John Roberto
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Presentation:
Go to Practices - LIFELONG
2. Homework
4. Continue Design Work
5. Church Consultations: On-Site Visits or Cluster Meetings (Spring 2020)

| #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. |

Design Process
Lifelong faith formation is a lifetime journey with Christ, in Christ, and to Christ.
The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ. Starting with the “initial” conversion of a person to the Lord, moved by the Holy Spirit through the primary proclamation of the Gospel, catechesis seeks to solidify and mature this first adherence. It proposes to help those who have just converted “to know better this Jesus to whom he has entrusted himself: to know his ‘mystery’, the kingdom of God proclaimed by him, the requirements and comments contained in his Gospel message, and the paths that he has laid down for anyone who wishes to follow him.”

(General Directory for Catechesis, 80)

The Church call us to develop faith formation that engages the whole person: heart, mind, and hands. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”’ (Mt 22:37-39)

Jesus presented faith and discipleship as a whole way of life. How do we form people – children, youth, adults, and families – in this way of life today?
A Holistic Faith

**A way of the head (inform)** demands a discipleship of faith seeking understanding and belief with personal conviction, sustained by study, reflecting, discerning and deciding, all toward spiritual wisdom for life.

**A way of the heart (form)** demands a discipleship of right relationships and right desires, community building, hospitality and inclusion, trust in God’s love, and prayer and worship.

**A way of the hands (transform)** demands a discipleship of love, justice, peace-making, simplicity, integrity, healing, and repentance.
Faith Formation is....

HOW CAN YOUR PARISH CREATE, SUSTAIN, AND GROW LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE?
Our Conviction

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

How and what a congregation is learning is critical to building a vital congregation.

Congregations can revitalize their life through the practice of lifelong faith formation.
Part 1. Context

Context Analysis of Faith Formation

What are the significant adaptive challenges facing lifelong faith formation as we enter the new decade of the 2020s?
- In our people
- In our parish
- In our community & world

Analysis

What do these challenges mean for creating, sustaining, and growing lifelong faith formation in Christian churches?
**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.

**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.

**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.

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**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.

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

**Adults**: Lack of adult faith formation & participation

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

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

Actives: Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life
Occasional: Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities
Uninvolved: Spiritual but Not Religious
Unaffiliated: Not Spiritual, Not Religious

Part 2. Profile
## Profile

What are the age-appropriate experiences, programs, activities, resources, etc. that promote faith maturing at each life stage?

- **At Church - All Ages**
- **At Home/Family**
- **In Age or Peer Groups**

### Faith Formation across the Life Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children 0-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teens 11-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adults 20s-30s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midlife Adults 40s-50s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mature Adults 60s-70s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Older Adults 80+</td>
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</table>

## Research

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.

1. Inspire expressions of faith (89%)
2. Acquire scripture knowledge
3. Relate faith to each age-level group
4. If Christian, nurture trust in Jesus Christ
5. Engage members in nurture and fellowship
6. Teach about the love and justice towards others (70%)
Research

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

Vital and vibrant lifelong faith formation can renew and revitalize the faith life of all ages and contribute towards building a vital congregation that lives its mission. How and what a congregation is learning is critical to building a vital congregation.
Lifelong Faith Formation Profile

View #1. Church Community

View #2. 10 Priorities in Lifelong Faith Formation

View #2. Effectiveness of 10 Priorities with Children, Youth, and Adults

View #4. Family Faith Formation

View #5. Intergenerational Faith Formation

10 Priorities for Maturing in Faith

- Developing and sustaining a relationship with Jesus
- Living as a disciple
- Reading and studying the Bible
- Learning and integrating the Story
- Developing a prayer life
- Living with moral integrity
- Living the mission in the world
- Worshipping God
- Being active in the faith community
- Practicing faith by using one's gifts
Part 3.
Faith Maturing

Maturing in Faith

- 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 and integrating its meaning into one's life
- Praying—together and by ourselves, and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines
Maturing in Faith

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

Whole-Life Approach
Religious Lives

Actives: Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life

Occasionals: Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities

Uninvolved: Spiritual but Not Religious

Unaffiliateds: Not Spiritual, Not Religious

Faith Journeys

- How are we addressing the four religious-spiritual profiles of people today?
- How do we personalize faith formation around people’s faith journeys within our programming and ministries?
- Do we design programming and resources specifically for each religious-spiritual profile?
Maturing in Faith Vision for Your Parish

• What vision of the Christian life are we seeking to develop in people of all ages?
• What are the particular characteristics of a maturing Christian faith that we are promoting at each stage of life?
• How are all our efforts directed toward this vision of the Christian life?

