Kingdom.

Loving God

What we think and what we do are expressions of who we are. Trying hard to change ourselves is a losing proposition—but when we're traveling with God and letting God work in our lives, we find that transformation becomes a beautiful reality! When you see a calendar item or volunteer opportunity marked with the loving designation, it means that participation will draw you into a deeper level of love for God and neighbor.

Serving God

The Christian life is about more than correct thoughts and a loving attitude. It's about living our calling to be salt and light in the world. This means doing the work of the Kingdom. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the serving designation will help you get your hands dirty for the Kingdom. These include mission opportunities, volunteering and much more.

Take the next Step today.

Visit www.ourgoodnews.org at the Connection Point in the Narthex to view a detailed listing of classes and service opportunities and to register.



Knowing God: Becoming Theologically Informed

1 I have a growing understanding of the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, and feel confident that I could share my understanding of them with a non-religious friend.

- Level 1: We worship the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Trinity. We believe in the Bible as the inspired Word of God. We believe in the Church as the Body of Christ. We believe in the Kingdom of God.
- Level 2: Many Christians hold a humanist belief that we should live our lives according to our own desires and needs. Read the words of one of the great theologians of the Christian faith, and discover how the Christian faith is a response to the human condition, and not just a set of rules and regulations.
- Level 3: Write your own statement of faith. It should be a personal statement of your beliefs, and it should be a statement that you can share with others. It should be a statement that is both personal and universal.

2 I have a growing knowledge of the Bible, including its major events and themes, and know how to read it daily for maximum understanding.

- Level 1: Commit to reading your Bible each day, using the Bible Study Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible.
- Level 2: Purchase a good study Bible, such as the Bible Study Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible.
- Level 3: Talk with your small group about how to deepen your knowledge of the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible.

3 If someone were to ask me, "What do United Methodists believe?" I feel increasingly confident in my ability to give an informed answer.

- Level 1: Learn and understand the purpose and mission of the Church of the United Methodist. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Study Luther's small catechism and the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible.
- Level 3: Study the doctrine of the Church of the United Methodist. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.

4 I have a growing understanding of basic Christian ethics, and I am continually developing a deeper ability to draw upon my faith to come to conclusions about important moral and ethical issues.

- Level 1: Each day, you will face difficult decisions. Before you act, ask yourself: "What does God's will for me look like?" Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Read Augustine's "The City of God." Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible.
- Level 3: What does it mean to be a Christian? Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.

5 I have a growing understanding of God's will for human beings, and I know how to discern his will for my life in particular.

- Level 1: Choose one decision that is big, and you are currently making, and you are currently making. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Write your own statement of faith. It should be a personal statement of your beliefs, and it should be a statement that you can share with others. It should be a statement that is both personal and universal.
- Level 3: Read the words of one of the great theologians of the Christian faith, and discover how the Christian faith is a response to the human condition, and not just a set of rules and regulations.

Loving God: Becoming Spiritually Transformed

1 I know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to whatever that may lead in my life.

- Level 1: Read the words of one of the great theologians of the Christian faith, and discover how the Christian faith is a response to the human condition, and not just a set of rules and regulations.
- Level 2: Set a goal to read the Bible each day. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible.
- Level 3: Write your own statement of faith. It should be a personal statement of your beliefs, and it should be a statement that you can share with others. It should be a statement that is both personal and universal.

2 I have a growing ability to lay aside my own desires and sense of importance and submit to God's will for my life.

- Level 1: Examine your life and identify things you do that are really mine. Share them with others.
- Level 2: Fast from TV or another time-consuming habit for one week. Reflect on how this habit affects your life. Share your reflections with others.
- Level 3: Each day, pray the Prayer of the Holy Spirit. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible.

3 As a means of growing in Christ, I regularly practice various spiritual disciplines (e.g. worship, prayer, Bible study) in my life.

- Level 1: The "fast" of prayer is to pray for others. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Commit to reading your Bible each day. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible. Use the Bible Study Bible to help you understand the Bible.
- Level 3: Write your own statement of faith. It should be a personal statement of your beliefs, and it should be a statement that you can share with others. It should be a statement that is both personal and universal.

4 I have a deepening experience of "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life - of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

- Level 1: Mention Galatians 5:22. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Ask yourself, "What does my faith mean to me?" Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 3: Write your own statement of faith. It should be a personal statement of your beliefs, and it should be a statement that you can share with others. It should be a statement that is both personal and universal.

5 I have a group of friends with whom I meet regularly in order to grow in faith together and to challenge each other to grow deeper in Christ.

- Level 1: The disciples gathered around Jesus, and they were transformed. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Read the words of one of the great theologians of the Christian faith, and discover how the Christian faith is a response to the human condition, and not just a set of rules and regulations.
- Level 3: Write your own statement of faith. It should be a personal statement of your beliefs, and it should be a statement that you can share with others. It should be a statement that is both personal and universal.

Serving God: Serving God daily in the World

1 I actively serve in God's world by helping meet critical needs through acts of justice and mercy, signifying in actions what it means to follow Jesus Christ.

- Level 1: Volunteer needs and outside the walls of the church (choosing to serve in a way that is not just a "good deed" but a "good deed" that is a response to the human condition, and not just a set of rules and regulations).
- Level 2: Consider how you can serve others. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 3: As God leads you, serve others and pursue justice in all that you do. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.

