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# Northeast Indiana Family Life Ministry Council



We would like to **thank you** for attending the luncheon at The Lutheran Foundation on September 20, 2012. **YOU GAVE US** valuable insight into the strengths and needs of area Lutheran congregations. This newsletter showcases some of the ideas that came from that luncheon as well as others that can be found on our website. We encourage you to share this email with other ministry leaders. Be sure to look for future editions of this newsletter with other great ministry suggestions in a variety of family life areas.

In the meantime, we invite you to visit our website for valuable ideas and resources on a variety of family ministry topics. New updates are added regularly. To visit us, go to [www.theflmc.org](http://www.theflmc.org).

## Featured Event

### Family Ministry Free Webinar

Presented by  
Dr. Ben Freudenberg,  
Professor  
Concordia University,  
Ann Arbor, MI

Thursday, December 6th  
Noon to 1:00 PM

[Click here for more  
information or to join the  
webinar.](#)

## Grandparents in Faith

A parent's responsibility for nurturing the faith of future generations does not end when the children are grown and out of the house. Instead, our responsibilities continue, perhaps with even greater emphasis, when grandchildren enter the picture. In Deuteronomy God gave specific instructions to His people on faith development. Those instructions were given not only to parents but to grandparents as well.

**With 2/3 or our children leaving the church by young adulthood, we need grandparents more than ever.** However, many of the grandparents in our congregations either do not understand their important role or are unsure how to overcome the obstacles they may face.

As ministry leaders, it is critical that we support our grandparents and empower them to fulfill the Great Commission within their own families. The Northeast Indiana Family Life Ministry Council has been working to gather ideas to help you in this mission field. Several of the ideas/resources are outlined in this email. We encourage you to visit our new website for more information.

We want to hear from you! Do you have resources or ideas on this topic? We would love to share them on the website as well. [Click here to contact us.](#)



## Top Ten Faith Practices in the Home

Many of the grandparents we have interviewed know they need to be actively involved in the faith development of their grandchildren but need a little help getting started. In David & Kathy Lynn's *HomeGrown Faith*, they identify ten faith practices that should be occurring in the home. With a little creativity, all ten can also apply to grandparents, even if they do not live near their grandchildren! For an article on applying these faith practices, visit the Grandparenting tab on our website or [click here](#).

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church recently hosted a Grandparents' Luncheon to share this information. They offered a free lunch after Sunday worship that was served by the youth group. Afterwards, the participants attended a worship on Faith Grandparenting. The workshop was led by the Council's own Michelle Leahy. If you would be interested in hosting a similar workshop, feel free to [contact Michelle](#) for more information.

## Cross-Generational Ministry Opportunities

Most of us are very familiar with and comfortable hosting age-segregated ministry programs within our parishes. While these are helpful and needed, we must also provide opportunities for cross-generational relationships to develop in a faith nurturing environment. This can be a bit more of a challenge to develop, but the rewards are huge... and eternal. Children are much more likely to grow into healthy responsible adults who remain in the faith when they develop relationships with caring adults both within and outside the family. They learn so much more and become much more infused in the larger church body if they participate in activities outside their own age group.

Consider the following ideas for congregation-centered, cross-generational programs:

- Family Retreat for All Generations - Encourage grandparents to invite their grandchildren.
- Family Fun Night - Choose a holiday or theme, and invite families to attend a night of games, activities, and crafts. Specifically enlist grandparents to help planning and presenting the program.
- Service Projects - All generations can work together to complete service projects at your church. They can fill backpacks with school supplies, make hospital bags for children in hospital waiting rooms, fill shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and more. Given the recent devastation of Hurricane Sandy, this would be an excellent time to create Christmas ornaments together that could then be sent to those who lost everything in the storm.
- Confirmation Interviews - Encourage your confirmation students to interview adults outside their immediate family about their faith and its impact on their lives.

For more cross-generational ministry ideas, visit our website at [www.theflmc.org](http://www.theflmc.org).

## We Want to Hear from YOU!

We would love to hear anything you might share with us for the good of Northeast Indiana family ministry efforts! Feel free to contact us at any time.

In addition, we will include a one-question survey in each of our newsletters. Your feedback is extremely important to us and will only take a few minutes of your time.

How has your congregation countered the competition to the Sabbath and worship time (e.g., sports, band, travel sports, other competitions) thereby helping our members to make church and worship a priority?

[Click here to respond.](#)

### FLMC Board

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