



## **Lifelong Faith Formation Network Resources**

**SC Synod of the ELCA  
2016**

This resource is dedicated to helping leaders in Christian ministry develop lifelong faith formation for all ages and generations.

The content is organized into the “sections” of lifelong faith formation: **Catechumenate, Cross – Generational, Sunday School, Adult Education, Confirmation, Milestones, and Special Needs**. Several of the sections include specialists that you may contact for more information.

In addition, you will find other resources, such as devotionals, apps, websites, Facebook pages and groups, etc.

There are many ways that you can use this document as resource in your ministry: deepen your understanding of faith formation today; create vibrant faith formation for age groups, families, and all generations in your congregation; prepare and conduct courses and leadership training in faith formation; create faith formation programs and projects; and more.

# **Passing on the Faith**

**Catechumenate – Rev. Frank Honeycutt**



**Faith 5/Cross Generational – Rev. Mary Anderson**



Homegrown Faith: [www.homegrownfaith.net/resources/crossgenerational/](http://www.homegrownfaith.net/resources/crossgenerational/)

Homegrown Faith is about ministry and mission in the ever changing landscape for Christian education, faith formation and discipleship. A vision for HomeGrown Faith includes: creating a seamless journey for faith formation that connects each generation, age and stage of life; equipping households to speak the language of faith and the heart of faith – at home and away from home; knowing and treasuring, “like an old family recipe,” the faith stories of our ancestors as recorded in Holy Scriptures; becoming “living stones” – story tellers of God’s unfolding Story in my life and God’s Story in yours; engaging, equipping and empowering all generations for serving one another, like Jesus.

Faith Inkubators: [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com)

They strive to make the home the primary “incubator” of faith for disciples of all ages by replacing classroom models of education with parent-involved small group models. It is also their goal to spawn a home devotional movement across the church, called Faith 5.

Faith5: [www.faith5.org/](http://www.faith5.org/)

FAITH5™ (Faith Acts In The Home) is a simple, easy-to-implement faith practice, perfect for incorporating into your bedtime routine for five to fifteen minutes a night. When done over time, the FAITH5™ carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, aid sleep, and promote mental, physical and spiritual health. The five steps are:

- SHARE your highs and lows
- READ a Bible verse or story
- TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows
- PRAY for one another's highs and lows
- BLESS one another

Spirit and Truth Publishing: [www.spiritandtruthpublishing.com](http://www.spiritandtruthpublishing.com)

Make your worship service an interactive time of faith formation for all ages or bring together all ages for faith formation time! This curriculum follows the Narrative Lectionary. Perfect for cross generational education or a “one room” Sunday school!

Vibrant Faith: [www.vibrantfaith.org](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)

Their Intergenerational Faith Formation Session Plans are designed intentionally for multiple ages to share faith forming experiences together. These twenty-four complete intergenerational experience program plans utilize faith-forming activities to provide engaging, interactive, informative learning opportunities for all ages. Flexibly designed for use in large whole church gatherings, or easily adapted to smaller parent-child, or other intergenerational formats. Each session is seasonally based – Summer, Fall, Winter, or Spring – and comes in MS Word(.doc) format so that it is easily adapted to your setting.

Gen On Ministries: [www.genonministries.org/pages/intergenerational-ministry-all-about-intergenerational-ministry](http://www.genonministries.org/pages/intergenerational-ministry-all-about-intergenerational-ministry)

All God's Children: The Church Family Gathers - Designed to meet the needs for generations to learn and grow together, bridging the gaps in our church experience. The intergenerational gatherings in this resource are intended to allow all ages to eat together, play together, study God's word together, pray together and worship together. Each session of The Church Gathers includes Eating Together (with menu, table decorations and prayer), Playing Together (with choices of crafts, games, and other fun activities), Studying God's Word Together (with Bible study, message to share together and questions for conversation) and Praying Together (with litany, music, sharing what has been experienced, and a closing prayer).

