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## Taking Faith Home for 2016-2017

Taking Faith Home is an annual resource that provides a different bulletin insert for each week during the church year. Here are some of its key features:

- Based on the Revised Common Lectionary used by many congregations
- Uses an outline of the Four Key Faith Practices (caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals and traditions)
- Includes a weekly prayer, Bible verse, mealtime prayer, and blessing
- Offers suggested daily Bible readings and new for 2016-2017, a Hymn for the week

[Click here to order a CD.](#)

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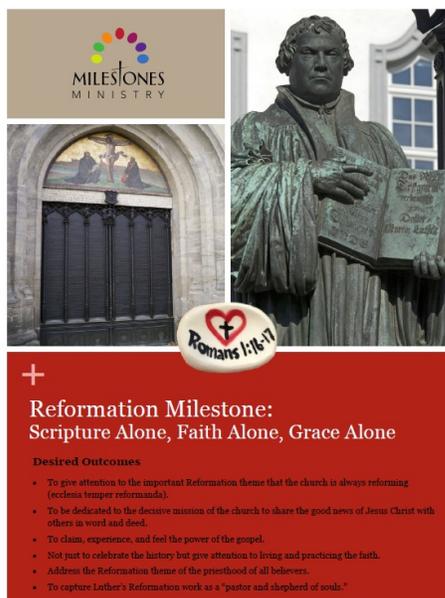
## Haven't been using Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts?

We suggest giving it a try in your

## New! Reformation Milestone Module

*Last month we introduced the Reformation Anniversary Milestone Moment and enabled you to download the Moment at no cost. This month we introduce you to the newest Milestone module: Reformation*

*This module is one that can be used this year and for many years to come. It goes beyond recognizing the 500th anniversary and delves into a reforming theme. It includes a Four Key Faith Practice for three different settings: Congregation, Home, and Follow-Up.*



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

The [Reformation Milestone](#) is an opportunity to revisit and read the

congregation meeting now as a trial run. You can download the remaining lectionary year for a reduced price of \$19.95. [Click here to order.](#)

## Updated Taking Faith Home User Guide



The 2016-2017 Taking Faith Home User Guide and Leader's Tips Guide have been updated. They can be downloaded here at no cost.

[User Guide](#)  
[Leader's Tips](#)

These guides give a good overview for those not familiar with the Taking Faith Home resource.

## New! Family Reunion Milestone Moment

**Family Reunion Milestone Moment**

*Each generation will reap what the former generation has sown.*  
— Proverb

Milestones Ministry brings an awareness of the presence of God to individuals of all generations by recognizing the home as church, too. Milestones Ministry provides a clear and usable model for congregations, homes, and community to connect faith formation resources with daily life experiences. The rich variety of life experiences represented in Milestones Ministry does the essential ministry of the church: promoting Christian faith formation with family, friends, and others with whom we can reach.

When a family gathers for a reunion, it is a wonderful blessing that provides an opportunity to celebrate the past, talk about the present, and dream about the future. It is a time for renewing relationships and meeting new members of the family. This milestone is a good time to reflect on past generations and the lives of those who have gone before. There has been a history of faith in the participating household that includes disappointments, joy, and hopes. It is important to be sensitive to a wide variety of experiences. This Milestone Moment offers an opportunity for family members to be excited about traveling side-by-side into the future with the encouragement that the Christian faith has brought and continues to bring to families.

Milestones incorporates a simple structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestones Ministry Moment has a greater chance to take deeper root in lifelong faith formation.

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. This Milestone Moment incorporates a simple structure that includes:

- Naming** – It is important to recognize the significance of a family reunion. It helps to identify the generations of families as descendants of a particular family lineage.
- Equipping** – This Milestone Moment encourages ongoing conversations that draw out memories and stories of the present and past among family members and encourages the renewing of relationships.
- Blessing** – Praying with and for one another and remembering those who have gone before us is a witness to the longevity of the family and its faith history through the generations.
- Gifting** – Giving a tangible gift like pictures, a T-shirt, or other memorabilia will help all be reminded of this milestone for many years to come.
- Reinforcing** – It is a good idea to follow up after the Family Reunion Milestone Moment by exchanging phone numbers, email addresses, and/or creating a Facebook page to stay in touch with one another throughout the year and to help plan a future reunion.

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- Proverb

Being at a family reunion creates an opportunity to pause and recognize and celebrate the importance of the extended family. This event in family life is a good time to reflect on past

scripture quoted by Luther and highlighted in Luthers writings in order to equip us to live it out in our everyday lives. This celebration each year reminds us how the Reformation impacted education, language, worship, music, individualism, and an understanding of the church itself, one that extolled the "priesthood of all believers" and the message of the gospel that became crystalized in justification by grace through faith.

This Milestone module includes three outlines using the Four Key Faith Practice which encourage the connection between home and congregation. A simple five-step outline: Naming, Equipping, Blessing, Gifting, and Reinforcing is used to intentionally invite the faith community to recognize the milestone and experience it together to establish a solid base for community outreach.

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



## A Milestones in Action Faith Story

Last month, we invited you to download the Anniversary [Reformation Milestone Moment](#) at no cost. We also asked artist and potter Dawn Deines Christensen to help us design a [gifting stone](#) especially for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. This past week, Marjorie Becker placed an order for 50 of these special gifting stones. I sent her an email and asked if she would mind telling us how she was going to use them. I asked her permission to share what she wrote back to me:

*Again my thanks to you.*

*I have downloaded the Milestone Moment and shared it with several friends in my residential community.*

*I have several targets in mind for the Reformation Blessing Stones. My first distribution will go to the 20 folks with whom I recently returned from a tour of all of the Lutherlands and Reformation sites in Germany. I hope they are a meaningful remembrance of that time spent together. Also we plan some Reformation activities into next year at our church so I want to prepare some of my special friends for that event and have a remembrance. Lastly, I hope I have a few left (or will order more) to share with some of my special friends at church in Florida this winter.*

*You see, they will all be distributed to lift up Luther and his contributions to our place in the Kingdom of God.*

*Have a Blessed Day. Marjorie.*

generations and the lives of those who have gone before. This Family Reunion Milestone Moment offers families the opportunity during a family reunion to embrace the past, talk about the present, and dream about the future through the faith formation practices of caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals and traditions. It provides an opportunity for the family members to be excited about traveling side-by-side into the future with the encouragement that the Christian faith has brought and continues to bring to them.

This Milestone Moment includes The Four Key Faith Practices outline which encourages growing in our faith by recognizing the home and family gatherings as church, too. A simple five-step structure is also included to establish a solid base for faith formation.

Milestone Moments are two page guides outlining faith practices for the home. They are available at the reasonable price of \$2.95 and reproducible.

[Click here for the Family Reunion Milestone Moment.](#)

## Reformation Anniversary Milestone Moment and Gifting Stone



## Facebook Party

Our Facebook Party took place on September 22nd. The questions and conversations were about Milestone Moments. There were plenty of insights and ideas shared. You can see the questions and posts if you go to the group page.

Stay tuned for dates for our next party!  
[Group Page](#)



***"Grow the church by growing people in faith."***

Visit our website: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://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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