

# Intergenerational Faith Formation

## Part III

### Nurturing an Intergenerational Culture

*Dr. Kathie Amidei*  
*Kathieamidei.com*  
*amideik@stanthony.cc*



The slide features a background image of a misty lake with mountains in the distance. The text is centered and right-aligned. The logo consists of a circular dotted line with 'LIFELONG FAITH' inside and a yellow square with 'training' in black text to its right.

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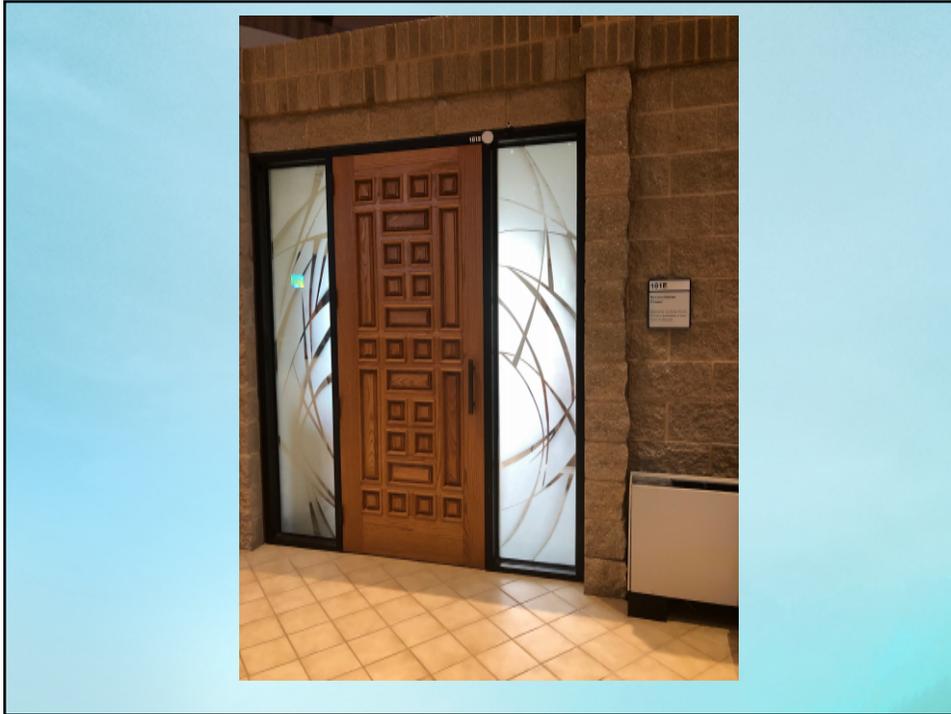
## Moving toward Intergenerational



Utilize   Connect   Infuse   Create

The slide has a light blue background. The title is at the top. Below it is a blurred photograph of several people with their hands raised in prayer. At the bottom, there are four white rounded rectangular buttons with green borders, each containing one of the words: Utilize, Connect, Infuse, and Create.

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## Infusing Intergenerationality

*Infusing* intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities, such as bringing mature adults into children and youth programs for interviews, storytelling, and mentoring; and transforming age-group programs (vacation Bible school, service projects) into intergenerational experiences.

- ◆ Worship & church year seasons
- ◆ Service projects and mission trips
- ◆ Age group learning programs
- ◆ Social / community program
- ◆ Sacramental preparation
- ◆ VBS
- ◆ Retreat and camp experiences

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## Infusing Intergenerationality

1. Incorporate intergenerational dialogues into programs
2. Develop mentoring relationships
3. Involve the community in praying for each generation,
4. Organize social and recreational activities that build intergenerational relationships
5. “Intergenerationalize” age-group programming
6. Integrate intergenerational programming into an age-group program plan and calendar
7. Offer service projects and mission trips for all ages
8. Offer simple, one-time intergenerational experiences: arts, music/concerts, drama, social events, service projects, sports, educational experiences

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### 2018 FAMILY CAMPS



Imagine a powerful Bible camp experience for all ages – from infants to seniors, and everyone in-between, not just a camp for kids. We've been doing this for almost 80 years! This year we have seven camps to choose from, each one will fit you and your family with an authentic joy and peace that comes only from experiencing the gospel at camp.

