

# Your LINK to Ministry Resources

NE Ohio Resource Center

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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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## Visio Divina

Many of us are familiar with the format of lectio divina for engaging in the scriptures. How many of you have heard of visio divina? This recent book ***Meeting God through Art: Visio Divina: A Guided Prayer Journal with images from the Metropolitan Museum of Art*** is an excellent resource for personal use and could easily be adapted for group use. Many of the included images are available on the museum's website: [www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/](http://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/) making it very easy to project a piece of artwork on a large screen for group viewing and contemplation.

## Mental and Emotional Health

With COVID-19 there has been an added stress on our mental and emotional health. The NE MN Synod Mental Health Initiative Team has compiled an extensive and excellent list of links. These links provide resources that range from helping those struggling with addictions as well as suggestions for grandparenting during this time of limited travel and physical contact. <http://www.nemnsynod.org/mhccovid19.html> Use these links for yourself, your congregation or your community.

[www.samaritanfamilywellness.org](http://www.samaritanfamilywellness.org) has resources for adults, parents and teens.

## Community Support

Many community support systems have been strained due to COVID-19. Use the strengths of your congregation and other area congregations to provide relieve with supplies or logistics. For example quilting groups have switched to making masks temporarily or offer the church parking lot as a site for food distribution or exchange of needed goods. Connect with those who work in assisted living facilities to offer assistance to workers (ie. grocery store runs) or items to facilitate their activities to keep residents engaged and stimulated.

## Hidden Gems

The Episcopal Church held a “Rooted in Jesus” conference in Atlanta this past January. Over 1200 people were in attendance. Many of the slides and handouts from the workshop presentations are available on-line. Topics include:

- Opioid crisis response
- Godly Play
- Intergenerational Formation Resources
- Filling Your Volunteers Cup
- Spiritual Dimension of Being Missional

Go to <https://rootedinjesus.church/resources/> for a complete listing and access to view or download.

Do you have members who are not on the internet? Through this service you can provide audio of your livestream to their phones: [phonelivestreaming.com](http://phonelivestreaming.com).

Less than 40 contacts? Group text for free with [flocknotes.com](http://flocknotes.com)

In a free 5-week video/discussion explore the signs and symbols at the heart of worship:  
<https://www.signsoflife.org/>

## Alexa

People of all ages are using Alexa devices. It may be the Alexa Dot, Alexa Echo or an Alexa app. Often they are used to automate devices in the home and simplify life. Some folks use Alexa for music or receiving the news. What many may not know is that there are some skills or apps that are for spiritual enrichment. Only with close examination or frequent use do you learn the quality or origin of the skill. For example many prayer apps are Muslim-based, or Bible apps will quote using little known paraphrases or translations of the Bible. The avenue to apps is by using the command, “Alexa, open <name of skill>”. Some skills I recommend are “Daily Bible Verse”, “Strength Bible Verses”, “Today’s Verse”, “C. S. Lewis Quotes”, “Episcopal Daily Prayer” or “Episcopal Prayer”. One fun app is “Martin Luther Quiz” which can be used by 1-4 players. Questions are based more on Martin Luther’s life as opposed to his theology. Answers are scored and amusing anecdotes or trivia conclude each question. Suggest this app to families or confirmation students as an alternative activity during this time of physical distancing. What app would you recommend?

## Heard it thru the grapevine

Seven women of St. Jacob, North Canton in less than 2 months have made over 1200 masks which have been donated to local and New York medical care providers, the Migrant Center, other facilities, groups and individuals in the community.

St. Stephen Martyr, Canton will be hosting a drive-thru VBS once a week for four weeks this summer.

*Kudos to these congregations, their leaders and many others that are adapting ministry in these swiftly changing times.*