



**Dawn Deines-Christensen**

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## **Faith Story Spotlight** **July 2018**

**At Milestones Ministry  
we believe that  
"Home is Church, too!"**



### **Glossary of Milestones Ministry 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

### **Meet Dawn Deines-Christensen** **Artist and Potter** **Prairie Patterns by Dawn D-C**

**Dawn is the creative artist and potter behind all the gifting stones and blessing bowls designed for Milestones Ministry. We are very grateful and blessed by her contribution and willingness to work tirelessly to provide such valuable physical reminders of milestones in our lives.**

Dawn began her career as a high school art teacher in Decorah, Iowa (home of Luther College, where she graduated in 1982) teaching full time from 1982 - 1994. Her art teaching career continued after a family move to Sioux Falls, South Dakota at Sioux Falls Christian School from 1994 - 2000 teaching middle & high school students. Her part-time teaching allowed her to pursue a Masters Degree at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, with an emphasis in Liturgical Arts. During this time, she also established her pottery business: Prairie Patterns by Dawn D-C.

The concept of Positive Ponder Prayer Pebbles was trademarked and copyrighted in 1999 and grew out of her personal art production during those years. Dawn's Pebbles have gained a world-wide interest and following. In conjunction with colleague, Pat Eidsness, at the South Dakota ELCA Synod, Dawn created the first Milestone Blessing Bowl in 2002 which included a set of nine Pebbles, a Blessing Bowl, and a brochure describing the milestones in a person's faith journey. The Youth and Family Institute (later named Vibrant Faith Ministries)

ministry. [Click here.](#)

### **Taking Faith Home Conversation Cards:**

The Taking Faith Home Conversation 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, 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 23 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.](#)



**A Memorial of Dawn's**

recognized this set as a wonderful tool for Milestones Ministry and added it to their store along with another set Dawn helped design in conjunction with Lyle Griner's ministry at the Youth and Family Institute in 2007 specifically developed for use in the home.

This ministry has been a true calling and honor for Liturgical Artist, Dawn. From the original Pebble in her studio in Sioux Falls, SD created with daughters, Chelsey & Lynsey, to the thousands of Pebbles that have touched lives both nationally and internationally, Dawn has found a purpose-filled way to meld together both her strong faith and strong talent.

**Dawn and her father, Pastor John Deines, aka "PD" designed a pebble to be used in his ministry** at the Lutheran Student Center, in Cedar Falls, Iowa where he served from 1969 until his retirement in 1999. **Here is PD's message that went along with the milestone Pebble:**

### **IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS**

As the Lenten Season neared, I asked my daughter, Dawn, a liturgical artist, to design a special "Ponder Pebble" which I could distribute to UNI students participating in Vesper Worship at the Lutheran Center.



**The GO LO Pebble**

What do you see?

A descending Dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit?

And....The silhouette of a Cross cast by its own shadow? Look a little closer.....Maybe you'll see what else I saw!

I see a figure of Jesus in the shadow of the cross.

Do you see him?

*I see him standing with one arm extended and the other arm raised.*

Think of Jesus final Words recorded in Matthew's Gospel (28:18-20). Two simple Words seem to be expressed by Jesus arms: "GO" and "LO". His arm extended: "GO, make disciples of all nations....!" His arm raised in blessing: "LO, I am with you always....!"

As you carry this ponder pebble, remember WHO and WHOSE you are. You are very, very special! You are a

**Dad, Pastor John Deines,  
set up in Greene, Iowa**

Child of God! You have been called to " GO....and  
SERVE!"

You have the assurance of God's eternal Promise!  
It was made possible for you through the Cross of Christ!  
"LO.....I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS!.....TO THE END OF  
THE AGES!"

PONDER ANEW WHAT THE ALMIGHTY CAN DO!

Pastor John ("PD) & Martha Deines

**This Go-LO Pebble design can be found as the  
Milestones Ministry Gifting Stone for Confirmation.**

[Click here to order.](#)

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



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Milestones Ministry, LLC Website - [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

David Anderson - [danderson@milestonesministry.org](mailto:danderson@milestonesministry.org)

Debbie Streicher - [dstreicher@milestonesministry.org](mailto:dstreicher@milestonesministry.org)

*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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