

Reformation Anniversary Milestone Moment Free Download

A Milestones in Action Faith Story

Facebook Monthly Posts

David and Gloria heading to Australia!

A Reformation Anniversary Idea from Debbie Streicher



David and Gloria Anderson heading to Australia!

Milestones Ministry is excited about an opportunity for David and Gloria to work with the LCA, Lutheran Church in Australia. A note from David about their trip:

Dear friends of Milestones Ministry, LLC. Gloria and I have been invited to work with Grow Ministries with the Lutheran Church of Australia. It is the child, youth, and family ministry division of the LCA. We have been a bit in disbelief because this is exactly the kind of call we have prayed about and longed to do. The people at Grow Ministries are simply wonderful folk with whom I have worked in the past. We will be in Australia from September 21 to December 10. The assignments include coaching,

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Reformation Anniversary Milestone Moment

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany. That event is recognized as the beginning of the Reformation. Luther would continue to clarify his message to emphasize salvation by grace through faith in Christ. What began in 1517 as an objection to the selling of indulgences to pay for St. Peter's Basilica in Rome launched a renewal of the church that continues to this day.

The Reformation directly impacted church and society. Luther helped bring the Christian faith into the daily lives of people by translating the Bible and liturgy into the German language and bringing faith into the home by writing the Small Catechism. Luther's message emphasized God's power of forgiveness that frees people to love God and neighbor. People were empowered to do God's work as part of the "priesthood of all believers." For example, Luther stated that fathers and mothers are "apostles, bishops, and priests," acknowledging their role in raising children in the Christian faith. He worked as a "pastor and shepherd of souls" to help all people practice the Christian faith by encouraging caring conversations, a devotional life, and service to others.

As the church observes 500 years of the Reformation, the goal is not to remember an honored and distant past but to live the message of the Reformation in the present. The power of the word of God to save and transform lives is as important today as in Luther's time. The intent of the Reformation Anniversary Milestone Moment is to assist congregations and homes to participate in the ongoing reformation of the church and outreach to a world still in need of God's grace and mercy and peace.

The 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation encourages us to pause and give thanks for how Martin Luther and other reformers proclaimed the heart of the gospel. It provides opportunities to reflect on how the Reformation continues to impact our lives of faith. This Milestone Moment incorporates a five part structure:

Naming - Observing the Reformation gives attention to the importance of trusting God's action and not our efforts as essential to salvation. This Reformation message frees us to love God and neighbor and to share the Christian faith with the world.

Equipping - Experience the importance of the Reformation in people's lives by engaging in caring conversations, devotional reflections, service, and Christian rituals and traditions that reflect Reformation themes.

Blessing - The Reformation promotes a life of prayer for all people. Offering a blessing to others is a sacred and relational moment for Christians that extends God's love and grace to others.

Gifting - Giving a tangible gift like a bookmark, Bible, cross, Small Catechism, or other reminder of this occasion helps people remember the importance of the Reformation for years to come.

Renewing - Following the Reformation Anniversary Milestone Moment, it is important to continue to reflect on how salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ transforms our lives every day.



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Remembering an honored past and living the message of the Reformation today.

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workshop leadership, and consultation. You will all be kept abreast of the work and exciting times once we get over there. We are especially appreciative of the support from Burt and Debbie Streicher to see this as part of our ministry at Milestones Ministry.

Stay tuned for more news about this in a future e-news.

A Reformation Anniversary Idea from Debbie Streicher



I had the opportunity to present a workshop with the Rev. Janelle Hooper, Director of Ministry with Children of the ELCA, at an event in New Orleans this past week. The workshop was titled, "Connecting the Reformation with Children, Families, and the Home." As we envision ways to observe this anniversary, I reflected on ways we could "kick-off" the up and coming year with an intentional focus on faith in the home as a way to live the Reformation today.

Here are three easy steps for an event involving all ages in a Cross+Generational setting:

1. Download the Reformation Anniversary Milestone Moment found in this e-news and use the outline to role model faith practices for the home through the caring conversations, devotions, and rituals and traditions. Invite all to do the service suggestion in their homes.

2. Follow up during the rest of the year by emailing Taking Faith Home weekly devotions to those who participated and encourage them to use the same faith practice outline as they just experienced when at home throughout

Moment is to assist congregations and homes to participate in the ongoing reformation of the church and to reach out to a world still in need of God's grace and mercy and peace.

We invite you to download this Milestone Moment at no cost and use in homes and in congregations as a launching point for the observance of the Reformation in the coming year.

[Click here to download.](#)

[Dawn Deines-Christensen](#) has designed a special, commemorative stone to accompany this Milestone Moment as a tangible reminder of this milestone observance in the home and congregation. See cost and more about her design [here](#).



A Milestones in Action Faith Story

Meet Kerri Hardy and read the story she wrote about a milestone celebration she designed to use with her family in their home for her son as they were sending him off to college.

Oh my. I just wanted to tell you what a wonderful evening we had sending our son off to college with a milestone celebration at home. We opened with prayer. I shared his faith formation story (highlights from baptism to confirmation). His sister read his confirmation verse (Isaiah 40:30-31). We gave him a watch and his dad read the verses from Psalm 121 as we told him we'd enjoyed "watching him grow" and that "God would continue to watch over him." I shared one of my favorite verses (Jer 29:11)--reminding him that God has great plans for his future. We closed with the Colossians blessing and took turns making the sign of the cross on his forehead as we each said "God Bless You". It went very well and he was obviously very moved that we did that. Thank you so much for reminding me of the way to use the milestone celebration! What a blessing! I'm sure you won't mind if I share the idea with some friends...it was such a gift to me that I want to pass it on!!!



Facebook Monthly Posts

Each month, we enjoy telling you where and how we are doing our ministry at Milestones Ministry via our Facebook Group page. We invite you to post as well. We really enjoy hearing stories about your ministry.

Please take time to follow and contribute to the conversation!

[Group Page](#)

the year.

Both Milestones and Taking Faith Home use the same Four Keys outline for practicing faith: Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions.

3. Schedule a gathering a few months later and ask for stories about using faith practices in the home. Do they use them? How have they made a difference in family life?

Accountability is a key element in developing consistent faith practices in our lives.

I'd be happy to help you dream and envision further as to what this may look like. You can contact me at dstreicher@milestonesministry.org.

Blessings in your ministry,
Debbie



"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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