

# Connecting Faith and Everyday Life with Adult Milestones



Association of Presbyterian  
Church Educators  
Baltimore, MD 2015



# Christian Education Network of the ELCA

*"... that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love ..."*  
Colossians 2:2



# Debbie's Language Analogy

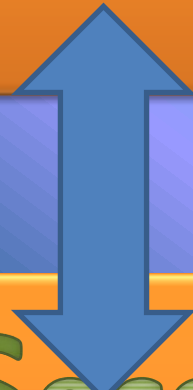
## “Faith Talk”

**Faith**  
as a  
**Second**  
**Language**



The analogy:

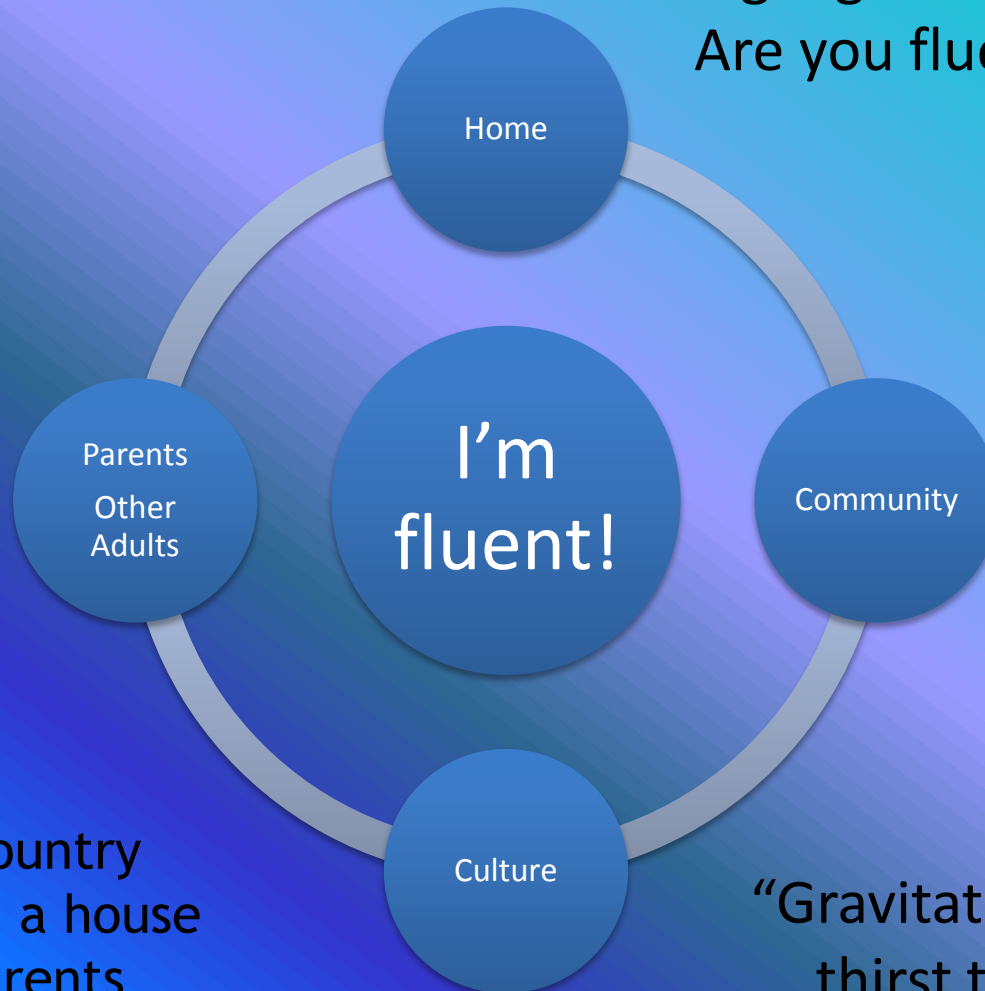
English as a Second  
Language



Faith as a Second  
Language

# Are you fluent in another language?

How many hours a week did you study  
a language in school?  
Are you fluent?