We gather together as a community, families and staff from around the nation and even world. Come play, study, and grow in the beautiful, Spirit-filled place. Click on camp week # to find out more information and to register.

Tentative Schedule – subject to change. Note: ALL of our 2018 Family Camps will include elements of the "FAMILY BLAST" model we introduced last summer!

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**Family Mini-Camp #1**  
 June 2-24 – Family Blast Sampler  
**The Abundant Life**  
 With Ryan Strain, Jonathan & Jana Swenson, Dan Baker.  
 Special outdoor concert with Peder Eide on Friday Night

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**Family Camp #2**  
 June 30 - July 6 – Family Blast  
**Zeke's Law: Wake Up World!** + Youth Musical  
 with Nate Huff, Dave Widen  
 Special Musical for Youth/Children

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**Family Camp #3**  
 July 7-13  
**The Mission of God in the Old Testament**  
 with Beth Elness-Hanson, Carl Billings, & Jillian Jones



## Grandparents Camp

### Gr. 1-4

Join us for an intergenerational "Adventure Anchored in Christ." This special camp provides grandparents and grandkids with adventure-filled days to pray and play together. Life-long memory-making adventures can be expected!

Grandparents and grandkids entering 1st – 4th grades will stay in the comfortable, adult-friendly accommodations of the Christian Center, but spend their days at Pelican Lake. Feel free to bring your motorhome if you prefer.

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## Infusing Intergenerationality




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## Creating Intergenerational Programs in the Community



Connecting the young and the old  
(like a preschool in a nursing home)



Establishing a center for all  
generations in the community



Fostering communication and  
understanding across generations



Creating mentoring relationships

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## Creating Intergenerational Opportunities



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## An Intergenerational Faith Forming Community

1. **Caring:** Community building activities, storytelling, mentoring, social events
2. **Celebrating:** Sunday Worship, whole community sacramental celebrations, milestones celebrations, church year feasts and seasons
3. **Learning:** Intergenerational learning programs (weekly, monthly, small group); incorporating intergenerational learning into age group programming
4. **Praying:** Community prayer experiences, intergenerational prayer groups, spiritual guides/mentors
5. **Serving:** Intergenerational service projects and mission trips, church-wide service days

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## Worship & Celebrating



*Worshipping God together through Sunday worship, rituals, sacraments, and the liturgical seasons that involves all of the ages and generations.*

- ✓ Intergenerational Sunday Worship
- ✓ Whole Community Sacramental Celebrations
- ✓ Milestones throughout Life
- ✓ Church Year Feasts & Seasons

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## Intergenerational Worship

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## The Pray-Ground

Grace Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, MN  
<https://graceofav.org/prayground>

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## Praying



*Nurturing the spiritual life of the whole community through the church's prayer services, rituals, and blessings throughout the year.*

- ✓ Intergenerational Formation in Spiritual Practices
- ✓ Intergenerational Prayer Stations
- ✓ Intergenerational Prayer Partners & Spiritual Guides
- ✓ Intergenerational Prayer Groups
- ✓ intergenerational Retreat Experiences

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## Intergenerational Prayer Stations: Easter-Ascension

(Theresa Cho, <https://theresaecho.com>)

**STILL WATERS**  
Thoughts of a 2nd Generation Korean-American Pastor and Mother

theresa / writings / social media / life of a pastor/mother / prayer stations / intergenerational worship / pcusa  
/ urban ministry / st. john's




Intergenerational Prayer Stations, Lullabies, Psalms, Scriptures, Worship







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## Intergenerational Prayer Groups



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## Prayer Fair



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## Prayer is intergenerational



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## We learn prayer by praying



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# Praying with Nature



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## Serving



*Involving all ages and generations in service and mission to the world, especially to the poor and vulnerable, and in the works of justice and advocacy.*

- ✓ Intergenerational Mission Trips
- ✓ Churchwide Service Day
- ✓ Intergenerational Monthly Project
- ✓ Intergenerational Service Nights
- ✓ Intergenerational Service Projects

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## Service learning

- Intergenerational serving and learning methodology



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## Learning



*Engaging all ages and generations together in learning experiences that teach Scripture and the Christian tradition, informing and forming disciples.*

