Evangelism & Formation

This isn't your Grandma's Sunday school!

- Sue Van Oss- sharing the good news through intergenerational ministry, milestones ministry, seasonal festivals, faith @ home kits and hybrid faith formation
- Luisa Van Oss- sharing evangelism efforts and engaging and empowering peers in parish life
- Bronwyn Clark Skov- transitions from young local vocational development to discernment at church wide experiences and leaderhip development

"Lifelong Christian Faith Formation in The Episcopal Church is lifelong growth in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ and is informed by Scripture, Tradition and Reason."

The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation, General Convention 2009

Broken into three sections:

"Through the Episcopal Church...
God invites all people,
God inspires all people
and God transforms all people."

*substitute the word <u>Evangelism</u> for <u>Christian Faith Formation!</u> Evangelism is based on inviting, inspiring and transforming!

And the charter ends with... "Christian Faith Formation in The Episcopal Church is a lifelong journey with Christ, in Christ, and to Christ." *so too is Evangelism!

Sharing our Story-St. Paul's Duluth, MN

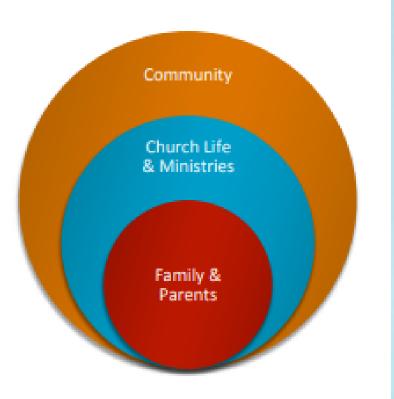
- Have transitioned from "Sunday school" led by "teachers" to "formation" led by faith guides.
- Our formation is not just on Sundays, and it's not school-most of our formation happens during the week (Wednesdays) and it not a school format.
- We also have shifted to focus on intergenerational relationships and ministry. We look at everything we do and ask "how can this include more than 1 generation?"
- We have Families at the Center of Faith Formation as our core for what we do:
 - 100 years ago families were the ones who transmitted faith to their children
 - 50 years ago; it shifted to Sunday schools and church centered transmission
 - Now a shift back to families; and seeing parents and grandparents as the primary faith formers; but they don't have a lot of time and don't feel equipped
 - Churches have much less time with children and teens; need to help parents off the sidelines and be a support and help equip the family to foster a vibrant faith life in their home

(https://youtu.be/YcsbC1WMHYI John Roberto 5 minute or https://churchnextblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/05/just-launched-family-faith-formation-with-john-roberto/)

^{*} By sharing the Good News in these ways; it has been the main evangelism tool of our parish. It provides many non-threatening avenues for seekers to enter into our community.

FAMILIES AT THE CENTER

- Seeing the home as the essential & foundational environment for faith nurture, faith practice, and the healthy development of young people.
- Building faith formation around the lives of the today's families and parents, rather than having the congregation prescribe the programs and activities that families will participate in.



Families at the Center of Faith Formation- John Roberto

http://www.reimaginefait hformation.com/

https://www.lifelongfaith .com/

At St. Paul's:

- -intergenerational relationships and activities
- -milestones ministry
- -seasonal festivals & faith @ home kits
- -hybrid faith formation

Prioritizing Intergenerational Relationships

Prayer Partner Program





Prayer Partner idea came from Mindy Boynton, Ascension Stillwater MN



Ella and Kay-

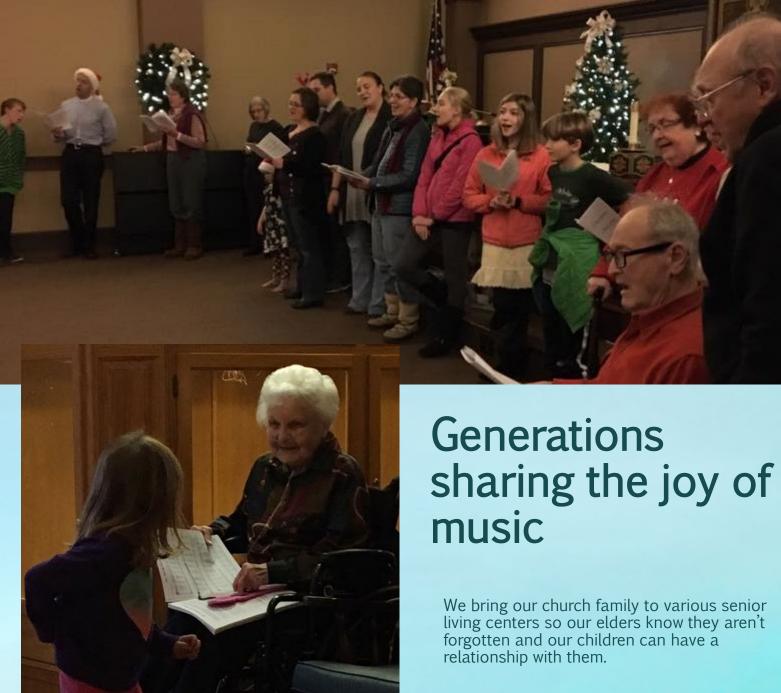
Partners in the final moments...

