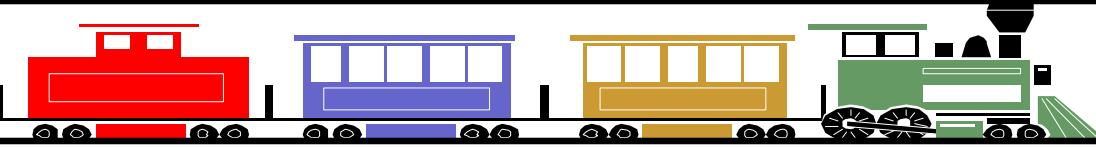


A reproducible networking newsletter for the Christian Education Ministries of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, to equip, empower, and encourage believers of all ages to develop their relationship with God and neighbor through faith development and discipleship.



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

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BETTER STEWARDSHIP

Are you being more cautious about spending congregational money on books, dvds, and study materials? One way to save is to examine materials before buying, but the internet and flyers just don't tell you enough. Another way is not to buy when you need something for just a short time, but how can you find something to borrow without a lot of communication with neighboring congregations? The Congregational Resource Center (CRC) is THE resource center for the Indiana/Kentucky Synod and it can help you with the aforementioned dilemmas.

The Congregational Resource Center is a library of Christian educational materials from multiple publishers that may be checked out by any member of any congregation. Available are dvds (including some full length movies), Kerygma materials, all kinds of resources for youth, adult education materials and more. This fantastic resource is located in the basement of the library at Christian Theological Seminary, 1000 W. 42nd Street in Indianapolis near Butler University. Best of all, they will send materials to you for free; all you have to do is pay return postage. And you get the services of the very knowledgeable staff just by calling (888) 287-7364 or (317) 931-2360 or emailing crc@cts.edu. You can find out more by connecting from the I-K Synod website under Christian Education or going directly to this link <http://www.cts.edu/Library/Index.cfm?NavID=9&PageID=143>.

The CRC is also the sponsor of the March 21 Curriculum Fair (see ad elsewhere in this publication) and will be bringing various materials to the June Synod Assembly in Ft. Wayne, two more great opportunities to locate resources!

The meaning of the word “luck” is defined as: “Circumstances that lead to a favorable outcome.” We call it by another name:



GOD'S BLESSINGS

As a child, did you sit outside in the clover patch, searching for the four-leaf clover. We knew that, once found, we would forever have “the luck of the Irish.” We would carefully pick the four-leaf clover, place it between wax paper, and press it between pages of a favorite book.

Is it really true that a four-leaf clover or the Irish are blessed with luck?

At age 16, St. Patrick, born in Britain, was taken as prisoner by a group of Irish raiders. He worked as a herdsman, remaining a slave for six years. His faith grew while he was in captivity. He escaped and returned to his family. A burning desire came over him to return to Ireland and bring (continued on page 4)

BULLETIN BOARD IDEAS:

- **WALK WITH JESUS:** Have youth and adult trace their feet on purple construction paper and write one way they would follow Jesus.
- **CHANGE AND GROW:** Put up tree branches. The children can decorate wooden clothespins with markers and glue on wiggly eyes. Wrap them tightly in a piece of cloth and clip them to a branch. Paint coffee filters with watercolors and unwrap the clothespin (cocoon). Then clip on the beautiful wings (coffee filters). Add pipe cleaner antennae.
- **CROSSES:** Get two cardboard egg cartons for each student. Have the students paint the cartons purple, white, or gold on the outside and then cut in the shape of a cross (one carton being a bit shorter than the other). Glue the crossbeams together.
- **GOD'S PROMISES:** Cut out two hearts. Have the children write on one heart, one of God's promises to us. On the other, have the children write their promise to God.

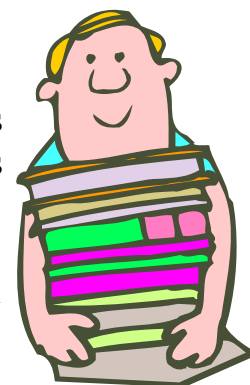


THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES DURING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

This economic downturn has affected many lives and families. One of the services that has stood ready to help is our public or church library. It stands as an often overlooked resource for all people. In our affluent society, many of us have just purchased computers that provide the access to the internet and many information sources. However, not everyone has a computer and therefore needs a central resource that they can use without paying anything for it. The library is one such pillar of resources that people can use for free. This short article includes both public and church libraries without differentiating between the two.

