



At St. Paul's:

Age specific faith formation is not what we focus on..... we prioritize:

-intergenerational relationships and activities

-milestones ministry

-seasonal festivals & faith @ home kits

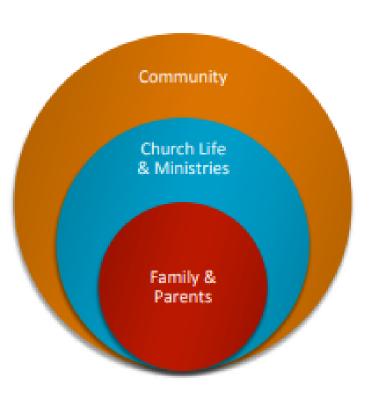
-hybrid faith formation=online and in person

SHARING OUR ST. PAUL'S STORY

- We have transitioned from "Sunday school" led by "teachers" to hybrid "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)
 or at home. We only gather in age specific groups twice a month; 16 sessions a year.
- 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?"
- Hybrid FF=We look at every event and say how can we provide this material online as well as in person?
- 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

FAMILIES AT THE CENTER

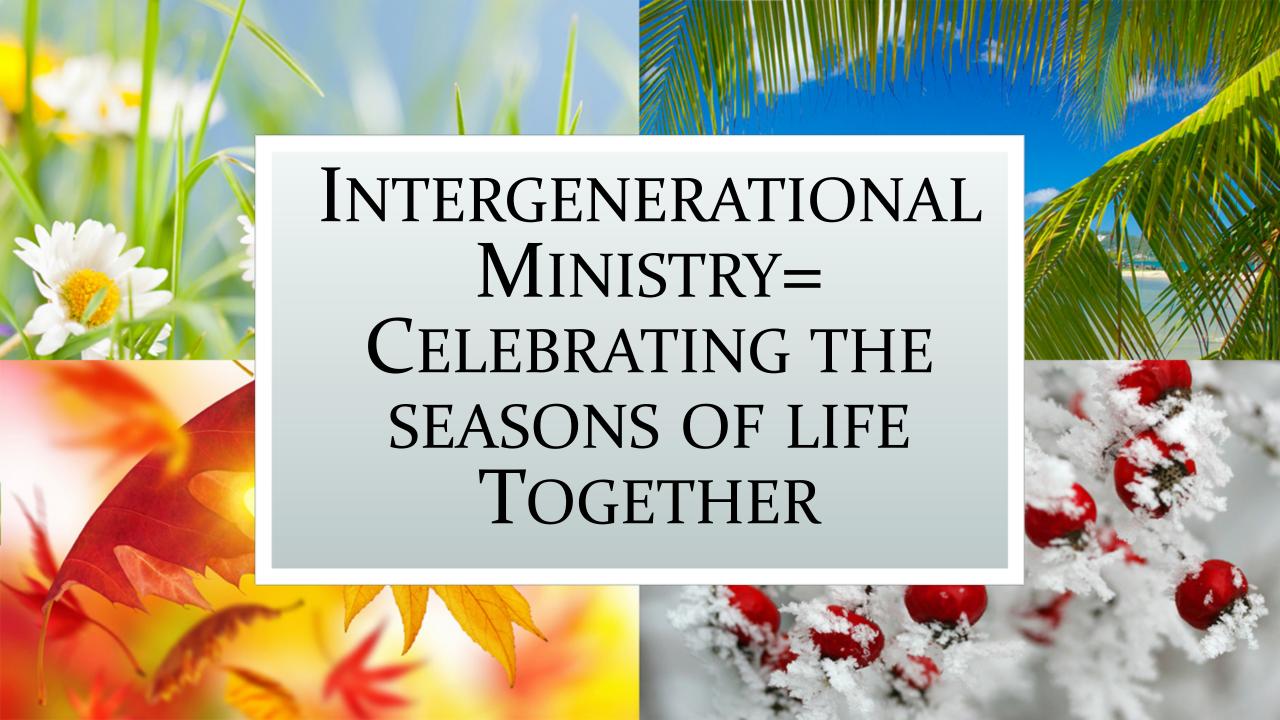
- Seeing the home as the essential & foundational environment for faith nurture, faith practice, and the healthy development of young people.
- Building faith formation around the lives of the today's families and parents, rather than having the congregation prescribe the programs and activities that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



Families at the Center of Faith Formation- John Roberto

http://www.innovationfaith.com/vision.html

https://www.lifelongfaith.com/





Prayer Partner Program





Prayer Partner idea came from Mindy Boynton, Ascension Stillwater MN



Prioritizing Intergenerational Relationships

Prayer Partners Light the Advent Wreath Each Week





Ella and Kay-

Partners in the final moments...

