

# Messy Church & More!

**How Intergenerational Programs  
Can Breathe New Life into Your Church**



The Bishop's Leadership Conference 2022

*The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia*

*The Episcopal Church in Western Washington*



# Overview

With Valerie Reinke



# Messy Church Key Points



- Not a curriculum but a framework



# Welcome & Snack

(15 – 30 minutes)







**Arts & Crafts,  
Games, etc.**

(60 minutes)



## Celebration

(15 minutes)





# Meal

(30 minutes)



# Messy Church Key Points



- Not a curriculum but a framework
- Once-a-month gathering
- Intergenerational
- Grounded in Hospitality
- Both “in-reach” and outreach





# **Messy Church at St. Timothy, Chehalis**

**With the Rev. Kay Flores**



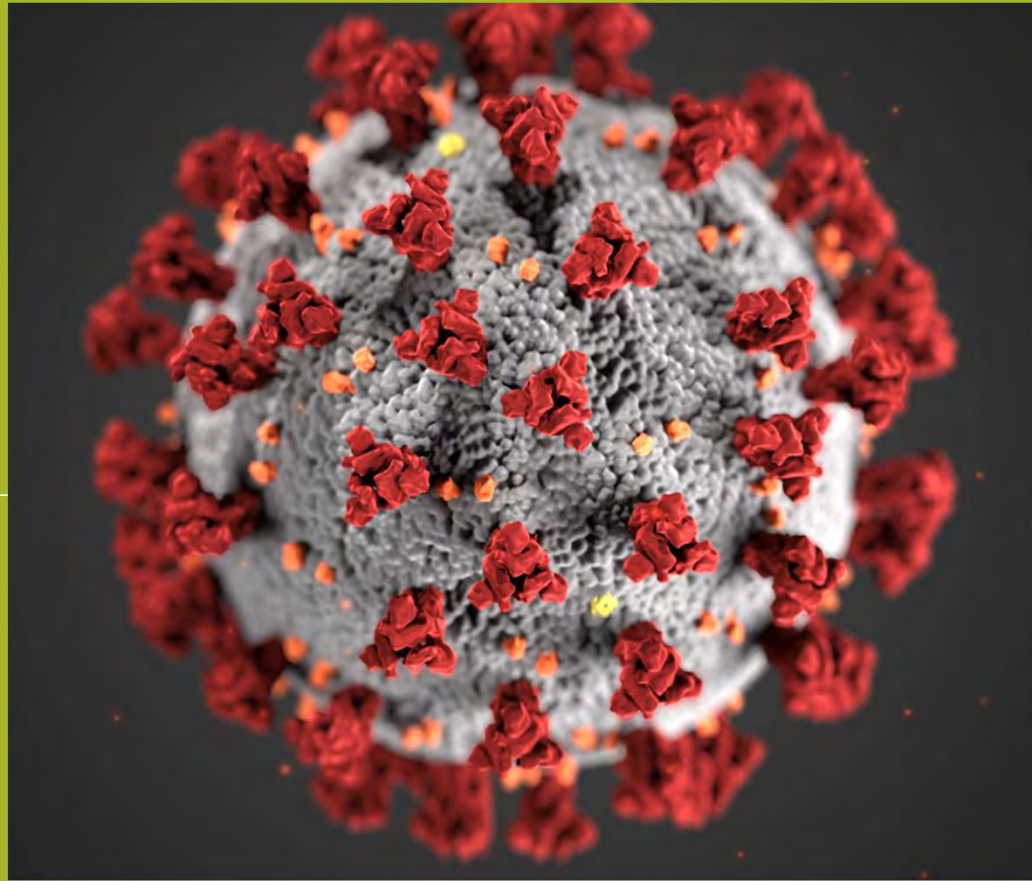




## Godly Play Core Training 2019



2020



Barbara Ross



Kay Flores (she,her...



Ardeth Ellis and Da...