2 I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others by sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ.

- Level 1: Invite a friend, a family member or a neighbor to attend worship or other church activity with you. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Meet a person "where they are" and share the Gospel with them. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 3: Focus on how God needs your spiritual gifts and talents. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.

3 I have discovered my God-given spiritual gifts, and regularly take steps to develop those gifts and to actively serve Christ by using them.

- Level 1: Identify what things you do naturally well at. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Learn what your God-given spiritual gifts are, and connect them to the needs of the church. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 3: Focus on how God needs your spiritual gifts and talents. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.

4 I give back to Christ by giving to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal.

- Level 1: Begin planning your financial giving as a proportion of your income, rather than simply on impulse as a seasonal special. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Increase your giving by one or two percent of your income, or more, based on the goal of giving 10% of your income. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 3: Make your giving a habit for your giving, and give more. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.

5 I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others, and I increasingly manage my time according to God's priorities.

- Level 1: Set aside at least one hour a week specifically for serving God and others. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 2: Identify the non-quantifiable activities you spend time on, and determine their value to you and to others. Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.
- Level 3: Revalue your entire calendar. Ask yourself, "If I were asked to include God's Kingdom in my calendar, what would I have to give up?" Write a vision statement for your church and share it with others.

	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Discovering God	Attend Worship Occasionally Read Bible Stories or books	Attend Worship at least once a month Serve as a Greeter Read Bible Stories regularly	Attend Worship regularly Serve as an Usher, Read a child friendly devotional regularly	Participate in Worship Serve as a Liturgist/Acolyte Create a Bible reading plan Share your faith story
Forming Disciples	Pray at mealtimes Learn about different kinds of faith practices Learn about Generosity	Pray at mealtimes and bedtime Try different kinds of faith practices Stewardship	Create prayer rituals (blessings, "Faiths") Engage in conversations about God and faith Practice Generosity of Time, Talents, Financial Gifts	Integrate prayer into daily routines Integrate faith concepts and actions into everyday life Share a story about your faith practice/generosity
Learning Christian Traditions	Introduce Basic Faith Words (appropriate to development)	Learn about Foundational Faith Concepts (appropriate to development)	Learn about John Wesley and our Methodist Heritage (appropriate to development)	Participate in a child's small group experience
Seasonal Events and Milestones	Milestones Attend Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	Milestones Participate in a seasonal event	Milestones Participate in a seasonal devotion or study	Milestones Integrate seasonal themes in everyday life

	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Caring Relationships	Observe youth/adults who have meaning and purpose Learn about the needs of others	Mimic youth/adults who have meaning and purpose Pray for the needs of others	Work alongside youth/adults who have meaning and purpose Help a neighbor or friend	Share story of meaning and purpose Invite a friend or neighbor to church or a church event
In Service and Mission	Learn about the needs of others in our community, nation, and world	Donate money or items for a service/mission project Give of your time or talents	Participate in a one-day service project Participate in a short-term family mission experience	Learn about and teach/serve others in a service/mission project that you are passionate about Invite others to participate in service/mission projects Share your experiences

Faith Growth Pathway

Central United Methodist Church
Waterford, MI

For more information, please contact:
Rev. Kathy Pittenger
Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation
hpittenger@waterfordcum.org
248.681.0040

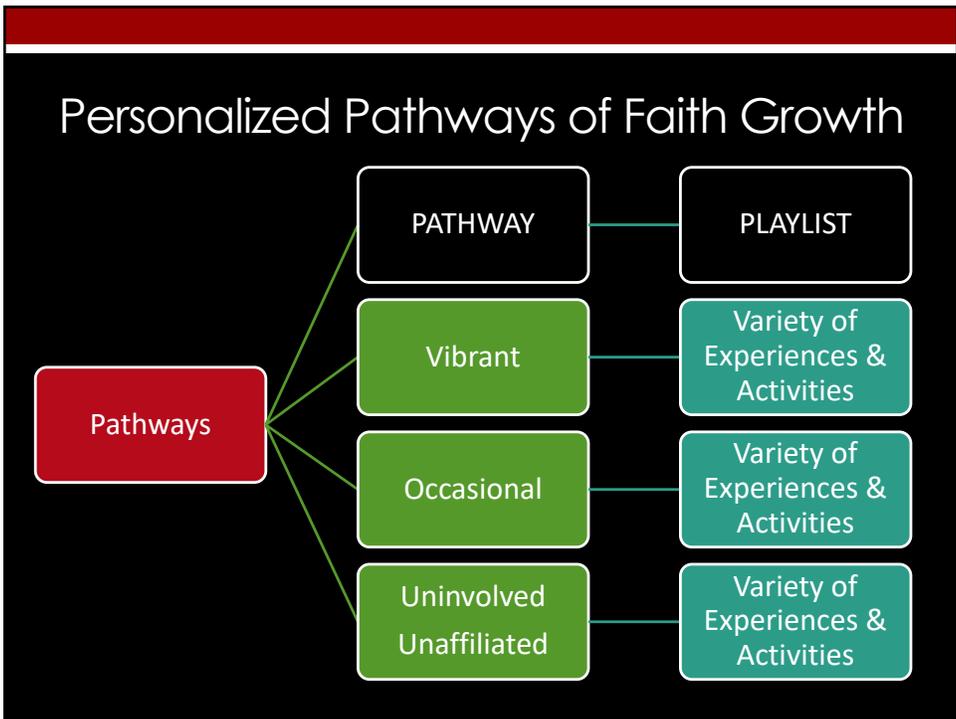
	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Connecting with God	Personal Spiritual Practices I am learning about daily devotions and praying to find those that I want to practice. I read the Bible from time to time.	I am practicing some spiritual devotions occasionally, including reading from the Bible. I am learning about STER (Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason).	I am using spiritual devotions regularly. I also use other resources to understand the Bible at times. I use STER to make decisions.	I am revising my spiritual practices. I can share with others how I connect with God through spiritual practices.
Connecting with Others	Individually I aim to accept others, including those whose color, status, etc. are different from mine.	I go out of my way to be hospitable to members and guests in our church.	I listen and try to help others with their spiritual questions, joys, and concerns. I share my faith through personal testimony/story.	I invite others to worship and church events. I share my faith with others through invitation and witness.
	In Community I attend worship at least once a month. I say the Lord's Prayer during worship, grace before meals and prayers in the morning and/or at bedtime.	I attend worship on Sunday mornings at least twice a month. I participate in Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).	I participate in worship every week unless such or out of town. I share Biblical and/or Christian stories with my family/friends.	I provide worship leadership and/or other service on Sundays. I help organize Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).
	In Community I attend seasonal events or special events. I am learning about ministry opportunities.	I participate in a Central Connect Group for fellowship or faith formation. I attend or serve at events.	I provide leadership for special events. I am open to being trained in church leadership.	I am a leader in a Central Connect Group. I am open to training others for leadership in church administration, education, etc.

