

# Your LINK to Ministry Resources

NE Ohio Resource Center

July  
Volume 22, Issue 7

## Ideas for Fall

As we plan for the start-up of a new school year consider incorporating a litany into a worship service or offering a brief devotion for a fellowship event. The resource center has litanies for a variety of scenarios. For example a ***Litany for those who Teach and Learn***, or ***A Ritual for our Children*** can be used with leaders of a preschool or other children ministry programs.

An ***Affirmation of Vocation*** or ***Celebration and Dedication of Vocation*** are appropriate for Labor Day weekend.

The second Sunday in September is **Grandparent's Day** which for many congregations is also **God's Work. Our Hands Sunday**. There are several ways this can be acknowledged by a congregation. One way may be to create special projects that these two generations can do together and promote children inviting a grandparent and grandparents inviting a child. During this or other events record the faith stories or special memories of all older adults to share in the church newsletter throughout the year or during a congregation anniversary.

This time of year may produce a variety of transitions. ***A Farewell Liturgy*** honors faithful members who move to a new location. ***A Blessing of a New Dwelling*** can be helpful for those who stay in the community but have a new residence. ***A Litany of Transition and Godspeed*** can be helpful for older adults moving out of their home and into new living arrangements.

***A Litany to Start Us Building Bridges*** is helpful for anyone or group making a new start.

All of the above litanies are available digitally by request from [rc@neos-elca.org](mailto:rc@neos-elca.org)

Have you wanted some **professional communication resources for Christmas?** There are four designs available at [www.elca.org/Resources/Congregational-Communications-Tools#Christmas](http://www.elca.org/Resources/Congregational-Communications-Tools#Christmas).

Karen Kaufman,  
Resource Specialist

**Staffed Hours**  
8-4 Mon, Tues & Thurs

Call or email ahead of visit for recommended resources to be immediately available for viewing.

Not able to visit? Most items can be mailed.

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**Sooner**  
(1<sup>st</sup> of month)  
**More content**  
(every month)

- Can be yours by subscribing to the electronic version of the link:

[rc@neos-elca.org](mailto:rc@neos-elca.org)  
SUBSCRIBE

November is Alzheimers Awareness and National Caregivers month. The following web page contains helpful information about dementia as well as suggestions for ways congregations can support those with dementia and their caregivers: <https://aloaserves.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Dementia-101-for-Congregations.pdf>

A bishop of the United Methodist Church has created a 5-session study resource for congregations on Alzheimer/Dementia: Ministry with the Forgotten. To obtain the leader guide and link for the downloadable videos visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycvl6d3t>.

Your community may be building housing for senior citizens at the same or greater rate than they are building schools. Brainstorm and consider ways your congregation can reach out to these non-member residents, their families and staff. Holy Trinity, North Canton conducts a VBS program at the near-by St. Luke Lutheran Community. Some congregations provide volunteers for weekly or special events at the facility. Share your ideas and experiences with resource specialist, Karen Kaufman.

***Living Our Baptism...Five Gifts of Discipleship*** is a collection of downloadable resources from the ELCA website. Concentrating on the gifts we receive from God to help shape our life in Christ is a Bible study that can be used for small group discussions or a retreat. There is also a two session new member orientation and a Rite of Affirmation Preparation to recognize the beginning of the confirmation program. These resources can be found at [www.elca.org/Resources/Faith-practices](http://www.elca.org/Resources/Faith-practices) or email the resource center for a copy.

## Valuable Links

Pass on this handy planning calendar to your Christian Education leaders:

<https://rowsofsharon.com/2018/05/07/2018-2019-planning-calendar/> Your worship committee may find it also helpful.

Did you know the ELW is now available as an E-book? You can get it here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7y8mkmj>

Encourage intentional daily moments with God by providing this link with your congregation: <https://waytolead.org/intentions/>

## New Arrivals

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***Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*** helps congregations examine their practices and identify ways to increase the effectiveness of their efforts in hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity. The discussion questions alone for each chapter can serve as a stimulator for productive conversations.

***Healthy Disclosure: Solving Communication Quandaries in Congregations*** can be helpful for staff and congregation leaders to resolve issues of misinformation and build transparency and trust.

***My Favorite Color is Blue Sometimes*** is an excellent bereavement resource for children and adults. A definite must for church libraries and a potential resource for pastoral visits. Simple, attractive and inviting this colorful book begs to be opened, read and consumed.