- ✓ Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly models
- ✓ Small group & large group models
- ✓ As the faith formation curriculum for the whole community
- ✓ In conjunction with worship, lectionary programs, vacation Bible school, milestone celebrations, liturgical season celebrations

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## Examples: Intergenerational Learning

1. As the faith formation curriculum for the whole community
2. In Lectionary-based catechesis
3. In sacramental preparation
4. In vacation Bible school
5. In milestone celebrations
6. In intergenerational service projects
7. In liturgical season celebrations
8. In an intergenerational retreat experience or prayer experience

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Thematic  
Holy Infant  
Catholic Parish,  
Durham, NC



## Navigating Life with GPS – God's Proven System

*Gatherings for 2009-2010*

**Rules of the Road – God's Commandments**

Wednesday	September 9	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	September 10	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	September 11	5:45-8:30pm

**Respect and Protect All Life**

Wednesday	October 14	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	October 15	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	October 16	5:45-8:30pm

**Give Way with Mercy and Forgiveness**

Wednesday	November 18	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	November 19	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	November 20	5:45-8:30pm

**Stay on the Straight and Narrow Path of Fidelity**

Wednesday	February 3	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	February 4	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	February 5	5:45-8:30pm

**Navigating with Integrity and Honesty**

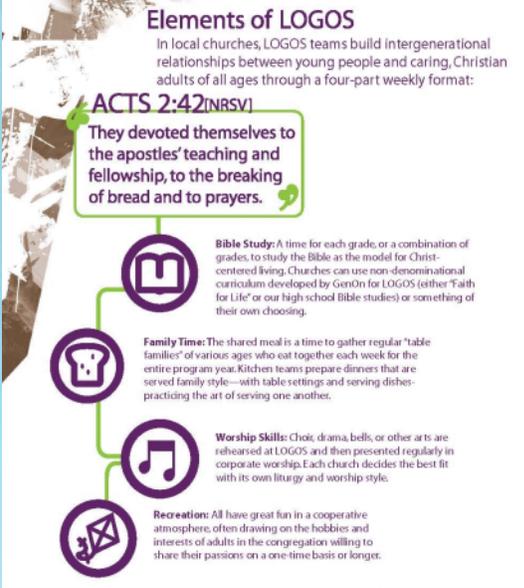
Wednesday	March 10	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	March 11	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	March 12	5:45-8:30pm

**Be a Good Steward of All God's Gifts**

Wednesday	April 14	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	April 15	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	April 16	5:45-8:30pm

*Wednesday & Friday Gatherings are for all ages.  
Thursday Gatherings are for adults & teens.*

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**Elements of LOGOS**  
In local churches, LOGOS teams build intergenerational relationships between young people and caring, Christian adults of all ages through a four-part weekly format:

**ACTS 2:42<sup>(NRSV)</sup>**  
**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.**

**Bible Study:** A time for each grade or a combination of grades, to study the Bible as the model for Christ-centered living. Churches can use non-denominational curriculum developed by GenOn for LOGOS (either "Faith for Life" or our high school Bible studies) or something of their own choosing.

**Family Time:** The shared meal is a time to gather regular "table families" of various ages who eat together each week for the entire program year. Kitchen teams prepare dinners that are served family style—with table settings and serving dishes—practicing the art of serving one another.

**Worship Skills:** Choir, drama, bells, or other arts are rehearsed at LOGOS and then presented regularly in corporate worship. Each church decides the best fit with its own liturgy and worship style.

**Recreation:** All have great fun in a cooperative atmosphere, often drawing on the hobbies and interests of adults in the congregation willing to share their passions on a one-time basis or longer.

Elements of LOGOS

1. Bible Study
2. Family Time
3. Worship Skills
4. Recreation

GenOn Ministries  
[www.genonministries.org](http://www.genonministries.org)

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## Messy Church



- A flexible, relaxed arrival time with drinks and snacks
- Creative exploration of a Bible story/theme through creative experiences for people of different learning styles and of all ages. Children and adults are not separated and are encouraged to explore the story/theme together
- A short but explicit time of worship with story, music and prayers that builds on the creative exploration.
- A generous welcome and hospitality is expressed through a delicious home-cooked, sit-down meal with others

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## Integrated Family Faith Formation Model



