

CHURCH WORKER NEWSLETTER

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Passing on the Faith: A Labor of Love Across Generations

By Jeremy Freye, M.Div., MS
Registered Marriage and Family Therapy Intern

September gives us two special opportunities to reflect on the work of passing on the Christian faith: Labor Day and Grandparents Day. Labor Day reminds us that our daily work, whether in the home, the church, or the community, is part of our Christian vocation, our calling from God.

Grandparents Day reminds us of the gift of those who have come before us, whose faith and love shaped our lives. Martin Luther taught that vocation is not just about jobs or careers, but about the many roles God calls us into, parent, child, worker, neighbor, citizen, spouse, friend.

Every role becomes holy ground where God works through us for the good of others. Passing on the faith, then, is not an extra task to squeeze into an already full schedule; it is part of the very fabric of our vocations. A bedtime prayer with a child, a word of forgiveness between spouses, a meal shared with a neighbor, these are holy works through which the Spirit passes on the faith.

I often see how faith is carried and transmitted not in large, dramatic moments, but in these small, daily practices. They become stories and memories that live inside us, shaping our identity and our trust in God.

Giving Thanks for Those Who Passed Faith to Us



Take a moment this month to pause and remember: Who first passed the faith on to you? Was it a grandparent who taught you the Lord's Prayer? A Sunday School teacher who made the stories of Jesus come alive? A parent who showed you what forgiveness looks like in daily life?



- It can be powerful to retell those stories. Naming and honoring them keeps them alive.
- Consider writing a thank-you letter even if the person has passed. or light a candle in their memory.
- Share a story of their faith during worship or at the dinner table. In doing so, you are weaving their faithful labor into the ongoing story of God's people.

What small action can I take this week to honor their influence?

- Maybe it's reading Scripture with your children, calling a grandparent, or mentoring a youth in your congregation. Passing on the faith doesn't require a perfect program; it begins with intentional, simple steps.

Passing Faith onto Others

Just as others labored to plant seeds of faith in us, we are now called to nurture faith in those who come after us. Scripture reminds us: "One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4).

- What's one meaningful way I can share my faith this week?
 - Maybe it's offering to pray with a co-worker, teaching a child a simple hymn/song, or sharing a testimony of God's faithfulness. Start small and celebrate progress.
- Think about the story of your family's faith.
 - How do you want the next chapter to sound?
 - What story will your children, grandchildren, or parishioners tell about the faith you lived before them?
 - You are part of writing that narrative today.
- Remember that faith is best passed through secure and loving relationships. Children, youth, and new believers often remember how they felt with us even more than what we said. When they feel seen, safe, and loved, the words of the Gospel take root more deeply.

A Call to Church Workers

As church workers tending your own faith story and helping others cultivate theirs. This month, I encourage you to:

- Give thanks: Name the people who passed the faith to you and honor them.
- Share the story: Retell faith stories in your preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.
- Practice the small steps: Focus on one intentional action that helps the next generation experience God's love.
- Live vocation Luther's way: Remember that every task, no matter how ordinary, is holy when it is done in faith and love.
- Strengthen bonds: Love and safety are the soil where faith grows.

As we celebrate Labor Day, we give thanks for the gift of vocation, that God works through our ordinary labors to bless the world. As we honor Grandparents Day, we remember that faith is not ours to hoard but a gift to be handed on. May your work this September, in both family and ministry, be a labor of love that carries Christ's peace into the next generation.

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