## Confirmation Ministry – Rev. Michele Fisher



Head2Heart (Faith Inkubators): <http://www.faithink.com/Inkubators>

This requires a yearly subscription based on your AWA starting at \$100 a year. The materials includes PowerPoint presentations, music video. They also strongly recommend using their journals at the cost of \$13 per person. There are nine units. They use small group and large group interactions and they have incorporated the Faith Five model, which may be a bonus if you are using the Faith Five already.

Here We Stand: <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/16391/Here-We-Stand-Confirmation?c=249856>

Like H2H above, this is web based and requires a yearly subscription based on the number of confirmation students starting at \$65 a year. It is fully customizable, with weekly PowerPoint quizzes (my kids loved the quizzes), skits, ideas for speakers, suggestions for movies and music. They do require a student book at \$15 per person. They recommend the Here we Stand Bible (aka Lutheran Study Bible). But at \$25 each, I found that I could relay the same information from my own Bible or have one for the class to share. There are multiple logins for multiple teachers. If you use the planning calendar, the materials will be sent to the assigned teacher each week. There is a lot of background for those without seminary education. Program allows for two or three year cycle.

Re:Form: <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/262/re-form?c=249850>

This is a newer materials and little experience with it. It has 40 sessions and is question based. There are DVD videos and you can download digital copies of each lesson individually for about \$13. This allows you to sample it before committing to a full unit. The material includes an Anti-workbook at \$19 each. \$40 for the Leader's Guide with 40 sessions. \$60 for DVDs.

Re:Form Ancestors: <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9578/re-form-Ancestors-Old-Testament-Leader-Guide?c=249849>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/262/re-form?c=249850>

This is their Bible material and works the same way as the above. There are 2 units (Old and New Testament) with 15 lessons each. There are DVD videos and you can download digital copies of each lesson individually for about \$13. This allows you to sample it before committing to a full unit. \$25 for leader's guides and \$30 for DVDs. These use an Anti-Workbook at \$19 each.

Collaborate (new in 2015):

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/344/Colaborate?c=249856>

Because this is so new, I have little background on this program. It has 4 units of 15 sessions each. The units are about \$30 each with student books at \$8 each.

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Lutheran Living
- Lutheran History and Catechism

To Know, to Live, To Grow: <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/search?c=249856&sb=p&av000=535>

This program was developed in a congregation in MN around 2000. There are ten units of various lengths including service, faithful living, Bible, Small catechism. Geared towards grades 6-8. Leader guides are \$5.50 and student books are \$3.50.

Free To Be: <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5230/Free-to-Be-Student-Book?c=285662>

This classic is for older students (10<sup>th</sup> grade and up) and adults. It is basic Lutheran Theology written by Gerhardt Forde and James Nestingen. Great material but abstract. Leader's guide comes with discussion questions and unit quizzes. The student reader is \$11 and the teacher's guide is \$10.

Exploring Luther's Small Catechism:

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/184/Exploring-Luther-Small-Catechism>

These are short (4-6) week units on various topics such as church, Jesus, worship, Bible and Small Catechism. For ages 3- grade 6. This is great for longer and later programs or just introducing basic Lutheran theology and practice. Not a lot of crafts or games, very book oriented but a good teacher can make this work. Topics include worship, Jesus, My church, Bible and more.

This curriculum like **Free to Be** dates back to the 1980s, but is useful for introducing concepts. The student books are \$4 each and the leader's guides are available as a free download.

ECHO the Story: <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/263/Echo-the-Story?c=249850>

This curriculum comes as a 12 program or as a 36 week program. It provides an overview of the Bible and invites the youth to retell the stories in their own way. The cost for the twelve week program is \$10 for student book; \$25 for the leader's guide and \$40 for the DVD. The 36 unit program is broken down into 6 lessons each with the costs being \$15 for the leader's guide; \$7 for the student and \$23 for the DVDs.

## **Sunday School**



Workshop Rotation Ideas & Lesson Exchange: [www.rotation.org](http://www.rotation.org)

This is an online community of teachers, pastors, and Christian educators sharing Sunday School lessons and ideas. This is also the official website and organization for the Workshop Rotation Model (WoRM), - a creative way to organize and teach Sunday School. You are welcome to borrow from thousands of free, volunteer created, Rotation-style Sunday School lessons, ideas, and articles. You can also post your own great lessons and ideas.

