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Faith Story Spotlight March 2017

Milestone Modules

Child and Youth
Adult

Milestone Moments
for the Home

Giftng Stones

Taking Faith Home

Meet Deb Grupe Atonement Lutheran Church Florissant, MO

At the Children, Youth, and Family Network Extravaganza in Louisville, KY in January, Deb stopped by the Milestones Ministry table to say hello and see what is new. We were talking about ways to get parents "on-board" and involved in their children's faith lives. Deb told us about two ways she has done so and writes about them in this edition.

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 designed to allow individuals and families to nurture their faith at any time and place! Each card contains a variety of faith-building activities,



Milestones Ministry Resource Used:

Child and Youth Milestones Ministry Manual, For Everything a Season book

Tell us about how you used the Driver's License Milestone in the church parking lot.

On an autumn Sunday in 2016, I saw Jessica and her mom. Her

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:



mom had posted on Facebook that Jessica now had her learner's permit, so when I saw them, I asked Jessica's mom, Theresa, first, if we could do a blessing and gift in recognition of this milestone. She agreed, and I knew Jessica's Confirmation mentor was also nearby, so asked her to join us. We went out to the family's car. Her Confirmation mentor read a prayer and I then gave her a visor clip and read it to her before blessing her with these words, *"We celebrate this step toward independence. God bless you in all the times you are behind the wheel, and keep you and your passengers safe."*

I also handed them a copy of the blessing page for this event from [For Everything a Season](#). See the picture below that Jessica's brother took.



Tell us about the Blessing of Backpacks Milestone as mission outreach.

We have started doing Backpack Blessings at our church's day school on the first day of school. We craft a backpack clip (with over 200 students, purchasing something is out of the question). On that morning, we greet students and parents outside of the school entrance, ask them if we can give them a blessing (each person uses whatever form of blessing is comfortable for them to speak), then give them their backpack clip-on. Many of our students are not church members at Atonement; some have no church home at all. Our team decided this is one way we can link the congregation to the school—which is part of our mission outreach.



Blessing of Backpacks at Atonement Lutheran School

"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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