

## Growing Together Through Faith Milestones

Marking faith milestones makes us sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst and helps us identify and share our stories of faith. As we celebrate milestones, we become a community of seekers as well as believers, always on the lookout for God's hand at work, always expecting to join in God's mission. As we acknowledge God's presence in times of pain and suffering as well as joy and health, we become a welcoming community that is eager to hear the stories of others and ready to help everyone discover how their story finds its meaning in God's great story.

### Westminster's MILESTONES

- Kindergarten -Intro to Worship
- First Grade -Communion
- Second Grade -Introduction to Prayer
- Third Grade -Books of the Bible
- Fourth Grade -Stewardship
- Fifth Grade -The Lord's Prayer
- Sixth Grade -10 Commandments
- Seventh Grade -The Apostles Creed
- Eighth Grade -Identity and Baptism
- Ninth Grade -Confirmation
- Tenth Grade -Outreach/Service
- Eleventh Grade -Spiritual Disciplines
- Twelfth Grade -SO What's Next  
(Seniors Only)

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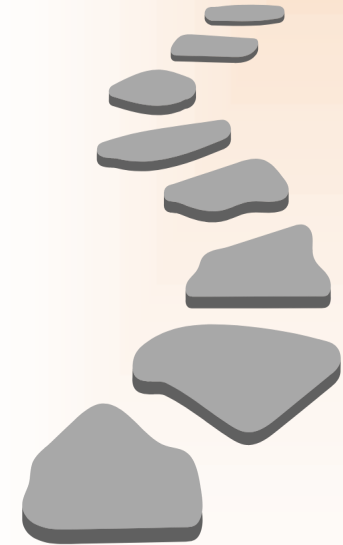


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**Milestones of Faith**  
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*Marking Moments, Growing  
Faith, & Building Community*

## What are Milestones of Faith?

Westminster's Milestones of Faith program supplements the regular, year-round curriculum for each age/grade. From Kindergarten through High School, there is a specific milestone unit of study. The milestone lesson for each grade will be taught during formation hour in the fall. There will be a milestone celebration held in the new year after their completed lesson to support their accomplishments.

If your child is not able to attend Milestones of Faith Celebration Sunday, stand alone lessons will be available to each family who would like to work on the milestone with their child. They will have around one month to complete the lesson with a parent or on their own and will be able to receive their Milestone with verification that the lesson is completed.



Milestones of Faith tokens displayed in the sanctuary, marking each stage of our children's and youth's journey of faith.

## Why are Milestones of Faith Important?

Today, people are much less likely to return to church after an extended period away. Celebrating faith milestones can help young people, who are increasingly feeling disconnected from the church, recognize that they *do* belong.



Mindy Bak captures the beauty of faith milestones:

“Like Hansel and Gretel leaving breadcrumbs to find their way home, milestones in faith serve as markers to guide us back to God. When our children feel lost or distant, they can look back and say, ‘Here is God in my life. And here, and here.’ These sacred milestones remind them—and us—of God’s presence in every step of the journey.”

—Mindy Bak in *Together in Faith*, Bloomington, Minn.: *The Youth & Family Institute*, 1999, [www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org](http://www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org)

## Why are Milestones of Faith Important? (Continued)

Faith should be viewed as “a life-long journey—begun at baptism and completed in eternity.” For children and young people especially, the sense of belonging to a congregation is essential in the nurture of their faith and the support of their walk with Jesus. Significant steps in each child’s faith development are intentionally (and publicly) recognized and celebrated by the entire body—hence the idea of “milestones.”

Similarly, the faith and life transitions experienced by teens, both sacred and ordinary, need to be acknowledged not only by families, but by the entire congregation

—*Report of the Christian Reformed Church’s FaithFormation Committee to Synod 2009*

