

ALO A

Webinar
April 25, 2019

Life-Long Discipleship

Host Mark Shoepf, Executive Director of ALOA, interviews
Debbie Streicher, Co-Director of Milestones Ministry



My faith journey
began here



*“Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come.”*

Psalm 71:18-19



We will come back to this
in a few minutes.
Please take the polls and post
your answers/questions in the
Q & A box.
Thank you!

- Are you familiar with Milestones (Stepping Stones)?
- Do you use them in your congregation?
- If so, what ones have you experienced?

If you have questions, please use the Q & A box and we will answer them as soon as possible.



What is your definition of a milestone?

A milestone is one of a series of numbered markers placed along a road or boundary at intervals of one mile or occasionally, parts of a mile. Mileage is the distance along the road from a fixed commencement point.



What is your definition of a faith connected 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.



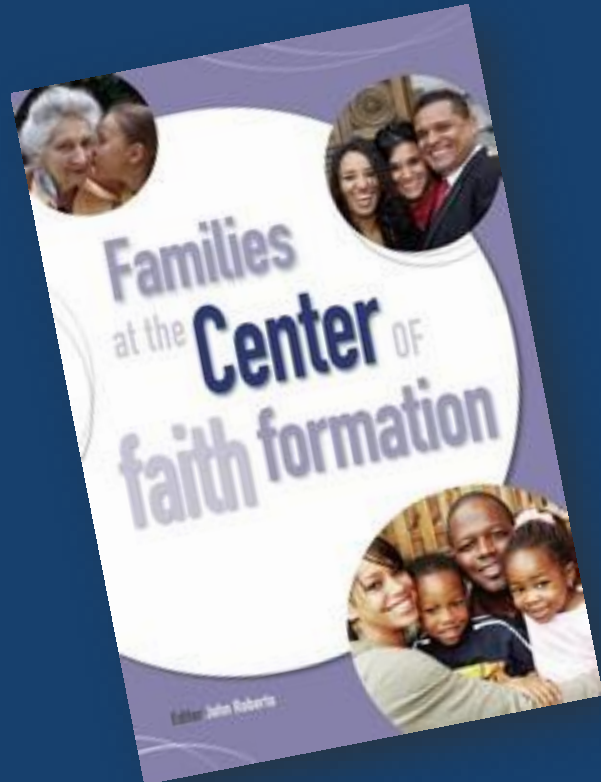
What does it mean to form faith through milestones?

Connecting the meaningful, memorable moments in our lives to God's presence in those moments.



Adding scripture, prayer, and a blessing makes this a faith formation moment and becomes part of our faith journey.





“A milestone is an action or event marking a significant change or stage in development. These life and faith markers can provide important times for engaging families when they are most open to change and growth.”
- John Roberto

Milestones celebrated in the congregation

- Baptism
- Communion
- First Bible
- Entering Sunday School
- Confirmation
- Graduation
- Marriage



What milestones do we recognize in our homes and in everyday living?

- Caring for an Aging Parent
- New Home
- Family Reunion
- Loss of a Pet
- Becoming a Grandparent
- Birthdays
- Retirement





What are
your
answers?

- Are you familiar with Milestones (Stepping Stones)?
- Do you use them in your congregation?
- If so, what ones have you experienced?

Where do we start?

Name it!

1. Name it

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

2. Equip it

Provide support, modeling, and resources to help people **Opportunity!** one in life as an opportunity to again embrace the grace of God in Christ

3. Bless it

Offer 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

Provide 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 experience. Encourage and support faith practices used and, when helpful, explore new ones.

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

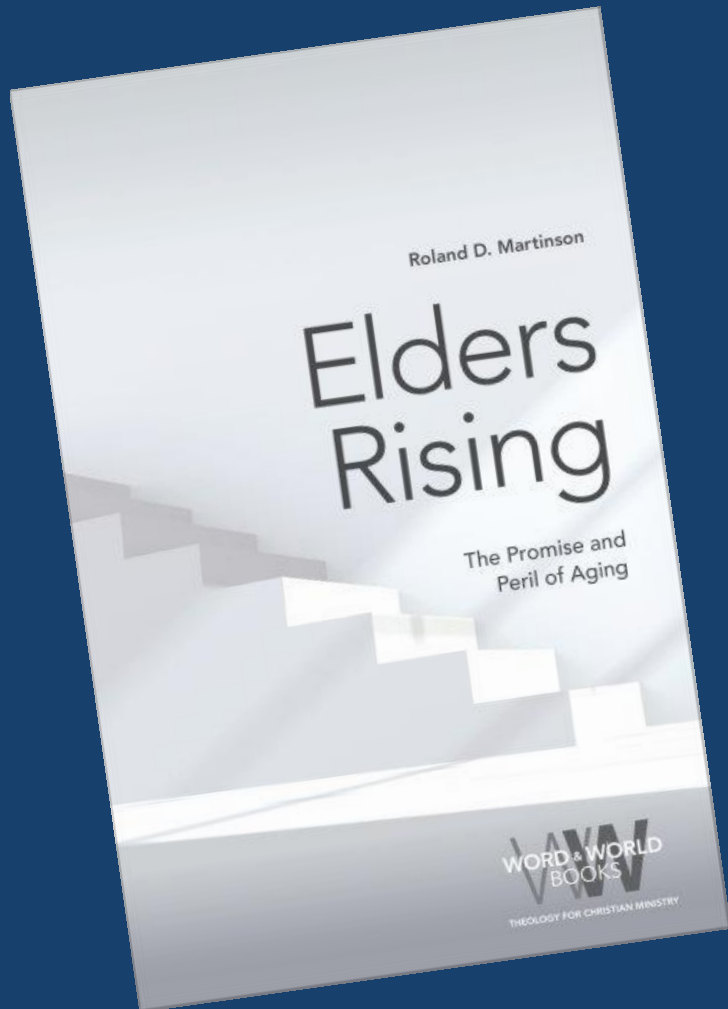
An important
ingredient...establish
faith practices!