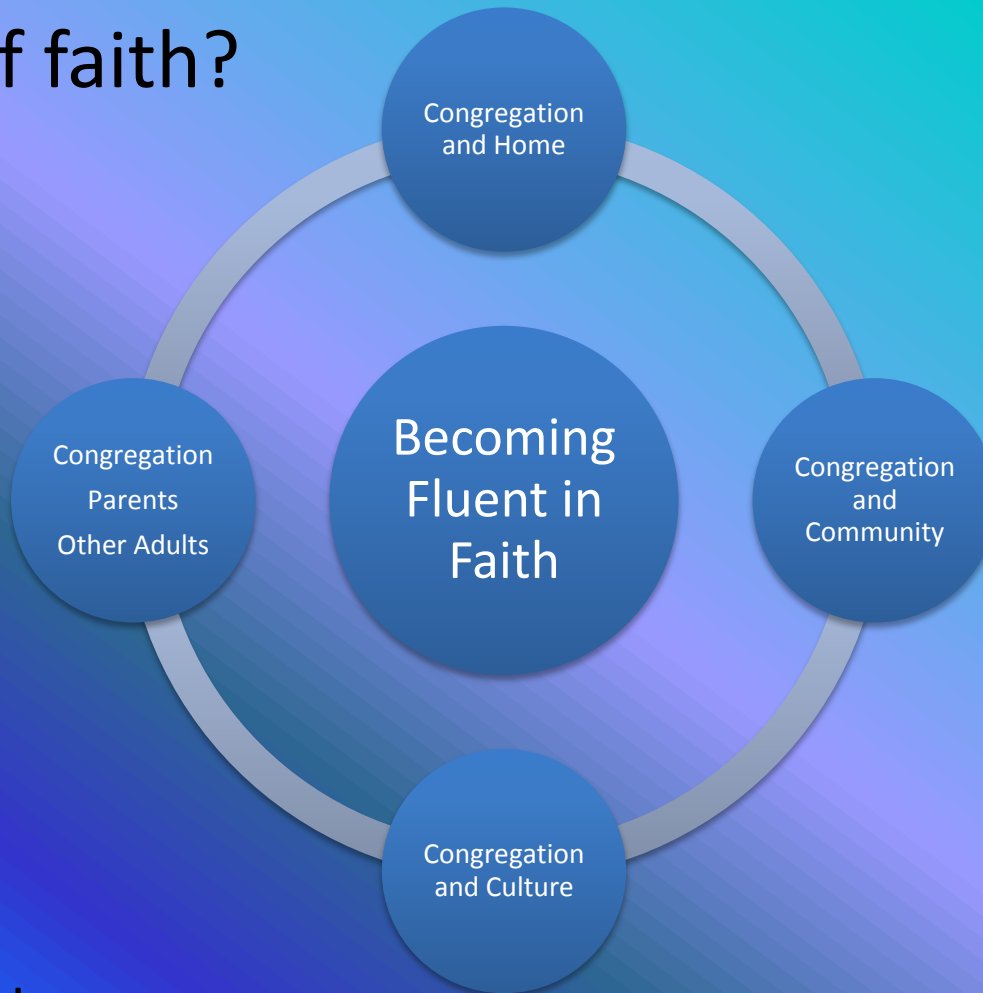


1. Lived in the country
2. Were raised in a house where your parents spoke it to you

“Gravitate towards and  
thirst to be with..”



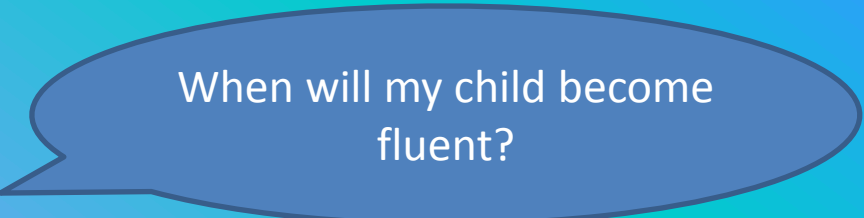
# Are we fluent in the language of faith?



“Gravitate  
towards and  
thirst to be  
with..”

How many hours a week do we speak faith?  
Result? Thirst to be in community.

# 1. Learning a Language:



When will my child become fluent?

- To become fluent, one must be immersed through being surrounded by the language in the home or by living in the country where the language is spoken.
- Fluency involves becoming familiar with and practicing specific rituals and traditions.
- Culture includes language, food, customs, and traditions
- Age 13: What would happen if we placed a focus on equipping children and their families before they turn 13 ?
- What impact does facing the reality of learning a language have on those over 13 through adults in our congregations?



Atama...Kata...

# 1. Providing Tools:

- Learning a language involves action and hands-on involvement . The result? It sticks!
- Providing consistent words to describe core rituals and traditions and name them is key.
- Repeating more than once and embedding faith practices in the ministry of the congregation leads to fluency.
- Fluency results in being a way of life. It defines the DNA of a congregation.



### 3. Immersion:

- Surrounding children and youth with a common language and adults who speak the language is immersion.
- Immersion leads to learning about the culture of a community. Every faith community has a culture.
- If you gave a survey and asked people in your congregation to identify Christian traditions or Presbyterian traditions, could they do it readily?
- We make assumptions that we are already immersing people. We assume they speak our language.

## 4. Fluency:

- It doesn't happen in 1 hour a week. In fact it doesn't happen in 5 hours or 10 hours a week!
- It leads to thirsting to gather with those who speak the language.
- Could you name more than 5 people in your congregation you consider to be fluent?

## 5. Application:

- The message/sermon normally includes life application.
- It connects us to God's Word.

We seldom follow up with conversations relating scripture to our own lives.

How and where does one have opportunities to apply what they learn and realize it is a way of life?

## 6. Challenges:

- The opportunity to evangelize lies in our faith fluency and is dependent on how we describe ourselves.
- Although we have programs to help others, how often do we verbalize our actions through Christian language?
- How do we move from faith community to the world?  
Get Off the Base! (comfort zone)

# Off the Base!

- The opportunity for outreach lies in our fluency in the language of faith and is dependent on how we describe ourselves.
- Although we have programs to help others, how often do we verbalize our actions through Christian language?
- How often do we add faith to everyday conversation and everyday life celebrations?
- How do we move from faith community to the world?  
We get “off the base”

*“Cultures are what make countries unique.”*

**Culture** is a word for people's 'way of life', meaning the way groups do things. Different groups of people may have different cultures.

A culture is passed on to the next generation by learning, whereas genetics are passed on by heredity.

Culture is seen in people's writing, religion, music, clothes, cooking, and in what they do.

Wikipedia





*“Cultures are what make congregations unique.”*



If I were to ask you to define the culture of your congregation, how would you describe it?



How often have we taken the time to invite those in our faith communities to make a list of what we consider to be our existing culture beginning with the basics?

1. Caring Relationships – Where do caring relationships happen in the faith community? Around tables for fellowship? In homes?