Spirit and Truth Publishing: [www.spiritandtruthpublishing.com](http://www.spiritandtruthpublishing.com)

Living the Word: Teaching God's Story is a set of full-year Christian education materials for students of all ages! These materials teach students the Story of God's love in Scripture and, if your congregation is using the Narrative Lectionary, matches what students learn in their class or small group to what they hear in worship. Living the Word also facilitates better engagement with students in the worship service and furthers discussions of faith in the home!

Sparkhouse Publishing: [www.sparkhouse.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.sparkhouse.augsburgfortress.org)

Sparkhouse develops faith formation resources for children, youth, and adults. They strive to spark new life in Christian communities. Curriculum choices include: Colaborate, Spark: Activate Faith, Whirl, Holy Moly, Connect, re:form, Echo the Story, and Animate.



## Faith Milestones



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

Milestones offer an opportunity to bring God's presence into the home and connect the rituals of daily life with the life of the congregation, thus shaping a vital partnership between home and congregation. Most important, milestones ministry renews and transforms congregations by tending the baptismal journey through all the ages and stages of a life centered in Christ.

Sticky Faith: [www.stickyfaith.org/articles/milestones-of-faith](http://www.stickyfaith.org/articles/milestones-of-faith)

An article about creating rhythms through rites of passage.

Passing on the Faith - Milestone to Milestone by Linda Staats: [www.intergenerationalfaith.com](http://www.intergenerationalfaith.com)

Linda Staats describes how to use milestones as a powerful way to engage parishioners of all ages and stages of life in nurturing their faith and spiritual growth.

Faith Milestones as a Tool to Grow Relationships – Debbie Streicher:

[www.intergenerationalfaith.com](http://www.intergenerationalfaith.com)

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. These times in our lives bring us together in an intergenerational setting where memories are made.

Faith and Life Resources: [www.faithandliferesources.org/Curriculum/FaithMarkers](http://www.faithandliferesources.org/Curriculum/FaithMarkers)

The plan engages the whole congregation in celebrations of faith growth. While the Faith Markers focus on children or youth, they also help to shape and nurture the faith of all persons throughout life.

Legacy Milestones: [www.legacymilestones.com/ministryleaders](http://www.legacymilestones.com/ministryleaders)

Strategies that equip and resource the family for spiritual formation! It is our way to link church and family for intentional spiritual formation.



Faith Formation 2020: [www.faithformation2020.net/milestones.html](http://www.faithformation2020.net/milestones.html)

For strategies and ideas for "Milestones Faith Formation" read the section from Chapter 4 of Faith Formation 2020, pages 172-175. The chapter can be found online.

Faith Alive Resources: [www.faithaliveresources.org](http://www.faithaliveresources.org)

Celebrating the Milestones of Faith: A Guide for Churches

Learn how your church can intentionally identify and celebrate the faith milestones in the lives of children, youth, and adults.

Group Publishing: [www.group.com/family-ministry/family-faith-milestones](http://www.group.com/family-ministry/family-faith-milestones)

Family Faith Celebrations are events celebrating the spiritual growth of children—from birth through high school. These faith milestones, like mile markers on the road map of spiritual formation, are moments a child or teenager publicly marks his or her journey with God.

## **Adult Education - Andrew More, AiM**



Book of Faith: <http://www.bookoffaith.org/>

The Book of Faith Initiative strives to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world. The ELCA is committed to this five-year initiative encouraging members, congregations and synods to dig deeper into our book of faith — the Bible.

In order to delve deeper in the word, the Book of Faith Initiative recommends a four-fold method for reading the Bible: devotional, historical, literary and Lutheran theological reading.

Practice Discipleship: <http://www.elcayouthministrynetwork.wildapricot.org/pdproject>

Their goal is to provide training resources for congregations in their faith formation work with young people.

