



Pastor Erik Olsen



Faith Story Spotlight January 2017

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 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:

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 Erik Olsen Immanuel Lutheran Church Elk Point, SD



Pastor Erik tells us:

I serve in a medium sized rural/bedroom community about 25 minutes from a couple of larger communities where a majority of my congregation members work. Being a small community centered around the school sports schedule in a town where a majority of people leave during the day to work finding a time for bible study/devotional time is complicated.

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:



Caring Conversations



Devotions



Service



Rituals and Traditions

Milestones Ministry Resource Used:

Taking Faith Home

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

I've used the Taking Faith Home resource throughout my time at Immanuel, but in the first step of setting up small groups in the congregation I began a congregational weekly devotional email using the Taking Faith Home inserts' Four Key Faith Practices sections. I wanted the email and the small groups to begin with Bible, prayer, and devotions to make it clear that they are not just another chance to "do business."

I decided to utilize something that people that had attended church on the previous Sunday already had in their hands. Each devotional email, usually coming out Wednesday or Thursday, is based on the previous Sunday's Taking Faith Home insert. I include the Verse of the Week, which I also read at the end of announcements each Sunday, and then focus on one section of the Four Key Faith Practices, usually one of the Caring Conversations' questions. I give my answer to the questions raised, hoping that this will add to further conversation at home or in their own minds.

How has Taking Faith Home been a faith formation resource and impacted those using it?

I have heard from many people who found the weekly devotion a needed mini-pause in a busy day, and that it adds more value to something already in their possession. I enjoy using it because it allows me to get even more use out of a resource, while also delving further in my own devotions.

As of now it is only as a weekly devotional email, but my hopes and plans are to increase how it is used. I would like to have a devotion leader in each small group who would then respond to the same question that I answered, sending their answers to the members of their small group. In a setting where congregation members gathering together face to face has become more difficult I am gladdened that a resource I already use is allowing me to help them connect deeply with each other despite busy lives.

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"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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