Part 4.
Key Concepts
Building Blocks of Lifelong Faith Formation

Faith Maturing
Spiritual and Religious Diversity
Faith Forming Community

Holistic Intergenerational Family Life Stages
Networks
Personalized

Missional
Digital
New Roles Learning Architect Digital Designer Curator

Lifelong Faith Formation

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

Create networks with a variety of content, programs, activities, and resources in multiple settings to address people's needs, interests, and faith journeys - aided by the use of digital platforms, media, and methods.

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.

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

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

“One Size First All” Approach

“One Sizes Fits One” Approach

Shift in Emphasis
Holistic Faith Formation

Intergenerational

Family

Peers or Life Stage

Children
- Intergen
- Family @ Home
- Peers

Adolescents
- Intergen
- Family @ Home
- Peers

Adults
- Intergen
- Family @ Home
- Peers

Holistic Faith Formation
A Holistic Approach

Intergenerational
- Participate in several celebrations of Church year feasts & seasons
- Join the community in a service service project
- Participate in a leadership role or church ministry

Family
- Develop a faith practice each season: prayer, Bible reading, etc.
- Celebrate particular church year seasons (Lent, All Saints/Souls)
- Participate in two whole family programs at church
- Participate in two service projects as a family

Life Stage Specific
- Select one’s participation in courses, workshops, retreats, vacation Bible school, service projects and mission trips, etc.

Networks of Faith Formation
Lifelong Learning Network
Malcolm Knowles, 1975

Family Network
Mazel Together
“Connections, for the ages”
WHAT IS WESTWOOD U?

Welcome to Westwood U!
Westwood U offers people of all ages the opportunity to gather for education, faith development, and mutual growth—kids, parents, grandparents, friends...

**Course Overview**

The purpose is to move beyond education to formation and transformation. Westwood U is a way to nurture a whole culture—an ecosystem—of faith formation at Westwood.

We believe that heart and hands must accompany head in our faith journey, so in addition to the classroom, Westwood U will create opportunities for faith mentoring, faith socializing, and even faith surfing by tapping into the experience of multiple generations. We operate under the conviction that the content of faith has no traction outside of faith-based relationships. Our faith flourishes in relationship.

**What courses are offered?**

There are 3 categories for the courses offered at Westwood U. Several courses from each category are offered throughout the year.

- **Know-Handson Learning**
  - Live-service to our neighbor and congregation
  - Fellowship and faith-nurturing experiences

How many of each should I take if I’m looking to get credit for confirmation?

While completing the required number of 15 total Westwood U courses, confirmation students are required to take a minimum number of 3 courses in each of the 3 categories listed above. The remaining 6 credits are the student’s choice!

**Example:**

Year 1: 5 courses, Wednesday Night Live and Bible Milestone

Year 2: 3 courses and Wednesday Night Live

Year 3: 3 courses, mentoring and a faith statement.
Personalizing Faith Formation

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
- Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities
- Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs

Personalizing Faith Formation
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.

Personalizing Faith Formation

Part 5.
Models
Models of Lifelong Faith Formation

Intergenerational Focus
Worship Focus
Thematic Focus
Life Stage Focus

Intergenerational Model

Family Faith Formation Network

Children & Parents Faith Formation Network

Intergenerational Faith Formation
All Ages Together

Adult Faith Formation Networks

Adolescent Faith Formation Network
## HI-life Gatherings for 2009-2010

### Rules of the Road – God’s Commandments
- **Wednesday, September 9**: 5:45-8:30pm
- **Tuesday, September 10**: 5:45-8:30pm
- **Thursday, September 11**: 5:45-8:30pm

### Respect and Protect All Life
- **Wednesday, November 18**: 5:45-8:30pm
- **Thursday, November 19**: 5:45-8:30pm
- **Friday, November 20**: 5:45-8:30pm

### Give Way with Mercy and Forgiveness
- **Wednesday, November 25**: 5:45-8:30pm
- **Thursday, November 26**: 5:45-8:30pm
- **Friday, November 27**: 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