Four Key Faith Practices

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

FAITH5

1. Share
2. Read
3. Talk
4. Pray
5. Bless



“For seniors, faith is a prime factor in their identity, and their faith practices are sources of meaning and hope.”
– Roland D. Martinson



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

– Pearl Buck



Aging Parent Milestone: Affirming Primary Care Givers

Desired Outcomes

- Reaffirm changes and new living situations.
- Share stories from the past to affirm the caregiver's choice to care for an aging parent.
- Understand how faith can be shared in the home.
- Equip caregivers with a ritual/tradition as familiarity and consistency can be an important tool to reconnect with an aging parent.
- Encourage the caregiver with a community of faith to graciously accept help for a much needed break from time-to-time.



“The spiritual eyesight improves as the physical eyesight declines.”
 – Plato



Aging Parent Milestone

It's not an easy stage, but to recognize this eventual milestone in the lives of parents and children is important. You have an aging parent who needs daily care and can no longer live independently. What will you do? What are your responsibilities? These are two questions that are typically not answered until the circumstances confront the family.

Whether you choose to move your parent(s) to a long-term care residence or provide a space and setting in your own home, you will need a support system. The earlier you recognize this and embrace it, the healthier the transition will be for both you and your parent(s).

This transition can be very difficult and painful. Sometimes, we just can't quite wrap our minds around the fact our parent is no longer the same person who raised us, and what we want is an easy solution. The reality is there are no easy solutions, but support, care, and resources for parent and adult child are available.

Even when a parent is placed in a residence, the grueling drive to and fro and balancing how a parent is or isn't being treated by staff can be stressful. Whether a parent is in your home or not, visits, care, and concern consume many hours in a day.

This Aging Parent Milestone incorporates a simple structure that includes:

Naming – It is important to recognize the need to care for an aging parent as a significant, life-changing time in the lives of both the parent and the child.

Equipping – This milestone encourages caregivers to gather with others to talk about how their lives are changing and provides the resources to address the changes with faith, hope, and love.

Blessing – Praying for the adult child as caregiver and inviting them to bless their parent in the home or care facility is a great way to take faith home.

Gifting – Giving a tangible gift like a prayer shawl, stone, holding cross, or writing a special message on the inside cover of a Bible are good ways to help participants be reminded of this milestone in daily life.

Reinforcing – It is a good idea to follow up after the Aging Parent Milestone event by connecting this group one more time to share stories, provide support and stay connected. The Aging Parent Milestone Follow-Up is on page 7.

Four Keys for Practicing Faith

- Caring Conversations
- Devotions
- Service
- Rituals and Traditions



+ A Cross+Generational Event

Begin the session with welcoming everyone and thanking them for understanding the importance of this milestone. Take time to outline this event and remind them of the date and time for the follow up gathering that is also part of the Aging Parent Milestone.

Preparation:

- Provide a light snack and servers for set up and clean up
- Tables and chairs for no more than six-to-eight people per table
- Cut and paste the Four Keys for Practicing Faith Outline below on an 11 x 17 sheet of paper to use as a placemat, or as a hand-out, or on cardstock folded as a tent on the table.

Four Keys for Practicing Faith Outline:



Caring Conversations

Gather around tables to complete these sentences:

1. One thing I remember doing with my grandmother/grandfather is...
2. Someplace I've always wanted to go with my mother/father is...
3. When I'm riding in the car with my family or friends, I like to...



Devotions

Read Scripture: Proverbs 22:6 (CEV)

"Teach your children right from wrong, and when they are grown, they will still do right."

After reading the Scripture, finish these sentences:

1. I think one of the best things my mother/father taught me is...
2. Something I find myself doing/saying that my father/mother role modeled is...
3. When I fill in the blank, I always think about my mother/father.



Service

At the tables, talk about some ways that the community can respond to the needs of the elderly. What organizations help locally? What type of help is needed to give caregivers a break? List organizations and people who can provide some "time off" for caregivers.



Rituals and Traditions

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this opportunity to gather and share stories with one another as we learn more about our family and friends. We ask that you help (names) remember you are with us always and that we are never alone. Help us not to stray from the love you have given us and the love you show us every day. In your precious name, amen.

Bless one another before dismissing: *"May God bless you with wisdom to choose what is right."* (See 2 Thessalonians 2:17.)

Worship and Blessing

Choose a time during a worship service to invite those who participated in the Aging Parent Milestone to come forward for a blessing.

(Prayer Shawls or other gift selected as a memory of this milestone can be in a basket near the altar. Invite caregivers forward.)

Leader: At this time, we invite forward those who participated in the Aging Parent Milestone. We encourage them and all of us to continue the faith practice of caring conversations, devotions and service to build rituals and traditions in all our homes as a way of life. Today, we celebrate the milestone of a time in our lives when we, as adult children, become caregivers for our parents. We come together as one community of faith to affirm and recognize this time in the lives of these families.

The daughters and sons that we see in front of us have been experiencing a change in their lives. They have spent time together recently to share stories and memories about their childhood. They are primary caregivers for their parents now. We lift them up at this time and ask for your support in their lives.

Congregation, we ask for your continued support for these families through your actions and prayer. Will you support these families through actions and prayers? If so, please answer, "We will and we ask the Lord to bless you in the role of caregiver."

Congregation: We will and we ask the Lord to bless you in the role of caregiver.

Leader and Caregivers place hands on the shawls/gift.

Leader: Lord, we ask that these (prayer shawls) be blessed and ask that you surround those who use them with your love and care. May they be used to honor your name through prayer and blessings. In Jesus' name, Amen.