2. Rituals – What rituals or rites of passage do families in the congregation list they do at home? How do these rituals interface with their faith?





3. Traditions – What types of traditions passed down through generations are celebrated in homes of the congregation? How do they tie these traditions to their family history? How do they tie them to their faith?



4. Values – The core of a culture is formed by values. What do you value most in the congregation? What do you think others value most? What do you value most in your home?



**If we would like to view the faith community through a cultural lens, we need to be honest with one another and open to truthful, caring relationships.**



**Immersion = Fluency**

**Where do we start?**

**Let's take a look at 5 basic  
principles...**

## Five Principles for living and passing on faith

- Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships – often in our own homes.
- The church is the primary ministry of the congregation.
- Where Christ is, there is the church too.
- Faith is caught more than it is taught.
- If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults.

**Key  
Word....ADULTS**



## What is a milestone?

A milestone is a meaningful, memorable moment in the lives of individuals and communities.

Milestones in our lives can be life changing. Some are happy. Some can be sad and fearful times.

Some milestones we celebrate in the congregation.  
Most are for children and youth.

But what milestones  
do we celebrate for  
adults?

Bap

1st

union

ation

Blessing of  
Backpacks

Sunday School

**What milestones do we, as adults, recognize and celebrate in our home and daily life?**

**Birthdays?**

**Anniversaries?**

**Marriage?**

**New Job ?**

**Loss of  
Job?**

**Deployment?**

**Retirement?**



"Somehow our society must make it right and possible for old people not fear the young or be deserted by them for the test of a civilization is the way it cares for its helpless members."

~ Pearl

## + Aging Pa Affirming P

### Desired Outcomes

- Reaffirm changes and
- Share stories from th
- Understand how faith
- Equip caregivers with tool to reconnect w
- Encourage the care needed break from



## Bless THIS HOME



*and all who enter*



"By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

~ Proverbs 24:3 (NRSV)

## + New Home Milestone: Affirming the Physical, Spiritual and Emotional Transition to a New Living Space

### Desired Outcomes

- Talk about changes and challenges of new living situations
- Share memories of previous homes as well as hopes and dreams for the future in a new home
- Understand how faith and worship can be practiced in the home
- Equip those in transition with a rituals and traditions for moving into a new home
- Provide resources for rituals/traditions which can be consistently practiced in the new home
- Connect ministry of the congregation with people in the community moving into new homes



leaving home in a sense involves a  
of second birth in which we give  
birth to ourselves."

~ Robert Neelly Bellah

## e: ason of Life

their family as their

s and sorrows  
each stage of life  
life that can be

st includes lifelong

## Four Keys for passing on the faith

### + Milestone for Small Groups or Home

This small group milestone is intended to function as a house blessing for a family or small group of friends or congregation members. If this takes place in a new home, group members may wish to provide a meal or dessert for the group to share together prior to conversation using the following outline. You may also wish to use portions of the Cross+Generational Event found in this New Home Milestone in the small group/ home setting.



#### Caring Conversations

Begin with conversation:

- Invite members of the group to share one of the most difficult challenges of moving to a new home.
- Share a memory from a previous move that makes you smile or laugh.
- What is it about settling into a new home that brings you the most joy or pleasure.



#### Devotions

Read Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 (CEV)

*"The Lord and his disciples were traveling along and came to a village. When they got there, a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat down in front of the Lord and was listening to what he said."*

Consider how you honor both hospitality and listening to God in your home. Are there practices you would like to incorporate into your home that might encourage hospitality and/or listening to God?



#### Service:

Discuss ways in which you can serve your new neighbors. Establish a plan for your service. Consider an open house as a way to establish positive relationships with those in your new neighborhood. It will also be a gift to your friends and family who are able to attend.



#### Rituals and Traditions

Consider a way to receive family and friends into your home and/or send them back out into the world. It may be as simple as saying, "Peace be with you," or "Peace to all who enter here," or "May the Lord watch over you as you go out and as you come in now and forever. Amen."

Bless the home using the blessing from *For Everything a Season* (see Appendix 4) or light a candle and say the following Scripture and prayer.

Read Proverbs 24:3 then pray,

*Dear God, we ask you to bless this home and all who enter here with the wisdom that knows and receives your ever present love. For (name those who live in the home) and for all who visit, may this place be filled with your precious and pleasant riches to keep us in faith, hope, and love all the days of our lives. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.*

*Resources and tools to encourage faith talk and faith practices in the home are helpful and remind us that home is church too!*

**A suggestion for building rituals and traditions in the home:**

#### Four Keys Faith Practices Mat



Place a candle in the center



Place a blessing bowl in the center

Add a milestone to the bowl to encourage caring conversations



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- Invite members of the group to share one of the most difficult challenges of moving to a new home.
- Share a memory from a previous move that makes you smile or laugh.
- What is it about settling into a new home that brings you the most joy or pleasure.

Prayer, people, and place are the ingredients of home. Amen.

Prov. 24:3-4



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## Rituals and Traditions

Bless the home using the blessing from *For Everything a Season* (see Appendix 4) or light a candle and say the following Scripture and prayer.

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# For Everything A Season



**75** BLESSINGS FOR LIFE'S MILESTONES

# Blessing for a New Home

**PREPARATION** Invite family and friends to your new home. Place a small candle in each room to be blessed and carry a lit candle with you. Mark the following verses in your Bible for easy reference: Proverbs 24:3; Psalm 121:8; John 13:34; Psalm 145:15-16; Psalm 4:8; Isaiah 32:18. Add hymns or songs if you like.

