



Pastor Jerry Wirtley
St. John's Lutheran
Little Suamico, WI



Faith Story Spotlight December 2016

Milestone Modules

Child and Youth
Adult

Milestone Moments
for the Home

Giftng Stones

Taking Faith Home

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 Pastor Jerry Wirtley St. John's Lutheran Church Little Suamico, WI

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 moments. Using Taking Faith Home with Milestones will help strengthen a congregation's lifelong faith formation ministry. [Click here.](#)

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



Picture above is from Pastor Jerry's Advent Blog.

Milestones Ministry Resource Used:

Taking Faith Home

Is this resource used in the congregation, the home, both? Please explain.

Both. We use them in Adult Sunday School and for Take Home

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 10 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.](#)

Consistency is a strength and our success lies in **The Four Key Faith Practices** listed below that are at the heart of everything we do:



Sheets for Confirmation.

How did you get started with using Taking Faith Home and what suggestions do you have for those who would like to get started ?:

I write a devotional blog every day and use the scripture readings from the Taking Faith Home sheets. I do this to help with our Home Huddles for our confirmation students. We use the Taking Faith Home sheets after my wife won a free set about 3 years ago. We started using the Taking Faith Home sheets in the congregation and I thought it would be a good resource to base the devotions in my blog on. My blog is read by many adults from the congregations I served in Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin, and by many others I know as friends as it is shared on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Tumblr. I honestly do not know the impact that the blog has, but it is a resource I started to focus myself in the word of God, and I hope helps others focus their lives on our God.

[Click here to connect with Pastor Jerry's blog](#)

I know the confirmation program at St. John's has blossomed in the past 3 years as the Home Huddles and Taking Faith Home sheets have been used. They are a great resource for families to utilize and have easy access to help them discuss faith in the home. The sheets give families scripture readings and help in the sharing of highs/lows, caring conversations, service and ritual. I ask the students and families to do a home huddle each night, sharing highs/lows, praying, reading scripture and blessing each other. This has helped all of the confirmands and parents to deepen their faith. It is a wonderful thing to see faith blossoming and growing in all members of the congregation.

This use of the Taking Faith Home sheets spilled over into other devotions I have been doing. For about 5 years I have been doing a picture a day devotional during Lent and Advent, and I have been producing them for the past 3 years. So since I am using Taking Faith Home sheets for my blog and in the congregation I serve, I thought it fit the program well to use them for the picture a day devotionals. So now my picture a day devotionals readings I use to get the word for the picture are the readings from the Taking Faith Home sheets. It all works together since it is all based on the Taking Faith Home.

And as a pastor, that is what I hope, because that is where the faith is truly shared and learned: in the home. If we can have the home as the basis of our faith, and we can move out from there, God will always be a part of what we do. It all starts at home and any resource that helps with that is a good one, and Taking Faith Home is a resource to help with this.

Pastor Jerry Wirtley

"Grow the church by growing people in faith."

Visit our website: www.milestonesministry.org and like us on [Facebook](#) page and join us for conversations on our [Facebook group page](#).

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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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