+ Milestone Event for Small Groups or Home

There are times when celebrating a milestone can be done in a small group setting, or more intimately, in homes. Take time to enjoy a meal or dessert together and to invite conversation with the following outline. You may also wish to use portions of the Cross+Generational Event, found in this Aging Parent Milestone, in the small group/home setting .



Caring Conversations

Begin with conversation:

- Take time to have a brief conversation about the daily routines of your aging parent. What observations have you made that are different from a few years ago.
- Share a memory from years past that makes you laugh.
- Spend time refreshing memories about recent activities with photos or videos with the aging person, if they are available.



Devotions

Read Scripture: Proverbs 6:20-23 (CEV)

Obey the teaching of your parents—always keep it in mind and never forget it. Their teaching will guide you when you walk, protect you when you sleep, and talk to you when you are awake. The Law of the Lord is a lamp, and its teachings shine brightly. Correction and self-control will lead you through life

Take some time to reflect on the Scripture. What comes to mind about your relationship with your parents over the years?



Service

A change of scenery or a different activity can add joy and light to an aging person's day. Think of ways, as a caregiver, you can enjoy an activity together with an aging parent, such as going for a car ride, bringing them for a spin in a wheelchair at the local store, or taking a slow, steady stroll/wheelchair ride down the street. Or, to have a much-needed break from caregiving, can you ask a friend or other family member to do one of these for you?



Rituals and Traditions

Pray together:

Lord, we are so grateful for the precious time we have with our loved ones. We ask that you bless each day we spend together with patience, love, and understanding. Help us to keep your words in our hearts and minds throughout the day and through the night. We ask this in your name, amen.

Bless one another: *"May the Lord's teachings shine brightly in your life."*

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:

Build rituals and traditions in the home by gathering around a:

4 Key Faith Practices Mat



Place a candle in the center, or

Place a blessing bowl in the center



And add a stone to the bowl as a reminder of this Milestone and to encourage caring conversations



+ Aging Parent Milestone Follow-Up

Encouraging a time to check-in



Leadership Tip

An important step after role modeling the Four Keys in a cross+generational or small group setting is to bless and equip caregivers and their families to continue practicing faith by using the Four Keys in their homes.

The Follow-Up for the Aging Parent Milestone is an important one to affirm they are not alone. Bring caregivers and others back together for a follow up time of caring conversation about their lives.

Continue building relationships and facilitating the Four Keys as an intentional step to encourage faith traditions in the congregation and at home.



Serve a meal or dessert to encourage fellowship and conversation. Begin your time together by telling those present you are thankful they have taken the time to meet again to provide support and prayer for caregivers. Remind caregivers they are not alone.



Caring Conversations

In small groups, revisit some of the things discussed during the Cross+Generational Event and then answer these questions:

- How has the relationship between you and your parent changed over the years?
- How has your life changed since your parent no longer lives independently?
- What types of conversations have you had with your parent? If they cannot converse, how can you share a memory?



Devotions

Read Proverbs 20:29 (CEV)

"Young people take pride in their strength, but the gray hairs of wisdom are even more beautiful."

Take some time to talk about how this Scripture reading relates to what you have discovered while caring for an aging parent. If not caring for an aging parent at this time, choose a word that jumps out at you and reflect on it.



Service

- Are there opportunities for those in the congregation to take time to visit with or take time to read a story to an aging parent?
- Is pastoral care being provided for the caregiver and the parent?
- Discuss how you can address the needs of the caregiver.



Rituals and Traditions

Close by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Bless one another: *"May the Lord bless you to see beauty and wisdom in gray hairs and see God's beauty."*

Examples of Forming Faith Through Milestones



Congregation, Community, Home, and Digital World

Congregation Example



First Lutheran, Minot, ND



I am the resurrection and the life.
— Jesus

Easter Egg Blessing Milestone Moment

Milestones Ministry brings an awareness of the presence of God to individuals of all generations by recognizing the home as church, too. A Milestone Moment brings family and friends together to mark a special time in their lives and to acknowledge and affirm God's presence in their midst. Milestone Moments provide a model for connecting significant occasions in people's lives with the ongoing journey of faith.

Historically, eggs have been associated with new life, rebirth, and springtime. Many ancient cultures used eggs in their religious ceremonies. It was not long before the Christian church took up the tradition of decorating and giving eggs as gifts as part of the springtime festival of Easter to celebrate the resurrection. Decorating Easter eggs and hiding them for an Easter egg hunt has been a fun tradition for many a family gathering. Having an Easter egg hunt at one's home or at a community park can be a simple and effective way of celebrating the message of Christ's resurrection with family, friends, and neighbors. A congregation can also use the Easter egg hunt as an outreach tool for the surrounding community.

Milestones Ministry uses a simple five stage structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestone Moment will have a greater chance to take deeper root in one's lifelong faith formation.

Moments that cause us to pause and shift gears like the celebration of the resurrection and the beginning of a season in the church year happen once a year. Provide opportunities to take a breath and find God's presence; these moments are important. This Easter Egg Blessing Milestone Moment incorporates the five stage structure.

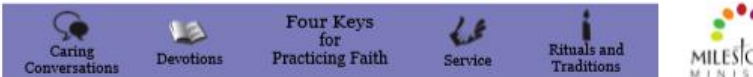
Naming – It is important to recognize a time of color eggs for Easter and the traditions we have of using egg baskets and for hunts. This can play a role in passing from one generation to the next.

Equipping – This Milestone Moment encourages conversations that connect our faith while participating in the tradition of coloring eggs for Easter and having an awareness of its history in the Christian church.

Blessing – Blessing the eggs and the Easter egg hunt reminds us of the joy of the resurrection and our new Christ.