If you are leading this blessing in someone else's house, change pronouns when necessary.

## WELCOME

*For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven.*  
Welcome to this time for blessing our home.

## RITUAL ACTION

(Gather outside, if possible.) Read Proverbs 24:3.

Let us pray: O God, as candles bring light to this home, so enable (home owners) to be your light in this neighborhood.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Light the candle and say, Christ is present!

(Move to the entrance.)

Read Psalm 121:8. Let us pray: Defender God, protect and guide those of us who live here; our going out and our coming in; and let us share the hospitality of this home with all who visit, that those who enter may know your love and peace. Amen

Light the candle and say, Christ is present!

(Move to the family or living room.)

Read John 13:34. Let us pray: Giver of joy and love, bless all who share this room that through you we may be bound together in a community of love. Amen

Light the candle and say, Christ is present!

(Move to the kitchen/dining room.)

Read Psalm 145:15-16. Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Help us to be grateful for all your mercies and mindful of the needs of others. Amen

Light the candle and say, Christ is present!

(Move to the bedrooms.)

Read Psalm 4:8. Let us pray: Lord, you provide rest for the weary and renewal for our bodies and spirits. Bless our times of rest that we might be refreshed and energized for your service. Amen

Light the candle and say, Christ is present!

(Return to the family or living room.)

Read Isaiah 32:18. Let us pray: O God, we pray you will bless this home and bless (names) with your gracious presence.

Let your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Join hands and pray the Lord's Prayer (p. 84).



## BLESSING

May the Lord watch over us as we go out and come in now and forever. Amen

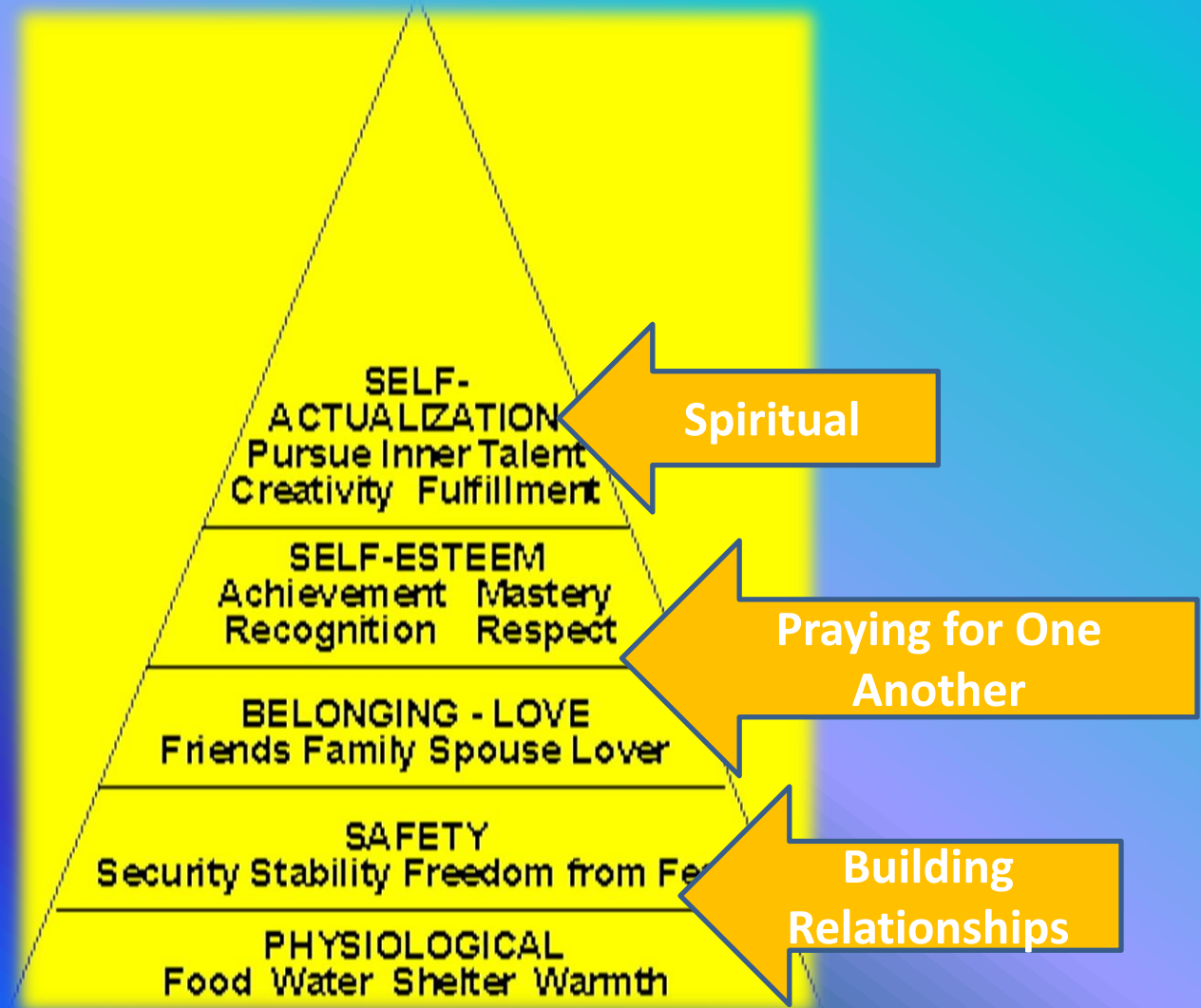


# FOUR KEYS For Practicing Faith

1. Caring Conversations
2. Devotions
3. Service
4. Rituals and Traditions



# Maslow Hierarchy of Needs







"Where thou art,  
thou is home."  
– Emily Dickinson



## New Home Milestone

Moving is never easy! In addition to the chaos of sorting and packing, moving touches our souls. Regardless of how long we have lived in a home, who we have shared the home with, or what has provoked the move, leaving can spark feelings of grief and sadness as well as feelings of expectation and anticipation. In the midst of the many details of moving, it may be difficult to acknowledge this milestone, but it is an important one, no matter the circumstance or the reason for the transition to a new home.