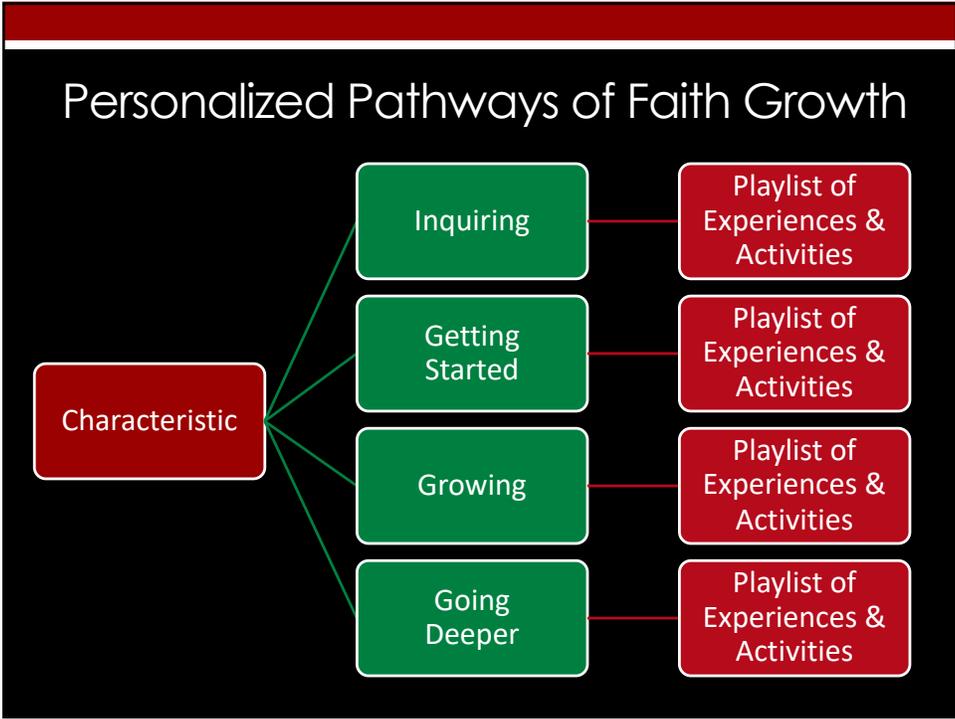
	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Changing Our World with Christ's Love	Generosity of Time, Talents, and/or Financial Gifts (TTFG) I like to hear how my church meets the needs in the community. I like to hear stories from others about how they have been changed by either giving or receiving. I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter.	I commit to share my TTFG regularly. I help a neighbor or a charity with my TTFG occasionally. I can share a story about my TTFG.	I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income at a lithe (10%) and "beyond". I share my TTFG regularly. I am a member of a church committee or team.	I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income at a lithe (10%) and "beyond". I share my TTFG regularly. I am inviting others to be a member of a church committee or team.
	In Community (Evangelism, Mission Trips, Service Projects, Social Action) I learn from the church about caring for others in the community. I help in the community in the fields of arts, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc. I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith in my work world.	I participate in community service through church ministries regularly. I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith to local and political issues.	I participate in community service through church ministries regularly. I invite others to try a variety of serving opportunities outside the church. I assist the church to advocate for peace and justice for all.	I participate in ongoing service beyond the walls of the church. I recruit and equip leaders for ministries and missions. I participate in a community peace and justice group.