Gifting – Giving a tangible gift like a plastic egg with a special message, Bible verse, or gift inside is a good way to be reminded of this milestone every year during Easter.

Reinforcing – It is a good idea to follow up after the Blessing of the Easter Egg Milestone Moment by gathering a few weeks after Easter Sunday to talk about how the Easter egg hunt and coloring eggs enriched relationships, combining playfulness, celebration of the resurrection, and fellowship time.



+ Easter Egg Blessing Milestone Moment

For a Small Group or Family Gathering

+
Grow the Church by Growing People in Faith

A follow up for the Blessing of Easter Egg Milestone Moment can be done with caring conversations about Easter egg hunts and gatherings with family and friends during the Easter season. Gather together with family and friends for a follow up time to pray and reflect upon God's presence in the age long tradition of using colored eggs for Easter.

An important step after experiencing the Four Keys for practicing faith in the small groups or home setting is to bless and equip friends and families to continue practicing faith by using the Four Keys daily as an intentional step to encourage faith traditions in the home.

A suggested resource for continued caring conversations:

[Taking Faith Home FaithTalk® Cards](#)

Additional Milestones and Milestone Moments can be found at: www.milestonesministry.org



At the heart of equipping people for their lifelong faith formation are the Four Keys for practicing faith. These faith practices are central to every milestone and integrated into people's daily lives as well as the life of the local congregation. These four daily faith practices are simple, doable, and practical: Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions.

Faith in Jesus Christ is at the center of our lives. This includes in the midst of our conversations and texts with others. Gather around a meal or snack and use this Four Keys outline.

Caring Conversations

Process these thoughts and questions:

- What are some memories you have about coloring Easter eggs?
- Have you ever gone to an Easter egg hunt? Tell a story about that experience.
- How do Easter eggs remind you of the message of Easter?

Devotions

Read John 11:25-26 (CEV)

Jesus then said, "I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never really die. Do you believe this?"

- What question would you like to ask Jesus about the resurrection?
- Coloring Easter eggs is more than a fun activity. The eggs and the colors remind us of new life filled with joy in Christ. How do you experience the joy of the resurrection in your daily life?

Suggested Songs: *Jesus Loves Me* and *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Service

Schedule a time to color eggs together with family and friends. Fill plastic eggs with candy or other gifts. Deliver these eggs in baskets to those who are home bound or in nursing and assisted living homes. Take time to engage in caring conversations and prayer with those you visit.

Rituals and Traditions

Place an egg in each person's hand as you bless them with this prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of Easter eggs, a sign of new life and of Christ's resurrection. May the joy of Easter be a reminder of the joy we have in you now and always through Christ's death and resurrection. Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia.



Reverend Caroline Kelly



Faith St Ju



Giftng during the
Driver's License Milestone

Pictures of the Easter Egg Blessing Milestone Moment



Pastor Caroline tells the Easter story using
Resurrection Eggs before the egg hunt.



Caring Conversations took place while eggs
were colored. After blessing the eggs, parents
and grandparents delivered them to members
who are homebound.

Meet the Reve and her Faith at First Presbyte



Milestones Ministry Re

The Youth and Children
manuals and Milestone

Two stories about Milestones used recently:



or Caroline tells the Easter story using
urrection Eggs before the egg hunt.



Conversations took place while eggs
lored. After blessing the eggs, parents
ndparents delivered them to members
who are homebound.



Observing the Driver's License Milestone while
enjoying Dinner and Caring Conversations
at a local park with parents and youth who recently
received their driver's license.

Community Example



All Saint's Day



participating househo...
joys, and hopes. It is important to be re...
variety of experiences. This Milestone Moment offers a...
opportunity for family members to be excited about...
traveling side-by-side into the future with the...
encouragement that the Christian faith has brought and...
continues to bring to families.
Milestones incorporate a simple structure that includes...
naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that...
the Milestones Ministry Moment has a greater chance to...
take deeper root in lifelong faith formation.

Other milestones for...
Reinforcing...
Family Resu...
numbers, e...
page to stay...
and to help...

Four Keys
for
Practicing Faith

Caring Conversations Devotions

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Caring for Aging Parents and Spouses



Home Example

Retirement Milestone: A Major Life Transition

"Retirement is not a destination it is a journey"
— Richard L....

Desired Outcomes

- Mark and acknowledge retirement as an important rite of passage.
- Celebrate a person's contributions and work in daily life in his or her faith community.
- Name a person's gifts, skills and life experiences.
- Link God's story with the retiree's vocational story.
- Share the retiree's wisdom and faith with all generations.
- Surround retirees with resources and support to discern God's call to continue "on-retirement".

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MILESTONES MINISTRY

Once again Jesus spoke to the people. This time he said, "I am the light for the world! Follow me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life."

Christmas Tree Blessing Moment

Milestones Ministry provides a simple structure for the Christmas Tree Blessing Moment. This Christmas Tree Blessing Moment incorporates a simple structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestones Ministry Moment has a greater chance to take deeper root in lifelong faith formation.

As we shift gears like the Christmas tree and preparing for Christmas, changes come all too quickly. This Christmas Tree Blessing Moment incorporates a simple structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestones Ministry Moment has a greater chance to take deeper root in lifelong faith formation.

The season of Christmas is a time of hope and joy. The Christmas tree and its traditions are a visual reminder of the role of the tree in our homes. The Christmas tree was introduced in Germany in the 17th century. The evergreen was chosen and decorated with candles to represent God's creation and the gift of God's Son as the Light of the World. This tradition is continued today as we use evergreen trees, strings of lights, and ornaments to decorate the tree in our homes.

