

FAITH FORMATION

Bless the Child
Gift the Family

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As Time Goes By

By Amy Kippen, Faith Formation Director

Throughout the years since I became a mom, I have many times been surprised by milestones that have passed without my recognizing them. These milestones may seem small on the surface, but as you add them one to another, it means that your child will never again be in the stage that passed. Many times I have tried to give voice to this bittersweet reality. I feel moved to try once again today.....

If I had known it would be the last time she would....

- ask for a quarter on the way out of a store, I'd have bought her \$5 worth of junk
- hold my hand to cross the street, I'd have held on tighter
- let me kiss her in front of the school, I'd have savored it
- delight in my coming home and scream "Mommy!!" I'd have gone back out to come in and hear it again.
- sit on my lap in

church, I'd have held her for hours

- held her arms out to be picked up, I'd have taken a picture to always remember
- perform one of her original dances for me, I'd have applauded much longer
- ask to sleep with me, I'd have stayed up all night to watch her sleep
- ask me to play Barbie's, I'd have played extra long
- play longer in the bathtub, I'd have played with her
- push her on the swing, I'd have pushed longer
- sung one of her original songs to me in the car, I'd have asked for an encore
- need my help to get dressed, I'd have taken my sweet time
- need me to fix an owie, I'd have kissed it again
- need me to brush her hair, I'd have marked

each stroke

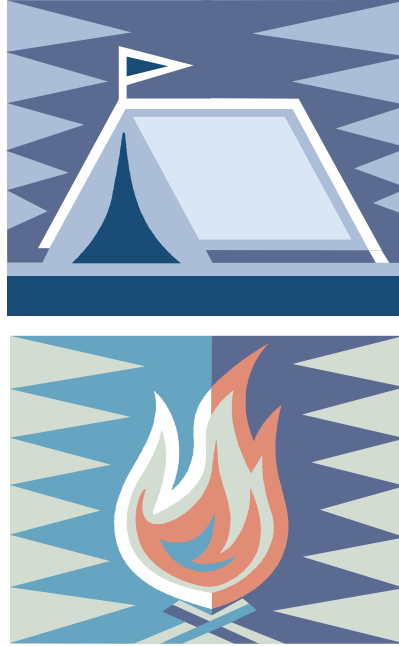
The old cliché that they grow up so fast is so true and is only recognizable in the aftermath. Doors of childhood close while our backs are turned, and all we're left with is the sweet memory. Thank God he has given us the ability to relive it with the closing of our eyes; the taste, the smell, the feel of our children, forever engrained in our minds and hearts. Praise God for the gift of children and for the gift of remembering and cherishing.

Doors of childhood close while our backs are turned, and all we're left with is the sweet memory, the memory that can be relived with the closing of our eyes.

Bible Camp Fund Update

Thank you to all of you who have so generously supported the Bible Camp fund! We set a goal of \$7000 and we're almost half way there! Our fund total as of January 15th is \$3171.

Many of you have donated partial or full scholarships, and many of you have supported the fund through food donations for our Advent Wednesday evening meals. Profits from these meals added about \$800 to the fund and we look forward to the Lenten meals adding to the fund as well.



We've set the dates for Bible Camp this summer. We'll charter a bus and head to the beautiful Turtle Mountains to Camp Metigoshe, August 5-10! I had one mom of an 8th grade boy say to me, "You really made his day when he got the postcard about camp dates. He's so excited and already planning what to bring!" This is the kind of enthusiasm you will be supporting through your gifts to the Bible Camp fund. Please designate gifts by writing "Bible Camp" in the memo line of your check. Blessings and thank you!

Being There After You're Gone

By Rich Melheim

Shortly before her death, my mother and sister had a conversation about my sister's teenaged daughter that went something like this:

Sister: I am worried that she will make the right decisions.

Mom: All you can do is love her, encourage her, pray for her constantly and let her know what you believe. You can't always be there.

Sister: Actually, you can.

Mom: What do you mean?

Sister: There were many times

when I was a teenager and was about to do something that I knew you wouldn't approve of. At each of those moments, you were right there... right there... spoiling my fun.

Mom: That's what mothers are for, dear.

Here's a thought with a challenge for the day: What do you want on your tombstone?

Your children will one day walk away from your grave. On that day, a part of you walks away,

too. What part? Which aspects of your personality, your faith, your essence do you want to live on?

You answer that question every day. You build that legacy brick by brick, model by model, moment by moment, prayer by prayer, loving act by loving act. If you want the best parts of you to live on, you must model the best. The best patience. The best choices. The best attitudes. The best faith.

Continued on pg. 3

Being There After You're Gone— cont.

You may think your kids aren't listening to you, but they are watching. From the moment you bring a child home from the hospital, you have a little spy in your midst. Your children will turn out more like you than you ever wanted them to. They will copy your best, and they will certainly copy your worst. A life well lived is a gift to your grandchildren, and

your grandchildren's grandchildren. A life thoughtlessly modeled, will curse the generations.

So, what can you do and say today that will keep you there long after you're not there?

What can you model and consistently place in front of your children this moment that will become part of their faith, val-

ues, and life choices?

You write the script for your grandchildren's lives, their attitudes, their faith beginning today.

Page 1. Act 1. Scene: Grave-side with a grieving family.

It's a blank sheet. What will you write?

H2H Lenten Serving Schedule

February 21

5:30 service: Song of Solomon
7:00 service: Nahum
1st shift meal: Ezekiel
Malachi
2nd shift meal: Habbakuk
Jonah

February 28

5:30 service: Isaiah
7:00 service: Ezra
1st shift meal: Zephaniah
Amos
Zechariah
Jonah
2nd shift meal: Chronicles
Genesis

March 7

5:30 service: Exodus
7:00 service: Nehemiah
1st shift meal: Leviticus
Haggai
2nd shift meal: Ruth
Job

March 14

5:30 service: Ecclesiastes
7:00 service: Hosea
1st shift meal: Obadiah
Joel
2nd shift meal: Amos
Zephaniah
Joshua

March 21

5:30 service: Esther
7:00 service: Micah
1st shift meal: Jeremiah
Deuteronomy
2nd shift meal: Judges
Song of Solomon

March 28

5:30 service: Nahum
Chronicles
7:00 service: Ezekiel
1st shift meal: Malachi
Habbakuk
2nd shift meal: Zechariah
Isaiah

**Serving at
Worship—
arrive 30
minutes early
1st Meal Shift—
4:30-6:00
2nd Meal Shift—
6:00-7:30**

Children can stand vast amounts of sternness. It is injustice, inequity and inconsistency that kill them.
Robert Capon

We're on the web
www.growinfaith.org

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday GIFT

February 4	GIFT	9:30-10:45	TLC
February 11	GIFT	9:30-10:45	TLC
February 18	GIFT	9:30-10:45	TLC
February 25	GIFT	9:30-10:45	TLC

Wednesday GIFT

February 7	GIFT	5:45-7:00	WC
February 14	GIFT	5:45-7:00	WC
February 21	Ash Wednesday Worship	5:30 and 7:00	WC
February 28	GIFT	5:45-7:00	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>

H2H Confirmation

February 7	Servant Event	Check with Your Guide	TBA
February 14	Theme Event	7:30-9:00	WC
February 21	Ash Wednesday Worship	Groups assigned to serve	Check Schedule on pg 3
February 28	Lenten Worship	5:30 or 7:00	WC

REMINDER: Some events are held in the TLC which is not handicap accessible