Your LINK to Ministry Resources

NE Ohio Resource Center

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We love because he first loved us. I John 4:19

Valentine's Day is on Sunday this year. In past years we may have presented decorated cookies or small bags of candy to people as they left Sunday worship on the 14th. Even if you have in-person worship there will be some people who will not be present. Be prepared to deliver a greeting to these individuals prior to worship, or later that same day. With prior planning and assistance you can encourage them to share their greeting or smile through a photo or video that can be shared in the streamed service. Share the love!

Lenten Shift?

Over the years congregations have emphasized the season of Lent with mid-week worship services. Sometimes monologues or brief dramas would take the place of the sermon. During the energy crisis some congregations transitioned to a brief meditation or conversational sermon following a light meal in the church fellowship hall. In 2021 you may want to consider a shift to a mid-week Bible study that includes both in-person and virtual participants. Some Bible study resources available are: https://elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/5-Gifts

Five Gifts of Discipleship during Lent: Living our Baptism

https://elca.org/Resources/Bible-Studies#Discipleship Bible studies on the Gospel or Second Lesson – Year B – Lent 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.

1890 Bailey Road Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221-5576

330-929-9020 rc@neos-elca.org twitter.com/resources4U

If you wish to do a Bible study on the book of Mark, the resource center still has 15 copies of *Mark for Everyone* by N.T. Wright. Or if you wish to do a book study the resource center has 17 copies of *The Centered Life* by Jack Fortin. To request copies or for more information contact Karen, 330-929-9020/rc@neos-elca.org

2021 may also be the year when congregations may want to stage a **CrossWalk** or activity similar to a live Nativity to tell the Passion Story. Other options may center on "Stations of the Cross" that could be placed throughout the church building for safe viewing. Or enlist individuals and families to create a station which is then shared virtually with other stations for the congregation and community to view. The resource center has several models that could be adapted for 2021.

Stewardship

Make use of the recent season of giving to encourage giving throughout the year. This article will provide some insights: How the gift of receiving enables us to give: tinyurl.com/yxspsb5n

Learn how to address inequality at faithlead.luthersem.edu/addressing-inequality-in-stewardship-and-fundraising.

30th Anniversary

2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the Northeastern Ohio Synod Resource Center. Connie Garrett with allotted space, materials from the Ohio District – ALC and volunteers Barb Culler and Florence Wilch created the Northeastern Ohio Synod Resource Center following the 1990 NE Ohio Synod Assembly. Through the encouragement and support of resource center directors across the greater church as well as local leadership and congregations the NE Ohio Synod Resource Center was birthed into being. Through the years it has resourced synod congregations and leaders with:

- printed materials,
- videos,
- leader training and support gatherings,
- recommendations of resources(print, visual, digital, human)
- distribution of excess or original resources,
- unique equipment (projectors, percussion instruments, display items)

and a newsletter highlighting resources and ministry opportunities.

Rejoice with us and offer suggestions for additional or better ways we can support the leadership in your congregation!

Karen Kaufman, Resource Specialist

Fresh new resources

Barngeeseworship.com includes text notes, group devotions and a Lenten kit.

Bannerblue.org has family faith formation kits developed by three of our own pastors.

Helpful links:

hymnary.org is a lifesaver when planning worship or devotions and you are missing your hymnal. You can find everything from the full text of verses, copyright info to hymnal numbers.

Musicthatmakescommunity.org/resources is also a source for liturgical music, (recordings allow you to preview - personal favorite "Santos, Santos")

Congregationalconsulting.org/planning-in-a-liminal-season is a helpful article when approaching planning in the coming year.

You can digitally subscribe to this newsletter by emailing rc@neos-elca.org