Rory Miller



Tom and Lynn Cole



Don Guenther



Jerri



bev campbell



James & Abby



Marian Brainard



Sally Favors



Janet Graham



Vonnie and Skeets



Carrina Stanton



John & Margi Long



Carolyn Macdonald



store



Deb White



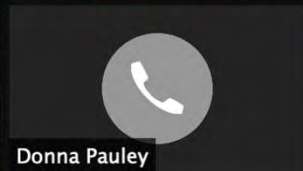
nancy simms



Jessica Strickland



June



Donna Pauley



Beverly Jaeger



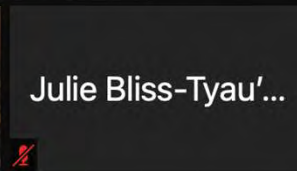
Jennifer Cutillo



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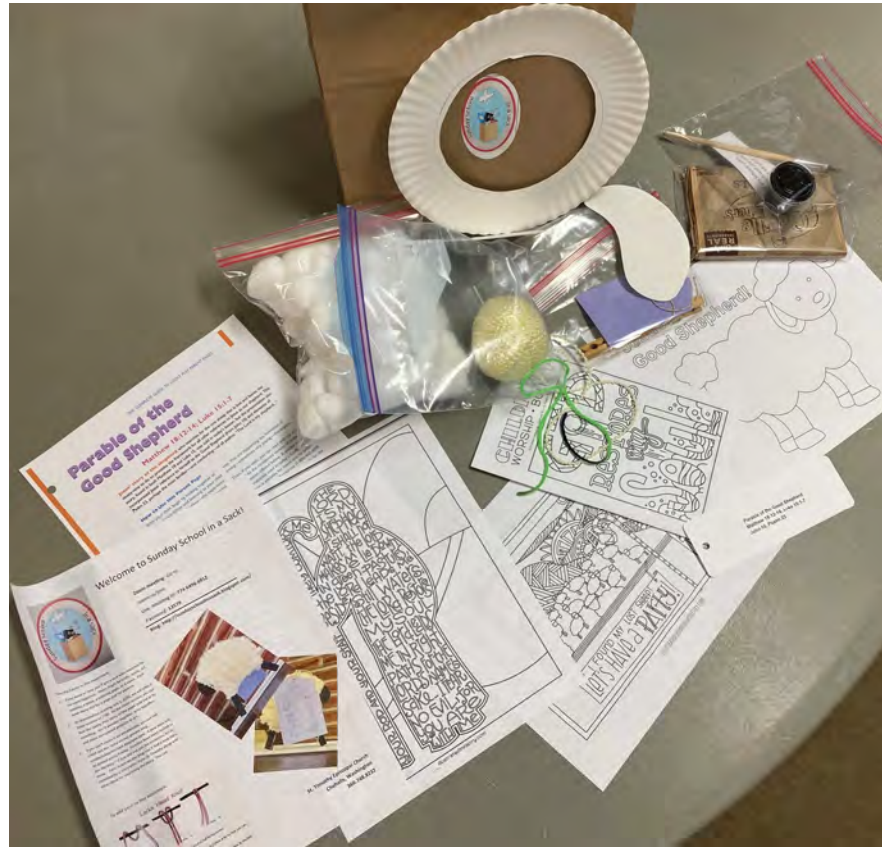
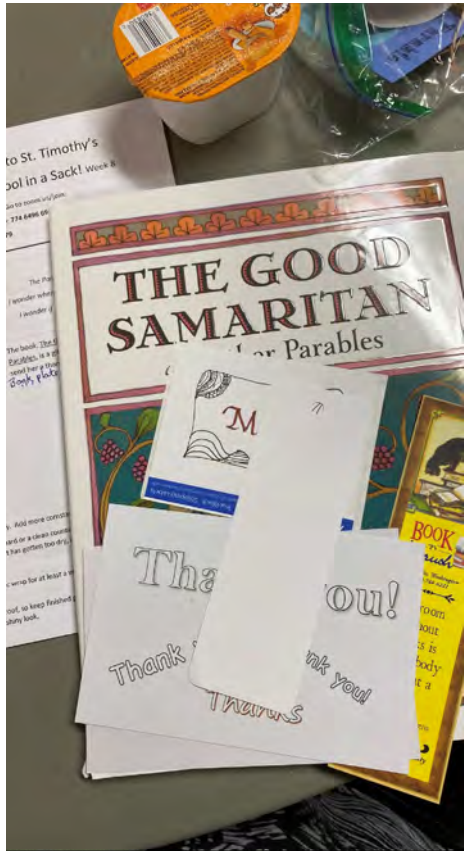


Carol's iPad



Julie Bliss-Tyau'...