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### HI-life Gatherings
- **for all ages and generations**
- **Intergenerational with age specific components**

#### Activity Centers or Parallel Learning
- **Home kits**

#### Dates, Times, Location(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Session</th>
<th>Dates, Times, Location(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HI-life Gatherings</td>
<td>Monthly Thursday ............5:45-8:30pm Friday..................5:45-8:30pm Sunday ................3:00-5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church, FH, HR, MRs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Rock Scripture Study</td>
<td>Monday ............7:00-8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>FH, HR, MRs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salesian Spirituality Seminars</td>
<td>1st Sunday each month 9:30-10:40am</td>
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<tr>
<td>PC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Into the Fields Catechist Formation</td>
<td>Series of 10 sessions Select Wednesdays 6:30-9:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>FH, HR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual Book Club</td>
<td>Discussion group Related books Monthly sessions – morning or evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR &amp; Offsite</td>
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<tr>
<td>You Young Adults Learning sessions, service &amp; social activities</td>
<td>Discussion / faith sharing group HI-life Gatherings, monthly Sunday afternoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TYM (Total Youth Ministry)</td>
<td>High School Catechesis, social &amp; service activities HI-life Gatherings and Sundays, 6:30-8:00pm</td>
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<td>FH, HR, PC</td>
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<tr>
<td>JYM (Junior Youth Ministry)</td>
<td>Middle School Catechesis, social &amp; service activities HI-life Gatherings and Sundays, 6:00-7:00pm</td>
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<td>FH, HR, MRs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Faith Development</td>
<td>5th-9th Grade Catechesis, service related to seasonal resources related to Sunday Lectionary 6:30-7:00pm</td>
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<td>FH, HR, MRs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s No</td>
<td>Early Elementary (ages 5-7) Catechesis, service related to seasonal resources related to Sunday Lectionary 6:30-7:00pm</td>
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<td>FH, HR, MRs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word with Children</td>
<td>Age specific Catechesis Sundays during the Liturgy</td>
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<td>FH, HR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Preparation</td>
<td>Children, Young Adults Workshop Mondays 7:00-8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>FH, HR, Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Preparation</td>
<td>Free Session Preparation Catechesis, service related to seasonal resources related to Sunday Lectionary 6:30-7:00pm</td>
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<td>FH, HR, Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLC (Religious Life Commission)</td>
<td>Leadership, Service, Community with Children Workshop Ongoing, 6:00-8:00pm</td>
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<td>FH, HR, MRs, PC</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCIA for Adults and Children</td>
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<td>FH, HR, MRs, PC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landings Adult</td>
<td>Selected topics Modular weekly sessions Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm</td>
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<td>Women’s Catholic</td>
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<td>HR</td>
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Themes

- Creed
- Sacraments
- Bible
- Prayer
- Morality
- Justice
- Christian Practices

Life Stage Model

Life Stage Faith Formation Networks

- Children & Families
- Adolescents & Families
- Young Adults
- Midlife Adults
- Mature Adults
- Older Adults

Children
- Intergenerational
- Family
- Life Stage

Adolescents
- Intergenerational
- Family
- Life Stage

Adult Life Stages
- Intergenerational
- Family
- Life Stage
Workshop 2

Part 6.
Learning Today
21st Century Learning Methods

- Blended Learning
- Micro-Learning
- Immersive Learning Environments
- Multiple Ways of Learning
- Multisensory Learning
- Project-Based Learning
- Collaborative Learning
- Visual Learning
- Practice-Oriented Learning
- Storytelling

Grand Rapids Public Museum HS
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 lead a new way of learning outside of the classroom.

Adult Education

Learn something for fun, develop new tech skills, learn a second language, or earn that high school diploma at home.

