

Your **LINK** to the Ministry Resources of Northeastern Ohio

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NE Ohio Synod Resource Center

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Staffed Hours

Monday, Tuesday &
Thursday 8-4

Call or email ahead and recommended resources will be pulled for you to preview whenever you are able to visit. Not able to visit? Most items can be mailed.

Karen Kaufman,
Resource Specialist

25th Anniversary

The synod assembly voted on the recommendation of the Northeastern Ohio Synod Council for a resource center to be established in 1991. This is not the oldest or the newest resource center in the ELCA but it is one of the best thanks to the continuing support of the members of the Northeastern Ohio Synod.

Connie Garrett the developing director established a sound foundation for the current center in 1991. This center is a hub for the sharing of a wide variety of resources between congregations in the synod, as well as across the church. We know that congregations in Australia have used resources developed within this synod. Congregations in this synod have used resources developed in other synods as well as been introduced to ministry resources from a variety of publishers through this newsletter **The Link** which was started twenty years ago by current director, Karen Kaufman.

In recognition of this significant anniversary the resource center will be giving away items to lucky recipients throughout the year. The winner of **Atlas of the European Reformations** was Harry Werner at the Professional Leadership Retreat. A set of **Kids Celebrate** went to first time borrower Brandi Hacker. Hopefully **you** (a user of the resource center) will be one of the lucky recipients of a ministry resource in the coming year.

Ascension Day – May 5th

With an early Easter comes an earlier occasion than normal for recognizing Ascension Day, May 5th. The resource center has a variety of resources for celebrating this event; a skit "Ascension?" (5 persons), several different worship services including one that uses the hymn *Crown Him with Many Crowns*. To view one of these resources for possible use in your own setting email the resource center. You may also want to consider this service by the Reverend Thomas L Weitzel, liturgybytlw.com/Easter/AscenDay.html

The Myrr-bearers

Youth appreciate a different perspective when reviewing common Bible texts. This skit written by Pastor Elizabeth Hazelton could easily be used as a reader's theater and discussion starter for Holy Week. **Can These Bones Live?** also contains brief contemporary dramas for 4-5 readers. Another option when wanting to emphasize discipleship is a resource that contains dramas and discussion questions for five sessions, **The Pilgrim Path** by Theodore Schroeder. All of these resources are available through the resource center.

For resource updates between newsletters visit www.twitter.com/resources4U

New Arrivals

Holy Currencies: Six Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries describes how the six blessings (time and place, gracious leadership, relationship, truth, wellness, and money) in each faith community is used to develop and strengthen ministry that goes beyond your current efforts.

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith has been revised to include general as well as specific questions for each of the 32 faith traditions. Statistics and further reference recommendations have been updated since the original 1999 edition. The family tree of denominations found on page 132 of the original edition is not included so you may want to keep that page when replacing with the updated edition.

Lift Up Your Hands: An Introduction to Signing in Children and Worship is an 11 minute DVD that briefly explains and shows the motions for key words in worship including five simple songs that children can sing. A great resource for choirs, worship leaders and ministry with children.

Our thanks to Pastor Laurie Miller for the donation of the following books.

The Parables of Peanuts is a potential resource for those who yearn for theological conversation prompted by contemporary media. You will need to develop your own discussion guide.

Women in the New Testament is a rich resource for any Bible study leader to help them note the significance of specific texts related to women in the Bible.

Vacation Bible School/ Summer Education

Looking for a VBS curriculum that is solid and not what everyone else in the community is using? Lutheran Outdoor Ministry is making their curriculum available to congregations for their use. You can purchase this year's theme: **The Jesus Way** or at a greatly reduced price you can purchase a previous year's curriculum. These would also work well for community VBS programs or for your Sunday summer education program. Visit www.lomnetwork.org for more information.

Another little-known option comes from On Eagle's Wings. This ministry provides Christian Education curriculum for First Nation communities in the north. Their curriculum is written for 5-11 year olds and uses easily accessible materials and music. [The occasional younger student is incorporated into the setting.] One student noted, "you don't have the cool stuff (videos) but you have the FUN stuff"! The curriculum provides material and activities for 2 1/2—3 hour sessions and is very suitable for smaller communities at a very affordable cost. A new website in April will provide access to the curriculum. Until then you can contact Karen Kaufman for a descriptive brochure of the VBS themes over the past 12 years and for more information. The cost of this and their Sunday School curriculum is by donation.



Combine a service collection or project to your education program to live out the theme as well as promote interest and participation. For example not every road or street is under a litter collection program. Find roads for litter clean-up and redeem found aluminum cans to purchase items for health kits, school bags or other project needs. Encourage the formation of a Thrivent Action Team for spear-heading a project that serves the homeless, poor or homebound in your community and coordinate it with the service/education project of your summer program.

Celebrate the conclusion of the project or summer by hosting a community event that encourages teams of individuals representing three or more generations. While this link gives specifics about the fund-raising event **Come to the Water** you will still find ideas for hosting your own event at lutheranmeninmission.org/events