Faith Growth Pathway

Central United Methodist Church
Waterford, MI

For more information, please contact:
Rev. Kathy Pittenger
Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation
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Personalize the Offerings

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Home Adult Living Discover Faith Faith Enrichment Scripture Seasons Service Spiritual Life Sunday Worship

The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation

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

Personalize the Offerings

Playlists for Reading & Studying the Bible

Getting Started

- Participate in the “Welcome to the Bible” program at church
- Watch the video programs on how to read the Bible
- Watch the video program with an overview of the Old Testament and New Testament
- Use the Guide to select a Study Bible and find the Bible online
- Participate in the 30-Day Bible Experience: Reading one Gospel (Matthew, Mark, or Luke)

Growing

- Develop a daily plan for reading the Bible
- Participate in the lectio divina reflection group after Sunday worship
- Learn how to pray with the Bible
- Join a Bible study group (church, home, coffee shop, online)

Going Deeper

- Read the Bible in 365 days
- Develop a personal Bible study plan
- Take an online course: Hebrew Scriptures, Gospels, Letters of Paul
- Study and pray the Psalms as a spiritual practice

Personalize the Offerings

Playlist: Bible for Families with Children

Getting Started

- Participate in the Bible workshop for parents that is offered twice a year
- Watch the “Reading the Bible with Children” video and/or listen to the podcast on website
- Begin the practice of a weekly Bible story reading and/or video viewing
- Use the online Guide to select and purchase a recommended children’s Bible, and an adult study Bible for parents
- Engage the children in the summer vacation Bible school program
- Participate in the family scripture reflection after Sunday worship each week
- Learn how to pray with the Bible by watching the video online and using the prayer activities online
- Participate in the church wide “30-Day Bible Experience” of reading one gospel at home.
- Engage the children in the summer vacation Bible school program

Growing

- Continue the weekly Bible story or video practice
- Practice the FAITH5 each day: Share the highs and lows of the day every night; read a key Bible verse or story every night; talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows; pray for one another’s highs and lows aloud every night; bless one another before turning out the lights of the day.

Going Deeper

- Continue the FAITH5 daily practice
- Join an adult Bible study group offered by the church
- Engage the whole family in a 365 day “read the whole Bible” experience using the resources on the family website
- Develop a personal Bible study plan using the resources on the family website
- Participate in the family scripture reflection after Sunday worship each week
- Engage the children in the summer vacation Bible school program

Playlists for Faith Formation



Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach to develop the faith of families with young children....

1. *Getting Started Families* (little faith experience)
 2. *Growing Families* (somewhat connected to faith community)
 3. *Going Deeper Families* (involved and practicing)
- How would you engage the parents?
 - How would you engage the children and whole family?

Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach for first communion...

1. *Getting Started Children* (little to no faith forming experiences)
 2. *Growing Children* (some faith forming experiences)
 3. *Going Deeper Children* (involved and practicing)
- What would faith formation look like with these three “types” of children?
 - What would parent and family faith formation look like?

Faith Formation Playlists

A faith formation playlist is a curated group of digital (online, video, audio, print) and gathered (church, home, small groups, etc.) faith forming experiences and resources that are tailored to the specific faith growth needs of people around a particular characteristic of faith maturing or theme/topic.

Playlists are developed for each “stage” on the discernment continuum, such as Inquiring, Getting Started, Growing, Going Deeper.

Each playlist provides a variety of ways for people to learn and grow in faith.

Formatting Activities

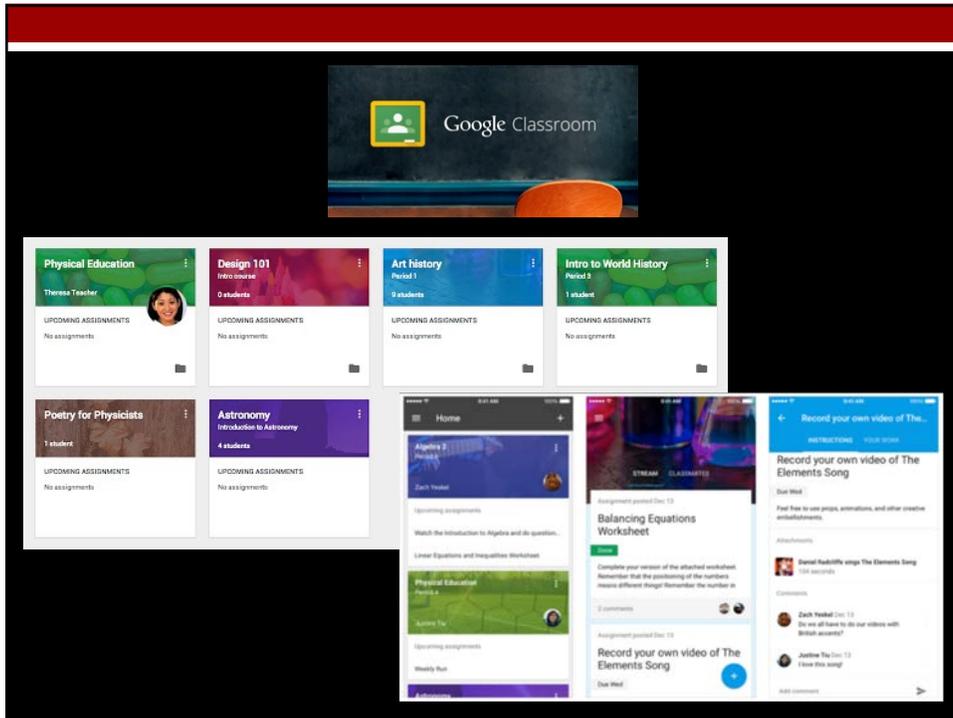
Imagine Lent:

- If you have 5 minutes....
 - If you have 10 minutes....
 - If you have 15 minutes....
1. Lent calendar
 2. Prayer
 3. Fasting
 4. Almsgiving/service
 5. Bible reading
 6. Lenten reading & reflection

What is Edmodo?

