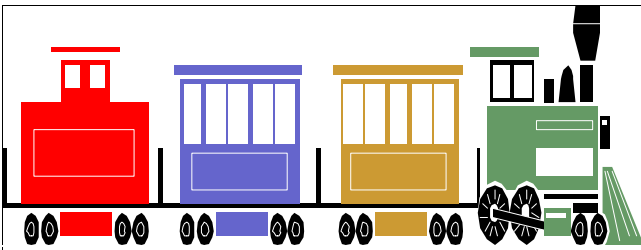


ed. network

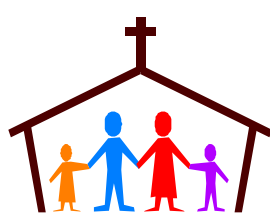
A reproducible networking newsletter for the Christian Education Ministries of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, to equip, empower, and encourage believers of all ages to develop their relationship with God and neighbor through faith development and discipleship.



Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.
Proverbs 22:6

Recruiting Tips for Volunteers in Christian Education Ministry

Prior to recruiting volunteer leaders, assess where the openings exist. Pray to God for energy to contact the volunteers that He wants leading his children in a particular class/small group. And then, do an in depth study of your church directory; talk with your pastor about likely "suspects"; talk with others who develop volunteers in your congregation (to discover the overused, underused, and those "hiding" from your line of sight), and look particularly to newer members as valid prospects. Identify prospects that are parents and grandparents of children participating in the children's ministry program (Sunday School, Midweek, Vacation Bible School, children's choirs, etc.) as one resource "pool."



Serving as a volunteer in any aspect of children's ministry is the best "basic training" a church can offer for finding a niche in the congregation and cultivating a sense of belonging-participating-contributing to one's church family.

Recruit adult volunteers to be on a team of 2-3 for each class or small group; one could serve as the leader or head of the class or small group, the other 1-2 as "second adults." The role of leader or head could rotate among the adult volunteers or remain constant.

The best practice to ensure a safe and secure environment for both children and adult volunteers is to always have 2 adults present, more if the class/group size exceeds 6-10 according to the age of the children.

In addition to a team of volunteer leaders for a class/small group for the entire year, consider (Continued on page 2)



GETTING FLUENT IN FAITH'S FIRST LANGUAGE

In June, the voting members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, Assembly, adopted #R-1-08.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

We encourage all congregations to become a "Book of Faith" congregation, which will find expression by

- Exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,
- Sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study leaders,
- Including biblical study as



an integral part of all meetings and groups, in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith – the language of Scripture – that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

Squads of teams that would serve for a quarter or semester. Some volunteers could and would serve continuously on the Fall Squad, Winter Squad, Spring Squad (or the First Semester Squad, Second Semester Squad).

Always recruit a volunteer to serve for the duration that they want, i.e. snowbirds will serve before they leave for warmer climates and when they return.

Develop minor roles in which adult volunteers can serve that will equip them to “step into” leadership roles involving more regular face-to-face contact in a class or small group.

Example: a Shepherd or Prayer Partner that would pray daily/weekly for the children and leaders in a specific class/group. This adult volunteer would occasionally help with a hands-on activity or celebration, plus send a “We Miss You” card, email, phone call to the child’s parents after 3 consecutive absences, or help provide reliable nursery care during education hour to enable parents with children too young for Sunday School to help.

THERE’S STILL TIME TO:

- Do some seasonal planning; think ahead into the winter quarter or second semester.
- Gather your Christian Education team together for a fellowship/brainstorming/evaluation time. What might you do differently or what do you want to add to your education program?
- Do a clean up blitz on your library. Get it organized and see what it takes to get it to function as a library. What new books do we add? What new DVD’s might we add?
- Organize a training session for your teaching staff. You might want to include members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, Christian Education Team to make a presentation, geared to your education program, on the Faith Formers Handbook. Interested?

Contact Joyce (see below)

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

“We live in a secular world,” Diane Jacobson* said. “Everything reminds us of a movie or television show. Jesus doesn’t enter naturally into our conversations. Developing a biblical imagination allows this to happen.”

Book of Faith is a five-year ELCA initiative that invites this entire church to become more fluent in faith’s first language—Scripture. The initiative, funded by mission support, was approved by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The overall goal is to renew, enliven, and empower people for mission and service by reading and



studying God’s Word. The first year goal is to invite everyone at

all levels of the church to join the conversation, make a commitment, and become part of the initiative.

Check out the ELCA website: www.elca.org/bookoffaith and learn more.

* (Diana Jacobson is professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary and director of the ELCA Book of Faith initiative. Jacobson’s role as director of the initiative involves traveling the United States in order to encourage Lutherans to experience more fully the power of the Word and learn together about Lutheran approaches to Scripture that have been fruitful over the centuries.)