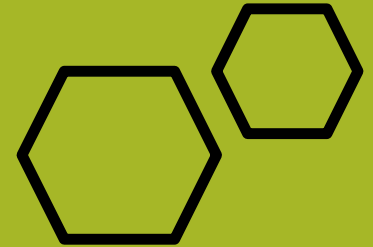
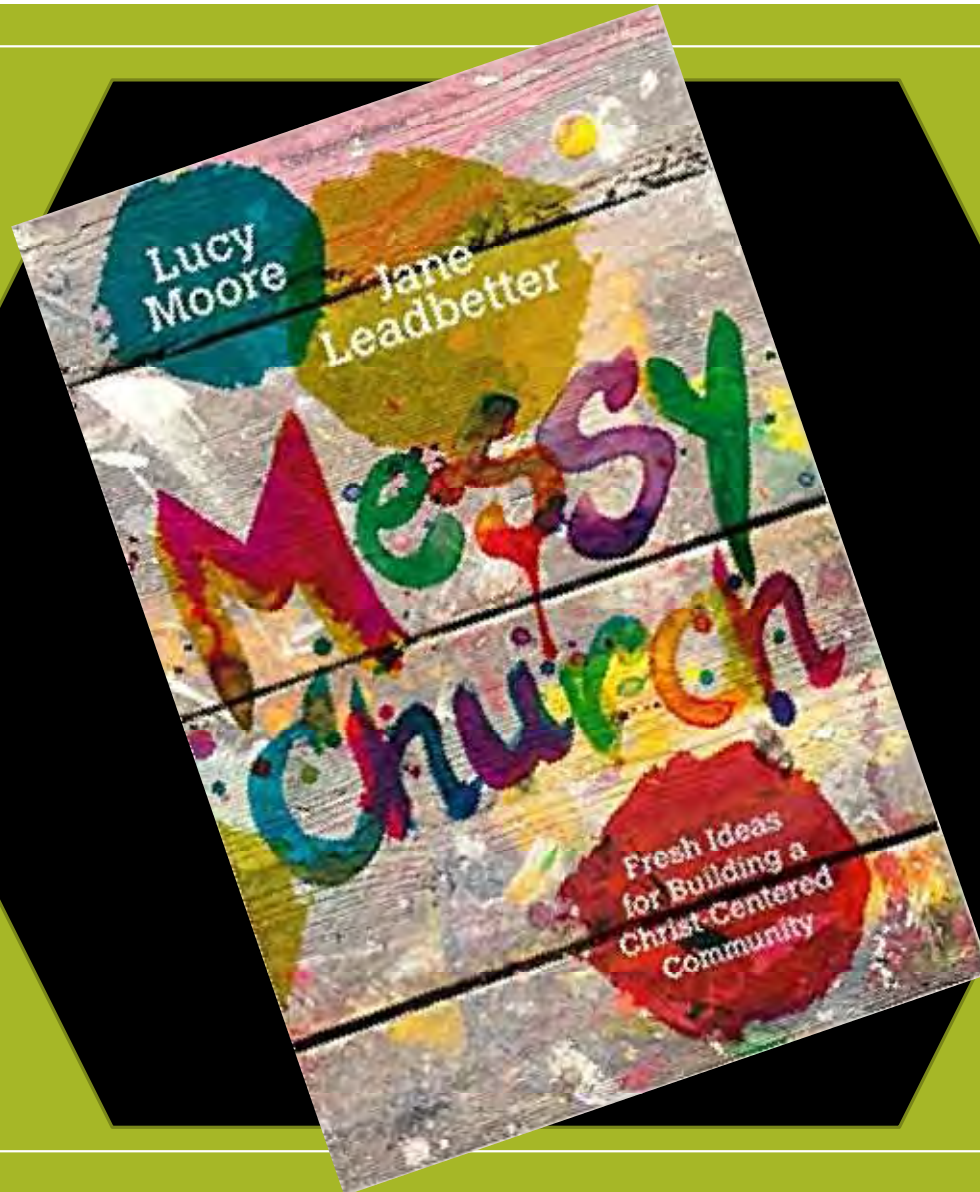