Edmodo is a classroom website that is completely controlled by the teacher...

The screenshot shows the Edmodo website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Edmodo logo, a search bar, and links for Calendar, Grades, Library, Home, Profile, and Account. Below the navigation bar, the user profile for Mrs. Nero is displayed. The profile includes a photo of a Christmas tree and a post titled "Me to SPA 9 2012, SPA 9 2012 (Parents)". The post content says "Please bring your cuaderno money to me this week:" followed by a list of names: Meha, Chase, Madie, Josh, Jeremy, and Patrick. A green heart graphic with the text "...and it looks like Facebook!" is overlaid on the post. The interface also shows a "Post" section with options for Note, Alert, Assignment, Quiz, and Poll, and a "Notifications" section with a "1 New Direct Post" notification.



Forming Faith: Digital Approaches

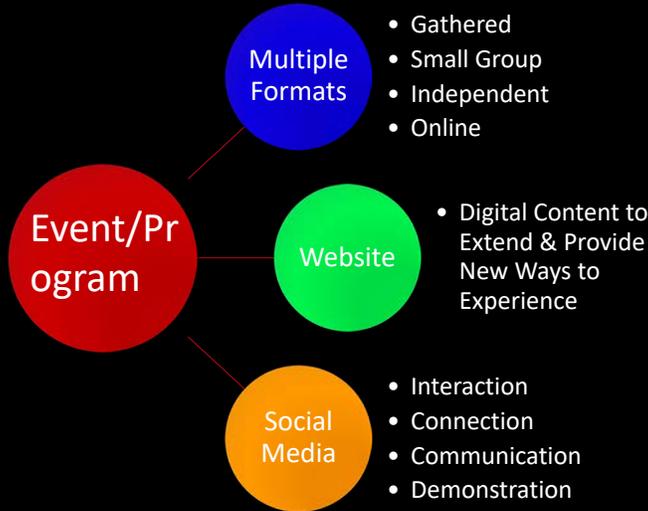
1. Extend a church event or program
2. Design one event or program, offer it in multiple platforms
3. Prepare for and follow-up an an event or experience
4. Flip a gathered program
5. Integrate online and gathered
6. Create online only experiences
7. Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

Extend the Event

Church or
School Event
or Program

At Home &
Daily Life

One Event/ Program, Multiple Formats



Sunday Worship

- Learning
- Praying
- Reading the Bible: Daily Readings
- Living

The Sunday Website of Saint Louis University

Español

3rd Sunday of Easter A

April 30, 2017

General Intercessions for Sunday

Share this Web Site!

Search for other Sunday

Email Us! lbunry@slu.edu

Praying Toward Sunday

Spirituality of the Readings

Get to Know the Readings

Music of Sunday's Mass

General Intercessions

LECTIO DIVINA: SUNDAY MAY 7TH, 2017

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES

ARCHIVES: Choose a Year

FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

Other Readings: Acts 2:14a, 26-29; 1 Peter 2:20b-25

LECTIO

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"I know, when I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber." But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. "The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." "When he has driven out all the sheep, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. "But they will not follow a stranger; they will not follow him either, because they do not recognize the voice of..."

AN AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE PRODUCTION

OPENING THE WORD

4th Sunday of Easter
The Good Shepherd

▶ PLAY

The Five Loaves

Reflection resources for parishes, faith-sharing groups and individuals.

May 7, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Easter

How do you relate to the Good Shepherd's words? "I am the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep." In the holy stories of Matthew 9b, 11, and John 10, we hear Jesus' words about himself.

Sunday 9, Sunday's program using Give My Kids in Latin provides a resource for reflection.

Subscribe to Sunday's Holy Feast!

Events from The Five Loaves

The Five Practices of Christian Disciples

In Site™ Weekly Gospel Reflection on your parish website

Tri-Saints Lutheran Hardy, NE

"HEROD IS ABOUT TO SEARCH FOR THE CHILD, TO DESTROY HIM."

Image created on Canva. Photo "pyramids" by mikovits on flickr.com CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The Sunday after Epiphany (transferred): January 14, 2018

This is the LAST week of #jesusbirthatos. We will celebrate Baptism of Our Lord next Sunday, January 21, 2018.

Focus Verse

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13 NRSV)

Dig Deeper Devotions: #jesusbirthatos

Annual Meeting Questions For Families For Youth For Adults

See and Hear the Word

KILLING BABIES? THAT'S NOT A CHRISTMAS STORY!

JESUS DENIES THE TITLE OF THE ENODUS - ONLY HE CAN BE THE PERFECT HOSANNA!

GOD CAN BRING THE SOULS OF SALVATION EVEN OUT OF THE EVIL ACTIONS OF TYRANTS.

AHH - I GET HEROD DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING!

009 - Escaping Egypt

12 Months in Beth

Find links to more Christian Education resources for all ages here:

Build on an Event/Experience

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?

