Making Lifelong Faith Formation a Reality in Your Parish

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Lifelong Faith Books

Lifelong faith formation is a lifetime journey with Christ, in Christ, and to Christ.
Faith Formation is...
Importance of Lifelong Faith Formation

Vibrant lifelong faith formation can renew and revitalize the faith life of all ages and contribute towards building a vital faith community that lives its mission.

How and what a faith community is learning is critical to building a vital and vibrant church life.

Workshop Topics

2. Building Blocks: Principles and Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation
3. Designing: Developing 21st Century Lifelong Faith Formation
Activity
Lifelong Faith Formation in Your Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>0-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teens</td>
<td>11-19</td>
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<td>Young Adults</td>
<td>20s-30s</td>
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<td>Midlife Adults</td>
<td>40s-50s</td>
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<td>60s-70s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Older Adults</td>
<td>80+</td>
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Programs, Activities, Events, Experiences, Resources
@Church / Generations
@Home / Family
@Community
@Online

Part 1. Context

What are 2 or 3 of the most significant challenges facing the future of faith formation in your church?

1. **Family**: Changing family life, new needs and life situations of families today, busy parents and families, overscheduled, too many activities that pull them away from church.

2. **Parents**: New perspectives and needs of the new generation of parents, lack of parent involvement in church, parents not passing on faith to children, faith of parents.

3. **Church**: Changing nature of church life, aging population, lack of young members, decline in attendance and participation at Sunday worship/church life/education, declining income, inadequate or aging facilities.

4. **Leadership**: struggle to accept that the world and people’s lives have changed dramatically, unwillingness to engage in adaptive change, lack of adequate staffing, trying to do more with less resources and personnel.

5. **Lay Leaders**: harder to find people for ministry, competition for their time, lack of commitment, raising up and caring for new lay leaders.

6. **Adults**: Lack of adult faith formation and participation.

7. **Faith**: decline in religious identity among younger generations.

8. **Outreach**: the lack of outreach to people who are not participating in church.

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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.
Part 2. Building Blocks of Lifelong Faith Formation

- Faith Maturing
- Spiritual and Religious Diversity
- Faith Forming Community
- Personalized
- Networks
- Holistic
  Intergenerational
  Family
  Life Stages
- Missional
- Digital
- Leader Roles
  Learning Architect
  Digital Designer
  Curator

Principles & Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation

1. Promotes maturity in faith through the ages and stages of life.
2. Addresses the diverse spiritual and religious lives, engagements, and practices of children, adolescents, adults, and families.
3. Thrives in a vital and vibrant faith forming Christian community.
4. Is holistic—integrating three primary faith forming environments: the church community, the family, and life stages
Principles & Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation

5. Create networks that address the life tasks, spiritual and religious needs, and interests of families and all ages by offering a variety of content, programs, activities, and resources in multiple settings, aided by the use of digital platforms, media, and methods.

6. Guides people in discerning their spiritual and religious journeys and life stage needs, and giving people an active role in shaping their own personal trajectories of faith growth.

7. Engages in missional outreach to the spiritual-religious needs and journeys of the “spiritual but not religious” and the “unaffiliated”

8. Incorporates digital methods and media to enhance and expand the ways people of all ages grow in faith.

#1. Maturing in Faith Activity

What are your church’s goals for guiding people in maturing in faith over a lifetime?

Toward what ends are your church’s lifelong faith formation efforts directed?

What is your church trying to accomplish in the lives of people from children to older adults?
#1. Maturing in Faith
*Toward What Ends Are We Working*

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

#2. The Lives of People: Seasons of Life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasons of Life</th>
<th>Life Issues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Children (1-10)</td>
<td>1. Physical &amp; Cognitive Changes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gen Alpha and Gen Z</td>
<td>2. Developmental Tasks</td>
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<td>• Adolescents (11-19)</td>
<td>3. Life Situations</td>
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<td>• Gen Z</td>
<td>4. Family Life Cycle</td>
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<td>• Young Adults (20s-30s)</td>
<td>5. Faith Development</td>
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<td>• Millennial Generation</td>
<td>6. Spiritual-Religious Identities</td>
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<td>• Midlife Adults (40s-mid 50s)</td>
<td>7. Generational Characteristics</td>
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<td>• Generation X</td>
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<td>• Mature Adults (mid 50s–75)</td>
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<td>• Baby Boom Generation</td>
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<td>• Older Adults (75+)</td>
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<td>• Builder Generation</td>
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#2. The Lives of People: Spiritual-Religious Identities