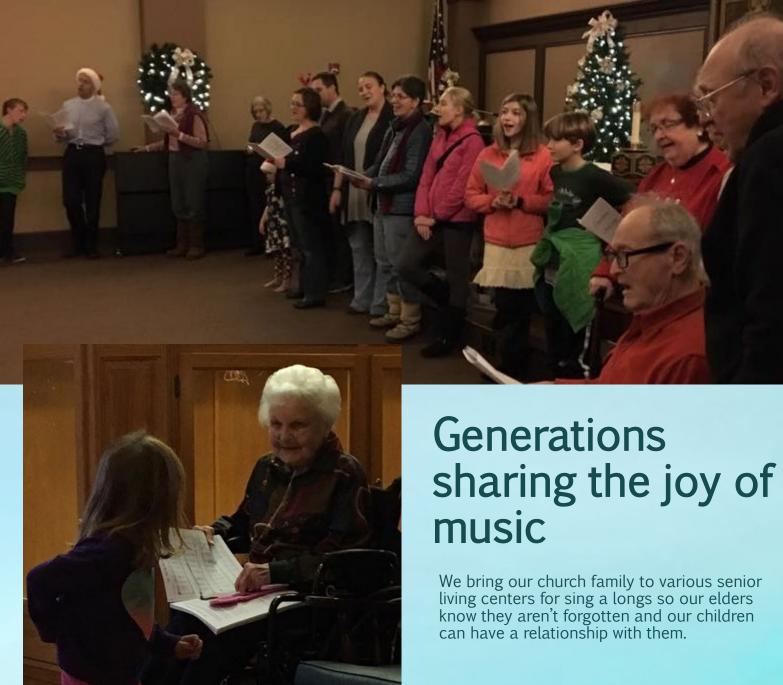


Prayer Partners Ella and Kay would write to each other and greet each other at church. Ella would make sure to join the church Christmas caroling events at Kay's senior residence.

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!

Recent funerals have had young prayer partners serving as acolytes for their deceased adult prayer partner as a way to honor their relationship and say a final goodbye.





- Intergenerational Choir
 Children/teens join chancel choir throughout the year
- In summer we have intergen choir with no additional rehearsals- just come on Sunday morning and sing!





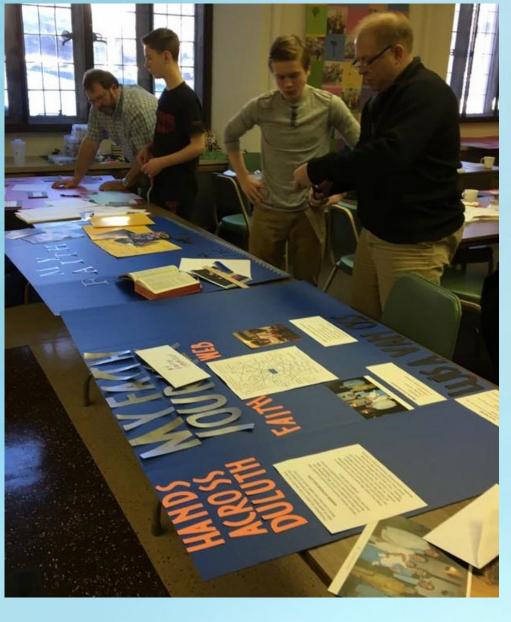
Including all ages in September Rally Day Fun

Having games that older people could do; options for seating for all ages.









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/



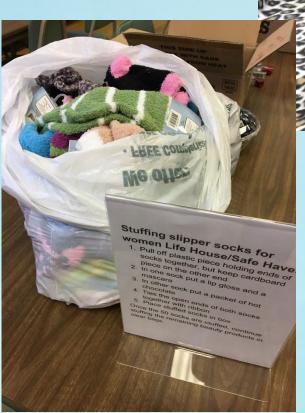
Faith Webbing Video





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









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=







Youth Leadership sharing their gifts with adults to serve others:

Encourage parishioners to open their homes to the youth and help with larger service/building projects like our annual Hands Across Duluth service immersion each summer.







Teens sharing the Good News with the youngest among them.