Ella and Kay would write to each other and greet each other at church. Ella would make sure to join the church Christmas caroling events at Kay's senior residence.

When Ella's family found out Kay was in her last days; they went to her bedside and sang Christmas carols to her for a half hour. What a way for Kay to enter her eternal home and for Ella to experience love, death and the power of making a difference.











Combining the Alleluia Festival with Altar Guild Floral Bouquet Assembly

Used to have our Alleluia Festival/Egg hunt first, then altar guild would come and make their bouquets; with dwindling numbers it took them hours; last year we combined it- huge success!





All generations felt like they had a part in the Flowering of the Cross and learned about it's meaning; and each family received a small wooden cross that was handmade by older parishioners and a bouquet of flowers to put on their cross so they could have it to celebrate Easter in their homes!





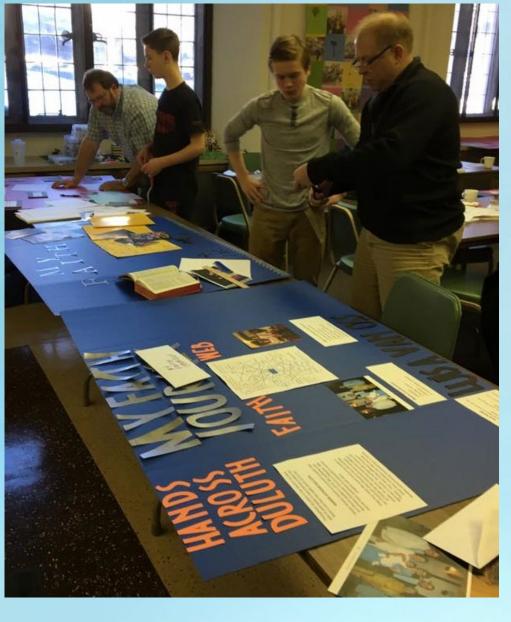


Including all ages in September Rally Day Fun

Having games that older people could do; moved everything outdoors so it's visible and inviting to the community







Adult mentors helping Confirmands assemble their Faith Folds



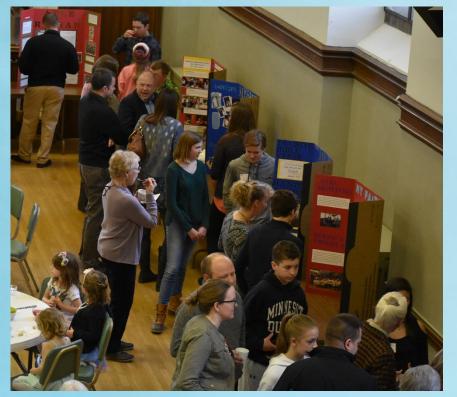




Faith Fold Celebration the month before Confirmation Service; Confirmands shared their faith stories as church family members walked around the filled parish hall







The marvelous results of Faith Webbing and Faith Folds

https://www.faithwebbing.com/







https://youtu.be/Pb26LMYSTwM

All Ages
Serving Together=
S.O.S. (serving others
Sunday) and
5th Wednesdays=Church
Has Left the Building







We partner with local social service agencies to go on site and perform a service project that all ages can participate in. Gives great exposure to The Church Has Left the Building the agencies! We invite college students to join; great way to have them experience our church without walking through the doors. Also a great way for newcomers to get involved and get connected!

