

Lutheran CORE – Congregational Life & Pastoral Support

Some Resources for Congregations and Pastors

We as the Lutheran CORE working group on Congregational Life and Pastoral Support have been asked to compile a list of resources available for congregations and pastors, in the hope that it will be found helpful by our members. It should be noted that Lutheran CORE does not have any direct control or oversight on the individual organizations and companies listed, so we encourage congregations to review their own options for what will best serve their local ministry.

This list is not all-inclusive. We apologize for resources that we have left off, and we intend to add to this list as we learn of additional orthodox and biblical resources. If you would like to be listed on this, please contact Mark Braaten at mbraaten@oslctyler.org or 903-561-1865. He will pass the information on to the working group to add to this list.

Help Line – If you have questions or would like more information, please call 1-903-561-1865 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (Central Time) Mondays through Fridays.

A. Resources for Congregational Life

Congregational Resources

(Directly serving members of Lutheran CORE, WordAlone, NALC, LCMC)

- Sola Publishing www.solapublishing.org 1-888-551-7254

“Sola Publishing is an educational ministry designed to provide teaching resources for all ages that are trustworthy and useful, at a reasonable price. Our materials are grounded in the authority of Scripture, with a distinctively confessional Lutheran focus, centering in the gospel message of Jesus Christ. We strive to be practical and functional, with curricula written by working pastors, for working pastors and their congregations.”

Children’s & Family Ministry

-Faith Inkubators – www.faithink.com 1-888-55-FAITH

Materials for family, Sunday School, Confirmation, and youth ministries. “We try to make the Bible come alive at church, and send it home in living faith conversations every night in every home.”

-Vibrant Faith Ministries – www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org

Vibrant Faith Ministries mission is to “help strengthen congregations, families and individuals by equipping them to live a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ.” Includes resources for congregations and families, formerly known as the Youth and Family Institute.

-Sola Publishing House www.solapublishing.org 1-888-551-7254

Educational ministry with a distinctively confessional Lutheran focus, designed to provide teaching resources for all ages.

-Group Ministries www.group.com 1-800-447-1070

Publishes a variety of materials for congregational needs – children, youth, women’s studies, small groups, etc.

-Willowcreek www.willowcreek.com then to “Resources,” then to “Children”

Youth Ministry

-Lutheran Youth Encounter www.youthencounter.org 1-800-659-6884 Rev. Larry Johnson

Youth Encounters partners with Christian communities to strengthen their youth ministry. Ministries include youth events, servant events, and ministry teams.

-Group Ministries www.group.com 1-800-447-1070

Publishes a variety of materials for congregational needs – children, youth, women’s studies, small groups, etc.

-Tentmakers www.tentm.org 1-800-989-8368

“Tentmakers is a training organization that delivers practical, Christ-centered, leadership and life skills training.”

-Youth Specialties www.youthspecialties.com 1-619-440-2333

Resources for a variety of youth ministries

-Vibrant Faith Ministries – www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org

Vibrant Faith Ministries mission is to “help strengthen congregations, families and individuals by equipping them to live a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ.” Includes resources for congregations and families, formerly known as the Youth and Family Institute.

-YouthWorks www.youthworks.com 1-800-968-8504

“YouthWorks' core purpose is to help the church be the church by providing life-changing, Christ-centered resources for ministry. One ministry of YouthWorks is summer youth mission trips.”

Confirmation Resources

-Faith Inkubators – www.faithink.com 1-888-55-FAITH

Materials for family, Sunday School, Confirmation, and youth ministries. “We try to make the Bible come alive at church, and send it home in living faith conversations every night in every home.”

-Concordia Publishing House www.cph.org 1-800-325-3040

Publishing House of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

-Augsburg Fortress Publishing House www.augsburgfortress.org 1-800-328-4648

Publishing House of the ELCA

-Sola Publishing House www.solapublishing.org 1-888-551-7254

Sola is currently creating a work-book style confirmation series reflecting the theological position of Lutheran CORE, WordAlone, NALC, and LCMC.

-Vibrant Faith Ministries – www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org

Vibrant Faith Ministries mission is to “help strengthen congregations, families and individuals by equipping them to live a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ.” Includes resources for congregations and families, formerly known as the Youth and Family Institute.