Leading VBS and sharing their faith folds







Confirmation Students assist elementary students with service projects







GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Nights





All Ages Sharing Highs & Lows



101 Ways to Pray

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

3rd Wednesday is an all ages GIFT

night

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



Music Around the World

Calling stories in the Bible





Finding Faith in Harry Potter GIFT Night

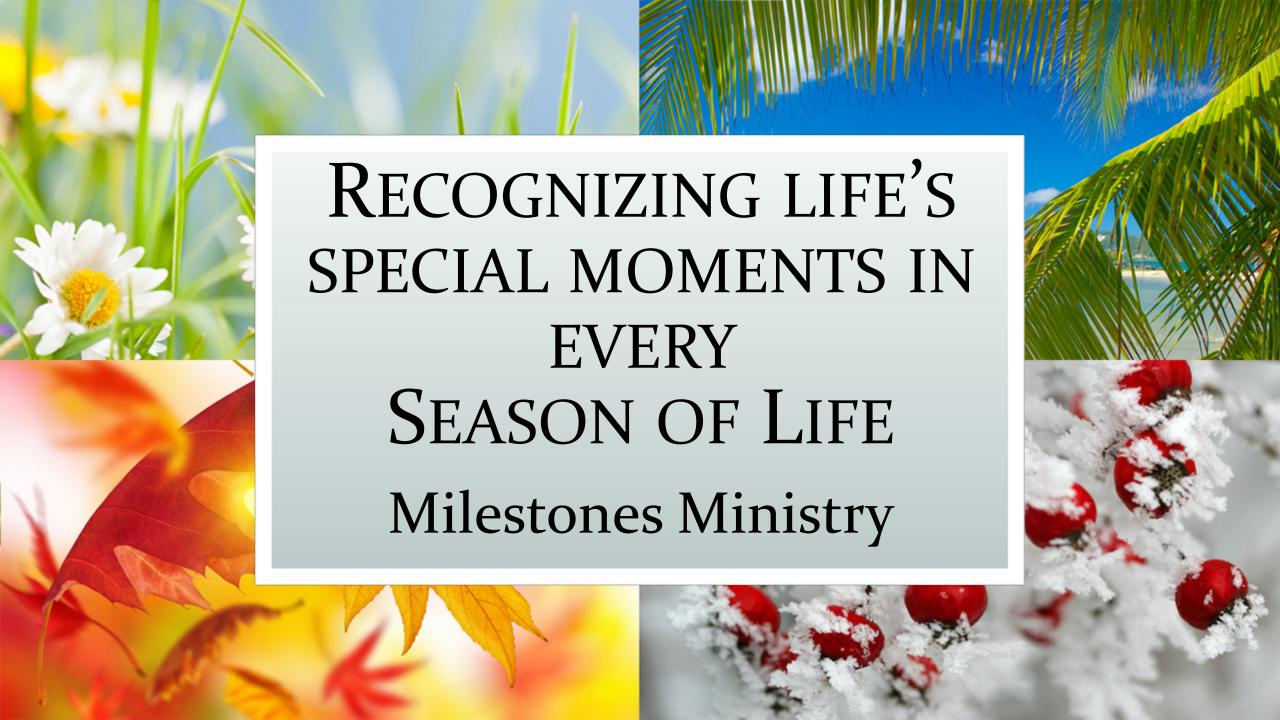
- Defeating dementors
- Making patronus charms
- Horcrux hunt
- Wand
 making/what
 are the wands
 in our lives?