Fifth Wednesday Service Projects For All Ages=





Prayer Partners Light the Advent Wreath Each Week







Youth Leadership sharing their gifts with children and with the community

Encourage parishioners to open their homes to the youth and help with larger service/building

projects.







Teens sharing the Good News with the youngest among them.

Leading VBS and sharing their faith folds







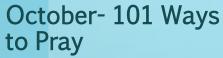
GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Nights





All Ages Sharing Highs & Lows





Wednesday Church Nights: 1st and 2nd Wednesday of every month is age specific formation;

age specific formation; 3rd Wednesday is an all ages GIFT night

4th Wednesday is Faith @ Home 5th Wednesday- outside service projects





November GIFT -Homemade Holidays





Milestones Ministry





https://milestonesministry.org/

25 milestones for all life stages

Evangelism tool= encourage parishioners to take a kit for a friend, neighbor, co-worker





Losing a Tooth

Prayer: Dear Lord. Thank you for Caring about everything that happens to us! Losing our teeth is a sign of growing up! Help us remember that you are with us every step of the way. Amen.

Scripture Says:

Matthew 10: 29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a penhy? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's Care. And even the very hairs of your head are all humbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

Carring Conversations:

Share a memory you have about losing your own tooth.

Is this exciting or scery for you?



Blessing:

As you place this tooth into this treasure box, know that you every bit of you is treasured by God! A special friend is a wonderful gift to have and a liftingle thing to love.



Death of a Pet

Prayer: Oreator God, you made ___ and all creatures. Thank you for the time we

had with ____ and for all the ways s/he blessed us. Be with us now as we say goodbye and give back to you. Amen

Caring Conversations:

Scripture Says:

Genesis 1:29:25 "And God said." Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was sood."

Each member of the household share a favorite memory of your beloved pet. Talk about what will be different how.



As you place a picture of your pet in the frame; May the God of creation be with us in our sadness and comfort our spirits. Amen

From For Everyehing a Ceason





Getting Braces

<u>Prayer</u>: God may you be with _____ as they get new braces. May these

braces help their mouth as it grows. And may they always know you love them just as they are and are perfect in your sight.

Caring Conversations:

Scripture Says:

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Talk about the benefits of braces and the end result that will outweigh any initial discomfort. As a treat, get the person's favorite beverage in the cup included in this kit.

Blessing

May you feel peace, trusting that God will present in this new beginning and that God loves you. Amen.





Being a Caregiver

Prayer: See back of this sheet for A Caregiver's Prayer

Caring Obversations:

Scripture Says:

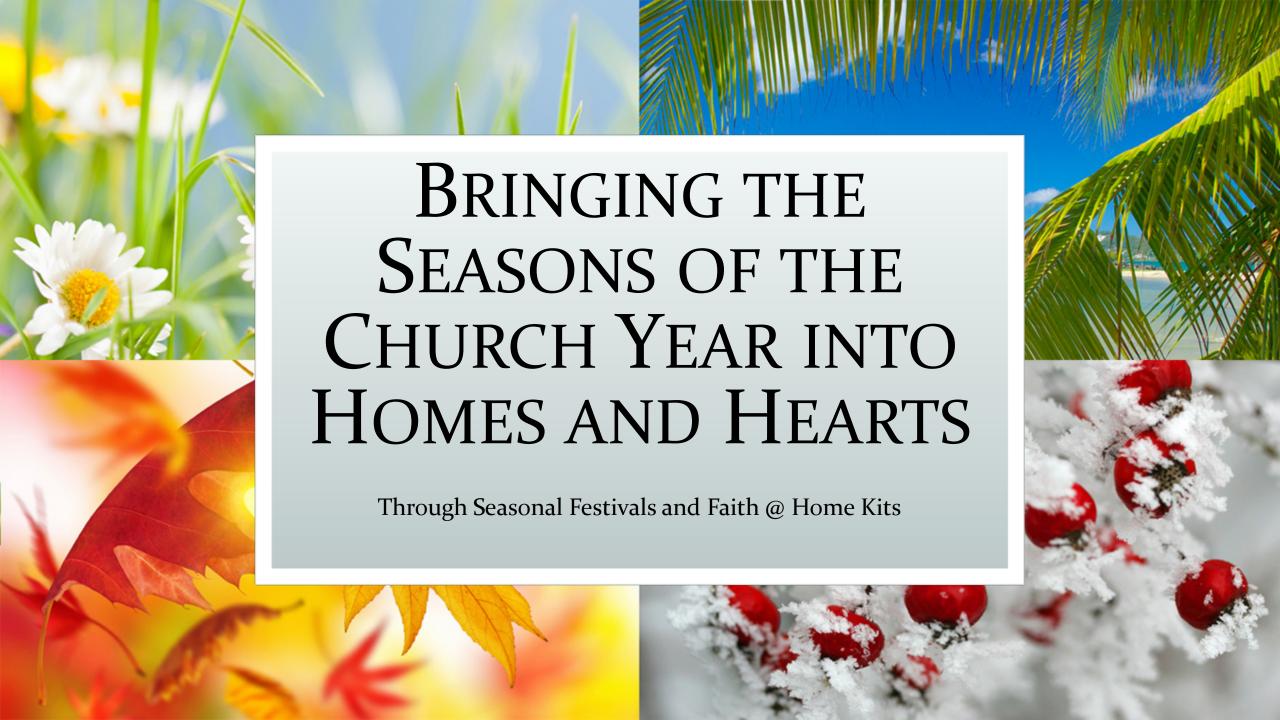
Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"