- Not Spiritual, Not Religious
  - Unaffiliateds
- The Spiritual but Not Religious
  - Uninvolved
- Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities
  - Occasionals
- Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life
  - Actives

#3. Research: Thriving Congregations & Lifelong Faith Formation

In the 2015 *Faith Communities Today* study, six religious education objectives, adapted from the 1990 Search Institute study on “Effective Christian Education,” were investigated. The six Priorities of Religious Education Objectives were rated by churches.

- Inspire expressions of faith
- Acquire scripture knowledge
- Relate faith to each age-level group
- If Christian, nurture trust in Jesus Christ
- Engage members in nurture and fellowship
- Teach about the love and justice towards others

(See [www.FaithCommunitiesToday.org](http://www.FaithCommunitiesToday.org))
#3. Research: Thriving Congregations & Lifelong Faith Formation

Joseph V. Crockett found that many of the characteristics of vital congregations from the research positively related to the six priorities of faith formation in a congregation, and most likely to the effectiveness of faith formation. Congregations with the highest scores on the six priorities rated the vital characteristics. . . .

- mission clarity and effectiveness (4 times higher)
- adaptability and willingness to change (10 times higher)
- incorporating new members (4 times higher)
- spiritual vitality (4 times higher)
- working for social justice (2 times higher)
- thriving now and into the future (4 times higher)

(See Teaching and Learning in American Congregations at www.FaithCommunitiesToday.org)

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#3. Lifelong Faith Formation Research

“Spiritually Vital” Churches (160)

1. Equip people to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ and make the Christian faith a way of life (4.24 out of 5.0)
2. Equip people to live the Christian mission in the world—service, justice, care for creation (4.23)
3. Engage people in in the life and ministries of the faith community (4.04)
4. Equip people to use their gifts in the Christian community and world (3.96)
5. Prepare people to worship God with the community at Sunday worship (3.94)
6. Guide people in developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ (3.93)
7. Teach the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Christian faith and integrate its meaning into their lives (3.86)
8. Teach people how to pray and to nurture their spiritual growth (3.76)
9. To guide people in living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics (3.73)
10. Teach people to read and study the Bible (3.61)
#3. Lifelong Faith Formation Research

“Spiritually Vital” Churches (160)

1. Family life group programs at church – 60%
2. At home family activities – 53%
3. Family service projects/mission trips – 48%
4. Parent workshops – 35%
5. Family cluster or small group programs – 24%
6. Family retreats – 24%
7. Online resources and courses for parents – 22%
8. Family-centered lectionary-based program – 14%

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#3. Lifelong Faith Formation Research

“Spiritually Vital” Churches (160)

1. Seasonal/occasional intergenerational program - 60%
2. Intergenerational service/mission trips – 50%
3. Intergenerational retreats/camps – 22%
4. Monthly intergenerational program – 21%
5. Intergenerational mentoring – 19%
6. Small group intergenerational program – 15%
7. Intergenerational Bible study – 15%
#4. Holistic Faith Formation

Intergenerational

Family

Peers
Life Stage
#4. Holistic Faith Formation

Children
- Intergen
- Family @ Home
- Peers

Adolescents
- Intergen
- Family @ Home
- Peers

Adults
- Intergen
- Family @ Home
- Peers

#4. Designing Holistic Faith Formation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faith Maturing Characteristic</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Youth</th>
<th>Young Adults</th>
<th>Midlife Adults</th>
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#5. Networks of Faith Formation

Malcolm Knowles

*The Adult Learner*

1975
#5. Networks of Faith Formation

Models of Lifelong Faith Formation

- Intergenerational Focus
- Worship Focus
- Thematic Focus
- Life Stage Focus
Lifelong Model: Intergenerational

- Children & Parents Faith Formation Network
- Adolescent Faith Formation Network
- Intergenerational Faith Formation
  All Ages Together
- Adult Faith Formation Networks
- Family Faith Formation Network

