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Faith Story Spotlight January 2018

At Milestones Ministry we believe that "Home is Church, too!"



Glossary of Milestones Ministry Resources

The resources at Milestones Ministry continue to grow.

Here is a brief description of each:

Taking Faith Home:

This is an annual resource that provides a different bulletin insert each week during the church year. This enables individuals and families to bring the Christian faith into the home and daily life by experiencing the Word of God through the Four Key Faith Practices that are also used in Milestones Ministry modules and Moments. Using Taking Faith Home with Milestones will help strengthen a congregation's lifelong faith formation ministry. Click here.

Meet Pastor Lynne Ogren Zion Lutheran Church Lewistown, MT



Milestones Ministry Resources Used:

Milestones Ministry Coaching, Books: From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith and Vibrant Faith in the Congregation, Taking Faith Home, Frogs Without Legs Lent, Four Key Faith Practices, and Five Principles

Pastor Ogren tells us that her hope is that these resources are used in the congregation and the home.

Pastor Ogren describes the impact and changes made in her congregation during and after coaching sessions with Milestone Ministry Co-Director, the Rev. Dr. David W. Anderson:

Last fall our congregation decided we were ready to add another weekly worship service, and rather than add another Sunday morning service we decided to start a Wednesday evening service with an abbreviated liturgy and a more casual style. To keep with that, I wanted to

Taking Faith Home Cards:

The Taking Faith Home Cards are designed to allow individuals and families to nurture their faith at any time and place! Each card contains a variety of faith-building activities, allowing one to pick and choose what is most beneficial in your current setting. Click here for more info.

Milestone Modules: Each module includes a Four Key Faith Practices outline for three different settings: Cross+Generational, Home, and a Follow-Up. Also included are tips for leaders, an appendix with additional suggestions, and a Worship Blessing, and an appendix that includes ideas for outreach.

- Child and Youth: There are 18 that can be purchased individually or together in a manual. Click here to see the titles.
- Adult: There are 12 that can be purchased individually or together in a manual. Click here to see the titles.

Milestone Moments for the Home: There are 20 at this time and we add new ones regularly. These guides are a two-page design that can be used in a small group setting or the home. Click here to see the titles.

Gifting Stones: If you choose to use a stone as a visual reminder of the Milestone, a stone for gifting has been designed by our potter and artist, Dawn Deines-Christensen for each Milestone module. Other gifting suggestions are also given in each module appendix. Click here for more information about the Gifting Stones.

Join us in conversations on our Facebook Group page. This is a closed



group where we welcome questions and thoughtful conversations and host the occasional live Facebook party. It is a great place to learn more about our ministry as we post updates and stories regularly and offer free downloads from time to time.

Click here to join the group.

preach differently than my well-planned, fully-writtenmanuscript, Sunday morning style.

I happened upon a Facebook conversation between David Anderson and Dave Ellingson in which they talked about the joys and benefits of a "dialogue" style of preaching. That sounded like what I was looking for so I contacted David Anderson and we began a 3-month coaching relationship just before our Wednesday service began. What started out as a focus on preaching turned into a broader understanding of the Milestones Ministry faith frame, the Four Keys, and the Five Principles. We started including the Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts in both our Sunday and Wednesday worship folders. We have begun using the Four Key format in our council meetings, confirmation lessons, and most recently in an inquirers class.

One of the beautiful surprises from this time has been the intentional spiritual care I have been able to provide for our church leaders. I met weekly with our leaders of the children, youth, and family ministries to read through From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith, but this time gave birth to sharing both personal and ministry joys and concerns and to hold one another in prayer. Following David's suggestion, I have also started meeting with one council member each month. The motivation is to help that person prepare to lead the devotion at the upcoming council meeting using caring conversation, devotion, and blessing. But this time together also allows me to provide spiritual care with each person when there is not a crisis. I look forward to these blessed conversations each month.

We are still learning the language of cross+generational faith formation, the four keys and the five principles. Our council has agreed to read Vibrant Faith in the Congregation and I hope that we will also host a Milestones Ministry presenter for a weekend. The teaching and guidance of Milestones Ministry is providing a direction that reaches through and beyond the life and ministry of our congregation and its members. I am excited to see how lives will be changed and blessed in the coming years!



Zion Lutheran Church's website can be found here:

http://zionlewistownelca.com/

"Grow the church by growing people in faith."



Visit our website: <u>www.milestonesministry.org</u> and like us on <u>Facebook</u> page and join us for conversations on our <u>Facebook group page</u>.

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The Milestones Ministry Mission is to provide congregations and households with resources and coaching services to nurture the Christian faith and reach out to others with the love of God in Christ.

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