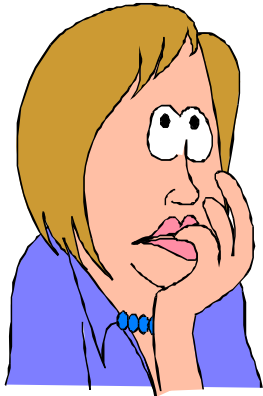


ed. network

A reproducible networking newsletter for the Christian Education Ministries of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, to equip, empower, and encourage believers of all ages to develop their relationship with God and neighbor through faith development and discipleship.



“I didn’t know I was supposed to do that!” Ever say those words? Does your Christian Education ministry have a clear understanding of “who does what?” When you recruit educators, are they given clear “expectations information?”

tion?”

These expectations could include:

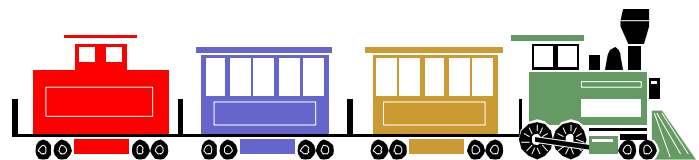
- Responsibilities of the educator such as attendance at trainings and/or workshops.
- Time commitment involved not only for preparation of the program but the length of the program offered.
- Skills or experience that might be needed for the activity or program.
- Personal rewards that result, and
- Spiritual gifts that might apply.

It is helpful to periodically evaluate your Christian Education ministry. Check such areas as:



- Your Christian Education ministry has created a clear vision statement that defines its relationship to the overall mission of the congregation.
- The key teachings of the “core curriculum” are Biblical truths, Lutheran theology, and prayerfully supported.
- Programs are planned and coordinated by a team, which might include teachers, parents, and youth.
- Programs give all ages opportunities for nurturing each other.
- Learning experiences make a conscience effort to connect what happens in Christian Education with worship, other areas of congregational life, the home and parents.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) The word train can be both a noun and verb. The noun, of course, is the actual choo-choo – from the engine to the last car; all traveling in the same direction – hopefully, forward. Train as a verb has several meanings: to prepare; to discipline; to aim. *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to*



ive the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) Christian educators are a major part in this preparation, discipline, and aim.

Educators often enjoy educating because they learn more about the Bible and their own relationship with Christ is strengthened. But it is also important to provide opportunities for the educators to become the students. Provide possibilities for educators to model prayer, Bible study, regular worship and devotional practices. Encourage Bible/book study and discussion groups. Offer training sessions to help equip the educators. Invite members of your church council and/or others in your congregation to be prayer companions for each of the education volunteers.



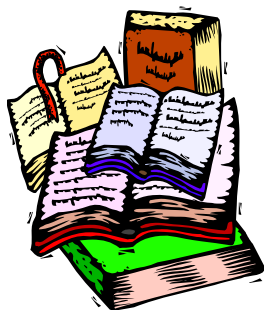
The Living Library



Responsibilities sometimes reveal themselves as surprises. I became the leader of my church's Christian Education Ministry Team. It was at least two years when I learned that the library was this team's responsibility. I immediately formed a library improvement project and assembled a team to put a plan in place. Quite frankly, the plan was not whole heartedly embraced by the team that formulated it, and the plan and the team moved at a glacial pace. This experience taught me that one must first find a champion – someone who has a desire for the project. Does your church have a desire to improve your church library,

but are not sure how to start? Here is a suggested plan:

1. Find a team leader, form a team and develop a vision of what you want your library to look like, and formulate a plan to get you there.
2. Clean-up. (Throw away the script from the 1992 VBS play!)
3. Bench mark other libraries, both church and school.
4. Take an inventory and sort. (DO NOT be afraid to get rid of books, tapes, and DVD's that do not match your vision.)
5. Develop a cataloguing system. You might need outside expertise to do this.
6. Clearly understand how you want to add to your library holdings.
7. Develop a system for checking out library materials.



8. Communicate your progress to the Christian Education Ministry Team and the church council.
9. Make the congregation aware of your existence and communicate often your plan, progress, and your available holdings.

Most projects have an end point.

This one does not because it is a **LIVING LIBRARY!**

RESOURCES: Your congregation can join the **Lutheran Association for Christian Education** as a team or with individual memberships. **LACE** members receive a quarterly newsletters via the US Mail and a monthly e-newsletter. The newsletters feature timely tips, suggestions, and resources that make the jobs, as Christian educators, in the church classroom easier. Your membership provides you with discounts for educational materials, workshops, and seminars. For complete information contact:

[laceoffice@davtv.com](mailto:lanceoffice@davtv.com).