**HI-life**

Navigating Life with GPS – God’s Proven System

**Gatherings for 2009-2010**

- **Rules of the Road – God’s Commandments**
  - Wednesday, September 9
  - September 16
  - September 23
  - September 30
  - Friday, October 2
  - October 9
  - October 16

- **Respect and Protect All Life**
  - Wednesday, October 21
  - October 28
  - November 4
  - November 11
  - Friday, November 18
  - November 25

- **Give Way with Mercy and Forgiveness**
  - Wednesday, February 2
  - February 9
  - February 16
  - February 23

- **Stay on the Straight and Narrow Path of Fidelity**
  - Wednesday, March 1
  - March 8
  - March 15
  - March 22
  - Friday, March 29

- **Navigating with Integrity and Honesty**
  - Wednesday, April 5
  - April 12
  - April 19
  - April 26

- **Be a Good Steward of All God’s Gifts**
  - Wednesday, April 12
  - April 19
  - April 26
  - Tuesday, May 3
  - May 10
  - May 17

**Important Information**

- **Wednesday & Friday Gatherings are for all ages.**
- **Thursday Gatherings are for adults & teens.**
Lifelong Model: Worship Focus

Worship Theme for the Month
Scripture Readings, Sermon,
Podcast of Sermon

Intergenerational Gathering Monthly on the Worship Theme

Children & Family, Youth, and Adult Faith Formation Resources
Monthly Learning, Praying, and Living Activities (Online)

Life Stage Faith Formation Networks

Lifelong Model: Thematic Focus

Church-Wide Theme

Children Adolescents Adults Families Intergenerational Online
Lifelong Model: Life Stage Focus

Life Stage Faith Formation Networks

21st Century Faith Formation
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 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
- Adult Education

VLACS is an online virtual middle and high school offering.

Learn something fun, develop new tech skills, learn a second language, and more at VLACS Adult or visit this presentation.
#6. Personalizing Faith Formation

A “Menu” of Faith Formation

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 Jewish traditions through family experiences with prayer, celebration and rituals;
- 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 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:
- Four K’vutzah activities, including celebration, Shabbat dinners, a class-size-based program, book club discussions and the celebrating Torah activities;
- Two Shabbat services;
- All holiday celebrations in communications held at Temple Emanuel; and
- Four cultural programs (in the congregation or around town).

In addition, each family will be responsible to:
- Read books from a selected reading list (the type and number of books will vary with the students’ ages);
- Dedicate study hours of study related to their study of the teachings;
- Do a Torah project (each year there will be a theme for each Torah project, e.g., Genesis, Exodus, Torah in the Torah, the prophets, and the writings).

What the program will provide:
- A Kesher “Kvutzah” for each family (the rabbi, educators and coordinators will serve as roshet (“k’vutzah”), who will meet with each family individually at least twice and with the entire Kesher 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 test study);
- K’vutzah-based activities;
- Book discussion groups; and
- A Torah project.
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 clothes, 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 Huseth & 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 altar, nave, chancel, walls, baptismal font). Then we will look at the meaning of the smaller items and decorations (e.g., the cross, lady 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 more.

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 six months or more if you choose!

Empty Bowls (Live)
Thursday, February 28th at Westwood 5:30-8:30 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 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 a 7 & 8th grade Family/Student Learning. No need to register, unless you are looking for confirmation credit, open to all 7th and 8th graders!

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

WESTWOOD U
IS A WAY TO NURTURE
A WHOLE CULTURE
- AN ECOSYSTEM
OF FAITH FORMATION
AT WESTWOOD
JOIN US AS WE JOURNEY TOGETHER IN THIS NEW WAY OF LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD.
MARCH ELECTIVES

“Who Is My Neighbor?” Conversations About Race (Know)
March 3, 10, 17, 24; April 7 from 9:50-10:40 AM in the Westwood Room
As we explore being artisans 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 for 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 life of faith as mature Christians and as an entry point of ministry students and new believers to explore together during the season of Lent. For mature Christians, the season of Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. Throughout these services, a special sermon will feature interviews with our African American partners, who will be sharing stories of their journey around race and faith.