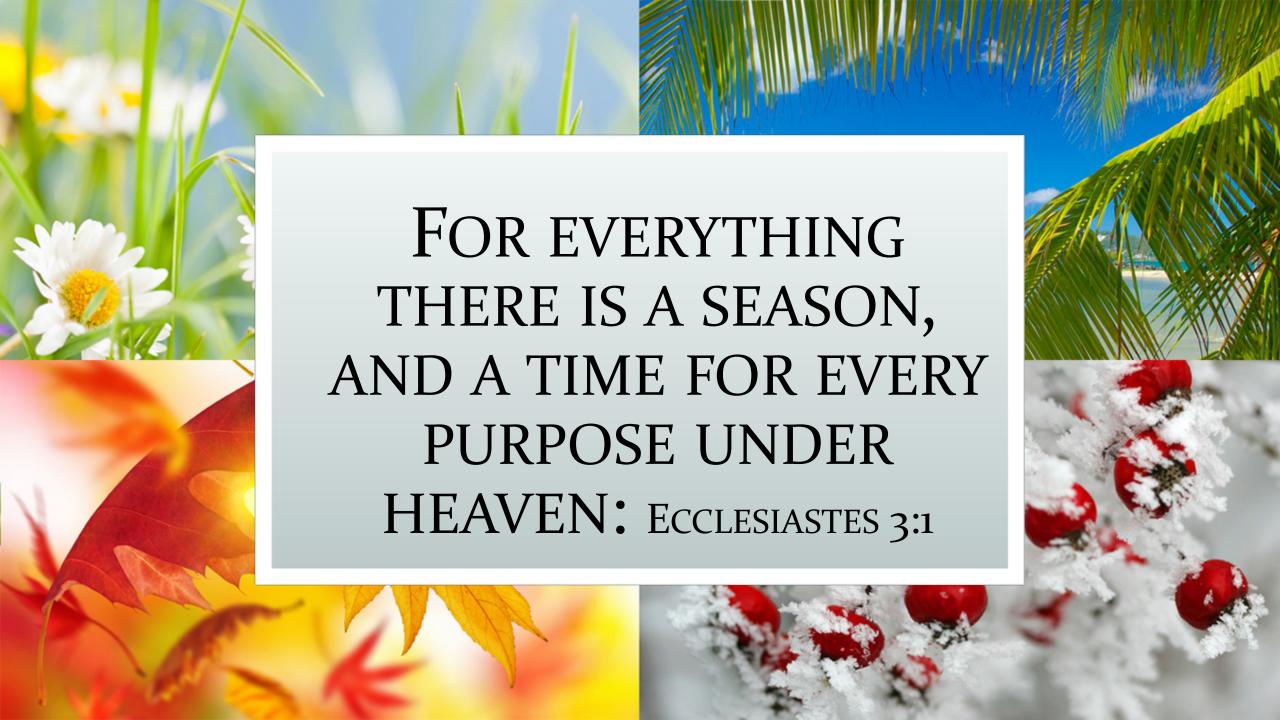


November GIFT -Homemade Holidays









Beyond celebrating the milestones of church sacraments; Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage...

We provide resources for all ages to celebrate those ordinary and extraordinary moments in one's life and mark them with God's presence in those moments through milestone kits @ home

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 wordinged 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

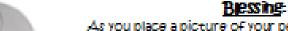
had with ____ and for all the ways s/he blessed us. Be with us now as we say goodbye and give back to you. Amen

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.





2008-2016 NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM ADVENT FESTIVAL









Got artisans from the community to share their talents



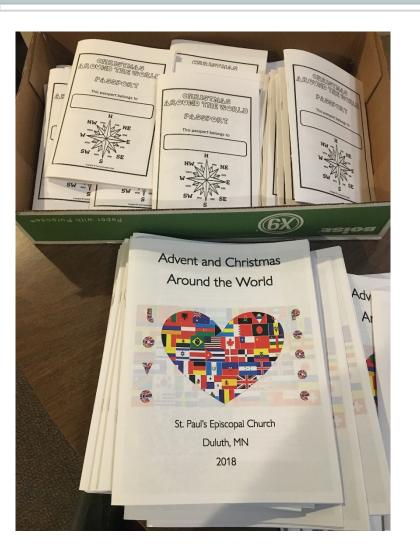
Very popular way to start Advent; beyond Advent wreath making; had "Bible time" interactive booths; weaving, pottery, carpentry, scribes, jewelry, etc... along with serving foods from Bible times.







2017-2019 ADVENT AROUND THE WORLD FESTIVAL



Wanted something different and wanted to highlight and lift up different cultures within our congregation and the world!

Asked for volunteers to host a specific country booth; first year had 14 countries represented! We now have to rotate countries because we don't have enough room for all of them! People love sharing their heritage and cultural traditions, foods, crafts, music and stories.



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

Best thing we have done in years!

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 3' x 5' 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 need to expand to additional spaces



Still have Advent wreath Making – have used pillar candles from Ikea, traditional tapers and various Advent Calendars







Food from the various countries- Guatemala and Norway







Kits to make Christingles



Brioche from France- yes you can get the food at Aldi instead of homemade ©





Rosca de Reyes-Three King's Cake



Colombian Youth making Arepas



Norwegian youth making Swedish pancakes









Finnish wooden ornaments; teen taking pride in their heritage and finding a way to connect back in with the parish