Milestones Ministry provides a simple structure for the Christmas Tree Blessing Moment. This Christmas Tree Blessing Moment incorporates a simple structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestones Ministry Moment has a greater chance to take deeper root in lifelong faith formation.



MILESTONES MINISTRY

Milestone Moment

Moments that cause us to pause and shift gears like a broken bone happen in our daily lives. Providing opportunities to find God's presence in these moments is important. This Broken Bone Milestone Moment incorporates a simple structure that includes:

Naming – It is important to recognize the changes that may take place in the lives of the one who has broken a bone and the lives of those who care for that person.

Equipping – This Milestone Moment encourages caring conversations that draw out thoughts and concerns about changes in our lives and includes God's presence amidst the healing.

Blessing – Praying for the one who has broken a bone and for those who will help and care for this person is a great way to witness faith in action in daily life.

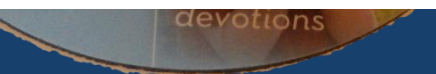
Gifting – Giving a tangible gift like get well notes, pictures or cards or writing a special message in a Bible are good ways to help participants be reminded of this milestone in daily life. Be creative! Gift something that perhaps will help the person while the cast is still on.

Reinforcing – It is a good idea to follow up after the Broken Bone Milestone Moment by gathering one more time after the cast has been removed to share stories about life with and without a cast on and give thanks for healing.

Four Keys for Practicing Faith

- Caring Conversations
- Devotions
- Service
- Rituals and Traditions

MILESTONES MINISTRY





Sue Van Oss
Director of Christian Formation



Faith Story Spotlight November 2016

- Milestone Modules
 - Child and Youth
 - Adult
- Milestone Moments for the Home
- Gifted Stones
- Taking Faith Home

Glossary of 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

At Milestones Ministry we are privileged to hear many faith stories from congregations and individuals who are engaged in using Milestones Ministry resources. Each month, we highlight one ministry.

Please let us know if you have a story to share.

Meet Sue Van Oss
Director of Christian Formation
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Duluth, MN



Sample Milestone Kits

Digital Example



Skype
Google Hang Out
Face Time


*“You are never too old to set a new goal
or dream a new dream.”*

C.S. Lewis





Milestones Ministry is a faith formation practice for both home and congregation that helps all generations recognize God's presence in everyday life.

Five Steps: 

Name it - identify meaningful, memorable moments

Equip it - provide faith practices

Bless it - offer a prayer and a blessing

Gift it - give a visual reminder

Reinforce it - follow up to firmly root faith



Take a moment to think of a milestone specifically related to someone over 60 in your own congregation or family.

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

Please add answers in the Q & A box.



AGING
AND
MINISTRY
IN THE 21ST CENTURY

AN INQUIRY APPROACH

RICHARD H. GENTZLER, JR.

While the popular perception is that the aged are needy and infirm, Gentzler affirms the majority of older adults have plenty to give. The church needs to tap into their wisdom, energy, experience, and talents. Gentzler stresses that older adult ministries need to be by and with elders as well as for them, since participants will represent all stages of retirement and activity levels.

He also recommends that churches pay special attention to the needs of the Boomer generation, since they are now becoming the older adults who will determine the church's path for years to come.

What happens between milestones?

What faith practices?

Download
a sample...

MAY 5, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER



God speaks to us through others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 9:1-20	Conversion of Saul
Tuesday	Revelation 5:11-14	Heavenly vision
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-15	Abraham and Sarah promised a son
Thursday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Friday	Revelation 4:1-11	Heavenly worship
Saturday	Psalms 30	God turns mourning into dancing
Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." **Acts 9:17 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
God of power and glory, help us to hear your message of life from brothers and sisters in Christ. Help us to be that voice of faith and love to others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Lord Jesus, just as you gave the disciples the fish and the bread, we ask for your blessing on the food that we are fed. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God turn your mourning into dancing and your sadness into shouts of joy. (Psalm 30:11)



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MAY 5, 2019
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*Let Us Talents and
Tongues Employ*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about an extraordinary moment you have experienced or have seen happen.
- Talk or think about a time you had a special sense of God's presence in your life.
- The Bible emphasizes faith lived out in a community. How is life in a community important to your Christian faith?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 9:1-20.

Few of us have the experience of Saul who would become the Apostle Paul. On the road to Damascus a flash of light blinds him and he hears Jesus speaking. But even for Saul, his dramatic experience does not stand alone. Ananias soon greets Saul as "Brother" in the home of Judas (not Iscariot) and speaks Jesus' message to Saul. Saul's experience is confirmed by the voice and message of others. He receives the Holy Spirit and is baptized in the same faith as all other Christians. Saul is guided on his way and soon is proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God. In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks of himself as the "Good Shepherd" (10:11). In John 21, Jesus now extends that shepherding ministry to Peter. Peter had denied his discipleship in John 18:15-27. Now his discipleship is reclaimed as he follows Jesus' lead to serve as another good and loving shepherd. The Christian faith is like that: cared for and shepherded by people like Judas, Ananias, Peter, Paul, and countless other followers of Jesus. How have you shepherded others? How have others shepherded you?

Pray: Nurturing God, thank you for caring for us through others. In Jesus' name, amen.

SERVICE

Easter has a rich heritage of giving and sharing good will. God gave us his only Son, Jesus, who gave up his life for us. God's love for us in Christ is truly an unconditional gift. Giving money to the homeless in the streets, taking time to visit someone in a nursing home or one who is homebound, and giving clothes to those in need are some examples of how we can give to others. What act of unconditional love will you do this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During Jesus' time, fish were part of daily meals. Fish and fishermen are mentioned many times in the four gospels, including fishermen who became disciples. The fish became a symbol and secret password for the early Christians. This symbol is still regarded as a traditional Christian sign and can be seen on window decals, bumper stickers, t-shirts, and elsewhere. This week draw a fish shape, cut it out, and place it in a visible place in your home as a reminder that you are a follower of Jesus.