VLACS Virtual Learning Academy
WWW.VLACS.ORG
 lecture and expert presentations

 activities that take into account their age-related abilities to hear, see, and move

 connect their experience to the topic

 structure and predictability (no surprises); low-risk learning environment

 independent skill practice time

 still like printed resources and books for study
### Styles of Learning: Boomers

- **Boomers** prefer:
  - Group interactions and discussions
  - Storytelling
  - Chances to try new skills independently
  - Stable, risk-free environment but want to interact with others
  - Experiential, practical, and fun activities that allow for team exercises
  - Use technology as means for learning
  - Blend of people who prefer printed books and those who learn online

### Styles of Learning: Gen Xers

- **Gen Xers** prefer:
  - Experiential with lots of direct experience activities
  - Shorter, episodic learning experiences
  - Visual learning (images, videos)
  - Practical and relevant (What will I do with this learning?)
  - Discretion to complete tasks their own way
  - Use technology where possible, including online learning, video, etc.
Styles of Learning: Millennials

- Microlearning and episodic learning experiences
- Lots of activity-based group work
- Fast-moving, interactive activities
- Visual learning (images, videos)
- Technology enabled learning using their own devices for learning
- Collaborative learning environments with peer interaction
- Entertainment and learning at the same time

Styles of Learning: Gen Z

- Authentic and meaningful experiences
- More independent in how they learn; self-reliant; self-directed learners
- Adept at using the new digital tools and methods to learn
- Value face-to-face interaction and collaboration and co-creating
- Project-based learning, active learning, and creative-production activities
- Videos and YouTube, especially short pieces that run from 60-90 seconds
A Variety of Settings for Faith Formation

- Independent
- Mentored
- Small Group
- Large Group
- Church Community (intergenerational)
- Community and World

Large Group Methods

- Worship
- Prayer experiences
- Service: local-global
- Justice: education-action-advocacy
- Multi-session learning programs
- Single-session topical programs
- Workshops on life issues/life skills
- Film festivals / music
- Trips and events
- Retreat experiences
- Intergenerational programs
- Leadership development
Small Group Methods

Discipleship or faith sharing groups or study groups
- Bible study groups
- Theological formation study groups,
- Theme or issue oriented study groups
- Book groups

Practice-focused groups
- Prayer/spiritual formation
- Service/faith in action

Support/affinity groups
- Life transition groups
- Men / women groups
- Married couples / parent groups

Part 7. Programming Ideas
Digital Ideas

Digital Methods

1. **Gathered using Online Content**: A gathered event or program that uses online content as part of the design of the event or program.

2. **Gathered with Online Content**: A gathered event or program that provides online content and activities to extend and expand the learning from the gathered program.

3. **Online and Gathered Content**: Online learning focused on presenting the content of the program combined with face-to-face, gathered sessions using active learning methods to discuss, practice and apply the content.

4. **Mostly Online Content**: A mostly online program with opportunities for regular interaction in face-to-face, gathered settings.

5. **Fully Online Content**: An online program with all learning done online and limited face-to-face experiences.
Digital Methods

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

One Program in Multiple Formats

- Gathered
- Small Group
- Independent
- Online
- Digital Content to Extend & Provide New Ways to Experience
- Interaction
- Connection
- Communication
- Demonstration

Program or Event

Website

Social Media
## One Program in Multiple Formats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>@ Church</td>
<td>1. Presentation @ Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Home</td>
<td>2. Live Streaming and Video Recording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Coffee Shop</td>
<td>3. Small Group using Video and Study Guide (content online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Online: Video Meeting</td>
<td>4. Independent Study using Video and Article (content online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Online: Facebook Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Twitter</td>
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### 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?
Church or
School Event
or Program

At Home &
Daily Life

Extend the Event

Sunday Worship

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

**OPENING THE WORD**

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
The Good Shepherd

3rd Sunday of Easter

**The Sunday Website**
of Kent State University
Welcome to Advent

Like the Advent Wreath
(to count down the days)

Advent Activities

Advent Wreath: Tradition tells us that the Advent wreath was first used by early Christians to help the faithful prepare their hearts for Holy Week and Easter. Each of the four candles symbolizes one of the spiritual acts of Advent: Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love.

Advent Calendar: The advent calendar is a liturgical calendar of events leading up to Christmas. The calendar is decorated with pictures or icons that represent the events of the season. The first day of Advent is often marked by the lighting of the first candle, and the celebration of the first Sunday of Advent is often followed by the celebration of the first Sunday of Christmas.

Advent Daily Devotional:

Family Advent Calendar (Night & Sundays)

Children’s Advent Calendar

Reap Advent Dev - Daily Reflections: Starting December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, you’ll receive daily meditations with spiritual resources from Matthew Belk and Sr. Allen, along with practical tips to help you make the most of the Advent season. Each day you’ll receive something new to help you prepare for the season of Advent and the joy of Christmas.

