

Your LINK to Ministry Resources

NE Ohio Resource Center

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

January 2020
Volume 25, Issue 1

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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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Church Council

The time of council transitions is an excellent time to renew the focus of the council with covenants, a letter of call or an inventory of the abilities of council members. The resource center has samples of covenants and a letter of call available digitally for your own adaptation. Spiritual gift resources as well as a task survey are available as free downloads at <https://equippedforeverygoodwork.wordpress.com/downloads/>. The resource center has the book *Equipped for Every Good Work* available for loan as well. Executive teams will find this article helpful as they look towards the coming year: <https://tinyurl.com/yekwbkok>

Be sure to share the contact information of new council presidents with the synod resource center. We will provide a sampling of the resources available to them as a council leader as well as the congregation.

Skits

Skits pique interest and are a way to engage people in the life of the congregation. Several skits that may be of interest in the coming months are:

"If God Should Speak" an excellent way to introduce or close a unit on the Lord's Prayer

"Street Sweeper of Jerusalem" provides a synopsis of Holy Week

"The First Tax Return" needs an abacas and eight individuals (or less if they can change costumes quickly).

All are available digitally by emailing rc@neos-elca.org

Heard It Through the Grapevine

Engageworship.org/area52 provides a variety of creative worship options including visual resources.

In the past some of our congregations received excellent capital campaign assistance through the ELCA. That service is no longer being provided by the ELCA or the Mission Investment Fund however many of those same leaders now provide the same service through [https:// www.capitalcampaignservices.net](https://www.capitalcampaignservices.net) They can also be reached at <https://www.facebook.com/Capital-Campaign-Services-Net-102004181314566/>

A variety of options are often available with devotional materials. Increasingly publishers are providing a Spanish version increasing your ability to reach out into the community. Some publishers provide an email option so that readers can receive content daily in their in-box. Consider these opportunities when selecting or recommending devotional materials for those in your faith community.

Resources for Lent

Lent is historically known for being a time of self-examination and spiritual growth. Challenge members to make a Lenten pledge:

Ways I will pray during Lent.....

Ways I will fast during Lent.....

Ways I will serve and give alms during Lent.....

When I arrive at Easter, I hope to see the following changes....

There are a variety of ways in which the congregation can nurture this time of self-examination. Materials and opportunities can be provided to support people individually or in community during this time of reflection and transformation. It can be as simple as using the resources from ELCA World Hunger found at: <https://elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger> to developing your own theme and having members contribute their personal reflections or photos to support the emphasis. Events can be planned as simple as 'burying the alleluias' or a 24-hour prayer vigil to a Passion Week Walk for the community. The resource center files provide numerous examples for your use or inspiration. For example:

[sung to "Jesus Loves Me"]

Alleluia! Word of Praise

Say goodbye for 40 days

In this time that we call Lent

We remember and repent.

Farewell, Alleluia!

So long, Alleluia!

Adios, Alleluia!

Auf Widerschen!

Goodbye! Elizabeth Hazelton

Weekly Options:

Discipleship: Come and Follow Jesus provides a brief format that could be used as a lunchtime Lenten opportunity. This free resource was created by the New Jersey Synod Discipling Team.

Exploring Our Baptismal Promises is an excellent Lenten devotional written for families. (Free)