What do you need to do to take care of yourself as you care for others? Use the mug to get your favorite beverage to enjoy during a few quiet moments.



Bjessing:

Loving God, grant me patience and understanding as I care for those I love. Help me through each moment of joy and sorrow. Be by my side every step of the journey.





Lent Festival

40 simple acts of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving, take a tag off the tree each day, replace it with a silk flower; you have a blooming tree by Easter

Items to take home to bring the season of Lent into the household

40 days of giving; place into purple jar for Lenten mission project. Ex: 5 cents for every light switch in your house





Box with symbol for each Gospel in lent, add to centerpiece each week







Summer To Go Kits



Kits with various fun object and ideas on how to pray during the summer; wherever the individual or family is! -Booklet is included that explains each object -We make them portable -we put them out 2 weeks before Memorial day to catch as many as possible -We offer free delivery to people's homes

Have used a 10 inch pizza box and insulated picnic bag as well for the take home kits!



WEEKLY IN PERSON AND ONLINE FORMATION

- We have found that summer is actually a good time for those who are too busy with sports and other activities during the school year to come to church; so we offer year round formation for kids.
- Different format with multiple ages together and focus on a theme for the 12 weeks;
 Celebrating God's creation through Art- weekly project and final art show; Parables,
 Beatitudes, Son Sports themes.
- Attractive for those who are visiting churches in the summer; they like to see activities for children
- Provide On-Line option for those who don't attend in person; stay connected

https://www.stpaulsfaithformation.org/the-beatitudes.html

https://www.stpaulsfaithformation.org/parables-for-children.html

SERVICE IMMERSION EXPERIENCE- HANDS ACROSS DULUTH



Engage youth in week long service and reflection time; engage larger community through working with various agencies and getting assistance for larger projects from adults in the community;

Built a bike shed and playground equipment for a Catholic Worker community.



Making and delivering meals



RECREATIONAL SPORTS LEAGUES

Great way to spread the Good News in the community; have your church join a summer rec league! Many YMCA's offer them as well as other groups for softball, bowling, bocce, horseshoes, etc.











Pet Blessing





People love their pets!
Wonderful evangelism toolExpanding our pet blessing to have it during our main 10am service!





Get artisans from the community to share their talents

NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM FESTIVAL











Very popular way to start Advent; beyond Advent wreath making; had "Bible time" interactive booths; weaving, pottery, carpentry, scribes, jewelry, etc... along with serving foods from Bible times.







Decided to change things up and last Advent switched to Advent Around the World Festival with booths representing 14 countries serving samples of ethnic foods, displays, explaining Advent and Christmas

traditions, crafts, music, etc. Best thing we have done in years!



ADVENT AROUND THE WORLD FESTIVAL SUNDAY DECEMBER 3 11 A.M.

 Easy to get volunteers; we were struggling with getting enough for previous festivals; no problem with this one; people were excited to share their cultural traditions!

• Easy set up; just purchased 5' x 8' flags for each country and hung up; people brought whatever they wanted for their country's table!