Be Still with Zentangle (Grow)
Saturday, March 23, 9 AM-noon taught by Tracy Griffin
Zentangle is as easy as 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 found your mind wandering from the daily grind or worries, all you need is paper and pen to 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 is not 7 & 8th grade Parent/Student Learning. 6:30 PM on Lower Level. 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

Designing Faith Formation

Children
- Intergen
- Family @ Home
- Peers

Adolescents
- Intergen
- Family @ Home
- Peers

Adults
- Intergen
- Family @ Home
- Peers
Pathways of Faith Growth

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
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-Religious Needs

- Not Spiritual, Not Religious
  - Unaffiliateds
- The Spiritual but Not Religious
  - Uninvolved
- Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities
  - Occasionals
- Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life
  - Actives

Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth

- Pathways
  - Vibrant
  - Occasional
  - Uninvolved Unaffiliated

- Playlist
  - Variety of Experiences & Activities
  - Variety of Experiences & Activities
  - Variety of Experiences & Activities
Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth

Characteristic

- Inquiring
  - Playlist of Experiences & Activities
- Getting Started
  - Playlist of Experiences & Activities
- Growing
  - Playlist of Experiences & Activities
- Going Deeper
  - Playlist of Experiences & Activities

Personalize the Offerings

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

Growing
• Continue the weekly Bible story or video practice
• Practice the FAITHS 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 FAITHS 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.
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
DIGITAL FAITH FORMATION STRATEGIES
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 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
One Event/Program, Multiple Formats

Multiple Formats
- Gathered
- Small Group
- Independent
- Online

Event/Program
- Digital Content to Extend & Provide New Ways to Experience

Website
- Interaction
- Connection
- Communication
- Demonstration

Social Media

Sunday Worship

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

4th Sunday of Easter
The Good Shepherd

OPENING THE WORD
4th Sunday of Easter
The Good Shepherd
Tri-Saints Lutheran
Hardy, NE

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?
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

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 6:00 p.m. and end after the 5:00 p.m. Mass
3) PERSONAL SERVICE PROJECTS
   Participate in 2 service projects per year (Service project opportunities will be available online; you will be notified)
   Write one reflection per project completed online
4) ATTEND "LIGHT"/YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS
   Attend 2 "Light" Youth Ministry meetings, more is encouraged!
   Attendance Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:00 PM, please refer to email
5) ATTEND A CONFIRMATION RETREAT EACH YEAR
   Confirmation 1 - One-day retreat with parent or guardian (September 28, 2013)
   Confirmation 2 - Overnight retreat offered (February 14-15, 2014 or March 7-8, 2014)
   ***Registration for Confirmation Retreat will begin online January 5, 2014
Integrate Online and Gathered

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

**Mondays**
What: **#BreakingBread** (Dinner Church)
Where: 4E University Pkwy Bmore, MD 212
When: 5 PM EST

**Wednesday**
What: **#SlateReads** (Live Tweet Chat - Book Discussions)
Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark #SlateReads
When: 8 PM EST

**Thursdays**
What: **#SlateSpeak** (Live Tweet Chat - new topic each week)
Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark #SlateSpeak
When: 3 PM EST

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**#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.

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**#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 these readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!
Integrate Online and Gathered

God on Tap

God on Tap Blog

We post news and updates about God on Tap and Discusion topics for upcoming gatherings. Feel free to leave a comment and sign up to receive our posts by email.

Discussing Creativity at God on Tap tomorrow night!

Join us for God on Tap, Thursday night, July 20th at 7:00 pm at The Compass and Vine Restaurant.

Our topic for the night will be creativity. How does the universe seem to be sending us signals to pay attention to what we are doing?

Lastly, I've been hearing a lot about creativity - how it works, what fuels it, what inspires it, and what produces it.

From a podcast reminding me of the importance of being open to new ideas, to Elizabeth Gilbert’s TED Talk about how to be a creative genius, to a conversation just the other day with a friend like Jim Kent who talks about how he created great projects like his Thirty Seconds or Less videos. (He describes his creative process as throwing spaghetti against the wall and seeing what happens.)

