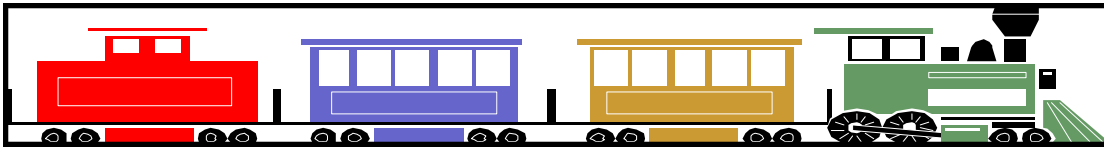


A reproducible networking newsletter for the Christian Education Ministries of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, to equip, empower, and encourage believers of all ages to develop their relationship with God and neighbor through faith development and discipleship.



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Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.

--Proverbs 22:6

NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

The longtime director of the CRC, Art Vermillion, retired at the end of June. Unfortunately, because of budgetary restrictions, he will not be replaced. The good news is that the CRC will continue under the auspices of the Christian Theological Seminary library! Director of the library, Lorna Shoemaker, is committed to maintaining and enhancing the CRC collection as the self-contained special section of the library it has been. In addition:

- A part time staff person will be assigned to the CRC.
- When that person is not available, on site and telephone users will have access to the full staff of the CTS library. Email requests should come to crc@cts.edu.
- Services of the CRC will continue, including mailing of materials.
- New acquisitions will continue to be added from suggestions made by CRC patrons and the Indianapolis Center for Congregations. We invite you to add your recommendations.
- We are blessed with an advisory board committed to seeing that this ministry continues, picking up some roles previously undertaken by Art.

The CRC maintains a wide variety of resources for religious education, worship, and congregational development for all ages and denomination. Print, video, audio, DVD, and software materials are available for preview and free loan.

You say you want your church to have more Book of Faith Study opportunities? You say you have a burning passion to delve into the Bible (Book of Faith)? You say you want a personal journey with the Book of Faith?

BUT HOW TO START!?

GETTING STARTED:

1. **Have your pastor's support:** Express your interest in becoming a Book of Faith leader (Bible Study leader). Ask for your pastor's moral and mentoring support. Check with the Pastor and the Education Team for help with scheduling and room arrangement and to supply you with resource information.
2. **Think outside the box:** What activities does your church currently offer that involves reading the Bible?

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Try to find opportunities to encourage others to participate – integrate a Book of Faith short study into staff, committee, council meetings, etc.

3. **Make decisions:** Select the meeting place, day, and time. Decide on curriculum. (Check out the article: **HOW TO SELECT CURRICULUM RESOURCES** in Volume 2, 2009 ed.network.) Decide if your Book of Faith study will include any food or drinks. Decide how your Book of Faith study will be advertised: in the bulletin, newsletter, posters, word of mouth, and/or temple talks, etc.
4. **Plan your typical meeting:**
 - Start your study with introductions and a welcome. A “gathering time” where the small groups share about their lives helps to unite the group.
 - Start your study with a prayer and then introduce your topic. Assign people for or rotate the Bible readings. Introduce the discussion questions. Remember to let everyone have a turn in participating with the discussion.
 - Mention the next meeting’s date, time, place, topic, and assignments (if needed).
 - Finalize plans if your small groups decide to participate in a service activity or ministry.
 - Close the study with a prayer.

FAMILY ACTIVITY CORNER

On the day of Epiphany, January 6, the church celebrates the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6 until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of our Lord. One of the principal themes of Epiphany is Christ as the light of the world.

Art on the Broomstick Craft

The items you will need are:

1. An old broomstick
2. Adhesive
3. Blade
4. Styrofoam sheet
5. Black chart paper
6. Scissors
7. Pencil or chalk, eraser, ruler and sharpener



Step 1: Adhere the black chart paper onto the Styrofoam sheet.

Step 2: Draw a star on the black chart paper.

Step 3: Slit the end of the broomsticks. Cut the straw into desired lengths and paste them on the picture, close to each other. See the lovely golden, ripple-like effect you have succeeded in creating.

Step 4: Poke a hole in the back of the Styrofoam sheet to hang your creation on the wall.

The use of the internet to enhance Bible study is exhaustive. The following is an attempt to clear some of the fog associated with information overload when it comes to Bible websites:

Bible Gateway <http://www.biblegateway.com>

Search the Bible in more than 80 languages plus 20 different versions in English. Many translations are also available in audio format. This website also includes links to *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*.