Polish pierogis and glass ornament making



Republic of Ireland Christmas cracker making



France

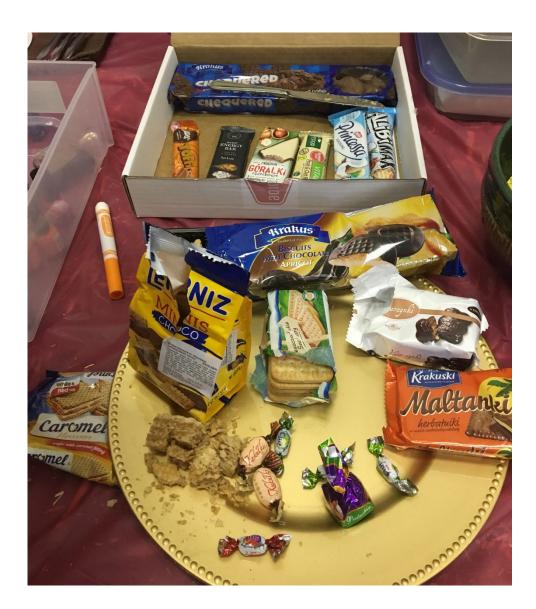




Pinata busting- Mexico booth



Candies from Poland



Handing out German chocolates as prizes for filling your passport with all the country stamps



Mincemeat pies and Christmas crackers



German Christingles





Italian nativity set and familia ornament making and Australian ANZAC biscuits



FESTIVAL PREVIEWS- Touring the youngest children around before the festival hall opened- it can get overwhelming when the hall is full, so we offer a pre-festival tour for young children

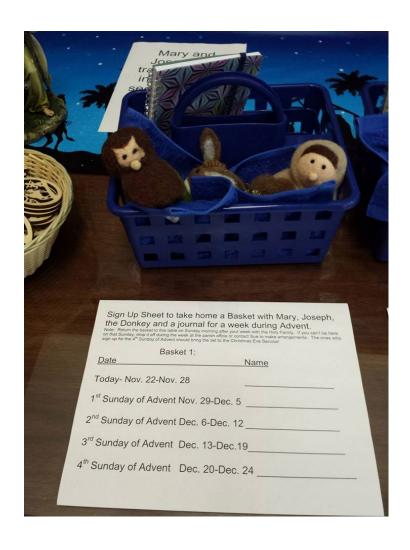








The Holy Family Home Visits During Advent



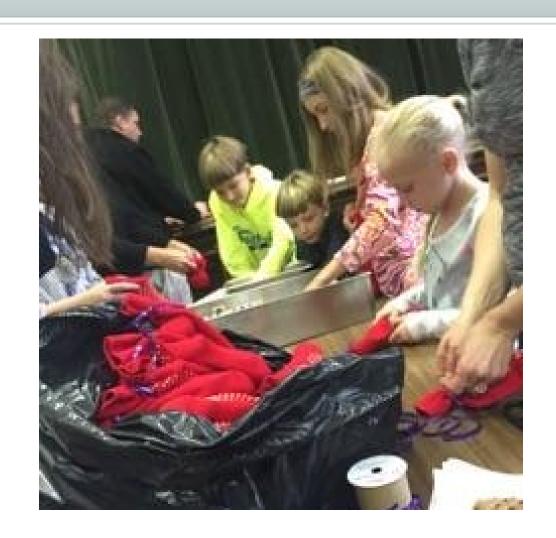


St. Nicholas Festival



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.

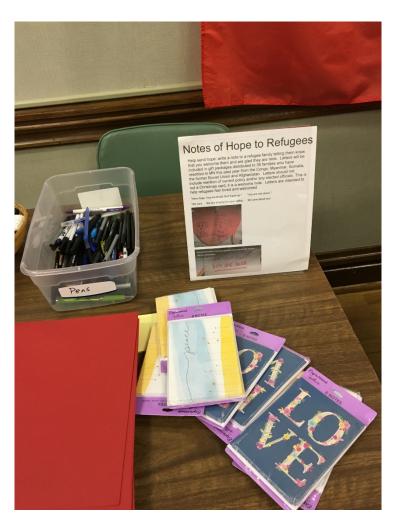
And yes, St. Nicholas still visits and leaves chocolate coins and oranges in the shoes left at the base of our Giving Tree!



Project stations set up; stuffing slippers with toiletries, fleece blankets for wildlife hospital, notes for refugees







St. Nicholas visits and you can take photos with him, receive a St. Nicholas gingerbread cookie made by a parishioner



Pinecone bird feeders for WildWoods





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 the focus on Jesus' birthday. We have party favors, play games, have a cake and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and have used Gail Jackin's idea for birthday cake kits that people could take home to make a cake for Jesus over the holiday time. Kits included cake mix, frosting, candles, simple prayers, etc.



Photo of Gail Jackin'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



CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

No rehearsal; come and put on a costume =chaotic joy!



