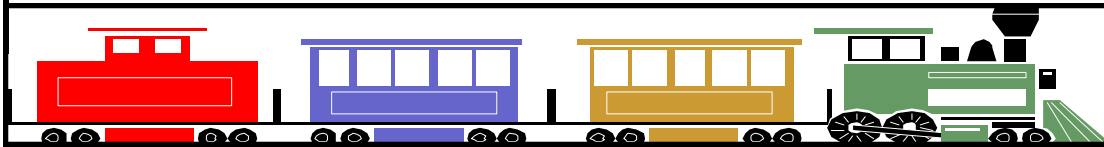


A reproducible networking newsletter for the Christian Education Ministries of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, to equip, empower, and encourage believers of all ages to develop their relationship with God and neighbor through faith development and discipleship.



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

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HOW TO SELECT CURRICULUM RESOURCES

The first step to choose curriculum resources is to pray for God's guidance. Take time for prayer—it helps with the discernment process. Ask God to help you imagine the educational outcomes and experiences you wish for your congregation.



Call together a group of people who is excited about your church's educational opportunities. Try to include teachers, children, youth and adult learners, ministers, and others who would be representing the whole congregation.

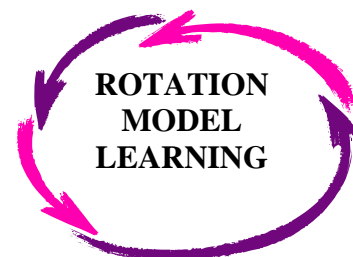
Use this team to help identify your church's vision of education, outlining goals and hopes people have expressed. If your church has mission and vision statements, compare this group's vision with the church's. Discuss and change items if necessary.

Look at where people gather for educational experiences. Discuss if new settings are needed or current settings need to be renewed or eliminated.



Evaluate how people group themselves for learning—by age, interest in content, etc. Discuss if these settings and groups are effective learning situations.

Look at, and order, free samples of curriculum. Have the group check each resource against the vision statement, settings, and groupings to determine if this resource would be recommended.



The rotation model for Sunday School provides an alternative to the traditional. With this format, the same story is taught for multiple weeks through a variety of methods—art, music, drama, computer, science, cooking, storytelling, games, etc. A teacher leads the same activity each week for a different age group (adjusting for age as needed), allowing the adult to work in an area in which s/he feels most comfortable. Students are divided into small groups led by a "shepherd" whose main role is to handle the administrative tasks and provide an extra pair of hands in each session. This model will also work with a multi-age small group; they would do a different activity each week but focus on the same story. More information can be found at the website www.rotation.org.

JUST WHAT IS OUR VISION? THAT IS THE QUESTION!

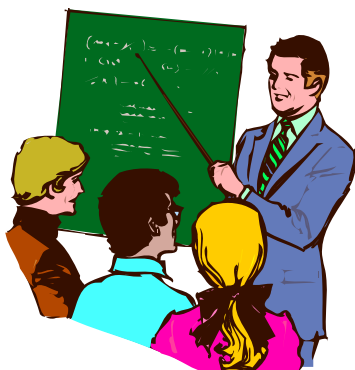
Just what is your church’s vision of education? Conduct a series of discussion times to individually evaluate and answer the following questions as they pertain to Christian Education in your church:

- What hopes do you have for your congregation?
- What is God calling your congregation to be and do?
- How can education support that calling and hope?

Gather the Christian Education team together and discuss all the answers.

- What are the core hopes? Which ones keep being repeated?
- What does this team feel they are called to do as it pertains to Christian Education?
- Looking at all the answers, what similarities do you find for an action plan?

After answering these questions, state in a sentence your team’s vision for education.



Check the team’s vision against your church’s vision. What needed changes in the education vision statement will enhance the overall congregation’s commitment to their vision?

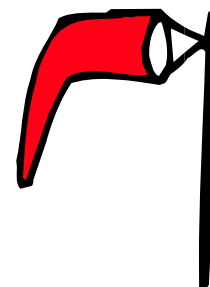
FAMILY ACTIVITY CORNER

During the long season of Pentecost, encourage your families (or have a church family picnic per month) to create a craft that reinforces the gift of the Holy Spirit:

WIND SOCKS

Supplies needed: Bible, red and yellow construction paper (8 1/2" x 11"); strips of red and white crepe paper (approximately 15" long); stapler; scotch tape; scissors; hole puncher; yarn or string; glue or paste; glitter or stickers (optional).

Directions: Cut four or six strips of crepe paper (2 or 3 red, 2 or 3 white) and tape or paste them along the bottom of the 11" side of a sheet of construction paper, alternating the red and the white strips. On the reverse side, decorate the sheet with “tongues of fire” made from yellow construction paper and with glitter or stickers. Roll the sheet and staple or tape the ends together. Punch two holes at the top and add string. Hang the wind sock outside (weather permitting) or hang it in a window as a reminder of God’s sending the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.



If the wind sock is to stay outside permanently, consider using materials such as metal cans, 2 liter bottles, plastic tablecloth streamers, etc.

Home worship could include reading Acts 2: 1-4; discussion of how wind helps us; comparing the unseen wind that makes the streamers flutter to the unseen Holy Spirit that changes our lives; singing a favorite hymn that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit (“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”); and prayer statements with everyone responding together “COME HOLY SPIRIT.”