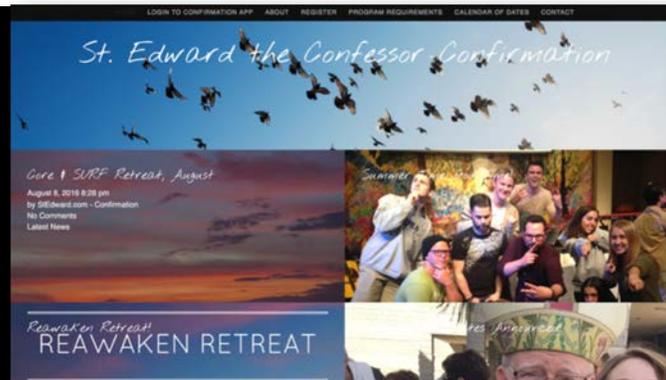
Flip the Model

@ Home / Daily Life

Exploring the Content
- print, audio, video,
activities

@ The Program

Applying the Content:
Create – Practice -
Perform - Participate



Our Confirmation preparation program has two components: Once a month in-person classes and an online study. The online study is a place for students to develop their faith weekly by completing multi-media lessons which include videos, reading, Saint reflections, multiple-choice questions and online small group discussions. Each small group has their own online space to discuss faith topics, ask questions, and pray for one another. By having both in person classes and an online study we hope to help families learn more about their faith while respecting the many demands for their time.

Confirmation

St. Edward the Confessor

CONFIRMATION

Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Welcome to Confirmation

Confirmation is the sacrament in which you receive a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It completes what began in Baptism, giving you the gifts and tools needed to live out your whole life as a Catholic. Confirmation preparation is a 2-year process with monthly meetings, online work, service projects, retreats, and Insight participation.

Confirmation Registration is Taking Place! Click to Register Now! [LEARN MORE ABOUT CONFIRMATION](#)

LEARNING
login



Confirmation 1
Calendar of Events

Confirmation 2
Calendar of Events

Insights
Calendar of Events

PROGRAM
requirements



SERVICE
projects



- Program Requirements**
- 1) PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY ONLINE LEARNING
 - Complete weekly online lesson
 - Participate in online small group discussions
 - 2) ATTEND MONTHLY SUNDAY SESSIONS
 - Sessions begin at 4:00 p.m. and end after the 5:30 p.m. Mass
 - 1 Absence allowed
 - 3) SERVICE PROJECTS
 - Participate in 2 service projects per year (Service project opportunities will be available online you would like to participate in)
 - Write one reflection per project completed online
 - 4) ATTEND "INSIGHT" (YOUTH GROUP) MEETINGS
 - Attend 2 Insight Youth Ministry Meetings, more is encouraged!
 - Insight takes place Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in Knight Hall (please reference on
 - 5) ATTEND A CONFIRMATION RETREAT EACH YEAR
 - Confirmation I - One-day retreat with parent or proxy (September 28, 2013)
 - Confirmation II - Overnight-weekend retreat (February 14-16 2014 or March 7-9, 2014)
 - *** Registration for Confirmation II Retreat will begin online January 6, 2014

VC
video catechism

CREED SACRAMENTS MORALITY **PRAYER**

PRAYER

The Catechism is broken into four sections. It starts with the Creed, which is the backbone, the skeleton of the deposit of faith. Then we have the Sacraments, the nervous system, the way that we experience God. Add to that Morality, the muscles we need to be strong enough to live a holy life. But it all comes together in Prayer, the life blood we need to have a relationship with God.

Put them all together, and we have a living person, Jesus Christ, the image of the invisible God and the goal of all catechesis. The more we know about Him, the more we're able to love Him and to be like Him.



June 2016 - Beginning of Holiness

Blessed Mother Teresa's insights on prayer and how it connects us with God are put to simple but beautiful graphics that will inspire.

[Click here to download wmv video](#)

[Click here to download mov video](#)



July 2016 - The Green Rubber Band

Lanley tells the story of her total surrender to God for the most unusual reason at the most unsuspecting time.

[Click here to download wmv video](#)

[Click here to download mov video](#)



August 2016 - Prayer

Items from the Diocese of Wheeling, Charleston, West Virginia talk about prayer.

[Click here to download wmv video](#)

[Click here to download mov video](#)



Adin in the Desert - Episode 1



Adin in the Desert - Episode 2



Adin in the Desert - Episode 3

Integrate Online and Gathered

THE SLATE PROJECT

[HOME](#)
[ABOUT](#)
[CONNECT](#)
[BLOG](#)
[COMMUNITY](#)



CHURCH WITH A CLEAN SLATE

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.

Connect with The Slate Project on-line and face-to-face:

<p>Mondays</p>	<p>What: #BreakingBread (Dinner Church) Where: 4 E University Pkwy Bmore, MD 212 When: 6 PM EST</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>What: #SlateReads (Live Tweet Chat- Book Discussion) Where: Twitter-- use the digital bookmark #SlateReads When: 8 PM EST</p>
<p>Thursdays</p>	<p>What: #SlateSpeak (Live Tweet Chat- new topic each week) Where: Twitter-- use the digital bookmark #SlateSpeak When: 9 PM EST</p>



#BreakingBread

Dur weekly face-to-face worship experience happens on Monday nights with a "dinner liturgy" we call #BreakingBread.