Regardless of whether a new home is a studio apartment or a mobile home or a custom built house, moving to a new home is literally and spiritually crossing a threshold in life. Whether across the ocean or across the street, making a new home is a place where new people are coming and old people are leaving.

Not all transitions to a new home may produce feelings of sadness. This milestone honors the diversity of emotions and feelings at this transition, and the diversity of people who are making a transition to a new home, while reminding us of the sacredness of the spaces we call home.

This New Home Milestone incorporates a simple structure that includes:

**Naming** – It is important to recognize and honor the transition to a new physical space and claim it as home as well as to recognize a fresh start, which is what a new home represents.

**Equipping** – This milestone provides the opportunity for those who are moving to share memories of previous homes and communities of faith and to discuss hopes and dreams for their new home and opportunities for service in a different community.

**Blessing** – Invite those transitioning into a new home—as well as into a new faith community or circle of friends—to gather to bless the home. Provide resources for the ongoing practice of blessing the new home.

**Gifting** – You may give a Milestones Blessing Bowl with stones, a plaque or a cross to hang on the wall of the new home, or create your own unique gift. (See Appendix 1 for ideas.)

**Reinforcing** – Church seasons are a natural time to reconnect this group and share ways to celebrate the seasons in a new home. The New Home Milestone Follow Up is on page 7.

5 Part Structure



Four Keys  
for  
Practicing Faith



Rituals and  
Traditions



1. Name it
2. Equip it
3. Bless it
4. Gift it
5. Reinforce it

## 1. Name it

Identifies a moment as significant to one's life and faith directly related to the name of the Milestone Ministry event.

## 2. Equip it

Provides support, modeling, and resources to help people experience a milestone in life as an opportunity to again embrace the grace of God in Christ

### 3. Bless it

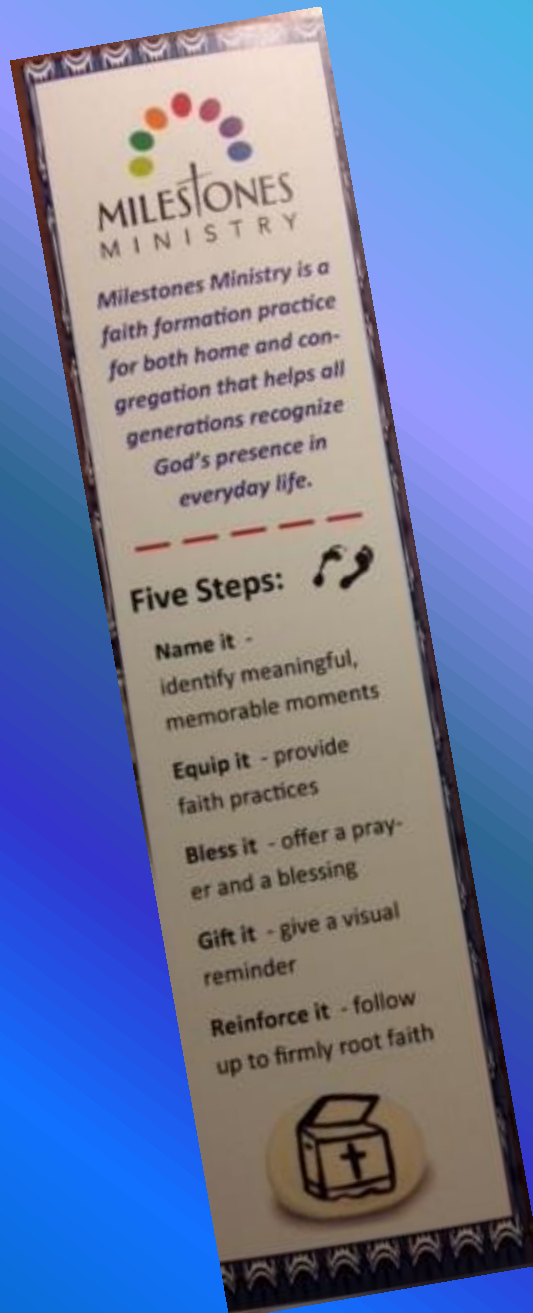
Offers a prayer in a worship service, cross+generational event, and/or the small group or home event to embrace people's lives with the grace, mercy, and peace of God in Christ.

### 4. Gift it

Provides a gift to help the participants recall a particular milestone in their lives with faith, hope, and love

## 5. Reinforce it

Offer a follow up event to help deepen the faith formation impact of the Milestone Ministry experience. Encourage and support faith practices recommended at the initial Milestone event and, when helpful, explore new ones.



Choose one of the milestones you named earlier. How would you...