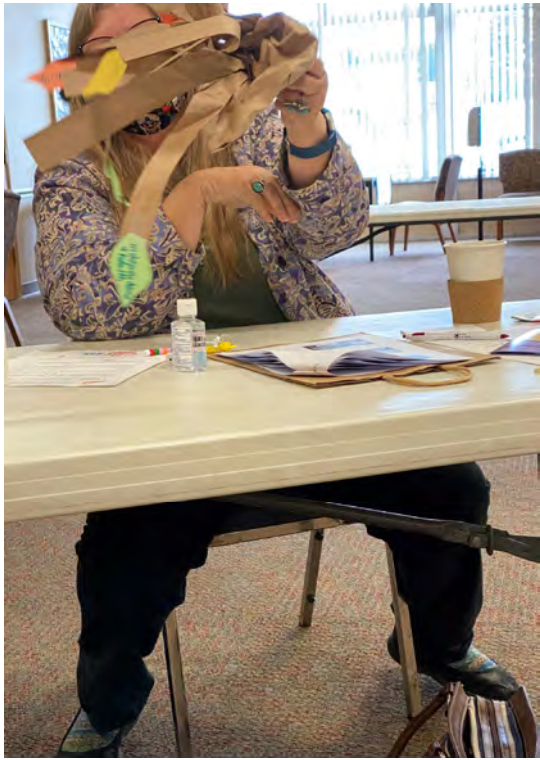






**The Values**









**Saturday, April 9, 2022 2-4 PM**

Join us for Messy Church for Holy Week.

It's church, but not as you know it.

Messy Church is fun.

Messy Church is faith.

Messy Church is food.

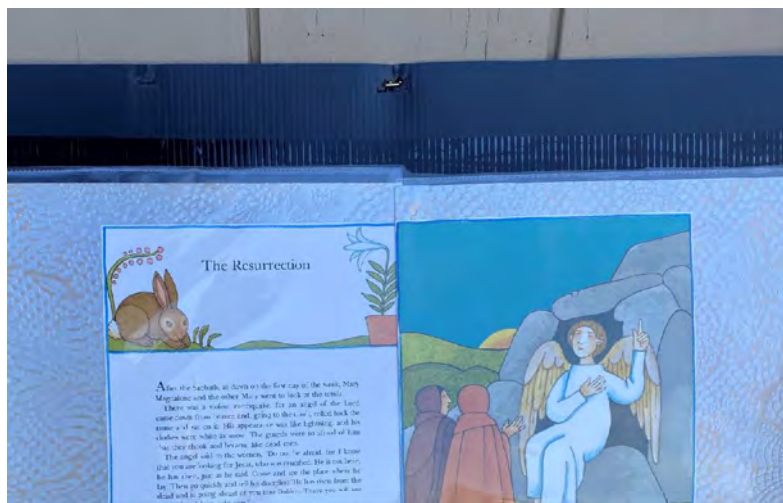
It's a worship experience for ALL ages.

**St. Timothy Episcopal Church**

**1826 SW Snively Ave, Chehalis**

**360.748.8232**

**[sttimothychehalis@gmail.com](mailto:sttimothychehalis@gmail.com)**























**Saturday, June 4, 2022 4 PM**

Join us for Messy Church for Pentecost.

It's church, but not as you know it.

Messy Church is fun.

Messy Church is faith.

Messy Church is food.

It's a worship experience for ALL ages.

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# How can we include youth? With Naomi Woodrum



Recruiting & Retaining  
Middle & High School Age Participants



# Invite them:

- Often times, youth don't participate because they don't know they can!
  - An invitation that specifically invites youth is a good start.
- An “all ages” activity or program can feel “uncool” to youth, especially if they have younger siblings who will also be at the event (and their parents too!)
  - Invite youth to be leaders and give them specific tasks and responsibilities—sometimes making them feel like a leader, rather than a participant, can easily elevate the coolness factor.
  - Invite youth to be part of the Messy Church planning team.
- Don't be afraid to invite them multiple times.
  - Don't give up on inviting them just because they don't know show up the first time—youth are often drawn by what their peers and friends are involved in and it takes time to gain traction and buy-in from them when starting a new program.
- This generation is used to communicating via text and other social media platforms—keep that in mind when you reach out to invite them.
  - Try texting them instead of calling or emailing.
- Invite them to be part of other areas of church life
  - Don't wait to invite youth until there's a specific “all ages” event or program. Invite youth to be part of daily life and ministries of the church—this builds relationships, a sense of belonging, and a desire to naturally be involved with community activities.