Wonderful way to engage older parishioners who felt valued

 Advertised in community on a small scale; luckily as it was packed! Will expand to other rooms in the building and broaden reach next year







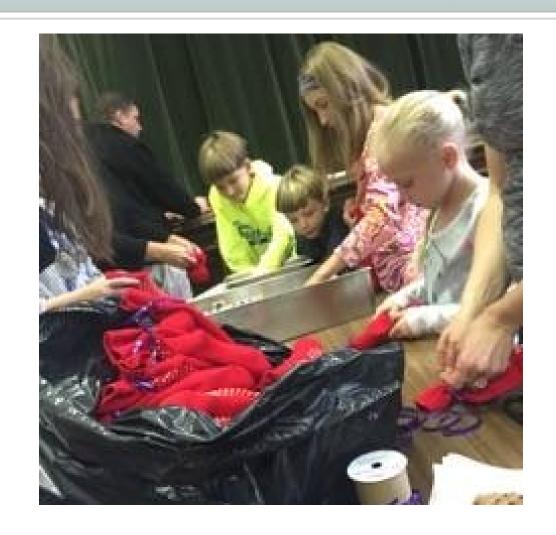


St. Nicholas Festival



We focus on St. Nicholas' spirit of selfless giving in secret by having booths set up where people can assemble care packages, make sandwiches, stuff socks with toiletries, write cards, etc... that go to local agencies.

And yes, St. Nicholas still visits and leaves chocolate coins and oranges in the shoes left at the base of our Giving Tree!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS FESTIVAL-GREENING OF THE CHURCH

The Sunday before Christmas we have a Happy Birthday Jesus party; it engages those who have been part of the church but especially those who are new to the church; a simple evangelism event to help put focus on Jesus' birthday. We have party favors, play games, have a cake and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and this year used Gail Jankin's idea for birthday cake kits that people could take home to make a cake for Jesus over the holiday time. Kits included cake mi, frosting, candles, simple prayers, etc. I forgot to take a picture of our kits so below is a picture of Gail's!



Photo of Gail Jankin's Jesus birthday cake kits



Have also encouraged all ages to help with Greening of the Churchnot just the traditional few who have done it in the past



With everything we do; besides how many different generations can we engage we also think; "how many different ways can we use to reach people with this event?"

= Hybrid Faith Formation

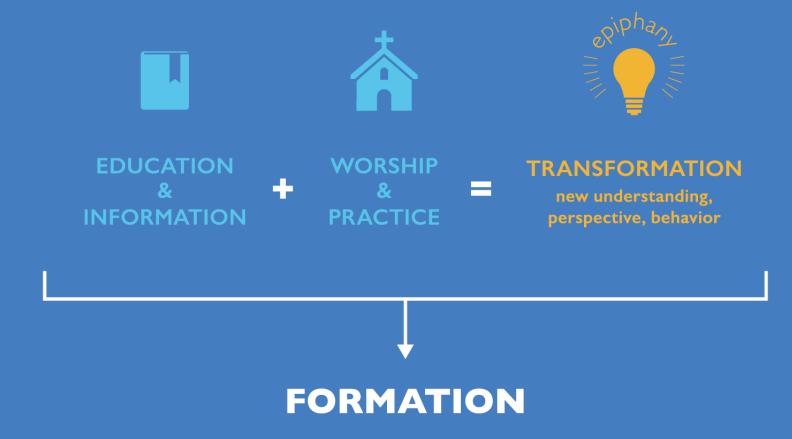
We can no longer assume we are going to get a large group to come to the rector's Bible study on Paul on the 5 Tuesday nights in Lent!

Those days are long gone; so why do we continue to put all our energy into developing and implementing events that we only offer on OUR timeline?

For each in person event; can you...

- Use Facebook live in the moment
- Take pictures to show on FB, Instagram, etc... create filters for them
- Record it to publish later on church's YouTube channel, website, FB link
- Gather people online to engage in the presentation through zoom, google hangout, other vehicle?
- Provide materials after the event
- Deliver materials after the event
- Other ideas?

The Episcopal Church Offices of Young Adult and Campus Ministries and Youth Ministries have created a shorthand formula as a resource in guiding and planning Christian formation.





Have to think of ourselves as Curators

A Faith Formation Curator:

is someone who continually finds, groups, evaluates, organizes, and shares the best and most relevant content and experiences on a specific topic to match the needs of a specific audience.

Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ Trusted Sources
- ✓ Biblical Content
- ✓ Theological Content
- Developmental Appropriateness
- Ethnic-Cultural Appropriateness
- ✓ Inclusivity
- ✓ Ease-of-Use
- Quality of Experience
- Enriching, do-able, short, repeatable activities that weave into daily life
- ✓ Enjoyable!

Choosing Content to Curate

- Content is it opinion or factual, is it correct?
- Credibility/Credentials: Who is the author? Is it from a trustworthy source?
- Commendation: Has the site been recommended by someone/organization you know and trust?
- Contact and Communication: Can the author or web master be contacted with comments or questions?
- Coverage: What is the scope? Is the topic covered in depth: Is it full and comprehensive or is it trivial?
- Copyright: What is the copyright? Is this material current or dated? Authors credited?
- Comprehension: At what level is the material? Is it too complicated or too long?

- Critical Thinking: Can you treat this material the same way you would treat a published book? Does it drift from the main topic?
- Current: Has the information been updated recently? Is there a date for "last updated?"
- Continuity: Will the site continue to be updated? Can you rely on the site over time?
- Connectivity: Does access to the site require special software or skills?
- Clarity: Is the design appealing, with elegant simplicity, or is it fussy, crowded, or complicated? Does too many fancy or large graphics make it slow to load?
- Cruise Control: Is there a site map, table of contents, or outline of topics? Is there a search function in a large site?
- Compassion: Are people treated with fairness and tolerance? Or do you see bias, stereotyping, loaded language, racism, or other hurtful ideas?

Adapted from Elementary CC's for Evaluating Internet Sites Maggie Roche, Adult Faith Formation Committee of NCCL

From GEMS newsletter - Great Endeavors Mined and Shared, Janet Schaeffler, OP

Developing Trusted Sources

Blogs Newsletters Websites

Denominations
Curated Websites
Religious
Organizations

6-8 "Expert"
Resource
People

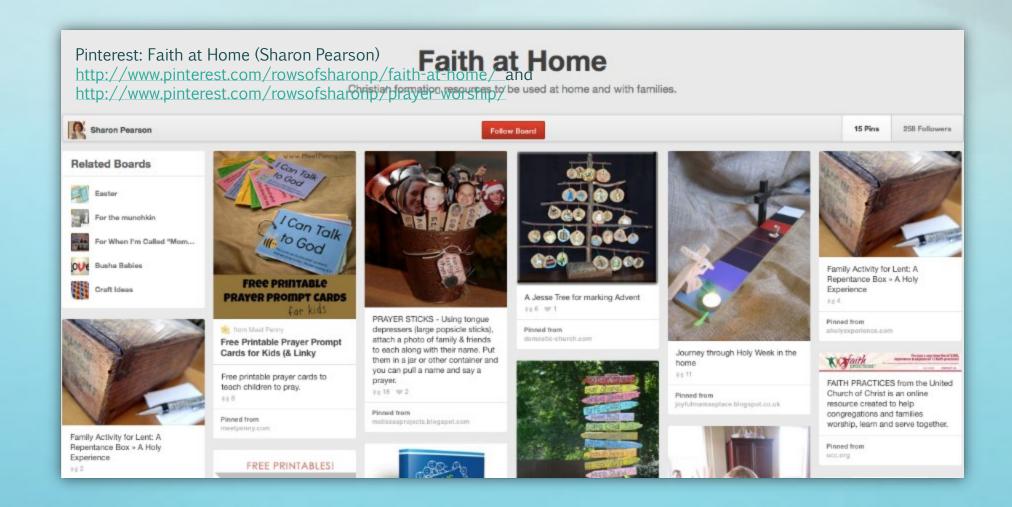
Curating Prayer for All Ages: An Example

finding online resources... "Lord, to whom can we go?"

Avoid 'blind' searches; results often dated, theologically problematic

USE CURATED SOURCES

Faith at Home (Sharon Pearson)



Prayer & Worship (Sharon Pearson)

Prayer & Worship

Sharon Pearson

Follow Board

30 Pins

284 Followers

THE RITE PLACE Kids Do Churchil Adults Do, Tool

The Rite Place: Kids Do Church! Adults Do, Too! by Shawn Schreiner and Dennis Northway offers a new model for inclusive. family friendly worship, Book includes the theology of all age worship, music as formation, and liturgles to use in your own congregation for all of the seasons of the church year.