1. Name it ?
2. Equip it ?
3. Bless it ?
4. Gift it ?
5. Reinforce it ?

# How would I use this devotion?

NOVEMBER 16, 2014

23RD SUNDAY OF  
PENTECOST

*Encourage others to use the  
gifts God has given them.*



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.  
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Luke 19:11-26	A king and his servants
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Using our gifts
Wednesday	Romans 12:4-8	We have different gifts
Thursday	1 Corinthians 12:7-11	Each has a gift
Friday	Ephesians 4:11-16	Christ's gifts to the church
Saturday	Psalms 24	All belongs to the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Encourage one another and build each other up." 1 Thessalonians 5:11  
(NIV)

### SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for all you have given us. Help us to be faithful servants who make the most of your gifts. Amen. (Matthew 25:14-30)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

For food and drink and happy days we offer up our thanks and praise. In serving others, Lord, may we show our thankfulness to Thee. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

Child of light, may God bless you with faith, hope and love, this day and always. Amen.  
(1 Thessalonians 5:5,8)



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NOVEMBER 16, 2014

23RD SUNDAY OF  
PENTECOST



## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What talents has God given to those in your household or group?
- What helps us use our talents? What stops us from using them?
- In what ways are you using your talents to serve God? What does God promise to those who use their talents well (see Matthew 25:29)?

## DEVOTIONS

God has given each of us special talents and qualities to serve and to bless others. In your home devotional times this week, focus on each member of your household in turn. Share the talents and qualities you see in him or her, and suggest ways in which he or she might use these to serve God. Encourage your family members through prayer, asking God to help them make the most of their talents.

## SERVICE

Think of a person in your church or community who is developing or using his or her God-given gifts and talents, and whom you would like to encourage as a household. Write an encouraging note or prepare an encouragement gift to give that person.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The apostle Paul wrote, "Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Spend some time this week affirming and encouraging one another. For instance, you may wish to finish these sentences for each family member:

*A talent I see you have is. . .  
One thing I really appreciate about you is. . .  
Something I'd like to encourage you in is. . .  
I felt very proud of you when. . .*



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)



faith formation for all ages and generations



# Lifelong Faith

Home

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*LifelongFaith Associates is committed to helping congregations develop lifelong Christian faith formation for all ages and generations, increasing the capacity of leaders and communities to nurture faith growth in everyone.*



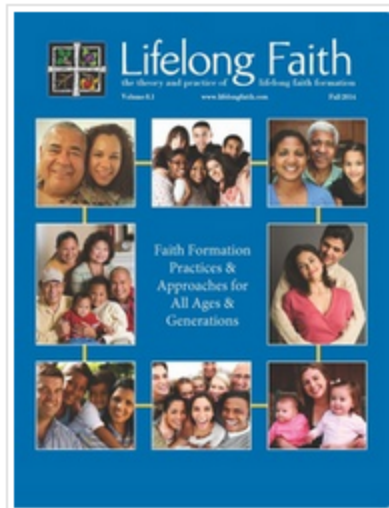
# Lifelong Faith Journal

We are providing all issues of the Lifelong Faith Journal as a free service - new issues and back issues. We want every congregation, and individual leaders and students, to have access to the Lifelong Faith Journal. We will continue to produce the Journal with the same great content we have provided for the past seven years—the best thinking and practice in faith formation across the whole life span. Each issue will continue to focus on a particular aspect of lifelong faith formation and include major articles by national experts, book reviews, and practical strategies and program models. Everyone on the Lifelong Faith mailing list will get notices when the new issue is available. Be sure to join the mailing list.

## Fall 2014 Lifelong Faith Journal

The Fall 2014 issue of the Lifelong Faith journal presents a variety of articles on "Faith Formation Practices & Approaches for All Ages & Generations." Included in this issue are the following articles.

1. Building Blocks of Faith - Laura Keeley and Robert J. Keeley
2. Children's Faith Formation at Church and Home: Birth to Age 5 - Jolene R. Depertain
3. The "Identity Crisis" of the Youth Minister - Lee Yates
4. Responding to the Diversity of Today's Adults - Janet Schaeffler
5. Milestones Ministry: An Effective Model for Lifelong Faith Formation - Debbie Streicher
6. The Intergenerational Top Seven: What You Must Know and Do to Be Successful at Intergenerational Ministry - Jim Merhaut
7. Digital Media for Ministry Brief: Communications and Evangelism - Kyle Matthew Oliver
8. Story and Christian Formation: Using Movies, Video, and Music - Shannon Kelly
9. Down from the Mountaintop: Sustaining the Church Camp Experience at Home - Marlene Bogard



**Download your free copy!**



## Milestones Ministry: An Effective Model for Lifelong Faith Formation

Debbie Streicher

*A faith milestone is a marker along life's journey that says, 'This is something important and God is here, too.' It is a faith formation practice for both home and congregation that helps all generations recognize God's presence in everyday life.*

David Anderson

In theory, Sunday school is a good model to teach the Christian faith. However, in many congregations across the country, attendance is low and leadership is thirsting for a magic pill to make it all better and move back to the success of the past. We try name changes. We try time changes. We try weaving Christian education into worship services. Across denominations, we have shown concern and been in conversation about the need to revisit the way we plan and execute Christian education programs for more than a decade. *The Teaching Church* by Eugene C. Roehlkepartain and *Educating Congregations: The Future of Christian Education* by Charles Foster were written in the mid-90's. Both are relevant today and are being used by leaders to help re-evaluate the way we do faith formation.