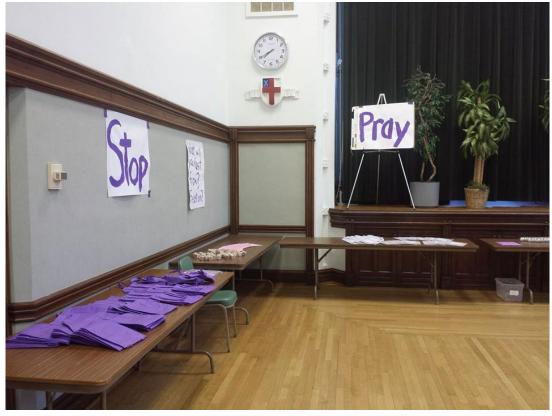






LENT FESTIVAL

Set up as booths to stop by and pick up items; then create additional kits for those who aren't able to attend and deliver them to homes- place at their front door if not home, otherwise do a quick visit.



Kits to make pretzels at home along with card explaining the significance of pretzels.



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



Reflection booklets from A Sanctified Art and Illustrated Children's Ministry



Trees from naeir.org





Lent in a Bag kits



https://buildfaith.org/lent-in-a-bag/

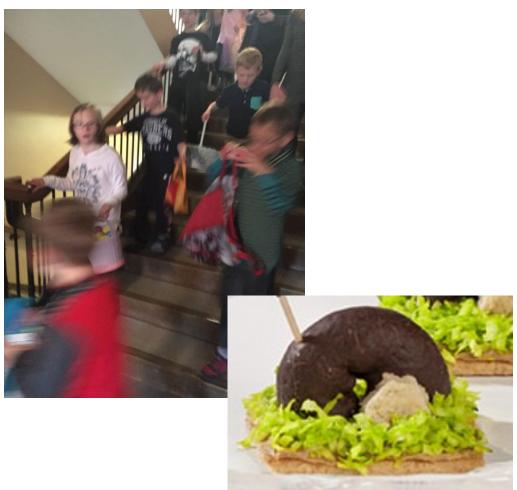




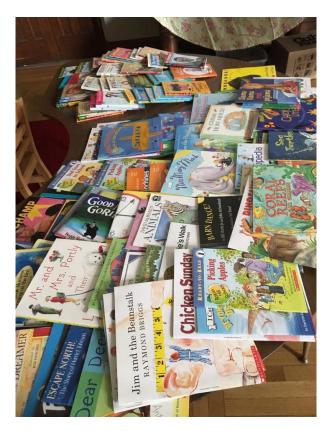
Egg Hunt is part of the Alleluia Festival on Holy Saturday morning- we know total number of eggs hidden, usually around 1,000 that teens have stuffed; then count # of kids, divide and that's the number kids can hunt for after storytime; then come to hall to select 1 large prize and a new book; have snacks, crafts and floral bouquet making.

Prizes from naeir.org





Books from scholastic warehouse











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; we combined it- huge success and win/win!

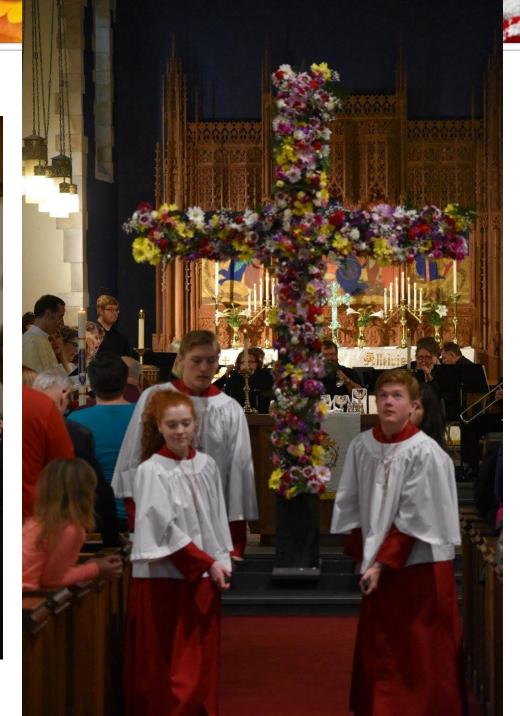
All generations felt like they had a part in the Flowering of the Cross and learned about it's meaning; and each family received a small wooden cross that was handmade by older parishioners and a bouquet of flowers to put on their cross so they could have it to celebrate Easter in their homes!