7±5

Pinned from churchpublishing.org





How to Make a Prayer Tree for Children's Church

Pinned from ministry-to-children.com



THE LORD'S PRAYER IN A BAG uses everyday objects to explain the meaning of the Lord's Prayer

Pinned from



PRAYER STATIONS: A collection of prayer stations from the U.K. that were invented by children ages 5-11 using materials that are easily accessible.

s ± 13

Pinned from flamecreativekids.blogspot.co.uk



The band-aid prayers on the cross represent our own human



LITTLE PRAYER BAGS - contain a creative prayer experience with step-by-step guidelines. They can include a pocket prayer journal, personal prayer beads, a pocket finger labyrinth, etc. Interesting little company in the UK - but perhaps ideas to create your own also.

8±12

Pinned from pligrimpathe.co.uk



FINGER LABYRINTH made out of



TIN MEDITATION BOX - use an Altoids (or any other little tin box) and fill is with tiny objects that can then be taken out for a meditation stations / altar wherever you are. Great activity for youth or to give your teachers as thank you gifts. 8±18

Pinned from



The Lord's Prayer Cube

Pinned from



CREATIVE PRAYER STATIONS



LENT-EASTER 2018

https://www.forma.church/good-book-club/

Goodbookclub.org



The Web is changing the way we learn, we experience, we pray...

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Week 4 Day 2: Trusting in Jesus (Thomas)



SSJE.org
Monastic wisdom for everyday living online

Who's it for? Visual learners, art lovers



ChurchNext: An online school of formation for your congregation

Daily Prayer for All Seasons

Daily Prayer for All Seasons provides a holy — and wholly realistic — way to order our days, no matter how full they seem.

In The Episcopal Church, our Book of Common Prayer offers beautiful services for morning, noon, evening, and nighttime in a section called "The Daily Office" (pp. 35-146). Daily Prayer for All Seasons offers a variation on that theme, a shortened version, where a complete service covers one or two pages at most, thereby eliminating the need to shuffle prayer books and hymnals. Daily Prayer for All Seasons works for individuals, small groups, and/or congregations. This prayer book presents a variety of images of God by including inclusive and expansive language for and about God, and it presents a variety of words by including poetry, meditation and prayers from the broader community of faith.

Download: Daily Prayer For All Seasons

Document Date:

Sunday, February 1, 2015

https://www .episcopalch urch.org/libr ary/docume nt/dailyprayer-allseasons HOME

LECTIO DIVINA PRACTICES SAINTS VISIO DIVINA

ENDORSEMENTS





MARCH 15, 2012 · 7:35 PM



Welcome!

Prayer is responding to God, by thought and deeds, with or without words. This site is for you!

- Learn about prayer

 Deepen your prayer practices



Episcopalprayer.org

Example of going back and making sure links still work... this site no longer exists!

LOYOLAPRESS. http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-signup login | Cart A JESUIT MINISTRY retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm

SEARCH

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH 》

FAITH FORMATION >>

LANGUAGE ARTS »

BILINGÜE »

SHOP >

Home >> Our Catholic Faith >> Prayer >> 3-Minute Retreats

3-Minute Retreats

About the Retreats

Archives

Daily E-Mail Reminders

3 minutos de retiro

Acerca de los retiros

Archivo

E-Mail diario

Subscribe

Sign up below to have these peaceful prayer breaks delivered to your inbox every morning.

Email

Subscribe







pray-as-yougo.org/home/





Faith and Mercy

March 5, 2018

begin>













D365.org

Guide

Presence

I pause for a moment and think of the love and the grace that God showers on me, creating me in his image and likeness, making me his temple....



Move on »





Sacredspace.ie

Faith Life

for Christian

Book

Website

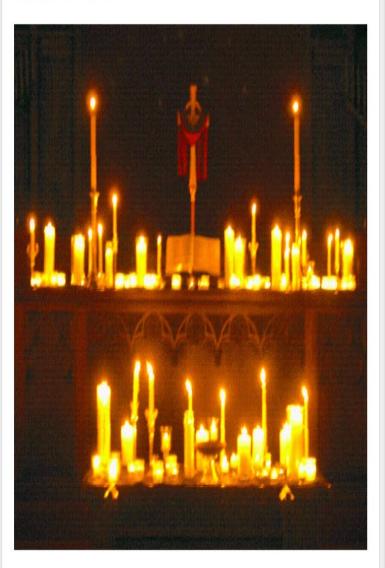
w Presents

g the Website



ADULTS, PRAYER, YOUTH

Taize Service



TEEN SERMONS

Are We Listening



Homily by Ben Saint Paul's Epis Church Ventura, CA Youth Sund April 29, 2007 O Lord God, open hearts to listen to your voice, thr Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. "M sheep hear my voice. I know the they follow me." This is what Jes tells the people in the temple tha winter...