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

How will you form
faith through
milestones?





Milestones Ministry is a faith formation practice for both home and congregation that helps all generations recognize God's presence in everyday life.

Five Steps: 

Name it - identify meaningful, memorable moments

Equip it - provide faith practices

Bless it - offer a prayer and a blessing

Gift it - give a visual reminder

Reinforce it - follow up to firmly root faith



Take a moment to think of a milestone specifically related to someone over 60 in your own congregation or family.

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

Your answers?

*“Do not say, “Why were the former days
better than these?”
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.”*

Ecclesiastes 7:10



Debbie's Leadership Tips

Be Intentional



Set Expectations



Plan for
Accountability

Five Principles of faith formation

- Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships - often in our own homes.
- The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.
- Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too!
- Faith is caught more than it is taught.
- If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults who practice the faith with them.

- Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships - often in our own homes.

When conversations, prayers, and blessings bring a family and friends together, faith is formed by the Holy Spirit. Providing opportunities for this to happen is important. We need to be intentional.

- The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.

We are fortunate if adults spend two to three hours a week in the congregation, but this doesn't compare to the amount of time spent in the home. There needs to be a vital connection.

- Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too!

Placing tools in the hands of adults and helping them learn to “speak the faith” at home opens the opportunity for the wisdom of the elder to connect with the younger generations.

- Faith is caught more than it is taught.

We seldom consider how faith is really “caught”. It means *to get and hold something*. Often times I think we assume everyone speaks our language. The more we role model and provide opportunities to practice our faith, the better chance we will have to get it and hold on.

- If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults who practice the faith with them.

If we want adults who practice their faith, we need to start paying attention and begin building relationships and empowering all the ages, not add one more program.



Intergenerational Resources

- Family Reunion
- Becoming a Grandparent

Existing Milestones

Health and Wellness Resources

- Loss of a Loved One
- Medicare Card

Independence to Dependence / Interdependence Resources

- Transition to Assisted Living
- Getting a Driver's License
- Empty Nest

CareShare Resources

- Aging Parent
- Broken Bone

End of Life Resources

- End of Life

What ones would be good in your setting?



ALOA



Celebrate

Recognize and celebrate Milestone moments in the lives of all ages in both same age and intergenerational settings (home, congregation, community)

Equip

Place tools in hands that are simple that provide opportunities for caring conversations and faith talk through scripture reading, prayer, and blessing.

Serve

Name and identify outcomes of service through building trusting relationships and strengthening spiritual growth with a goal to serve others through actions and words. (time, talent, treasure)



Through
the lens of
ALOA



[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [MILESTONES](#) [TAKING FAITH HOME](#) [BOOKS](#) [COACHING](#) [FAITH STORIES](#) [TOOLBOX](#) [STORE](#)

*Recognizing
God's presence
in everyday
moments*



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*Addressing Loneliness and
Fatigue in Ministry*

Coaching congregational staff and interviewing congregational leaders is eye opening. A recent conversation with a very capable and nurturing pastor

*What Makes Milestones
Ministry Work?*

Every congregation does milestones ministry. Baptism, confirmation, weddings, and funerals are all prime examples of life-changing and faith-

*Taking Faith Home 2018-
2019 Year Cycle C*

[Year Cycle C CD](#)

[Partial Year Download](#)