Debbie Streicher is a member of the Milestones Ministry Team serving as a writer, developer, and coach. She also serves as President of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA. Over the past 25 years, Debbie has served in the role of volunteer and on staff for all aspects of Christian education in a congregation. She has facilitated, overseen, organized, and developed faith formation programs from infants through adults. She worked intricately with Faith Incubators resource development and has consulted and led events for congregations using these materials for over 15 years. Debbie has held volunteer leadership roles in education and evangelism at synod and national levels for 12+ years. Her vision is to involve all ages in faith formation, strengthen family relationships through spiritual growth, and empower God-given gifts to do ministry.

Lifelong Faith Fall 2014

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New Job	Teen-Adult	Jan
Empty Nest	Adult	March
Prayer	All Ages	April

All milestone (both congregational and daily life) events include the entire family, friends, and relatives. They happen in large gathering settings and in the home. We recently celebrated my husband's retirement in our home. We invited friends, family, and neighbors.

- ♦ **Naming:** This was a time to recognize my husband's retirement and transition to a new lifestyle.
- ♦ **Equipping:** We enjoyed dinner together, showed pictures of his work history, and engaged in caring conversations.
- ♦ **Blessing:** Each person present passed a stone with retirement written on it and gave a wish about my husband's retirement and gave him a blessing. We said a prayer.
- ♦ **Gifting:** The gift was the stone as a remembrance of the occasion.
- ♦ **Reinforcing:** The stone is a reminder every day of this special time. We often reflect on the stone and plan to intentionally revisit the topic of retirement and talk about how life has changed at the end of the year.

I asked our pastor how many have retired in our congregation in the past year. The answer was 15 or more. I have begun to think about those 15 and about their friends who may have retired also. What milestones can be recognized in your own congregation and community this year?

## Milestones Outside the Church Walls

It is not unusual to recognize baptism, first bibles, a mission trip, or entering Sunday school, but I invite you to think beyond these and consider how to recognize other

milestones in the lives of those in our communities.

Is there a middle or high school nearby? Is there a nursing home in the area? Is there a military base close by the church? What are the needs of these people? What would invite them into a relationship with Christ? What would make them want to give their time?

Is the church near a nursing home?

Celebrate 70, 80, and 90 year old birthdays. Go to them or invite them along with their families to come to you. Or honor and bless caregivers for those individuals. Both family and staff are caregivers. Those in their 70's, 80's, and 90's are the ones who filled our churches over the years. How can we recognize this?

Is the church near a middle school?

Celebrate birthdays for the month. Post a banner outside the church and name one day each month where you have a party for teens. Invest in a large TV and updated video games. Provide free internet service, or invite one of the high school or middle school bands or musicians to participate. Take time for a blessing and prayer. Equip families with ideas and tools to celebrate their own teen's special day in their home with a prayer and blessing.

Is the church near a military base?

Families are constantly in transition on a base. There are some leaving for deployment and others returning. Recognize both occasions and invite families and singles for a time to be together and celebrate this significant time in their lives.

## A New Venture

This past August, David Anderson and I were asked to manage Milestones Ministry ([www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)). David's wife, Gloria, and my husband, Burt, complete the team in our new venture together. We are committed to practicing these milestones

Lifelong Faith Fall 2014

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## Faith Markers Ministry: Marking Each Child's Faith Journey

Mennonite Church

Faith Markers Ministry honors a child's steps along the pathway toward believers baptism and church membership. Children are already in relationship with God and capable of growing in faith. Faith Markers are significant for the children and youth, their families, and the church community. A ritual of blessing reminds children that they are an integral part of the faith community. Faith recognition reminds parents of their role in shaping faith in their children at home. And the church community affirms its promise to be partners in forming faith in all ages.

## Faith Milestones as a Tool to Grow

### Relationships

Debbie Streicher

Celebrating a milestone in our lives is important. Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and the list goes on. We can all think of a time when a milestone in our life was uplifted by our families with a party where friends and relatives gathered to honor important times in our lives. We received gifts and felt loved. It is good to be surrounded by many people who care about our lives and are with us for those special times. These times in our lives bring us together in an intergenerational setting where memories are made. We seldom forget about them and often seek to gather again with the same group of people to celebrate other milestones for ourselves and for others in the group.

## Milestones of Faith: Creating Rhythms through Rites of Passage

Steven Johnson

What does faith development look like in our community from birth to when our kids go off to college and beyond? Conversations turned into ideas, then into small events and shifts, then moved into consistent programs, and eventually the whole church caught the vision for milestones.

## One Home at a Time

Jennifer Hooks

Explore the Legacy Milestones approach that Brian Haynes and Kingsland Baptist Church use to create a common path that integrates church and home in spiritual formation through a path of seven milestones.

## Through the Zone: Creating Rites of Passage in Your Church

Brad M. Griffin

What constitutes a rite of passage, and what doesn't? What is the place of rites of passage within our culture, within the church, and within the family? How can the celebration of such rites empower adolescents to transition more effectively into adulthood?





## Adult / Couple



Each season--spring, summer, winter, fall--we post more than fifty new faith-forming activities and articles. Here you will find links to all activities for Adult / Couple, current and past seasons alike.

