

Family and Youth Resources

These links are provided for families, students, teachers, DCE's, and pastors to find useful information in a variety of subject areas. The content of these websites has been checked, but this does not indicate that the views/opinions of these websites are shared by the LCMS or the Minnesota South District. If you have a website suggestion, a comment, or a problem with a website or its content, please contact Corey Nelson at nelsonrcls@yahoo.com.

Media Education

These websites will provide information on current events in the entertainment fields of music, movies, television, video games, and other media areas.

Christian Answers Spotlight

This site provides a Christian point-of-view on all media types.

www.christiananswers.net/spotlight.html

Media Family

This is the website for the National Institute on Media and the Family. This is a secular, rather than a Christian, site.

www.mediafamily.org

Plugged In Online

Focus on the Family's media information site.

www.pluggedinonline.org

Al Menconi Ministries

Al Menconi focuses his ministry on helping youth deal with the influence of popular culture.

www.almenconi.com

True Lies

The "True Lies" website gives straight information on the negative aspects of today's media.

www.truelies.org

Christian Media Literacy Institute

The Christian Media Literacy Institute helps parents and youth workers in educating children about current media.

<http://www.cmlil.org/>

Family Worship Helps

These sites give parents and church educators information on training and teaching children about the meaning of worship.

LCMS Family Connections

These documents from the LCMS provide information for a variety of issues facing families. Many of the archived articles deal with worship training.

<http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=1686>

Welcoming Children to Worship

This is an article about how the adults in a congregation can welcome children to participate in worship.

<http://www.worship.ca/docs/godkids1.html>

ABC's of Worshipping with Children

This is an article for parents on worshipping with children.

<http://www.centralpc.org/ministry/children/worshipwithchildren.htm>

Worshipping Together as a Family

This is another article for parents on worshipping with children.

<http://www.geocities.com/christluth1/familyworship.htm>

The Family Friendly Church. Ben Freudenberg. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO.

This is an essential book for any church worker who wants to focus on families. It includes ideas on ways in which the church can help families spend more time together.

www.cbd.com or www.amazon.com

Department of Child Ministry, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

To order items call 1-800-248-1930 ext. 1289 or go to

www.lcms.org/children'sministry/resources.

Celebrating Our Faith! Helps for Guiding Children in Worship (S28003).

A pamphlet with ideas to help children in worship.

Teaching Children That Worship Is a Way of Life: 110 Ways to Worship with Children (CM0010).

A pamphlet with ideas to help children in worship.

Children Are Members! (1998)

A book with ideas on how adults can include children as members of the church.

Children's Messages

The following websites provide a wealth of information for anyone planning a message to be given to children.

Sermons 4 Kids www.sermons4kids.com

Talks 2 Children www.itfm.org.uk/talks2

Children Sermons www.childrensermons.com/sermons/sermonshome.htm

Kids Sunday School www.kidssundayschool.com

Egad Ideas www.egadideas.com

Christian Crafters Children's Sermons www.christiancrafters.com/sermons.html

Children's Ministry www.childrensministry.org

Connections www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=1686

(The above is the LCMS Web Magazine for Children's Ministry)

Desperate Preacher Object Lessons <http://desperatepreacher.org/kids4christ/results/obj.htm>

Talks 2 Children talks2children.itsforministry.org/t2c/

Kidology <http://www.kidology.org/>

The Giant Book of Children's Sermons: Matthew to Revelation. Runk, Wesley T. CSS Publishing Company, Inc. Lima, OH. 2003.

Listed by Bible reference, these children sermons are easy to use with objects easy to find around the church or around home. You may want to read them carefully and tweak them to include a little more "Lutheran" perspective. The CD which is provided is great for including small changes you may want right on the page before you print it out.

www.cbd.com OR www.amazon.com

Christian Parenting/Youth Resources

The following sites provide continuously updated information for Christian parents. Many of these sites are also very useful to Youth Leaders.

Focus on the Family www.family.org

Christianity.Net Parenting www.christianity.net/parenting

Al Menconi Parenting almenconi.com/topics/parent/

Christian Parent.Com www.christian-parent.com/

LCMS Timely Topics – Parenting www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=1728

Love and Logic www.loveandlogic.com

This website has great resources for parents about this nationally-known program. However, this is not a Christian website.

Youth Family Institute www.youthfamilyinstitute.com

LCMS Youth Information – The Esource www.lcms.org/pages/thESource.asp?NavID=1881

Getting It Together With Your Family

Many families—maybe yours—are feeling frazzled by a fast-paced life that takes members in every direction. But there are some things you can do about it. To read an article related to this topic, go to:

https://www.lcms.org/graphics/assets/media/WRHC/055_Getting%20It%20Together%20with%20Your%20Family.PDF

Concordia Publishing House

To order items call 1-800-325-3040 or go to: www.cph.org

Church Board Book Series by Julie Stiegemeyer, four books: Things I Do in Church (56-2204G), Things I Hear in Church (56-2203G), Things I See in Church (56-2227G), and Colors I See in Church (56-2187G). Each board book helps young children understand the sights and sounds of a worship service/church.

Little Visits Every Day by Mary Manz Simon (06-1303G).

This book captures young minds with the timeless message of salvation in Jesus Christ. Children learn the value of reading Scripture and praying daily.

Little Visits for Families by Allan Hart Jahsmann and Martin P. Simon (06-1305G).