Seasons of Adult Faith: <http://www.reimaginefaithformation.com/>

The Reimagine Faith Formation resource center provides leaders with the vision, practices, approaches, design tools, and programming ideas to bring the new vision to life - to create a new faith forming

ecosystem and design 21st century faith formation for the whole community.

Bold Café: <http://www.boldcafe.org/>

*Café* is an on-line magazine for young adult women. It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of Christian faith or simply for any woman who is interested in how faith relates to the issues that women face today.

Readers and writers of *Café* include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use *Café* as a Bible study resource individually or with their congregation.

### **Academy of Faith and Leadership**



The Academy of Faith and Leadership at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) exists to help equip both lay and clergy alike for their lifelong work as ministers of the gospel. Founded on the premise that all Christians are called to the vocation of ministry in the world, the Academy of Faith and Leadership seeks to provide resources that will empower and equip women and men to be faithful disciples of Christ both in the church and in the world. As the seminary's primary avenue for offering continuing education and lifelong learning, the Academy of Faith and Leadership provides a variety of opportunities and resources including: workshops & seminars for lay and clergy audiences; lectures; resources for congregations like the "What Does This Mean" video series; study leave for church leaders; free audio downloads of past lectures and events; and certificate programs (launched in 2015).

## Special Needs



Bethesda Lutheran Communities: <http://bethesdalutherancommunities.org>

As a Christian organization, they are dedicated to helping people with developmental disabilities have meaningful and enriching experiences within a congregation. Through their free downloadable and for-purchase faith resources, they help congregations build welcoming and inclusive faith communities, and help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities find a welcoming congregation of their own. Their goal is to help every person find their church home.

Autism Speaks: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/resource-library/religious-resources>

They have put together a list of resources that families and faith leaders may find helpful in the hope that all families affected by autism may be welcomed in their house of worship, and able to become active participants in their faith community.

## Christian Education Network of ELCA - Cindy Greenwood

**Our Mission:** Supporting lifelong faith formation in the home and congregation.

The Christian Education Network of the ELCA includes both professional and diversely gifted volunteers who are involved in lifelong faith formation ministries through congregations and many of our ELCA and partner organizations in a variety of roles. CENetwork members are linked by our mission to support one another in our callings so "...that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love..." (Col. 2:2)

**Mentor Program** - Feeling overwhelmed with responsibilities for faith formation and Christian Education? Then enroll in the CENetwork Mentor Program. It is FREE for CENetwork members! You will be empowered to lead effective ministry in your unique setting by a trained mentor, selected to guide you in meeting your specific needs and goals. Customized guidance and support will be offered over a six-week period from an experienced leader in Christian education.

To read more about the CENetwork, membership, and the Mentor Program visit

[www.faithfulteaching.org](http://www.faithfulteaching.org). Connect with us on Facebook!

## **Devotions and Bible Study**



Enter the Bible: [www.enterthebible.org](http://www.enterthebible.org)

Here you'll find a wealth of resources to help you grow in your faith, add depth to your Bible studies and truly discover the people, places and events of the Bible. Think of Enter the Bible as your guide, a helpful reference tool to accompany you in your reading of the Bible.

ELCA Bible Studies: [www.elca.org/dailydiscipleship](http://www.elca.org/dailydiscipleship)

Daily Discipleship and Daily Faith Practices are online downloadable Bible studies based on the lectionary used at Sunday worship. Daily Discipleship is based on the Gospel Lesson and Daily Faith Practices is based on the Second Lesson. Use these Bible Studies for small group discussions, personal devotions, or sermon preparation. These two-page Bible Studies connect the Word of God with daily life experiences. Explore ways to deepen faith practices in everyday living.

New Testament Gateway: [www.ntgateway.com](http://www.ntgateway.com)

Browse or search annotated links on everything connected with the academic study of the New Testament and Christian Origins.

Bible Gateway: [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Read, research, and reference Scripture on your desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone . . . anywhere; in more than 200 versions and more than 70 languages! Its simple yet advanced searching capabilities allow you to quickly find and compare particular passages in multiple Bible translations based on the keywords, phrases, topics, or Scripture references you have in mind. You'll be inspired and encouraged – whether reading with your eyes or your ears (audio Bibles) – as you rely on Bible Gateway for all your Bible reading needs.