A few
resources

www.milestoneministry.org

dstreicher@milestonesministry.org

Milestones Ministry:
Grow the Church by
Growing People in
Faith

🔒 Closed group

About

Discussion

Chats

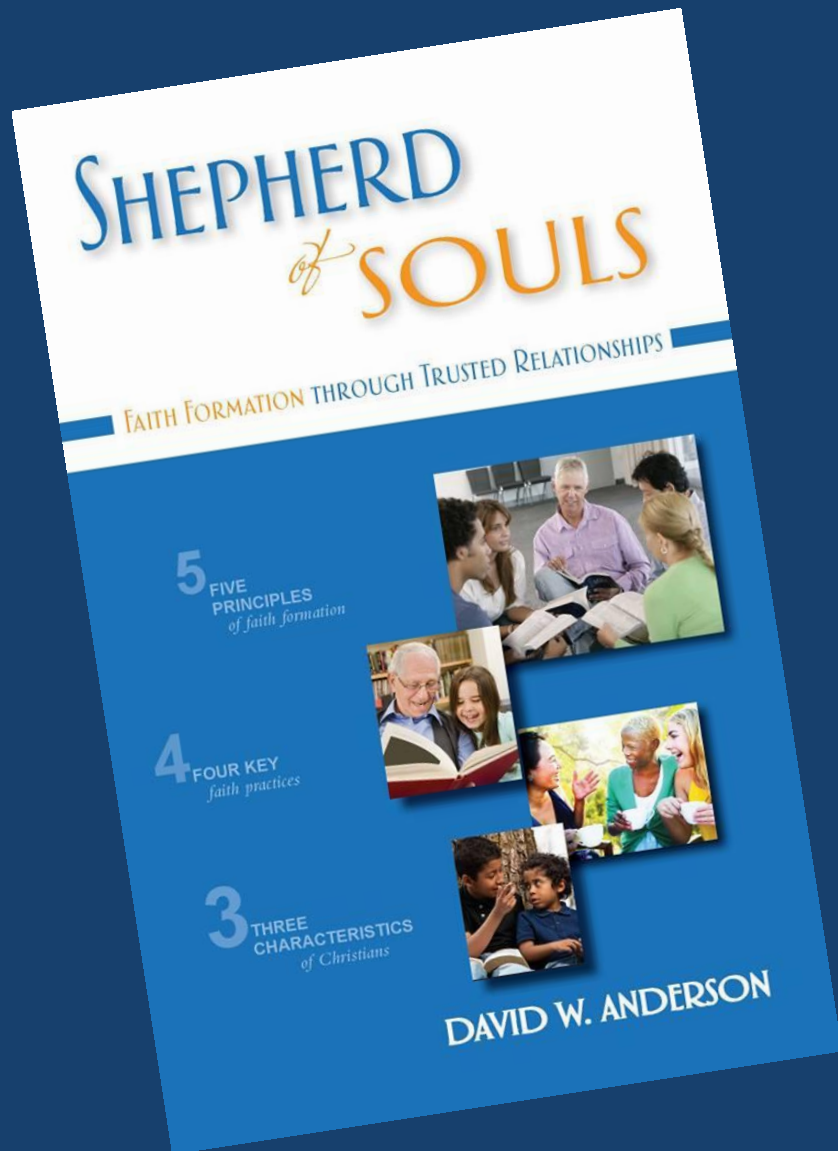
Members

Events

Videos

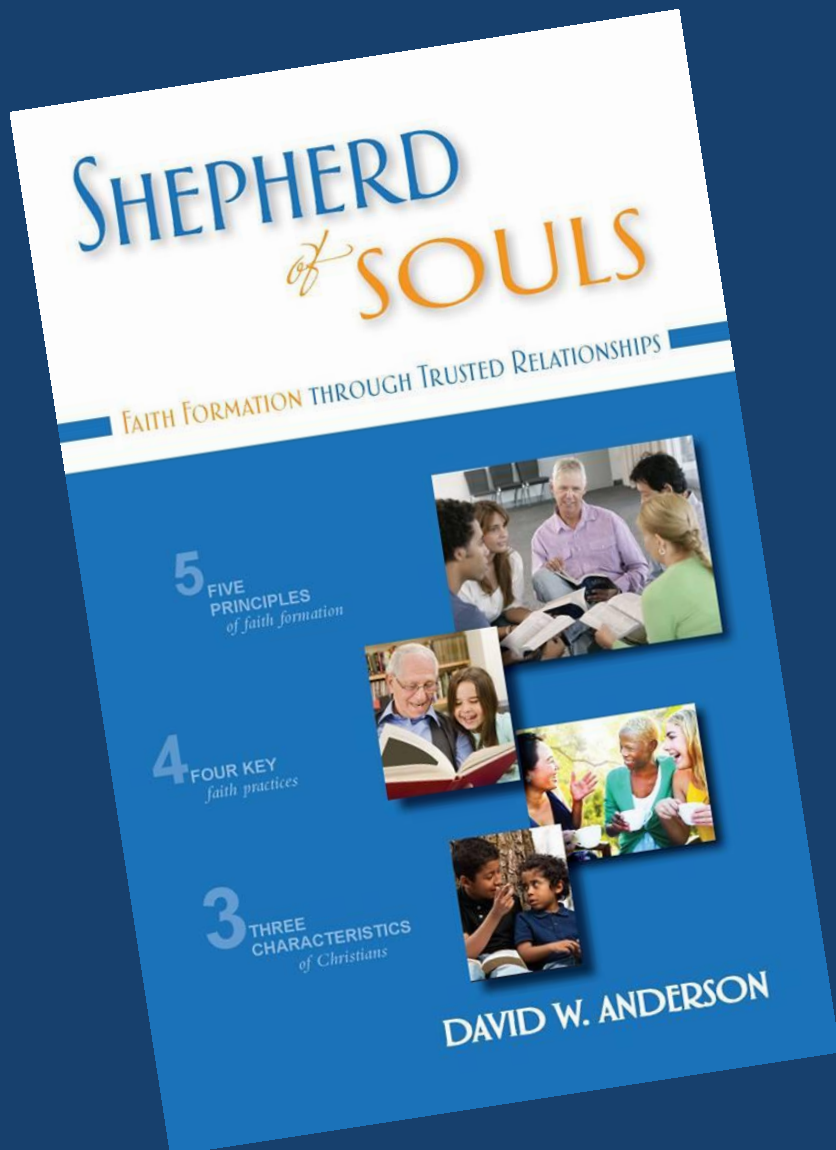


Facebook Group Page



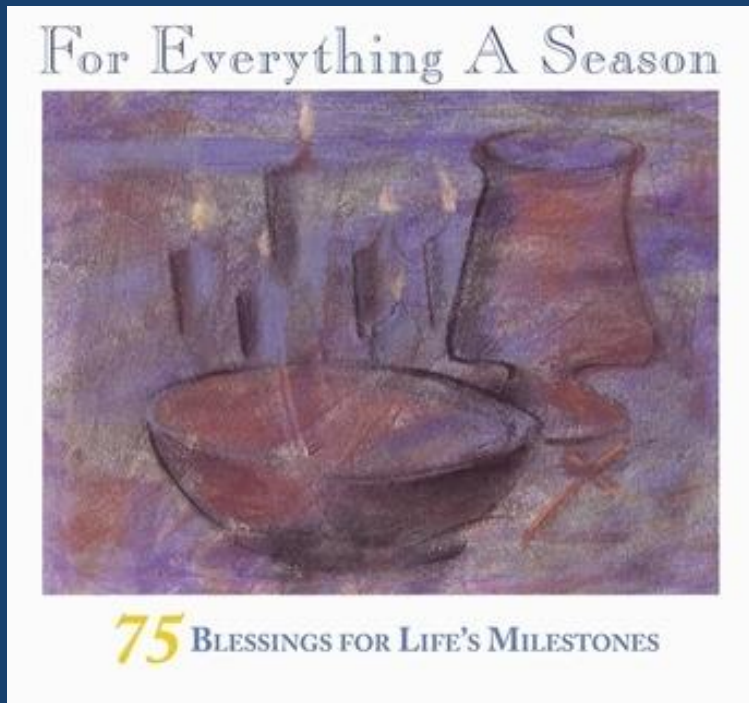
“Shepherding souls is the personal care of others through caring conversations, faith-filled reflections, and prayerful engagements.”