Creativity. It’s a common thing. We create all kinds of art, theatre, music, school lessons plans, woodwork, gardens, beer, designing, writing, business plans, you name it. We may not have created ourselves, and yet we do create and shape our lives as we tend to our relationships, work and callings.
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Advent or Lent Online "Curriculum"

Advent Activities

Advent Wreath: Advent wreaths are commonly used at all levels of Christian faiths. Advent wreaths, sometimes called Advent candles, are a way to liturgically mark the season of Advent. The wreath is a reminder that Jesus is coming, that we are waiting for Jesus to come, and that we are also called to be a light in the world.

Alternative Advent: Advent can be a season of preparation and hope surrounding Jesus’ arrival in the world as Lord and Savior. Advent can also be a season of spiritual examination and reflection as we prepare our hearts for Advent’s conclusion with the birth of Jesus. Advent can be a season of waiting, an opportunity for us to work for a better world and to more deeply understand our faith.

Advent Scripture: The Bible contains a wealth of stories and teachings that can be used to prepare for the birth of Jesus in Advent. Advent Scripture helps us to connect with the stories of the Christmas season as we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ coming to us.

Advent Activity: The Advent wreath helps us to remember the stories leading to Jesus' birth. The Advent Wreath is often used in the home and community to help us remember the stories leading to Jesus' birth. The wreath is a reminder that Jesus is coming, that we are waiting for Jesus to come, and that we are also called to be a light in the world.

Welcome to Advent

LIKE THE ADVENT WREATH
(to count down the days)

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Welcome to Advent

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## Online 40-Day Lent Curriculum

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

### Online Prayer

![Prayer resources](image.jpg)
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.

Holistic Faith Formation

- Intergenerational
- Family
- Peers
- Life Stage
### Holistic Faith Formation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Adolescents</th>
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<td><strong>Peers</strong></td>
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### Intergenerational Strategies
- Utilize
- Infuse
- Connect
- Create
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.

Intergenerational Strategies

1. **Intergenerational Caring**: community building & relationships in programs, storytelling, mentoring, social activities/events
2. **Intergenerational Worship**: Sunday, sacramental celebrations, milestones, Church year feasts & seasons
3. **Intergenerational Service**: mission trips, churchwide service day, monthly service project, service nights, service projects
4. Intergenerational Learning: weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, small group and large group
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**

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Intergenerational Starter Strategies

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

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.


9. Provides parents with opportunities to learn from Christians who are practicing their faith.

10. Incorporates real-life application of learning.

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
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.

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.
Comprehensive Family Plan

Three Elements of a Family Plan

- Family Life & Parent Formation
- Family Faith at Home
- Family Engagement in the Intergenerational Faith Community

Family Formation Plan
Age Appropriate Programming

0-5 Young Children
- Faith Practices
- Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
- Milestones
- Seasons
- Bible
- Parenting

6-10 Older Children
- Faith Practices
- Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
- Milestones
- Seasons
- Bible
- Parenting

10-14 Young Adolescents
- Faith Practices
- Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
- Milestones
- Seasons
- Bible
- Parenting

14-19 Older Adolescents
- Faith Practices
- Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
- Milestones
- Seasons
- Bible
- Parenting
Empowering Parents

**Key Content**

- **Parental Faith Formation**
- **Faith Forming Skills & Practices**
- **Knowledge & Skills for Parenting**

**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.
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.

Part 3. Design Process

#1. Form a lifelong faith formation team or task force to create and implement the plan for lifelong faith formation.
#2. Create a statement of the purpose and goals for lifelong faith formation.
#3. Develop a profile of lifelong faith formation from children through older adults.
#4. Assess how effectively the church is forming faith through church life, life stage faith formation, family faith formation, and intergenerational faith formation.
#5. Analyze the profile and assessment to identify strengths and areas for development in lifelong faith formation.
#6. Develop a model of lifelong faith formation as a way to structure lifelong faith formation—integrating all of the elements of faith formation: intergenerational, family, life stage, and missional—into a whole.
#7. Listen to the life situations, needs, and spiritual-religious journeys of people in your community, especially target audiences for new initiatives.
#8. Design faith formation programming using a network approach.
#9. Develop a plan to personalize faith formation.
#10. Build an infrastructure to support lifelong faith formation: developing leaders, communicating, curating, building a digital platform, promoting, and evaluating.