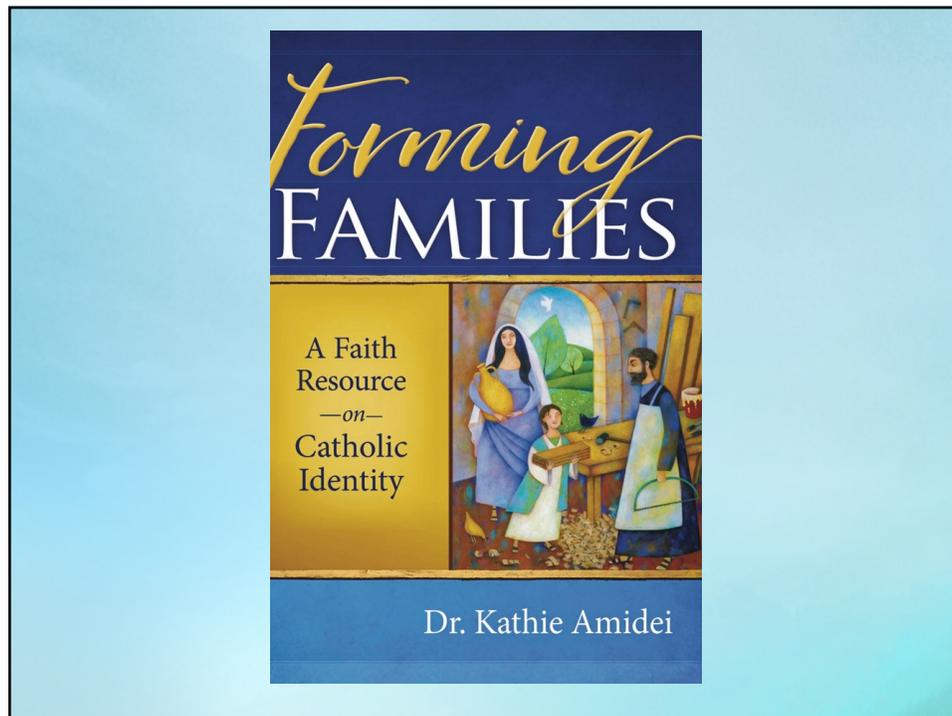
### What is Integrated Family Catechesis?

Important to include 3 key components:

1. Social/Community Building Time
2. Grade Level Classes including Adult Sessions
3. Family Activity Session

- During the grade level classes, children and youth are taught by volunteer catechists. The curriculum covered by grade specific curriculum based. Adults in adult formation
- During the Family Activity Session the parents are involved in teaching their children faith through active learning curriculum
- Parents are teachers and learners in this model

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According to sociologist, Dr. Christian Smith:



- “Most teenagers and their parents may not realize it , but a lot of research in the sociology of religion suggests the most important social influence in shaping young people’s religious lives is the religious life modeled and taught to them by their parents.
- “When it comes to kid’s faith, parents get what they are.”
- “We should be working with parents when they are buying their first stroller.”

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## Religion as a Second Language

- Stories Worth Telling
- Knowing the language of religion and its related symbols is central to our spiritual experience and that requires learning this second language.
- Parents have the primary opportunity to do this. Everyday conversation provides the exact kind of sustained practice in learning the second language that will make religious and spiritual life make sense



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## Families talking about Faith

If there were only one practical take-away from our research, it would be this:

Parents need to not only “*walk the walk*” but also regularly *talk with their children about their walk, what it means and why they care.*

*Handing Down the Faith, Smith & Adamczek p.225)*



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## Caring



*Cultivating caring relationships across generations in the congregation and community, becoming a life-giving spiritual community of faith, hope, and love.*

- ✓ Caring Conversations
- ✓ Community Building
- ✓ Intergenerational Relationships in Existing Programs
- ✓ Intergenerational Storytelling
- ✓ Mentoring Relationships

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Be ready ! What are some challenges?



