

The seven faith practices



PRAY. . .Prayer. . .Pray Frequently

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1Thessalonians 5:16-18).



STUDY. . .Christian Education. . .Study Scripture Diligently

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).



WORSHIP. . .Worship. . .Worship Regularly

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together (Psalm 34:1-3).



INVITE. . .Evangelism. . .Invite Others Often

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15).



ENCOURAGE. . .Teaching/Mentoring. . .Pass on the Faith

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action (1 John 3:18).



SERVE. . .Social and Justice Ministry. . .Serve for the Sake of Others

For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).



GIVE. . .Stewardship. . .Give Freely

...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back (Luke 6:38).

These seven faith practices provide a helpful road map for disciples as they comprehend the basic moves or activities that comprise the life of discipleship. They are succinct and memorable enough to carry on a card in a wallet or a purse, yet comprehensive enough that volumes could be written to describe their full meaning. For more information on faith practices review the resources provided in the *Call to Discipleship Congregation Planning Guide*. A helpful, user-friendly description of each of the seven faith practices is found in "Faith Practices: assessing their place in your life," pages B-39 through B-42 in the guide. The same resource can be found on the Web page for this guide: www.elca.org/eteam/2001CEProgramPlanner. This 2001-2002 Christian education program planner continues to issue a basic call to discipleship built on the foundation of these seven faith practices.

The theme *Fanning the Flames of Discipleship* provides an overarching umbrella under which you can organize your Christian education efforts for the year. Congregations typically use a variety of curricula and studies to meet the education needs of the different age groups and learning times in their setting. Themes can vary from Sunday school to confirmation to small groups and adult learning. An overarching theme like *Fanning the Flames of Discipleship* helps to hold all of these pieces together in a more unified way. 