Sacred Advent Daily Reflections: Explore the Advent season as a sacred space from the website. Each day, Sacred Advent offers a devotional reflection for you to use as you make your way through Advent. Each reflection is followed by two brief prayers for you to use as you journey through the season of waiting and preparation.

Lent

Through CWC Rice Brook, we share the journey with members of our Church family around the world, and support our Lenten prayer and fasting efforts by encouraging our faith and serving those in need.

What’s new in Lent 2019

It’s important to prepare for the season of Lent by fasting and reflecting on the needs of those around us. This year, we offer a variety of resources to help you stay connected to your faith and community during this time of reflection and renewal.

Lent Resources

Reflections on Lent

Lent Events

Lent Resources

Prayer and Sharing

Lent 2019 Calendar

Lent Resources

Lent Reflections

Lent Events

Lent Resources

Lent Reflections

Lent Events

Lent Resources

Lent Reflections

Lent Events

Lent Resources

Lent Reflections

Lent Events

Lent Resources

Lent Reflections

Lent Events
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.

- Class Sessions: Once a month (7 in total for each year)
- Online Sessions: Three per month
- “Insight” Youth Group Meetings – Attend Three Per Year
- Service Projects: Two per year
- Retreat:
  - Year 1: Weekend Retreat
  - Year 2: Attend 2 “Sponsor Nights” (A total of 4 will be offered)
God on Tap
Webinar & Streaming
Family Ideas

Family Programming

- **Connect Home & Church**: Provide activities/resources to expand faith forming
- **Infuse and Enhance**: Add a family strategy/activity into an existing program
- **Redesign and Relaunch**: Take an existing program and redesign it into a family program
- **Design New Programming**: Introduce a new family or parent program
Reaching Families

Through the day: meal times, car times, morning and bedtime, exits and entries, family sharing times, waiting for... times

Through key family moments: good times and hard times, times of joy and sorrow

Through the year: church year seasons, holidays, rituals and celebrations—birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

Through the lifecycle: milestones and rites of passage

Finding the spaces and times in family life

Family Methods & Media

Print

Audio / Podcasts (created / curated)

Video (created and curated)

TV and Movies and YouTube

Online: website, social media

Families Together Experiences

Church or Community-wide Projects
**Family Experiments**

- Faith Practice of the Month
- Connect to Sunday worship
- Seasons @Home and @Church
- Whole Family Programs
- Sacraments & Milestones
- Family Life Skills
- Parent Programming
- Family faith formation website

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**Practical Strategies**

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**7-Day or 30-Day Family Experiments**

- Add a faith practice(s) or a family life skill into a family’s daily routine.
- Learn together with resources provided by the church (print, video, audio, etc.)
- What if there was a daily text, email, video?
- Instagram #, Facebook Group, etc. to share experiences, post photos
The Family Faith Moments: 7-Day Start-Up Plan will help you:

- add family faith moments into your daily routine
- learn new spiritual practices alongside your kids; no previous religious experience necessary
- teach your children to appreciate religious diversity with time-tested non-Christian and Christian spiritual practices

Select 12 of the most relevant and developmentally appropriate Bible stories for each age—from age 5 to 18.

Integrate the Bible teaching into one session or program each month; use videos to assist you

Then provide online resources for parents to reinforce the Bible story online: reading the story, watching the video, discussing the story.
Teach a different form of prayer, and/or experience a prayer practice each month during the class or program: contemplative, Scriptural, intercessory, praise (adoration), thanksgiving, etc.

Develop a short video of the children or teens praying so that parents can see prayer in action.

Provide prayer activities and resources online for parents to continue the “prayer of the month” at home.

Incorporate faith practices throughout the year by teaching the practices through experiential activities in children and youth programs, for example:

- Eating Well
- Forgiving
- Generosity
- Hospitality
- Keeping Sabbath
- Praying
- Reading the Bible
- Stewardship / Care for Creation
- Transforming the World

Then invite parents to reinforce the practice through continued at-home experiences that you provide online for easy access.
Ideas Connect Sunday Worship

Incorporate preparation and/or reflection for Sunday in children and teen programs, and then deepen the Sunday worship experience at home through activities, practices, and resources from a variety of age-appropriate and whole-family digital content on the website.

