

Your LINK to the Ministry Resources of Northeastern Ohio

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Staffed Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thurs-
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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.



While growing up I lived near Warther's (woodcarving) Museum and can remember watching Mooney Warther carve his infamous working pliers from a single piece of wood. Mooney lived during the era of hobos and had learned the skill from a hobo who traveled the railroad tracks behind his home. We rarely hear the term hobo today; instead we reference people as homeless or living on the street. A variety of factors, many the same as in years past, place these people in vulnerable situations. Today we have a better understanding of the issues that lead to homelessness and have programs to assist individuals. However because these same individuals often lack a supportive network they fail to make the needed connections to these services. In some communities there are gaps in the services and often congregations or community ministerial associations step in to provide either food, clothing or other assistance along with encouragement. Ohio winters discourage street living but warmer climates do not have that deterrent prompting Pastor Jay Bergstresser of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Cocoa Beach, Florida to share their transformative outreach to the homeless in the book, ***Strong Drink for the Perishing***. Bergstresser shares practical helps and ideas for reaching out to the homeless. For example, learning and using a person's name shows respect and encourages them to share the same way the hobo shared his skill with Mooney. Through empowerment the outreach ministry of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection includes the abilities of all when serving. This empowering and saying 'no' have resulted in transformed lives; however there are also stories of frustration. Bergstrasser shares it all. Whether reaching out to the homeless personally or in a congregation team this book provides a realistic picture of this ministry through the experiences of Bergstresser and Lutheran Church of the Resurrection and will serve as a guide and source of inspiration.

If the recent sharing by local housing coalitions of the number of unsheltered individuals in your communities has prompted an interest in reaching out to the poor and unsheltered the resource center has a couple of additional resources to recommend:

What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty—A comprehensive and useful guide for helping churches understand and reach out to people in poverty.

Servant or Sucker—A five session formatted dvd that outlines wise and compassionate ways to help the poor as individuals and as a community.

www.elca.org/resources/advocacy

Community

With the shifting of shopping and other activities to the internet we may wonder what the future holds for the church. A recent article in **Fortune** noted that people are **looking** for community. Consequently new businesses or services are being developed to cater to this desire. Other businesses are realizing the importance of both an on-line and physical presence in a community. Over time it is easy to become an exclusive organization. In what ways does your congregation continue to invite and incorporate people into a sharing and life-giving community? Four resources to consider are:

Paradoxy, written for those trying to discern ways to create a Christian community for all ages, seekers as well as life-long Christians. Each chapter provides Biblical reflections and questions for discussion.

Discovering the Other encourages the use of asset-based approaches to build community both within and outside of a congregation. Strategies such as appreciative inquiry and asset mapping help individuals and congregations to develop new tools for community building ministry.

Acts an 8-session study by Ray Pickett in the Book of Acts tells the story of how a small group of Galilean Jews who followed Jesus became a countercultural movement that spread throughout the Roman Empire.

Unbinding Your Heart walks a small group in prayer and conversation over six weeks to the possibilities for ministry in their congregation.

This article <http://tinyurl.com/tbkq3hm> on front yard people may provide some inspiration for building community.

Reformation 500

An updated brochure by the resource center with recommendations and links for resources and activities for the congregation was provided at the synod assembly. Paper copies are available in the resource center, a digital copy is available upon request, rc@neos-elca.org.

Get a sneak peek of the new resource **By Heart: Conversations with Luther's Small Catechism** through a webinar at noon on July 18. Sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/ybqdy822> Visit augsbuurgfortress.org for additional webinars or to view samples.



Thanks to Augsburg Fortress there were a number of resources that were given away at the synod assembly. Congratulations to:

Nancy Blewitt - Grace, Wadsworth
Pr. Sharon Brown - Salem, Wooster
Dineen Dowling - Faith, Fairlawn
Pr. Eric Edwards - St. John, East Liverpool
Pr. Angel Jackson - St. John, McZena
Katie Jacob - First, Strongsville
Ruth James - St. James, Tuscarawas
Pr. Duane Jesse - Zion, Youngstown
Miriam Keating - Zion, North Canton
Pr. Darla Ann Kratzer - Canton City Lutheran Parish