This collection gives you a wonderful opportunity to spend valuable time together focusing on God's Word and its meaning for your lives.

Family Faith Walks by Kelly J. Haack (12-4135G).

Active learning experiences pair with Scriptures, prayers, and discussion starters for family devotions.

Laugh & Tickle, Hug & Pray by Julaine Kammrath (12-3340 G).

Fifty devotional activities help families build relationships with God and one another.

Funtastic Family Nights by Kurt Bickel (12-3330G).

Create family events with an interactive Bible focus. Includes ideas for devotions and faith-building activities.

Hands to Work, The Church Celebrates by Maria Ester H. De Sturtz and Ursula D. de Perez (56-2289G).

Children learn about 15 church festivals as they complete activities. Covers Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Ascension, Pentecost and more.

The Lord's Prayer, Follow and Do by Jodi Walker (56-2294G).

Children learn the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, its petitions, and how to pray with this helpful book.

Macaroni and Cheese, Hot Dogs and Peas by Christine Hickson (56-2058G).

Fun characters trace the path of our food from God's creation to children's plates, inviting them to give thanks. A board book for ages 2-5.

God, I Need to Talk to You about...series by Dan Carr, **about manners** (56-2330G).

Child-friendly text and entertaining illustrations help children think about a behavior they encounter in daily life and pray about it. Each book expresses that all sinful behaviors are forgiven through

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and encourages children to go to God in prayer any time they feel tempted or troubled. Scripture verses help children apply the lessons to their lives.

Thrivent Financial

To order call 1-800-372-8236

Values Books for Young Children, by Cheri Meiner, titles include Understand and Care; Share and Take Turns; and Be Polite and Kind, part of the Learning to Get Along series (Free Spirit Publishing in Minneapolis).

The following resources are available from www.cbd.com or www.amazon.com.

Take Back Your Kids: Confident Parenting in Turbulent Times by William J. Doherty,(Sorin).

Elbows off the Table, Napkin in the Lap, No Video Games During Dinner, by Carol McD. Wallace, (St. Martin's Griffin).

Don't Be Afraid to Discipline, by Ruth Peters, Ph.D., (St. Martin's).

Backtalk by Doherty and Carolyn Crowder, PhD, (Fireside).

Oops, Your Manners Are Showing, by Jan Stabler, a curriculum faith-based manners, 1997.

A Happy Day Book: A Child's Book of Manners (Standard Publishing).

Good Habits for God's Kids: Simon Minds His Manners.

Creative Correction. Lisa Whelchel. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Wheaton, IL. 2000.

This is an easy to read book with practical discipline ideas which the author has used with her own children. A handy index of topics is included in the back.

52 Timesavers for on the Go Moms. Kathy Redd. Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN. 1993.

52 Simple Ways to Make Christmas Special. Jan Dargatz. Oliver Nelson, Nashville, TN. 1991

Teens Can Bounce Back: Stories for the Waves of Life. Diana L. James (compiler). Horizon Books. Camp Hill, PA. 2000.

This book contains little 3-5 minutes stories pertaining to the struggles teens face each and every day, written by people who have lived through those struggles. This book is an excellent read for both teens and their parents.

Life After Divorce. Bobbie Reed, Ph.D. Concordia Publishing House. St. Louis, MO. 1993.

Although we would like to deny the need for such a book, families do struggle with the effects of divorce. This book gives some practical suggests for the adults and some helpful ideas on how to assist the children in getting through this traumatic time. Each chapter ends with three sections: one on Affirmation, another with questions for Reflection, and the third with a checklist of Activities. Each section is designed to help with the healing process.

Angry Teens and the Parents Who Love Them. Sandy J. Austin. Beason Hill Press or Kansas City. Kansas City, MO. 2002.

This is an easy to read book with practical discipline ideas which the author has used with her own children. A handy index of topics is included in the back.

Can I have the Keys to the Car? Paulson, Terry & Sean. Augsburg Fortress. Minneapolis, MN 1999.

This is a great resource book covering various questions (including using the car) that teens might ask their parents and giving parents possible positive ways to answers. Also has discussion ideas for parents and teens.

Eight Things Not to Say to your Teens. Coleman, William L. Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, MN. 1994

I wish I'd have had this book when my daughter was in her early teens. It contains some great information about how parents and teens communicate (or fail to communicate) and a list of eight phrases sure to shut down communication immediately.

Innovative Grandparenting. O'Connor, Karen. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO 1995.

This book has all types of ideas for grandparents from grandparents who live right next door to those who live across the country. There is an especially helpful section for grandparents who for one reason or another are now the main care giver of the grandchildren.

Right from the Start. Morgenthaler, Shirley K. Concordia Publishing House. St. Louis, MO. 1995.

This book contains helpful information for parents of newborns and beyond. It would be extremely beneficial for first time parents, but I believe there are also hints and tips for parents experiencing the addition of their second or even third child.

What Happened When Grandma Died? Barker, Peggy. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO 1984.

If you have ever tried to explain to a young child what happens when a loved one dies, you will appreciate the straight forward yet simple to understand explanation in this book written and illustrated for children.

One Year Book of Family Devotions. Tyndale House Publishers. Wheaton, IL. 1988.

If your family is just starting devotions and you have children age 9 or above, check out this series of devotions. They do not require a lot of time (5-10 minutes) and have questions and activities to involve your children.