### Caring Conversation

- [Asking Questions▶](#)
- [Christmas Decisions – Bah Humbug▶](#)
- [Couples & Politics▶](#)
- [Date Night Deck of Cards▶](#)
- [Don't Tell Me Don't▶](#)
- [End of Life▶](#)
- [Fair Labor at Home▶](#)
- [Faith and Depression▶](#)
- [Fighting Fair▶](#)
- [Give Up Complaining▶](#)
- [I Do, I Do, I Won't▶](#)
- [Life without a Partner▶](#)
- [Listening▶](#)
- [Lovemaking▶](#)
- [Ordinary to Extraordinary▶](#)
- [Personality Differences▶](#)
- [Surviving a Troubled Marriage▶](#)

[HOME](#)[OUR TEAM](#)[MILESTONES](#)[TAKING FAITH HOME](#)[OUTREACH](#)[COACHING](#)[STORE](#)[FAITH FORMATION IN ACTION](#)

## 75 Blessings for Life's Milestones

**For Everything a Season** written by The Nilsen Family has been a favorite resource for congregations since 1999 and been out of print in the last year.


Connect with us:

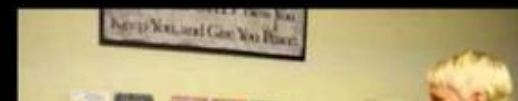


Sign Up for Enews

## Milestones in Action

Watch a video about Kristen Baltrum's Household Ministry Resource Room.

Bethlehem Lutheran Household Ministry Reso... 





## Currently 8 Adult Milestones:

Aging Parent  
Grandparents  
Retirement  
Return from Military  
Deployment  
New Job  
New Home  
Anniversary of Marriage  
Empty Nest





**Soon to be released...**

**Loss of a Loved One  
Joining a Faith Community  
Becoming a Parent  
Discovering Your Gifts**



# Modules




































































































### Desired Outcomes

- Teach children and families the biblical foundations of being a steward.
- Remind children and families of the source and giver of all our possessions.
- Help children and families use their resources wisely.

## + Bible Milestone: Placing Scripture in History

## Desired Outcomes

- Place Bibles into the hands and homes of children.
- Teach children and the adults in their lives how to use the Bible as a tool to nurture the Christian life and faith.
- Encourage children, parents/guardians and other caring adults to read and study the Bible regularly.
- Have a worship service that celebrates the giving of Bibles to children and the living of one's baptismal covenant by children and adults of all ages.
- Foster cross-generational faith formation in the home and the congregation.

**Evaluation Milestone:**  
s for the Journey

# 18 Milestones Modules:



FaithChest® Milestone: Passing on Faith

Baptism Milestone: The Beginning Point of Nurturing a Faith Life

Anniversary of Baptism Milestone: Remembering Our Way of Life

Prayer Milestone: Relationships with God and Family



Welcoming Young Children to Worship Milestone: An Intentional Invitation

Entering Sunday School Milestone: First Steps for a Young Child

Kids and Money Milestone: Good Stewards of God's Gifts

Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone: A Fall Milestone for All Ages

Communion Milestone: Learning More about the Lord's Supper





# 18 Milestones Modules continued:



Bible Milestone: Placing Scripture in Hands and Homes  
Bible Camp Milestone: Feeling God's Comfort in Outdoor Ministry  
My Body, God's Gift Milestone: Sexuality as God's Good Gift  
Middle School Milestone: Created in God's Image



Beginning Confirmation Milestone:  
Walking with Youth on Their Faith Journeys  
Confirmation Milestone: An Evening of Honor  
Driver's License Milestone: Driver's License as a Rite of Passage  
Mission Trip Milestone: Community Blessings at Home and Away  
High School Graduation Milestone: Equipping Graduates for the Journey

**Outreach** into the community is a major gift of Milestones Ministry. These milestones are written with the larger community in mind. More and more, congregations are exploring ways to include non-members in Milestones Ministry opportunities. It is a lifelong faith formation ministry that can serve and bless other people besides congregational members.

### Blessing of the Backpacks

Driver's License

Middle School

and High School Graduation

along with Milestones Ministries

newest addition of Adult Milestones

such as Aging Parents, and

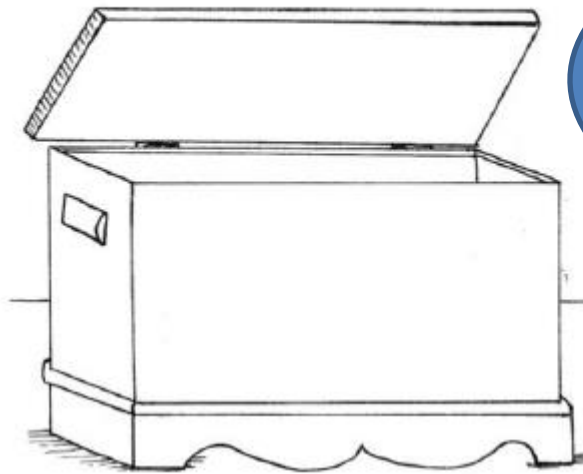
Deployment are all good examples of

milestones that can be celebrated as a

community event where friends and

neighbors are invited.





Think of the  
milestones in  
your life...

**If this were your FaithChest, draw what  
you would put in it to remember your  
faith journey.**

**How will you use what you place in the chest to  
pass on faith to others?**



[www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

How realistic is it that we can equip homes for faith formation and spiritual growth?





# Debbie's 3 Tips for Leadership

Be Intentional



Set Expectations



Plan for  
Accountability

## Essential Settings:

- Home
- Congregation
- Digital



## The Goal:

- Lifelong Faith Formation
- Relationships over Programs
- Be Strategic for the World, not the Congregation

# How will you.....?

Be Intentional



Set Expectations



Plan for  
Accountability

Reflect on what it means to :  
**Be teaching the language of faith in our families.**  
**Be a Christian faith role model for others.**  
**In whose life have you and can we make a difference?**

En"theo"asm

*It begins with us!*

# Questions?