# Other considerations:

If the youth would rather be a participant, think about how you can elaborate on the craft, game, or lesson in a way that would be applicable or challenging for their age group.

**For example:**

- **Crafts** – If there are premade pieces/parts to the craft, have the youth do theirs from scratch; instead of a coloring sheet, have the youth draw their own image or interpretation.
- **Games** – Incorporate a few harder/trickier questions in a trivia game that only youth would be able to answer; try popular youth games that would also be fun for younger or older crowds (Minute to Win It, Pictionary, Charades); think of games that could be played in smaller groups so you can divide them up by age (but still play in the same room or area)
- **Lesson** – Have a handout with youth-appropriate questions for them to answer during the lesson or storytime; have them think of their own questions as part of a “stump the priest” segment at the end of the night!

Not all youth will engage in the program the same way. Some might sit in the back and withhold from interacting with anyone. Some will welcome the opportunity to lead and be a helper. And, others will enjoy being a participant alongside the young and old. In time, you will find ways to connect, engage and welcome them right where they are.

## Whole body Lord's Prayer with Lucy Moore



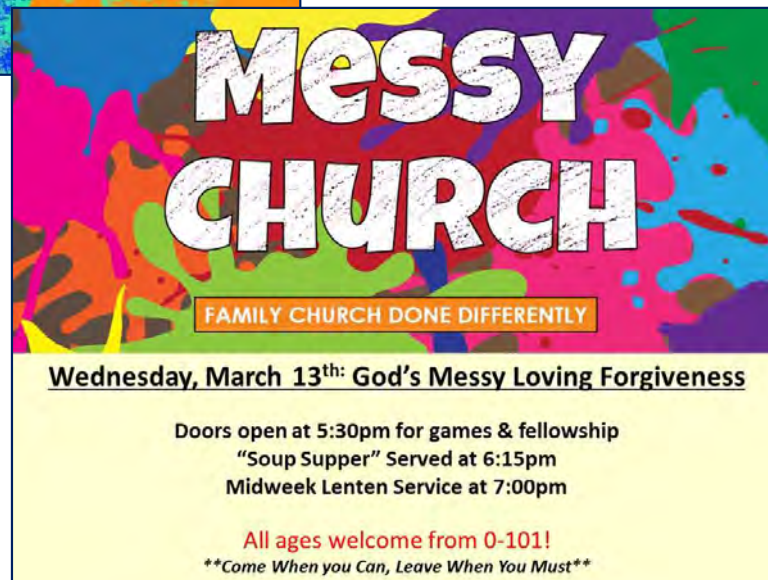
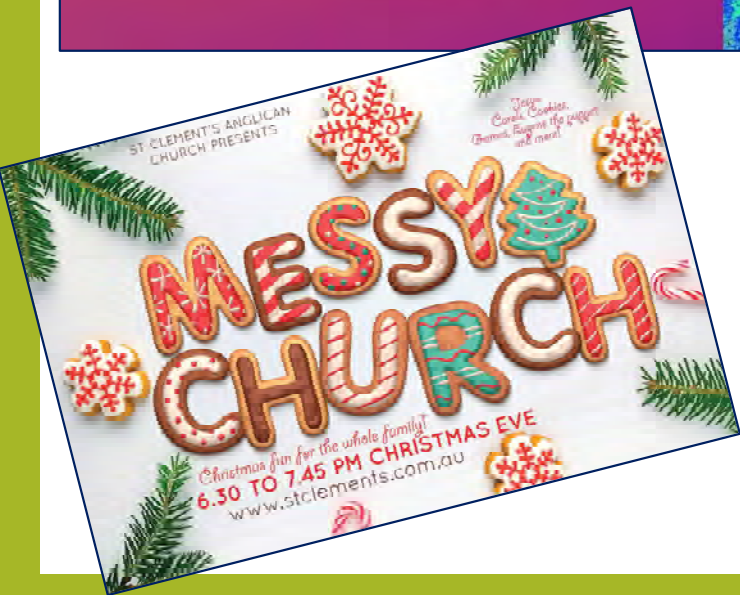
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyNIznorbSM>