Flowering of the Cross





We alternate between resurrection gardens and mini floral crosses









Easter Season is time for Blessing Cup/Eucharist instruction family sessions







Pentecost Festival

Kite flying, dove crafts, pinwheels, wearing red and of course, birthday cake







Summer To Go Kits



Kits with various fun objects and ideas on how to pray during the summer using those objects; wherever the 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



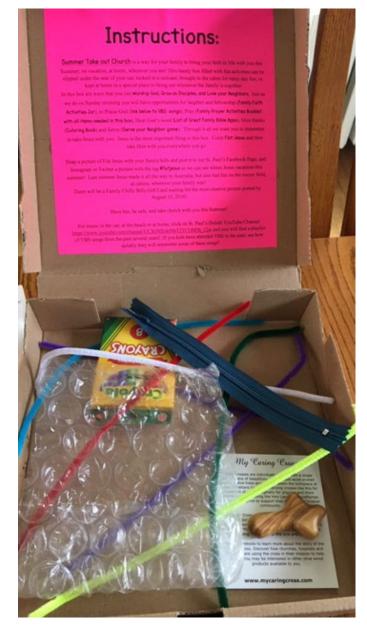
Pineapple Beach Bags- insulated picnic bag was a hit also!

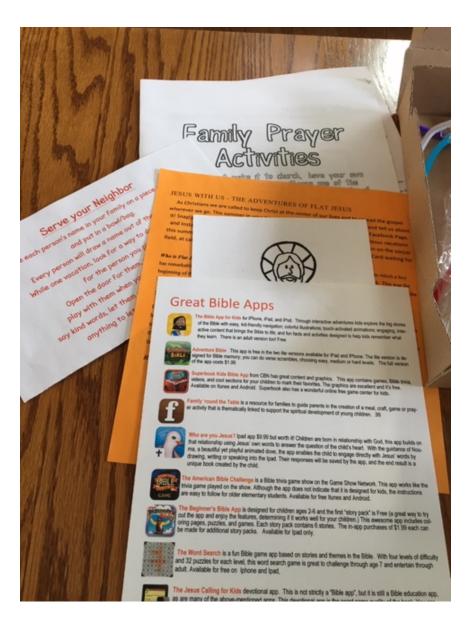




Pizza Boxes







Finger Labyrinths





SUMMER SUNDAY 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.





Our children/teens who attend Episcopal Youth Music Camp and are funded in part by parishioners host a service on the shore of Lake Superior followed by a picnic to thank the congregation for their support

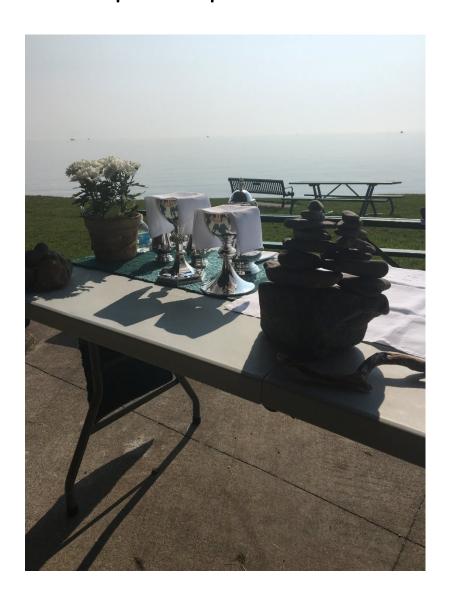
Services on the Shore

Enjoying the beauty of God's creation- at courtyard of senior living complex overlooking Lake Superior & Brighton Beach park pavilion



Transformation occurs in small steps.... Gold vases to potted plants....

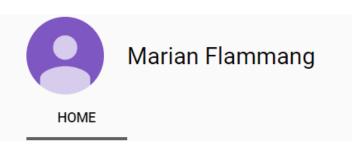






Faith At Home- Meditation

Modeled it in age specific faith formation sessions; had a parishioner skilled in centering prayer visit each grade level twice for 15 minutes and introduce the concept; she is creating youtube videos so that parents can watch and replicate at home. Actually do it every time for prek-2nd grade music & movement group.



Uploads PLAY ALL



Way of Love Candle Meditation



Way of Love Meditation for Third and Fourth Grade Fait...









