



Pastor Mark Asleson



Faith Story Spotlight February 2017

Milestone Modules

Child and Youth
Adult

Milestone Moments
for the Home

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

New! Taking Faith Home Cards:
The Taking Faith Home cards are

Meet Pastor Mark Asleson Dilworth Lutheran Church Dilworth, MN

We thank Pastor Mark for sharing his wisdom with us after close to four decades of serving in congregations. At the end of February, he will retire. We, at Milestones Ministry, wish him the best as we feel, from our own experience, that he will discover it will not be retirement but re"fire"ment.

Many blessings to you today and every day Pastor Mark!



Pastor Mark and Sandy Asleson joined Pastor David and Gloria Anderson at Luther Seminary in 2016 to share their faith stories about using Milestones in their home congregation. Mark and David did a workshop on

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 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:



Milestones Ministry Resource Used:

Milestones, Taking Faith Home, Four Key Faith Practices

Pastor Mark tells us, "It's a Big Issue!":

For the past 16 years our Confirmation Program has been "Home Based". What that means is that 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th graders come with someone from their 'home'; a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or another trusted adult.

I seek to adapt the Four Key Faith Practices into the class: Caring Conversation, Devotion and Prayer, and Service and Worship become Ritual and Tradition. At the beginning of the 8th Grade year I ask everyone in the class to fill out a "Big Issue" form which asks each of them what they consider to be the big issues facing them as a teenager, as an adult and in the home. I take the various responses, and at the end of each class session I take one of the issues and ask the 'homes' to begin a conversation on that issue. Then before we dismiss I ask if any would like to share their conversations.

How has using the Four Key Faith Practices been a faith formation resource and impacted those using it?

It has been very supportive and encouraging to watch and listen as these homes; youth, parents, and mentor share how they both see and respond to what they believe to be big issues in their lives. People are seeing how the Christian faith connects with their daily lives and how faith is passed on in the home, not just in a classroom. One dad said to me, "I get it, Pastor Mark, you are trying to get to me and my faith more than my daughter." I answered, "Well, no, I am trying to reach your grandchild." It made him think a bit deeper because he doesn't have a grandchild yet. We both smiled as he got the multi-generational impact of faith being lived and practiced in the home.

What are your thoughts on Taking Faith Home?

Taking Faith Home... not a Program, but a Ministry and even more so a Mission!

I am aware that there are many congregations and denominations working on home centered models for ministry. I simply would like to share one congregation's efforts. From the very onset it is important to understand that this is NOT a program that can be bought. Instead it is a vision for doing ministry, better yet, it is a Mission in Ministry!

Our mission, as a congregation, is to engage the homes of our congregation and community in the passing on faith and values.

Dr. David Anderson from Milestones Ministry has always said that what we have found to be true is that 'faith and values are encouraged and taught through caring, trusted, and compassionate relationships and that most often those relationships are rooted in the home and nurtured through a community of faith'. However, we have also found that many of our homes, though desiring things spiritual, are often 'barren' of things spiritual: Prayer, devotions, worship, service to others, and not the least something as simple as daily caring conversations.

To read more about Pastor Mark's thoughts on Taking Faith Home,

[click here.](#)

"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](#).

Milestones Ministry,LLC Website - www.milestonesministry.org

David Anderson - danderson@milestonesministry.org

Debbie Streicher - dstreicher@milestonesministry.org

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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