Read more →

http://myfaithmylife.org/2017/11/29 /welcome-posters-2017-2018/

Taize services invite meditation through prayers, readings and simple songs that

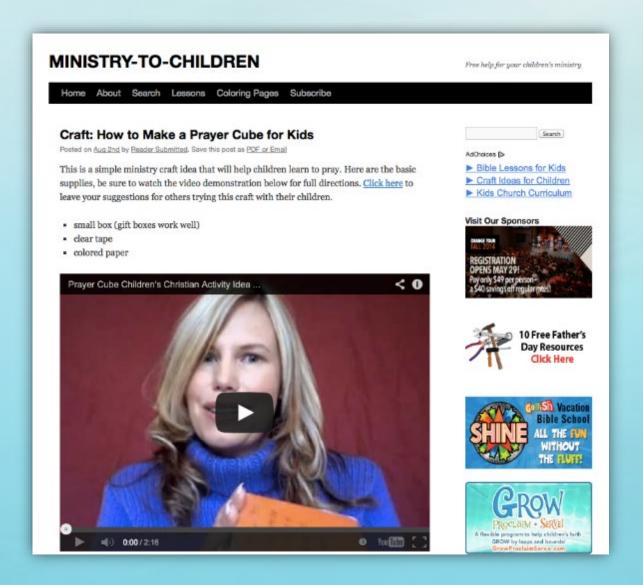
Fresh Ideas: (Prayer Online)
http://www.prayeronline.org.au/fresh-ideas

Prayer Online



Ministry-to-Children

Make a Prayer Cube (Ministry to Children)
http://ministry-to-children.com/prayer-cube-craft/



Search curated collections to efficiently improve your chances of success



https://www.lifelongfaith.com/curated.html

Curated Faith Formation Resources

A List of Curated Digital Resources

Bible, Prayer, Worship, Family & Parents, Children & Youth, Adults, and Videos

A 21st century approach to faith formation requires that the faith formation leader become a **curator** - a trusted guide who continually finds, groups, organizes, and connects the best and most relevant content and resources on a specific subject to match the needs of a specific audience. In the new digital world of abundant resources, the role of the faith formation leader is shifting from *providing* religious content and programming to *curating* religious content and experiences for all ages. The convergence of an abundance of content, the variety of programming to address the diverse needs and interests of people today, and the online platform for delivering programming and connecting people is creating the impetus for faith formation leaders to reimagine their primary role.

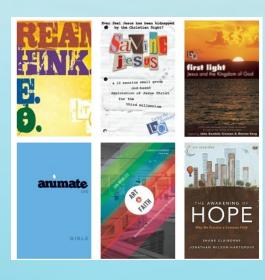


Vibrant Faith at Home: realistic family activity guides

Search curated collections to efficiently improve your chances of success

Building Faith: accessible, practical ministry ideas





Resource Center for Churches:

(MN) attractive browsing of traditional congregational resources

Storypath: children's literature + faith themes



Collect new resources by subscribing to, liking, following trusted sources

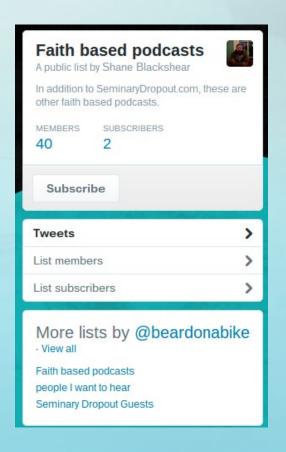


Feed reader





Pinterest!



Twitter lists

http://www.vts.edu/cmt

"Through the Episcopal Church... God invites all people, God inspires all people and God transforms all people."

Blessings as you go out and invite, inspire and transform all!

Sue Van Oss, Director of Christian Formation
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Duluth, MN 55812
218-724-3535
Luisa Van Oss
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suevanoss@stpaulsduluth.org
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On FB, Pinterest, Youtube channel, and instagram and twitter (although not well on those two³)