- David W. Anderson



“Everyone has a role to play in the support of others in the life of faith. As Ephesians 4:11-16 points out, Christ gave a variety of gifts to build up the church. Building up the body of Christ requires endless shepherding, a commitment to the ongoing wellbeing of the community of faith and to the individual members of it ”

- David W. Anderson



By the Nilsen Family

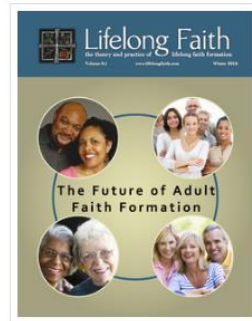
Each ritual has a welcome, prayer, time for reflection, suggested ritual action such as lighting a candle or passing a blessing cup, and a closing blessing.

They can be done by families, other groups, or by someone alone. These accessible blessings help to transform ordinary moments in time and space into holy moments of timeless grace.

Lifelong Faith Journals

JOIN THE LIFELONG FAITH MAILING LIST

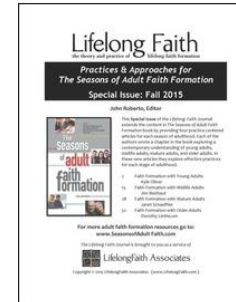
Fall 2015 & Winter 2016 Special Issues on Adult Faith Formation



Download your copy!

At the 2015 Adult Faith Formation Symposium participants were guided through a scenario planning process to create four scenarios for the future of adult faith formation in congregations and to design strategies for using the scenarios to design new initiatives and projects in adult faith formation. The Winter 2016 Journal issue - **A Guide to Envisioning the Future of Adult Faith Formation** - includes the summary report and adds documentation from the Symposium and additional strategy resources, including tools for facilitating an Adult Faith Formation Scenario Process in your faith community or denomination.

The Fall 2015 issue of the *Lifelong Faith* Journal extends the content in *The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation* book by providing four practice-centered articles for each season of adulthood. Each of the authors wrote a chapter in the book exploring a contemporary understanding of young adults, midlife adults,



Download your copy!

<http://www.lifelongfaith.com/journal.html>

Fall 2014 - Milestones Ministry, An Effective Model for Lifelong Faith

Spring-Summer 2015 - A Milestones Focus on Adults: Replacing Programs with Relationships

Winter 2015- Milestones as a Means to Empower and Equip Lives of Faith



A Milestones Focus on Adults: Replacing Programs with Relationships

Debbie Streicher

If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults.

In our urgency to “grow the church”, we look around and see an aging congregation and jump to the conclusion that by adding a staff person or a volunteer position to specifically work with youth, our problems are solved. Surely adding someone on staff to help with youth or finding a new program to address declining numbers will make a difference. Time and time again we are finding these are false assumptions. There is no magic pill. As leaders in the

Shepherding Souls and the Life of Faith

David W. Anderson

*Co-Director of Milestones Ministry, LLC
Ridgeley, West Virginia*

The original meaning of the word “pastor” is *shepherd*. A called and ordained pastor serves as a Christian leader in the role of shepherd. It is a concept that has been lost on many pastors in an age that promotes a rich variety of leadership roles for pastors to choose from: proclaimer, worship leader, visionary, mission leader, evangelist, executive administrator, community leader, and more. However, what if not only pastors but all Christians understood that it is foundational for them to shepherd others in faith, hope, and love as a way of life?

The Life of Faith Initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) articulates a vision that relates directly to what it means to shepherd souls, specifically the following points:

- We will learn to speak of “the expressions of the church” first as the people themselves . . .
- We will be able to speak as easily and concretely about the ministry by all the baptized in daily life as we currently do about the ministry that happens in and through congregations.
- The center of gravity for our living out “missional church” will shift from what we do as the church gathered to what we do as the church scattered.
- The understanding of “ministry” will grow from “what pastors do” and “what we do as the congregations” to include the love and service that is lived out in our everyday roles and relationships.
- We will become practiced at counting and reporting ministry in terms of the impact we are making in our homes, workplaces, schools, local communities, and around the world.

What if not only pastors but all Christians understood that it is foundational for them to shepherd others in faith, hope, and love as a way of life?

hood of all believers. All who are part of the church are called to attend to one another’s life of faith for the sake of the world that God so loves. As an “expression of the church,” people serve others with the love of God as shepherds. We listen, we bless, we pray, we teach, we sing, we comfort, and, yes, we even correct. Everything done “in word and deed” we do “in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Col 3:12–17).

Alongside all the labors of our hands in serving our neighbors, we also speak the faith out loud to others as the humble, attentive, and faithful life of the baptized. This, too, is part of the life of faith lived daily in the world. This listening, speaking, and attentiveness, this shepherding of one another, is central to the “missional church.” It is what we do in our everyday relationships in ways that pastors and congregational programs cannot fully address, because the pastors and programs are not present in the roles and relationships of daily life—but we, the priesthood of all believers are. It is what we do in our “homes, workplaces, schools, local

A Final
Thought...



Paul (mentor) to
Timothy (apprentice)
references Timothy's
mother and
grandmother as faith
role models.

*You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in
Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me
through many witnesses entrust to faithful people
who will be able to teach others as well.*

2 Timothy 2:1-2



Thanks for being with us.
Blessings in your
ministries!



ALO

Webinar
April 25, 2019

Milestones Ministry

Recognizing God's Presence in Everyday Moments

