

Your LINK to Ministry Resources

NE Ohio Resource Center

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0-3 Years

Older congregation members often refer to these years as "Cradle Roll" years. A time when the congregation lovingly supports these youngest members of the community with doting smiles and cards acknowledging their birth and baptism dates. Today congregations often encourage their young parents with mini-newsletters that include insights about the various developmental stages and traits of these fast growing infants and toddlers.

FROLIC Family (monthly newsletter) was initially available only electronically. With a subscription congregations can sign up each child whose designated care-givers will automatically receive these newsletters on a timely basis. This newsletter is now available in print for congregations to mail or hand-out to parents. No infants in your congregation? Purchase a packet anyway to have on hand. Then when a young family visits send them an age appropriate newsletter along with a note as a follow-up to their visit. To order or learn more about the print version visit: www.wearesparkhouse.org/Frolic-Family-Birth---Age-3-Monthly-Newsletters

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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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LOSS

Loss of a relationship or a job or a home can produce grief. Granger Westburg's book **Good Grief** has been a highly recommended and well received book. This book has recently been revised with a new layout and minimal but very helpful additional content. It is also available as an e-book. Along with the revision two additional resources have been added. One is a journal with appropriate word prompts. The second is a devotional with the sub-title "**52 Weeks toward Hope**"; this devotional while occasionally referencing the original book can easily be used on its own no matter what the grief one is experiencing. Each devotion ends with to-do actions and a prayer. Many if not all readers will find value in the prayer for each day. The devotional and revised version of the book are available to preview from the resource center.

Adult Education

To receive an electronic version for ease of clicking on links email rc@neos-elca.org

Adult small group leaders will appreciate this list of **FREE** potential study or faith conversation resources recently compiled.

www.godsacre.org/adult/yale-bible-study/ This site currently houses 21 studies developed by professors at the Yale Divinity School in collaboration with a congregation in Connecticut. Here you will find links to their **videos and study guides**.

This is a link to videos and a discussion guide for N.T. Wright's **Paul and the Faithfulness of God**. You will need to scroll down the page to find the **video and discussion guide**: fortresspress.com/ntwright-incarnationmn.org/connect-grow/small-groups/faith-studies-for-small-groups/connecting-in-grace-radical-gifts-radical-grace/ **Radical Gifts, Radical Grace** explores questions around God's presence in our daily lives and how we can respond accordingly.

If people are interested in discussing **ethics** view these 61 topics with study guides and other helpful resources at: www.baylor.edu/ifl/index.php?id=937582

For members who enjoy theological articles you may want to share this article with them: "**How We Frame Faith Makes All the Difference in the World**" from the journal **Currents in Theology and Mission** currentsjournal.org/index.php/currents/article/view/160/184

For groups or individuals who may be eager to hear a fresh approach to Biblical story consider the following books:

Marry a Pregnant Virgin by Barbara Bruce provides a lively, fresh interpretation to old stories. Twelve chapters include reflection and discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

Original Blessing by Danielle Shroyer presents an overview of the historical development of the doctrine of original sin and its effect on the church over history. She believes our relationship with God should be based on blessing rather than sin. The book is very compelling and engaging with many examples from her personal ministry. Helpful for personal use and a good discussion starter for adult education; a separate six week study guide is available.

The Unexpected Teachings of Jesus by John Coleman helps readers or adult study groups see the gospels in a new light. Reflection questions and an index make this an excellent group study resource. Chapters can be easily used randomly.

All of the above books are available for loan from the resource center.

Self-appraisal

As we evaluate and prepare for the coming programmatic year a self-appraisal can be helpful. Download the free resources at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y3p3ov7s>. In the download scroll down to chapters 5 and 6 for a helpful self-appraisal form for rostered leaders. A digital copy can also be requested from the resource center.

Stewardship Campaigns

It's not too early to start planning. Read this article and share with your congregation's stewardship leader - <http://lsem.us/V3pHq>.

The annual magazine **Giving** is now quarterly and **digital**. ELCA Mission Support dollars pay your subscription when you sign up by using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/rFYsYORRrYhgtRF83>. Follow-up emails will reference Generosity 365.