Pet Blessing





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



Shine the Light of Jesus Festival







Finding Faith in Harry Potter - 4 Day Fest

Intergenerational night, adult night and 2 day/1 night youth event



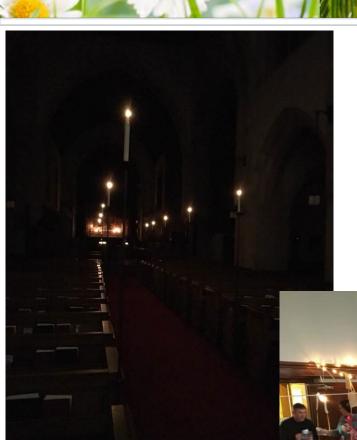






Youth Overnight Friday: Visit Diagon Alley Sortying Ceremony Welcome by Prf. McGanagall **Feast** Wand Making Scavenger Hunt Classes - Potions, Divinations, Defense of Dark Arts Personal Patronus Visit to the Forbidden Forest

Saturday: Quidditch Mirror of Erised Triwizard Tournament-Dragon Eggs Retrieving a Loved One Searching for Triwizard Cup Harry Potter Alliance - Service Project Closing - The Power of Love vs the Love of Power



Defeating dementors in the hidden forest with the help of a stag patronus



Eating meals with fellow sorted members of each house







Horcux Hunt Wand Making Family style feasts





Patronus Charms





Potions class

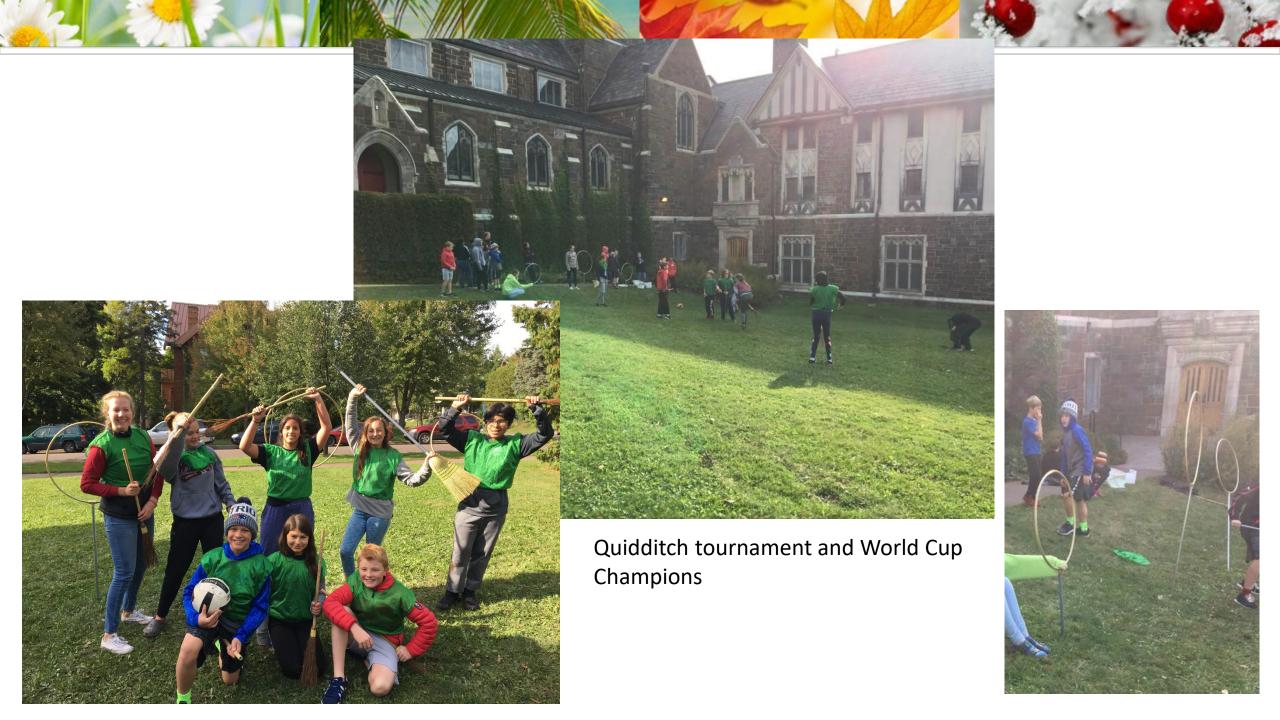
Stomping out dementors in our lives





Decorated all areas of the building, including the bathrooms!







Adults only evening with butter beer, real beer and Hogwarts appetizers





Chocolate Frogs and Episcopal Saint Cards





Hybrid Faith Formation

WITH EVERYTHING WE DO; BESIDES HOW MANY DIFFERENT GENERATIONS CAN WE ENGAGE WE ALSO PONDER; "HOW MANY DIFFERENT WAYS CAN WE USE TO REACH PEOPLE WITH THIS EVENT?"

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?

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!

DEVELOPING TRUSTED SOURCES

Blogs Newsletters Websites

Denominations
Curated Websites
Religious
Organizations

6-8 "Expert"
Resource
People