- family conversation questions,
- weekly table ritual
- podcast or video of the sermon with a study guide for the parents,
- children’s creative Bible activities
- storybooks
- videos presenting the Bible story,
- daily prayer
- weekly family devotion

Ideas Celebrate the Seasons

Identify a monthly seasonal event and publish the activities on the family website. Incorporate Scripture, prayer, learning, service/action, ritual, and family conversation into each seasonal event. Highlight a Christian practice that will be communicated and experienced through the event.

- Jan: ML King Jr. (working for justice and peace, serving)
- Feb: Valentine’s Day (loving)
- March: Lent (praying, serving/almsgiving, forgiving)
- April: Earth Day (caring for creation)
- May: Mother’s Day (honoring parents, loving caring)
- June: Father’s Day (honoring parents, loving, caring)
- July: Independence Day (working for justice)
- August: Back to school (celebrating new beginnings)
- Sept: Fall harvest (grateful, generosity, care for the earth)
- Oct: St. Francis (caring for creation, caring for animals)
- Nov: Thanksgiving (grateful, serving, living hospitality)
- Dec: Advent and Christmas

Seasonal family festivals and gatherings to support the seasonal plan using the four seasons—fall, winter, spring, and summer—or the church year seasons—Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost.
Incorporate family programs throughout the year – on seasonal themes, family life themes, etc.

Substitute an age group program for a family program: Weeks 1-4 - Age Groups + Week 5 – Family Program.

Redesign VBS as a family program or with family components

Design extended time (half-day, full day) immersion experiences—at church or in the community—where families can experience the Christian faith firsthand, such as hospitality at a homeless shelter or serving a meal at a soup kitchen or caring for creation by planting a garden.

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**Family & Intergen. Programs**

- **Part 1. Gathering and Prayer**
- **Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience**
- **Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience**
- **Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application**
- **Part 5. Closing Prayer**
Example: Called to Pray

Gathering and Opening Prayer

All Ages Learning: I’m Ready God, Where Are You? (Drama)

In-Depth Learning: Paths of Prayer
- Activity 1: Creating a Space for Prayer
- Activity 2: Praying with Scripture
- Activity 3: Praying with the Psalms
- Activity 4: Intercessory Prayer
- Activity 5: The Jesus Prayer

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

Themes

Christian Beliefs

Christian Practices

Morality

Justice & Service

Prayer

Bible

Liturgy / Church Year

Family Life Practices & Skills
Family Camp

2018 FAMILY CAMPS

Creating a healthy balance among physical, mental & spiritual well-being, Family Camp is an opportunity to help your family experience the joy of God’s creation. This year, we encourage you to join us for a fun-filled family adventure that will have your family and friends creating memories for years to come.

**Family Camp #1**
- June 29 – July 1
- Family Fun Day
- Family Movie Night

**Family Camp #2**
- July 6 – 8
- Family Meal
- Family Movie Night

**Family Camp #3**
- July 13 – 15
- Family Meal
- Family Movie Night

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

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

Family Service
1. Birth / Baptism
2. Baptism anniversaries
3. First prayers
4. First Bible stories
5. Starting school year
6. Receiving a first Bible
7. First Communion
8. Confirmation
9. Graduation

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?
Focus on the types of skill-building that will strengthen family life, and parent-child/teen relationships, such as:

- communicating effectively
- discussing tough topics
- making decisions and solving problems as a family
- learning how to build strong relationships and express care for each other
- supporting each other
- treating each with respect and dignity

Many of these skills can be developed using movies selected for their positive messages. An example of a movie that provides a foundation for follow-up activities is Disney/Pixar’s *Inside Out* about the emotional life of a child growing up.
Developing Strong Family Life

1. Communicating effectively
2. Establishing family routines: family meals, shared activities, daily commitments
3. Celebrating meaningful traditions & rituals
4. Discussing tough topics
5. Making decisions and solving problems
6. Learning how to build strong relationships and express care for each other
7. Developing the strengths and 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

Keep Connected Website
https://keepconnected.searchinstitute.org
Content

Parental Faith Formation

Faith Forming Skills & Practices

Knowledge & Skills for Parenting

1. Develop a progression of parent workshops, webinars, or courses through the life cycle
2. Incorporate parent formation and education into church events
3. Add a parallel parent experience to the existing child/teen program
4. Add a parent component to VBS
5. Design laboratory experiences
6. Develop parent mentors
7. Create life cycle or affinity groups
8. Provide a website or online group
• A family-centered worship experience can be an opportunity to teach parents about worship, reading the Bible, and how to do these things at home.