Starting at 6pm, everyone is invited to participate in transforming our "borrowed space (graciously offered to us by the [Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation and Diocese of Maryland](#)) into an intimate dinner setting for thirty or so people.



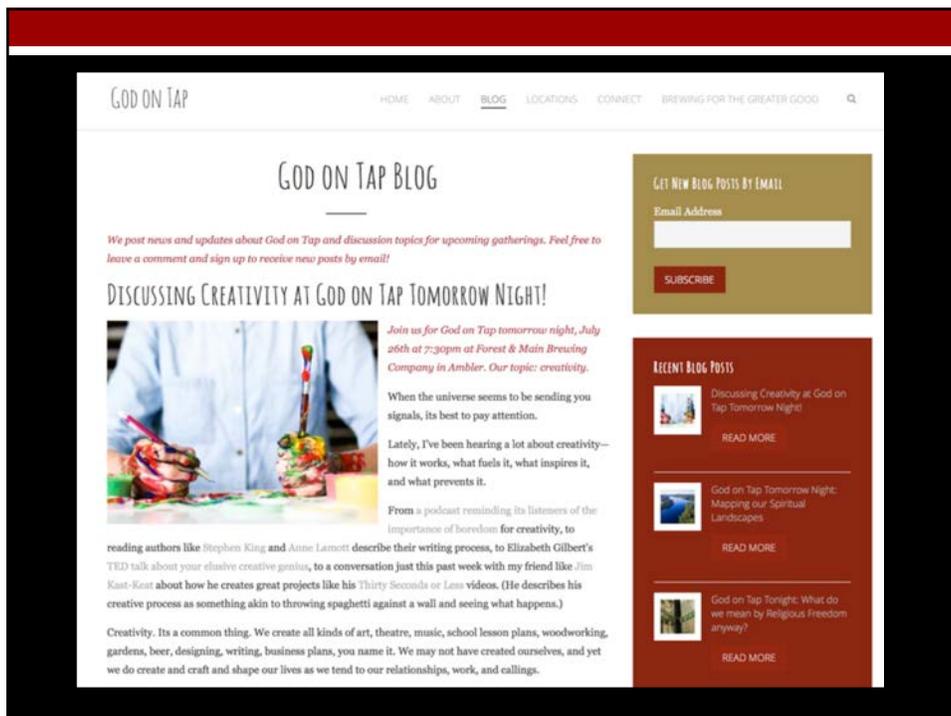
#Slatereads

#SlateReads is our on-line book study that happens on Twitter every Wednesday night at 8PM EST.

There is a reading for each week and the conversation is informed by those readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!

Integrate Online and Gathered



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When: 9 PM EST



#SlateSpeak 101

- #SlateSpeak, a progressive Christian forum where faith and knowledge are mixed in an atmosphere of awesome conversation.
- You can follow the #SlateSpeak conversation using [TwitterListings](#) (available on [Twitter.com](#)) to enhance your experience.
- We do not automatically agree with everything that we read. #SlateSpeak is a safe space for religious & theological challenges.
- We do not shame or blame each other here. We make respect each other's experiences and hold space for each other's faith.
- It is totally acceptable to follow along silently, but feel free to engage if when you feel comfortable.
- #SlateSpeak.
- If you have a question, feel free to ask if it is in a friendly tone.



#BreakingBread

Our weekly face-to-face worship experience happens on Monday nights with a "dinner liturgy" we call #BreakingBread.

Starting at 6pm, everyone is invited to participate in transforming our "borrowed space" (graciously offered to us by the [Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation and Diocese of Maryland](#)) into an intimate dinner setting for thirty or so people.



#SLATEREADS

#SlateReads is our on-line book study that happens on Twitter every Wednesday night at 8PM EST.

There is a reading for each week and the conversation is informed by those readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!

Advent or Lent Online "Curriculum"



Welcome to Advent

LIKE THE ADVENT WREATH

(to count down the days)

Advent Activities

Advent Wreaths: Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of advent. Usually, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is to be on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the spirit also wears rose vestments at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have entered at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. See [The Meaning of Advent Wreaths](#).

Advent Candles: Decorate a set of Advent candles for your family to use during this season of hope, peace, love, and joy. Go to [Vivamus Faith at Home](#).

Alternative Advent: Kids create an alternative advent calendar to benefit a charitable organization in their area. Instead of just opening doors on an Advent calendar or making treats from one side to the next, use Advent as a time to collect donations or goods for a local charitable organization. Go to [Vivamus Faith at Home](#).

Jesse Tree: The Jesse Tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse Tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse Tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history. Go to [Jesse Tree online](#).

Advent Daily Devotional

[2017_Advent_devotional.pdf](#)
Download File

Family Advent Calendar (English & Spanish)

[advent-calendar-2017-family-bilingual.pdf](#)
Download File

Children's Advent Calendar

[advent-children-calendar.pdf](#)
Download File

[advent-children-calendar-spanish.pdf](#)
Download File

Best Advent Ever - Daily Reflections: Starting December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Muir, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life, and personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members. Go to [Best Advent Ever](#).

Sacred Advent Daily Reflections: Embrace the Advent season as a sacred space from the ease of your email inbox. Sacred Advent is a daily e-mail prayer break during a busy season. Each day invites you to a step-by-step progression of praying with a Scripture reading and related points of reflection. The messages also include suggestions for further exploration of Advent themes through additional online articles and prayers. Go to [Sacred Advent](#).

