

Taking Faith Home Usage Hints: It starts with you!

New! Family Reunion Stone

Milestones Ministry Meets with the Rev. Brenda Smith



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Our favorite potter and artist [Dawn Deines-Christensen](#) informed us that she has designed a lovely gifting stone that can be used with the [Family Reunion Milestone Moment](#).

Here is Dawn's description behind the design:
The open heart is a symbol that family is not always blood relations - we are to be open to those who are adopted into a family via marriage, in-laws and out-laws. Plus many we consider family are related by religion - a child of the same living God!

We are grateful for Dawn's suggestion that this be a perfect

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[Taking Faith Home](#) bulletin inserts are only helpful when they are used. There exists an ongoing challenge of getting Taking Faith Home from the bulletin to people's daily life settings.

Here are some suggestions:

- As congregational leaders, make sure you use it yourself.
- Make it available in advance of worship services so that people can come to worship more prepared for the Bible readings and worship life.
- Use sermons, children's sermons and announcements to use a portion of it and encourage people to use it during the week.
- Use the Hymn of the Week in worship and recommend that people sing and/or pray it in their homes.
- Use it at staff, council and committee meetings, Bible studies and other congregational gatherings.
- Check in with people to see how their lives are blessed and challenged as they engage the word of God through Taking Faith Home.

Two examples of where Taking Faith Home is being used:

- David and Gloria Anderson were at their cabin for a week in July with their children and grandchildren. The Sunday worship service happened at the cabin! They used Taking Faith Home. They sang, prayed, read Scripture and blessed one another using *A Blessing to Give*.

stone for remembering a family reunion.

Being at a family reunion creates an opportunity to pause and recognize and celebrate the importance of the extended family. Providing an opportunity to experience God's presence in this moment is important.

[You can find the new Family Reunion Stone here.](#)

Milestones Ministry Meets with the Rev. Brenda Smith



Program Director for Faith Practices and Book of Faith

David and Gloria Anderson hosted The Reverend Brenda Smith in their home on July 10. Together they broke bread, prayed, and had caring conversations using [Taking Faith Home](#) and their common passions for the church. It was one of those joyful moments filled with mutual appreciation and affirmation of ministries.

Together they discussed the importance of congregational leaders practicing the Christian faith in their own lives in addition to providing faith practices for others. Brenda committed to speaking about Milestones Ministry in her ongoing work and to using Taking Faith Home in the future during her presentations. Following the visit, she used

The adults noted how supportive it was to use the Caring Conversations. It helped the adults and children to talk about being set free from sin (Romans 8:2) to care for others. All benefited from the cross+generational worship experience.

- Burt and Debbie Streicher print copies of every Taking Faith Home bulletin and mail them to Burt's mother. She lives in another state and became a widow during the fall of last year. Since she does not drive and can no longer attend church regularly, they suggested she read it on Sunday mornings and then via a phone call they could share the caring conversations, readings, and prayer. They end the call with the blessing. Burt's mother has liked the idea so much she is trying to get the congregation to become familiar with it as they, like many other congregations, are an aging one and have so many households in need of spiritual guidance in their homes.

We would love to hear your stories about how Taking Faith Home is being used by those in your congregation. Please send stories to info@milestonesministry.org.

Taking Faith Home includes the essential Four Key Faith Practices:

Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions (the Four Key Faith Practices) are the basic foundation to any other faith practice the church uses to nurture the Christian faith.

Caring Conversations: These conversation starters provide meaningful reflection on biblical texts and our daily lives. It helps you bond with others on the journey of faith. It also helps you in the important task of talking about your Christian faith and builds meaningful relationships through caring discussion.

Devotions: Being devoted to God's word serves as the foundation for practicing the presence of God and blessing you with faith, hope and love. Having a special time of day to do devotions increases the regularity of this important practice in your life.

Service: Christ tells us to serve others. By living the faith in love, we learn the value and joy of the Christian faith. Serving others reminds us of the breadth of the Kingdom of God and that our faith is personal but not private. Faith motivates us to serve the world in love.

Rituals and Traditions: Symbolic actions grounded in the Christian tradition throughout the year provide a beautiful and holistic way of experiencing the grace of God. As you practice rituals and traditions, continue to use the ones that fill you with peace, passion, meaning and hope.

Taking Faith Home in her workshops at the [Tenth Triennial Convention for WELCA](#) (Women of the ELCA) that met in Minneapolis. It was well received and heartfelt stories were told by those who have been using this resource in their congregations.

They discussed how Milestones Ministry will provide the [Reformation Anniversary Milestone Moment](#) for congregations to use at no cost. The October series of Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts including a special edition for the 500th Reformation Anniversary Sunday that takes place this year will be made available in the fall.

David and Gloria closed their time together committed to keep Brenda and her ministry in their prayers. Milestones Ministry looks forward to a growing relationship with the ELCA to support this vital ministry of faith practices.

For more information on the work Brenda does with the ELCA, [click here](#).

Is there a guide for using Taking Faith Home?
Yes, there are two guides:

- [The Taking Faith Home User Guide](#)
- [The Tips for Leaders Guide](#)

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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