

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

# Northeast Indiana Family Life Ministry Council



Greetings from the Northeast Indiana Family Life Ministry Council!

This bi-monthly newsletter has been developed for YOU, as a pastor, a congregational leader, a family at home, an educator, a DCE, or anyone who works with families in any way. We want to act as a conduit for information and resources for your programs and needs and to encourage your participation.

Please forward this email to anyone in your ministry who might benefit from great articles, resources, and tools for effective family ministry. If you know of someone who should be added to our mailing list, please contact [Michelle Leahy](#), our web/newsletter coordinator.

We also invite you to visit our website ([www.theflmc.org](http://www.theflmc.org)) for valuable resources, tools, and information.

We would love to hear from you! Please send us your thoughts, ideas, and descriptions of programs that are working well in your ministry. This newsletter is a great opportunity to share your success and to encourage cooperation between ministries.

God's blessings in your ministry!

## Featured Event

### **Embracing Intergenerational Ministry**

Presented by  
Great Kids Make Great  
Communities

Tuesday, February 26th  
7:30-8:30 AM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

## **Utilizing Intergenerational Activities to Enhance Youth Faith Formation**



Pastor Dan Fugate (Assoc. Pastor of Children, Youth and Family Life at Trinity English Lutheran Church) recently spoke on this topic as a means to address concerns over the state of American youth and what they need in order to be healthy. For 3 decades the following organizations have researched faith formation (Dartmouth Medical School, YMCA, Institute for American Values, 1988-89 Search Institute and Vibrant Faith Formation). A 2003 study revealed these needs of our youth:

1. American youth are in a deteriorating state of mental and behavioral health.
2. The adult/cultural reaction to this state is inadequate and contributing to the problem.
3. What's causing this crisis in American childhood is a lack of connectedness (close connectedness to other people) and deep connections to moral and spiritual meaning.
4. The challenge for civil society is to expose young people to moral admirable persons. What really holds potential for making a moral impact on a mid-adolescent is a powerful connection with individual adults whom he/she can admire and idealize.

Additionally this research identified and substantiated key faith formative influences were overwhelmingly attributed to the parents with their direct input (both conscious and unconscious).

Since 2005 various individuals and organizations have done "soul searching" (see resource appendix at end of article). These have resulted in excellent publications containing a multitude of ideas for congregations to adapt to their own circumstances and needs. Pastor Fugate began introducing these practices into his ministry. With intentional inclusion of a variety of ages he has expanded the influence and importance of each rite of passage

beyond the usual and expected participants. [Read more...](#)

## Building Intergenerational Relationships in the Congregation

Judge Charles Pratt, Allen Superior Court, Family Relations Division



Intergenerational relationships are essential for a child's healthy development; a truth that is reaffirmed throughout scripture. Increasingly the Church is embracing God's direction for instructing our youth and His plan for their growth as recorded in Deuteronomy 6:6-9, "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Secular research has confirmed the importance of intergenerational connections as well. Research from Temple University's Intergenerational Center confirms that meaningful interactions between generations increases protective factors and reduces the likelihood that children and teens will engage in risk behaviors. Since its organization in 1998, Allen County's positive youth development initiative "Great KIDS make Great COMMUNITIES" has been committed to providing resources and training to adults on best practices in the area of child development. At its most recent conference in October 2012, intergenerational faith and community development was highlighted. In 2013, additional opportunities for training local congregational leaders and pastors on ways to enhance intergenerational relationships will be offered by Great KIDS.

On Tuesday, February 26 a presentation on how congregations can embrace intergenerational activities will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 917 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana. The breakfast meeting is open to pastors and lay leaders and will begin at 7:30 am and will conclude by 8:30 am. A complimentary continental breakfast will be served. To learn more about the program or to register your attendance contact the Great KIDS make Great COMMUNITIES coordinator, Nancy Springer at 260-449-7272 or [info@greatkidsallencounty.org](mailto:info@greatkidsallencounty.org).

Great KIDS make Great COMMUNITIES is funded in part by a grant from Foellinger Foundation. Judge Pratt is a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne.

## Intergenerational Sunday School

In January of this year, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church implemented its new Intergenerational Sunday School program. Each Sunday, Pastor Dale Henderson holds one Sunday School class for the entire congregation, including individuals of every age. They are currently studying The Lord's Prayer. Class time begins with a short time of instruction by Pastor Henderson. Then the group is broken into smaller discussion circles and are given a list of questions to discuss. During this discussion time, participants from several generations have an opportunity to share their stories and discuss how the lesson has applied to their lives. Younger students are gaining relevant insight, and the older generations are actively engaging in passing their faith. During the final portion of the class, the younger children are separated for a Bible story and craft while the older children complete an exercise with the help of the older generations. This program has been met with a great deal of interest and enthusiasm.

If you are interested in exploring an intergenerational Sunday School program, click [here](#) for information about a curriculum designed specifically for this setting.

## 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.

- What curriculum are you using for your Christian Education programs (e.g., Sunday School, VBS, youth group, confirmation)?
- What would you recommend?
- What would you not recommend?

[Click here to respond.](#)

### FLMC Board

Rose Murphy, Chair  
Michelle Leahy, Web Coordinator  
Ken Schilf  
Rev. Dale Henderson  
Sally Lawson  
Kristen Labahn  
Doug Reynolds  
Larry Hencye

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to familyministries@stpetersfw.org by [familyministries@stpetersfw.org](mailto:familyministries@stpetersfw.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Northeast Indiana Family Life Ministry Council | 405 W. Wayne St. | Fort Wayne | IN | 46802