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## Church experiences exclusively with peers

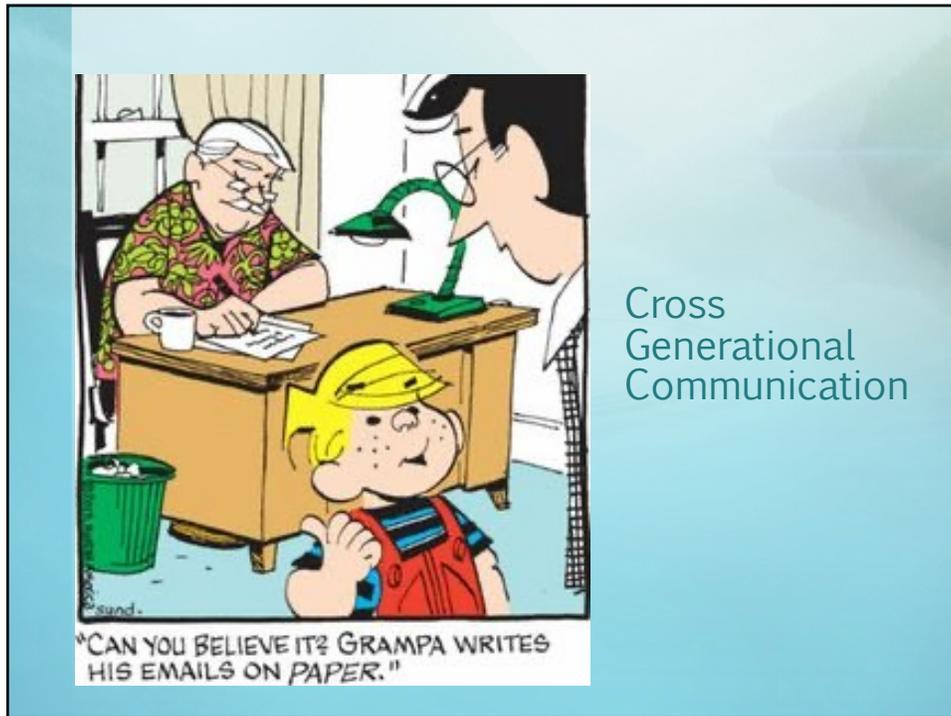


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Why is Intergenerational Learning Challenging?

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What are some benefits?

So intergenerational community not only represents the ideals of Christianity. It's a generative practice that is shaping and re-shaping the ecclesial culture of all sorts of churches, including their ministry with children.

(Cainos & Ivy Beckwith)

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### Intergenerational Impact

1. Strengthens relationships among people of all ages, enhances their sense of belonging to the faith community, and increases participation in church life.
2. Has a positive effect on both the older and young populations involved by creating intentional opportunities for young and old to meet together, to share stories, or to create something together.
3. Affirms each person's value in the total community (regardless of age), and promotes understanding of shared values and respect for individuals in all stages and ages of life.



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## Intergenerational Impact

4. Creates a welcoming and safe environment conducive to promoting faith sharing, group participation, mutual support, and care for one another.
5. Supports families by surrounding them with a community of faith and engaging the whole family in learning and practicing their faith.
6. Helps people learn the beliefs and practices of the Christian faith as they participate with more experienced members of the church community.



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## Intergenerational Impact

7. Promotes a community where generational differences can be transcended rather than reinforced, where generational understanding and positive intergenerational relationships can be experienced.
8. Forms and strengthens Christian commitment.
9. Provides parents with opportunities to learn from Christians who are practicing their faith
10. .
11. Incorporates real-life application of learning.



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## Intergenerational faith Formation Community

- Is most natural. It is how we are wired as human beings
- It is emerging in vibrant faith communities
- Is challenging because in some ways it is counter cultural
- Is essential for the future life of our children and our churches
- Is both an art and science. There are many methods and approaches that have been researched but each community must adapt these ideas to your own community.

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## Intergenerational Faith Community

Throughout Scripture there is a pervasive sense that all generations were typically present when faith communities gathered for worship, for celebration, for feasting, for praise, for encouragement, for reading of Scripture, in times of danger, and for support and service. . . . To experience authentic Christian community and reap the unique blessings of intergenerationality, the generations must be together regularly and often—infants to octogenarians.

(Allen and Ross, Intergenerational Christian Formation)

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A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters;  
God loves you and has chosen you as his own special  
people.  
So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient.  
Put up with each other,  
And forgive anyone who does you wrong,  
Just as Christ has forgiven you.  
Love is more important than anything else.  
It is what ties everything completely together.

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ,  
And you were chosen to live together in peace.  
Whatever you say or do should be done  
In the name of the Lord Jesus,  
As you give thanks to God the Father because of him.

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