

Rituals and Traditions for Lent

Taking Faith Home Cards

Faith Formed Through Mentoring Relationships

Milestones Ministry at ELEA Conference in Norfolk, VA



SHEPHERD OF SOULS

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The Rev. Dr. David W. Anderson, Co-Director of Milestones Ministry is working on his next book, *Shepherd of Souls*. It will be a leadership guide that addresses the shepherding of souls as pastoral and personal care of others through caring conversations, faith-filled reflections, and prayerful engagement.

Excerpts from the book:

A critical task for the church of today is to address anew how to care for the life of faith on a more personal level, one that is not constrained by congregational attention to programmatic agenda, priorities, and settings. It is a ministry described here as the shepherd of souls.

There exists today a glaring absence in the historic ministry of



Rituals and Traditions for Lent

We invite you to use these Rituals and Traditions during Lent this year. They are found in the Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts for 2017:

March 1 - Ash Wednesday

The three practices associated with Ash Wednesday and Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Consider ways to emphasize these three practices during the forty days of Lent. Use a calendar for the weeks of Lent and schedule times for prayer (e.g., silent prayer or the Lord's Prayer), fasting (e.g., avoiding solid foods for part or all of a day or choosing a simpler diet for the day with water instead of other beverages), and almsgiving (e.g., give to the needs of others by making out a check to your congregation or to a trusted ministry or service agency). Consider ways to simplify your life by having shared meals with others and by using less technology. Be aware of how these simple disciplines can enhance your sense of humility and joy as a follower of Jesus.

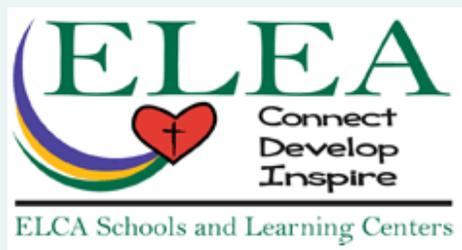
March 5 - First Sunday in Lent

The season of Lent begins with Jesus in the wilderness and journeys toward the cross and empty tomb. The church has used this time to prepare for baptisms and for

the church: caring for individuals in their journey of faith beyond worship, Bible study, and other group settings in the congregation. That void represents part of the current critique of the church by those who are not affiliated with the church. Those unaffiliated are known to say they are "spiritual but not religious." It expresses people's observation, right or wrong, that the church is more concerned with institutional survival than care for and attention to people's spiritual lives.

To elevate the ministry of being a shepherd of souls as critical to the relevance, credibility, and integrity of today's church, is to promote the importance of nurturing people's lives of faith through relational faith formation, sometimes one person at a time.

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Debbie Streicher, Co-Director for Milestones Ministry led a workshop for Boot Camp for principals and directors of preschools and schools in the ELCA at IGNITE, an ELEA Conference in February.

When asked to describe what faith formation meant to them, here is what they listed:

- Prayer
- Growing in knowledge and relationship with God
- Being deliberate and intentional

the baptized or renewed as renewed in their discipleship. During the 40 days of Lent, commit to use the Daily Bible Readings and Prayer for the Week from Taking Faith Home. Some other options to consider include the following:

- Daily silence to reflect on God's presence in your life.
- Times of fasting by eating simpler meals with water or skipping meals.
- Limit the use of television, computer games, and social media to focus more attention on God's grace in your life.
- End each day with a blessing: *May the Lord Jesus bring you peace when you are afraid; may the Lord your God protect you in time of trouble and give you a song of joy in your heart. (Psalm 32:7)*
- Have meals together with others and offer a Mealtime Prayer.
- Contribute to the needs of the hungry and homeless.

The rest of the Rituals and Traditions through Palm Sunday can be found by [clicking here](#).



Taking Faith Home Cards

What are Taking Faith Home Cards?

Each deck includes 64 cards. Our first deck is Deck A and is designed from the Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts based on the Revised Command Lectionary Year A. One side has a theme, scripture verse, and prayer. The other side includes a caring conversation, service question/thought, and blessing. The design allows 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.

Where can you use Taking Faith Home Cards?

- Church staff, council, or committee meetings for

- Making faith lives relevant, encouraging at different ages and stages
- Being purposeful
- Sharing a passion for God
- Walking the walk and talking the talk
- Immersion

Their mission? *"Promoting and supporting quality, Christ-centered schools and early childhood programs of the ELCA."*

- team building
- Children and youth ministry events
- At home with family and friends
- In the car during long or short trips
- During family gatherings, celebrations, and reunions
- Anywhere there is an opportunity to strengthen relationships through conversations and spending time together

What is the cost?

The cost is \$14.95 per deck plus shipping but for a purchase of 10 or more sets, there is a 20% discount. For the discount, please contact us directly at info@milestonesministry.org or call 304-300-0836 to place a direct order.

[Taking Faith Home Cards](#)

"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.

STAY CONNECTED