As the nation continues to experience a sharp and jarring economic downturn, libraries are providing valuable free tools and resources to help Americans of all ages through this time of economic uncertainty. Libraries are providing access to financial information, providing assistance with resumes and job searches, helping patrons navigate unemployment insurance forms, helping with income tax preparation, and providing financial assistance. For many people, the library is the only option they have for financial advice and information to secure their families' futures. Libraries across the country offer free on-site financial education classes for adults that include investor education, information on tax preparation, assistance on financial aid application and access to financial journals and periodicals. Libraries design and offer programs specifically tailored to meet local economic needs,

(continued on page 4)



CURRICULUM FAIR, SATURDAY, MARCH 21

10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

At Christian Theological Seminary

~East Wing, CTS, hall outside CTS Library entrance

~FREE ~ All denominations welcome!

CURRICULUM DISPLAYS

Hands-on preview.

Some available for order and/or sale.

Displays with vendors available for consultation,
orders, sales:

Brethren Press Kerygma Program
Cokesbury Logos Ministry
Cornerstones United Church Press
Morehouse Educational Resources
Presbyterian Publishing

CURRICULUM DISPLAYS ONLY

Disciples Resources & Upper Room

Logos Productions

Group Publishing

Mennonite Publishing

Judson Press

Search Institute

WORKSHOPS

Curriculum Selection

11:00-12:15 and 1:00-2:15

Instructor: *Nancy Dickinson*

UCC Commissioned Minister in
Christian Education

~ *in the Media Center Classroom,
CRC (lower level)*

Computer Consultation

Drop in: 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Instructor: *Dean Reynolds,*

Director, Information Technology Services,
Christian Theological Seminary

~ *in the Computer Lab, Room 126
(North Wing)*

With the advent of Christianity the symbolism of the egg changed to represent, not nature's rebirth, but the rebirth of man. Christians embraced the egg symbol and likened it to the tomb from which Christ rose.



EGG WRAP

SMALL BLOWN UP BALLOON YARN GLUE

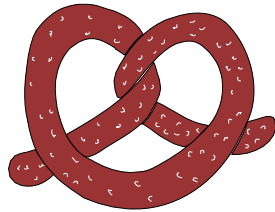
1. Students cut different lengths of their yarn (could be several colors).
2. Dip the yarn into some glue and wrap it around the balloon in a random manner.
Allow the glue to dry completely.
3. After the glue dries, pop the balloon with a pin and carefully pull it out of the egg shape. The egg that remains will look as if it is spun from yarn.
4. Tie yarn at the top and hang the eggs in your classroom or tree branch for decoration.

PRAYER PRETZELS

1 can ready-made refrigerated
breadstick dough
1 egg white

Preheat oven to 375° F. Carefully unroll dough and separate it into individual “sticks.” Stretch each stick lengthwise and twist ends into a pretzel shape. Use a pastry brush to gently brush each pretzel with beaten egg white. Place pretzel on non-stick cooking sheet (or line sheet with parchment paper) and bake for about 15 minutes or until pretzel turns golden brown. If you like, before baking sprinkle pretzels lightly with coarse grind salt.

One version of the story: Martin Luther talked to the local baker and asked if the baker would make some type of baked good that would remind people to pray, and the baker created the pretzel twisted into a knot (perhaps symbolizing that during prayer we are “tied” to God.)



(“Tough Times” continued) providing residents with guidance, career training and workshops, job-search resources and connections with outside agencies that offer training and job placement.

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One of the critical roles libraries play in hard economic times is helping people access employment assistance. The state of California requires applicants to apply online for unemployment benefits, but not everyone is computer-literate or has a home computer. Free access to library computers and the internet provides the tools for people to apply for unemployment benefits. In addition, the library can help people research and apply for jobs.



Let us not forget that, especially in times of uncertainty, there is nothing more comforting than a good book. Aren't we lucky that there is a place where we can get one for free?

(LUCK, Continued) the faith to the Pagans who still believed in the Druids. He received inspiration from God to use the three leaf clover to explain the trinity to the people who found themselves still clinging to the ancient religions dealing with magic.

The four leafed clover, however, symbolized God's melting the Druid beliefs with the trinity of the Christian beliefs. Irish soldiers conscripted into the British army began wearing the shamrock on their uniforms because they had been blessed by St. Patrick and so believed that they were on God's side and therefore safely protected by Him.



(excerpts from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick and Luck O' the Irish, by Missey Butler)

To submit your education ideas or questions, send e-mail to editor, Joyce Walther at jwalther@parallax.ws or US mail to Zion's Lutheran Church, Attn. Joyce Walther, P.O. Box 6, Pershing IN 47370-0006. All submissions are subject to editing for length & content.