

Integrating the Faith!

Here's a profound statement that made me think and then say, 'No Dah!' I have known this all my life and for all of my ministry years I have known this but pursued the new and various types of publications to help myself, my staff, and my families grow in their faith and become fully devoted followers of Jesus, the Christ!

Here it is! From Thom Rainer the President of LifeWay Christian Resources who spoke at the CUNE Heartland Summit for DCE's in May of 2016. <http://thomrainer.com/> ***“Research shows that the number one indicator of a healthy spiritual life and of a full devoted follower of Jesus is being in the Word on a daily basis!”***

So, how can you use the following resources to maximize the time you, your staff, and your families will spend in the Word?

1. **Biblical Integration by Subject** Some gems—some pebbles, but explore ideas for [biblical integration by subject](#). (biblicalintegration.com)
2. **Do you struggle to integrate faith and Scripture** into content teaching? These [lesson plan worksheets](#) may help
3. **Refresh your teaching ministry** with a new book edited by Bernard Bull: [The Pedagogy of Faith: Essays on Lutheran Education](#) from CPH.
4. **Personal Spiritual Health Audit:** How Do You Measure A Persons or An Organizations Spiritual Health? Craig Dykstra did research and put together the CFPS: Christian Faith Practices Scale. Take the survey of faith; answer honestly; pray about actions you can take to improve your score. (See below on next page.)
5. **Concordia Publishing House is releasing six sets of flash cards** built specifically for the new iOS application Tincards. Tincards is a free flash card app from the creators of Duolingo that makes memorization fun. The application is currently available only on iOS, but Duolingo has disclosed on their social media channels that they are currently working on an Android application and a Web version of the program.

The six packs of flash cards in the app help anyone learn the following sections of Luther's Small Catechism:

- The Ten Commandments
- The Creed
- The Lord's Prayer
- Baptism
- Confession
- Sacrament of the Altar

[Click here](#) to download Tincards to your iOS device. Once you have downloaded the app, search for Concordia Publishing House and click the "Follow" button. The packs will then be added to your stream.

In addition to the Tincards app, CPH has several other tools to help children learn the Small Catechism. Most recently, CPH released the Small Catechism skill for Amazon Echo. This new format for Luther's Small Catechism imparts the plain, simple teachings of the Lutheran Church in an exciting, interactive approach. CPH has also created printable Small Catechism flash cards that you can download for free [here](#).

6. **Conduct a facility faith walk!** How does your facility share the faith visually? Use the tool below to conduct a faith walk.

A Faith Walk!

How does your facility share the faith visually? Use the tool below to conduct a faith walk.

1. Conduct a walk based on Deuteronomy 6.
[\[https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+6&version=ESV\]](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+6&version=ESV) Focus on the whole chapter.
2. Then focus on these specific verses as they relate what you see from various angles and perspectives in your facility: “⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.^[b] ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You 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. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
3. Now walk your facilities inside and out; from your drop off location to your classroom. Make a log of all of the visuals that make a faith statement.
4. Then reflect with a close colleague and as a whole staff what you saw where. Finally, add information in the last column of those things that can be added to enhance the visuals that make a faith statement at your ministry site.

Location:	Faith Visual Currently	Faith Visual to Add
1.		
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Think of highly visible attention grabbing items like: murals, framed art work, banners, scripture verses, posters, bulletin board themes, crosses, altars, electric candles, pictures, Bible games, ITF repurposed secular items, Library Collections: i.e. Bibles, Hymnals, Catechisms, Devotion Books, DVD’s, CD’s, Literature & Tracts...

Christian Faith Practices Scale (CFPS)

Describe how often you participate in each of the following activities. Be as honest as possible, describing your true level of participation and not how active you would like to be.

Please circle your answer to the right of the statement.

Take the survey of faith; answer honestly; pray about actions you can take to improve your score. Record your results at the bottom.	Never	Rarely	Once in a while	Sometime	Often	Almost Always	Always
1. I attend weekly worship services	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. I participate in Bible study activity.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. I share the Christian story with others (evangelism).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. I study the teachings and history of the Christian church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. I pray.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. I confess my faults to others.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. I forgive and work toward healing relationships with others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. I encourage others, especially when they fail.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. I give financial support to my church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. I provide hospitality and care to strangers.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. I volunteer time to help those less fortunate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. I participate in activities that promote social justice in society.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. I discuss Christian responses to contemporary issues with other Christians.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Name: _____ Date: _____ Total Score: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Total Score: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Total Score: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Total Score: _____