Online 40-Day Lent Curriculum

Church →	Daily & Home	← Online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday • Lenten Sunday liturgies • Stations of the Cross • Lenten prayer • Lenten retreat • Lenten service • Lenten soup suppers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fasting • Praying • Service/Almsgiving • Lectionary reflection • Family Lenten activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten learning resources • Lenten calendar • Daily Lenten prayer • Weekly table prayer • Video resources • Online retreat experience

Online Prayer

Webinar Live Presentation

Upper Dublin Lutheran Church



Teens and Digital Media: Our First Facebook Live Event!

Join us for our first Facebook Live event from the comfort of home or while you're out and about on your smartphone as Pastor Keith is joined by Bethany Stolle, who will present on what parents need to know about teens and digital media. Tune into the [UDLC Facebook page](#) at 8pm Eastern Time on November 6th to watch and share your ideas and questions. This is open to everyone. Please forward this email or share our [Facebook event](#) with a friend! - Keith

Program Description

The mall. Public parks. Friends' houses. The lunch room. The physical spaces that were central to socialization, extracurricular learning, and identity formation for many of us have increasingly shifted to digital spaces. And there are implications for parents, teachers, ministry leaders and anyone else who works with young people. This workshop will explore digital media trends among kids and teens, the diversity of experiences when it comes to youth and social media, how adolescents are working out their identities through "networked publics," and considerations for faith formation with a tech-connected generation.

Transforming Our Role

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

New Leadership Roles

- ✦ We are becoming *learning architects* who design and/or identify environments which can become settings for faith formation, e.g., homes, workplaces, coffee shops, online communities, and more. We can design content and experiences to “deliver” to that setting.
- ✦ We are becoming *designers of digital platforms* (websites, social media) where people can connect with each other, access content, engage in learning activities, and more. These platforms provide 24x7 faith formation.
- ✦ We are becoming *curators* of religious content and experiences. When there is an abundance of content, our role shifts from creator to curator. Curators are engaged in finding and identifying high quality content in all formats, matching it with the needs of people, providing the content on a digital platform (and often in gathered settings), and engaging people with the content.

DESIGN PROCESS

Step 1. An Inventory of Current Activities

Develop a first draft of your one-year plan for your target audience by using all of the current intergenerational, family, and age group activities your congregation is currently providing, correlated to the 10 faith maturing characteristics. It's not important to "fill every box."

- **Add** the intergenerational (or whole church) faith forming experiences (ministries, programs, activities).
- **Add** the parent and family faith formation activities.
- **Add** the current age group programming from Week.

Step 2. New Ideas

Review your first draft: What are the strengths in our approach to promoting faith maturing using the 10 characteristics? What are the areas that need improvement? What new initiatives can we create to build upon strengths and address areas in need of improvement? Add these new ideas to your first draft.

Step 3. Digital Methods and Media

How can you use digitally enabled strategies to improve, expand, or create new faith formation programming. Identify specific ways you can integrate digital methods and media into your first draft plan.

- *Extend programming.* Which current programs can you extend using online programming? Identify the kinds of content you would provide online to extend each program.
- *Flip the program using online content.* Which programs are good candidates for flipping the content, i.e., is there high-quality digital content (audio, video, visual, print) available in an online format? Identify the programs you could flip. What will be available online? What will the gathered session look like when the content is online?
- *Online programming.* What types of programs can you create online? How can you deliver programming online (webinar, streaming presentation)? How can you develop an online resource center as a portal to curated content?
- *Multiformat programming.* Which programs are good candidates for multiformat programming? What would a design look like for one multiformat program?
- *Prepare and follow-up programming.* Which programs can you use a digital strategy to prepare people online for an event or program and then follow up with online content and activities? What would a design for one program look like?

Step 4. A "Menu" of Faith Formation for a Year

Create a plan for the year, based on your current and new programming, that integrates the three faith forming environments. The goal is to provide a holistic year of faith formation that integrates all three environments. Use the work you have done on the "Designing" worksheet. Be sure to use digital strategies where appropriate.

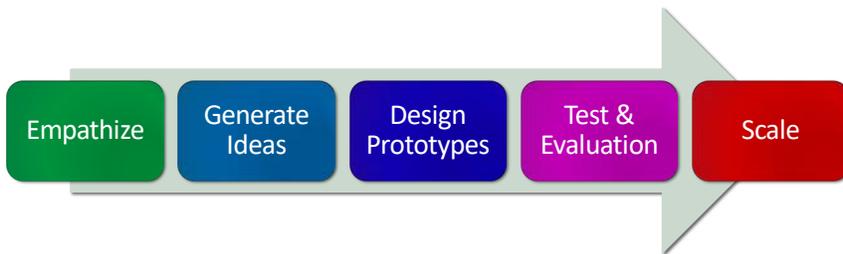
- Intergenerational (whole church community)
- Family and Parents at Home and at Church
- Age Group (young children or grade school children or middle school young people)

Create your plan so that it is written in a style and language appropriate to your target audience, e.g., parents of young children, parents and grade school children, parents and young adolescents.

Step 5. Promotion and Presentation.

Develop a plan for introducing the annual plan to your target audience with a live or video presentation and a booklet (print or digital), calendar, webpage, etc.

Developing a Plan



Year One	Year Two	Year Three