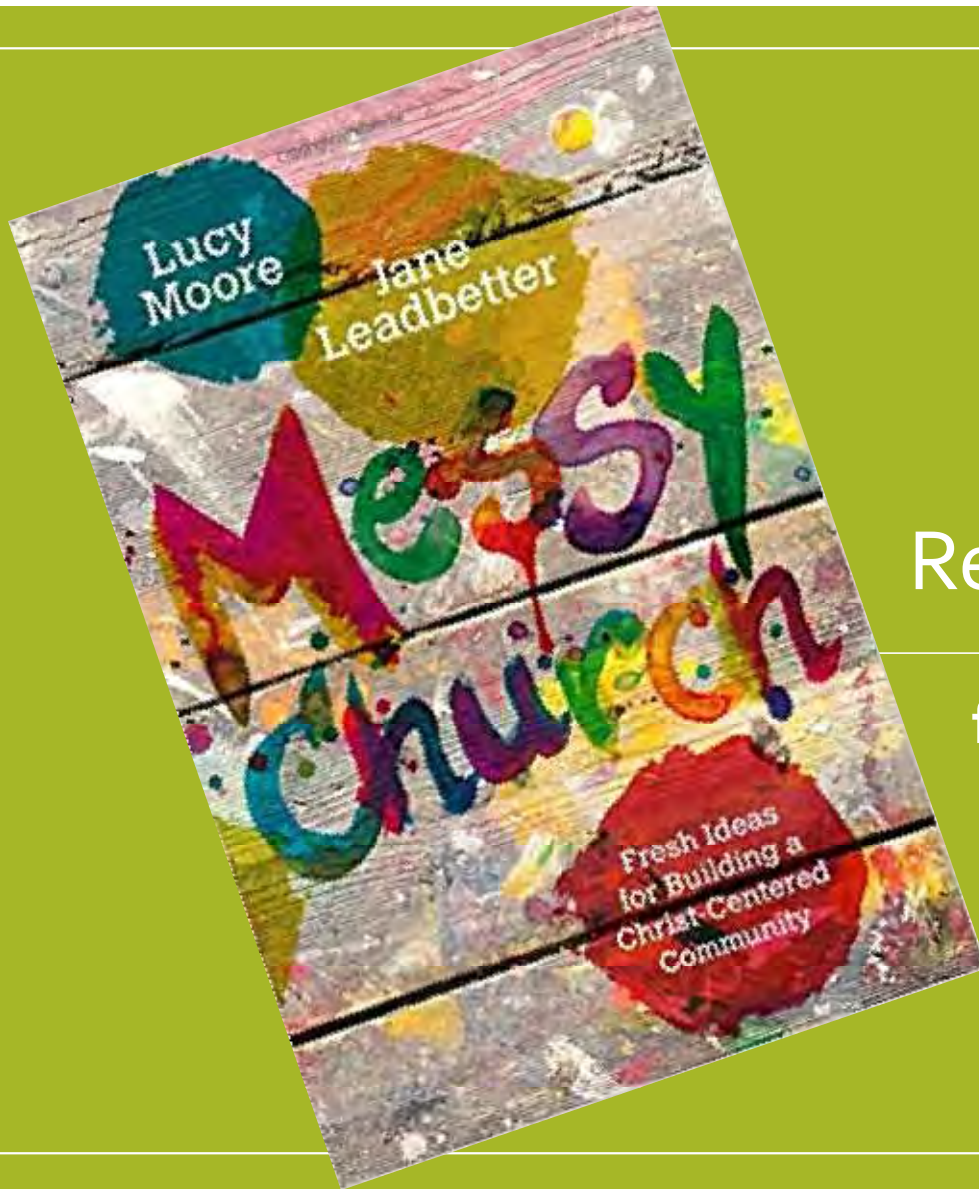


# Things to do now...

- **Read** about Messy Church and/or other “whole church” programs
- **Recruit** volunteers – who will be on your team?
- **Talk** to church leadership: clergy, staff, vestry members and other leaders/influencers
- Do an informal **needs assessment** in your community – how can you best serve families?
- **Reach out** to other churches/organizations serving families, how can you complement what they already offer?







Request a free copy...

[faithformation@ecww.org](mailto:faithformation@ecww.org)



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Diocese of Olympia*  
*The Episcopal Church in Western Washington*

