

## *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

### **Addictions**

Addictions of various kinds have plagued our society and increasingly our communities and the people we know are being impacted by addiction, especially drug and alcohol. Congregations often provide space for support groups and pastoral teams may offer encouragement to individuals and their families but there is probably more that could be done to help individuals on their path of recovery. A good first step would be to connect with your local mental health board. Google [name of your county] mental health. This search will quickly identify your local board's webpage and services. Information provided there will probably give you information and ideas for ways your congregation can be supportive to individuals and families within your community. It may be as simple as making members aware of services and materials available; or hosting an information or training session led by a member of the Mental Health Board Team. For more direct support contact a member of the mental health service team to brainstorm ways your congregation can support individuals and their families on their long and difficult road to recovery. No one is able to do it alone and this could be the way Christ is calling you to be His Hands.

### **Christian Education Curriculum**

As congregations review their participation or potential participation of children in Christian Education they sometimes find themselves in a transitional time as they move between boom and bust cycles. If your congregation is moving in either of these directions consider some models that may differ from your past. **Godly Play** relies highly on story-telling and is easily adaptable according to age and numbers. [The resource center can loan you an introductory video and printed resources as well as connect you with informed leaders of this program.] **Godly Play** may require an investment that you are not able to make at this time but there are many aspects of the program that could be adapted for your setting.

Some congregations using curriculum or other adapted resources host learning events on a monthly or quarterly basis. Others take advantage of adults mingling over coffee or breakfast food to provide a special learning table with guided activities for children in a corner of the same room. Others provide activities for families to take home and use at a time and place that best suits their schedule.

## New Arrivals

***The Art of Transformation: Three Things Churches Do That Change EVERYTHING*** shares the experiences of St. Gregory of Nyssa who has strived to be an intentional experimental congregation. Read how this community influences the lives of individuals and helps them to see God in new ways.

***The Church Guide for Making Decisions Together*** is an excellent resource for all congregation leaders and church councils. Groups function best when they are intentional about considering the diverse needs before making decisions. This book teaches consensus-building as well as provides helpful check-lists for leaders, sample agendas and role descriptions.

***Faith Forward*** is a collection of articles sharing the experiences of a variety of congregation leaders in reaching out, in many times to the neglected, as disciples and to create disciples. This is an excellent resource for leaders looking to be inspired.

***Graceful Nurture: Using Godly Play with Adults*** is a guide for adapting Godly Play curriculum for use with adults. It includes outlines for introducing the program, use in a multi-generational setting and also a retreat.

***The Integrity of the Body of Christ: Boundary Keeping as Shared Responsibility*** is helpful reading for all ministry staff members who may find particular interest in the chapter on Sabbath Shalom. Discussion questions are provided in the back of the book for personal reflection or group discussion on individual chapters.

***Lasting Impact: 7 Powerful Conversations That Will Help Your Congregation to Grow*** is helpful reading for staff to assess the ministry of the congregation and suggests new activities and approaches to ministry.

***Propel: Good Stewardship, Greater Generosity*** is written by a pastor for a pastor. Basic as well as particular information is shared for providing leadership for an effective stewardship ministry program in your congregation. The book references additional online resources

***Teaching Godly Play: How to Mentor the Spiritual Development of Children*** is the updated and revised version of the Montessori-based curriculum ***Godly Play***. With changing demographics and trends many congregations are considering this curriculum. Many of the practical tips for classroom management are beneficial regardless of the curriculum used making this book an excellent resource for your teacher orientation or a teaching tips email.

## Community Activity for Lent 2018

The Urban Mission of Steubenville, Ohio developed Community Prayer Stations that focus on a variety of sites that provide justice and hope to individuals and families in the area. During Lent they encouraged people in the community to go on a pilgrimage of these locations by participating in scheduled 'tours' as well as making use of a devotional book created for that purpose. If you would like a copy of the devotional book to assist you in preparing the same opportunity in your community for 2018 contact the resource center, 330-929-9020/[rc@neos-elca.org](mailto:rc@neos-elca.org).