• A church-wide service day can be an opportunity to teach parents about the biblical basis of service and how to integrate service into family life.

• A church year seasonal celebration can be an opportunity to teach about ritual and how to celebrate rituals and church year seasons at home.

• These immersion experiences can be supported with online content for parents and for the whole family.

Reggie Joiner and the Think Orange team emphasize how important it is to give families a plan. “When parents show up at church, they are often asking silent questions that we must answer; questions they don’t even know they’re asking. To begin looking at parents through a different filter, imagine that every time a parent walks through the door, he or she is asking you to do three things:

• **Give me the plan.** They want a plan that will give them a system of support, consistent influence, and a steady flow of relevant information.

• **Show me how it works.**

• **Tell me what to do today.** We have to give them specific instructions or resources to use this week. Give parents a map and a schedule.
 ✓ Expressing care, love, affection, and support
 ✓ Balancing time and commitments, managing stress
 ✓ Practicing healthy relationships
 ✓ Disciplining and learning discipline practices
 ✓ Creating a warm, caring supportive family.
 ✓ Set boundaries and high expectations for children
 ✓ Managing technology and media use
 ✓ Challenging child to grow & 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
Intergenerational Strategies

Utilize
Infuse
Connect
Create

Infusing IG Learning

Age Group Programming
Sacramental and Milestone Celebrations
Church Year Feasts & Seasons
Vacation Bible School
Mission Trips & Service Projects
Retreat and Camp Experiences
Incorporate intergenerational dialogues into programming
Develop mentoring relationships
Involves the community in praying for each generation,
Organize social and recreational activities that build intergenerational relationships
“Intergenerationalize” age-group programming
Integrate intergenerational programming into an age-group program plan and calendar
Offer service projects and mission trips for all ages
Offer simple, one-time intergenerational experiences: arts, music/concerts, drama, social events, service projects, sports, educational experiences

Part 7. Frameworks for Action
Personalizing Faith Formation

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
- Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities
- Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs

Personalizing Faith Formation
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.

Personalizing Faith Formation

Part 8.
Frameworks for Action
Making Lifelong Faith Formation a Reality

Frameworks help to synthesize learnings and find clarity in what are often highly complex challenges. Frameworks help to visualize patterns in the data, understand the perspectives of others, and unpack the context we are working in.

Task: Develop a framework for our core challenge - How can every Christian church create, sustain, and grow lifelong faith formation? – using the insights from the Symposium.

Frameworks

A Journey Map allows you to visualize a process beginning to end. This simple framework will help you to more easily imagine the entire flow of an experience, whether it’s how a service may work or all the touchpoints of a person’s journey.

A Relational Map is used to see how different ideas relate to one another. This type of framework can organize some of what you’ve learned, visualize how things connect, and help you to find patterns. You might start by putting one idea at the center and then mapping how your other ideas and insights play off of it.

A 2x2 Map gives you a way to plot your ideas along two separate axes and then home in on insights and themes. By sorting information in this way, you’ll uncover patterns that allow you to draw broader inferences. For instance, you might sort things based on different behavioral, societal, or environmental classifications, using each end of the axis as the extreme.
Topic 7. Making Lifelong Faith Formation a Reality

Develop a framework for our core challenge: *How can every Christian church create, sustain, and grow lifelong faith formation.*

Use one of the three Frameworks: Journey Map, Relational Map, 2x2 Map.

- Develop a **Journey** Map for how can a church can move from Create through Sustain to Grow.
- Develop a **Relational** Map with clusters of ideas for Create, Sustain, and Grow.
- Develop a **2x2** Map around key two key variables, for example: paid staff ---- without paid staff, and diversity of ages ----- one age group.

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Topic 5. Emerging Insights & Practices that Can Shape Lifelong Faith Formation

**Activity: How Might We . . .**

- How might we **create** lifelong faith formation?
- How might we **sustain** lifelong faith formation?
- How might we **grow** lifelong faith formation?

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*One Idea Per Sticky Note ✅*