Faith Gateway: [www.faithgateway.com](http://www.faithgateway.com)

Discover great content and engage with your favorite Christian authors. Faith Gateway brings together content in many different forms: daily blog posts, book excerpts, devotionals, free downloads, videos, giveaways, contests, author chats, and more.

Explore Faith: [www.explorefaith.org](http://www.explorefaith.org)

Tools for spiritual nourishment and faith formation and spreading the joyous news of God's love and grace.

Bible Devotions: [www.biblegateway.com/devotionals/](http://www.biblegateway.com/devotionals/)

A variety of online resources for men, women, and families.

Vibrant Faith at Home: [www.vibrantfaithathome.org/library/library-by-category-col-150/library-category-bible-story](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/library/library-by-category-col-150/library-category-bible-story)

Reading the Bible resources for all ages and faith-forming activities and articles.

HomeWord Family Devotions by Jim Burns: [www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/homeword](http://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/homeword)

Popular daily Bible devotion. Offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life. Reading daily devotions provides strength and encouragement in your daily walk with Jesus Christ.

Bible App: Adventure Bible Games for Kids (HarperCollins Christian Publishing, Inc):

[www.itunes.apple.com/us/app/adventure-bible-games-for/id783671885?mt=8](http://www.itunes.apple.com/us/app/adventure-bible-games-for/id783671885?mt=8)

## **Other Resources**

Faith Formation Journeys: [www.faithformationjourneys.org](http://www.faithformationjourneys.org)

Connecting our faith with the people we are with regularly is a vital part of living a spiritual life and of living out the gospel. These are monthly devotional resources that you can use in any setting, weekly devotions that can be inserted into bulletins, children's sermons, and the Bible in a year—Family version!

Building Faith: [www.buildfaith.org/](http://www.buildfaith.org/)

A free website that offers practical resources for ministry with children, youth, and adults. You'll find articles, advice, reviews, features, and resources for Christian formation with people of all ages.

LifeLong Faith: [www.lifelongfaith.com/](http://www.lifelongfaith.com/)

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.

Faith Formation Learning Exchange: [www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/](http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/)

The Faith Formation Learning Exchange is dedicated to helping leaders in all forms of Christian ministry develop Christian lifelong faith formation for all ages and generations that is informed by solid research, effective practices, cutting-edge thinking, real-world models and tools, and the latest resources. The Learning Exchange is a forum where Vibrant Faith can bring the best thinking and practices in lifelong faith formation to you as a leader in faith formation. There are dozens of ways that you can use the Learning Exchange as resource in your ministry: deepen your understanding of faith formation today; create vibrant faith formation for age groups, families, and all generations in your congregation; prepare

and conduct courses and leadership training in faith formation; create faith formation programs and projects; review current research and thinking in faith formation; and much more.

Center for Spiritual Resources: [www.thecsr.org/](http://www.thecsr.org/)

A gateway to find and share trusted resources for your spiritual journey, including events, articles, programs, blogs, audio and video resources, and much more. - See more at: <http://www.thecsr.org/#sthash.Vlq2QFMz.dpuf>

Feutor: <http://www.feautor.org/en>

A free, multilingual, and open space to share religious resources. (This site is no longer maintained, but has some good resources. It was a project of the Association of Lutheran Resource Centers)

Discipleship Ministries (UMC): <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>  
Resources to equip world-changing disciples.

## **There's an App for That!**

Glo Bible: The Bible app with everything at your fingertips

The Bible App for Kids: Help your kids fall in love with God's Word (free)

Bible Gateway: Read, research, and reference Scripture on your desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone . . . anywhere; in more than 200 versions and more than 70 languages!

## **Facebook Pages and Groups**

Lifelong Faith Formation Network – SC Synod

SC Synod Curriculum Share

SC Synod VBS Exchange

Faith5

Life of Faith Initiative

ELCA Children and Family Ministries