Sunday School and Vacation Bible School

- Sola Publishing www.solapublishing.org 1-888-551-7254
Inexpensive all-in-one reproducible VBS “Versatile Budget Series” are available, as well as supplementary children’s curriculum on Luther’s Small Catechism & 1st Communion.
- Faith Inkubators – www.faithink.com 1-888-55-FAITH
Materials for family, Sunday School, Confirmation, and youth ministries.
- Concordia Publishing House www.cph.org 1-800-325-3040
Publishing House of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- Augsburg Fortress Publishing House www.augsburgfortress.org 1-800-328-4648
Publishing House of the ELCA
- Group Ministries www.group.com 1-800-447-1070
Publishes a variety of materials for congregational needs – children, youth, women’s studies, small groups, etc.
- Godly Play www.godlyplay.org 1-877-569-8656
“Godly Play teaches children the art of using religious language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God’s presence in their lives.”

Adult Studies

- Crossways International www.crossways.org 1-800-257-7308
“Crossways International is a non-profit ministry whose goal is to foster deeper, more meaningful Christian discipleship by cultivating biblical literacy. The teaching materials take people on a journey through the grand sweep of the storyline that runs through the whole of the Bible, and feature hundreds of colorful teaching graphics that make that journey memorable and easy to share with others.”
- Sola Publishing www.solapublishing.org 1-888-551-7254
Educational ministry with a distinctively confessional Lutheran focus, designed to provide teaching resources for all ages.
- Institute of Lutheran Theology www.ilt.org 605-692-9337
“As an independent, multi-location, pan-Lutheran institution we stand together with our partnering congregations to create a new kind of seminary. We equip members and leaders of the Church to know and proclaim faithfully the true gospel of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord, and to expose the false gospels of the world.”
- Bethel Series www.bethelseries.com 1-800-462-2335
“The Bethel Series provides an overview of the entire Bible. At the end of two years, the students will have an amazing understanding of the Old and New Testaments.”
- American Lutheran Publicity Bureau www.alpb.org
“The ALPB in 2014 will celebrate 100 years as the independent voice of Lutheranism. We are the publishers of *Lutheran Forum* (a quarterly journal) and “Forum Letter” (a monthly newsletter), occasional books and tracts.” Includes resources on prayer, Lutheran Identity and theology, etc.

Devotionals

- Daily Texts by Mount Carmel Ministries www.dailytext.com
Daily Text is a devotional book with bible verses and prayers for each day of the year.

Worship Resources

- ReClaim Resources www.reclaimresources.org 1-800-590-6001
Hymnal and resources for worship
- Augsburg Fortress Publishing House www.augsburgfortress.org 1-800-328-4648
Publishing House of ELCA
- CCLI www.ccli.com
License for using music resources
- Concordia Publishing House www.cph.org 1-800-325-3040
Publishing House of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- One License www.onelicense.net
License for using music resources
- OCP Oregon Catholic Press www.ocp.org
License for using music resources
- New Generation Publishers www.ylvisaker.com 1-319-352-4396
Publishers of the “Borning Cry” series and music by John Ylvisaker

Worship Drama and Multimedia Resources

- Drama Ministry www.dramaministry.com 1-866-859-7622
- Willowcreek Go to www.willowcreek.com then to “Willowcreek Association”, click on “Resources”, and to “Worship Arts”, then click on “Drama-Spoken Word.”
- Nooma Videos (Rob Bell) <http://nooma.com/>
Provides teaching through video clips, short films and other visual media

Congregational Renewal/Discipleship

- PowerSurge* This is a book by Michael Foss that guides congregations in making the move from membership to discipleship. Pastor Foss focuses on the six marks of discipleship for a changing church.
- American Lutheran Publicity Bureau www.alpb.org
“The ALPB in 2014 will celebrate 100 years as the independent voice of Lutheranism. We are the publishers of *Lutheran Forum* (a quarterly journal) and “Forum Letter” (a monthly newsletter), occasional books and tracts.” Includes resources on prayer, Lutheran Identity and theology, etc.
- Lutheran Lay Renewal www.lutheranrenewal.com 1-925-229-4528
“Lutheran Lay Renewal offers weekends of spiritual renewal for individual congregations. The weekend program takes place at your church and is designed to: strengthen Christian community, lead parishioners to deeper commitments to the church, to Christian ministry and to Jesus as Lord and Savior.”

Conflict Resolution/Congregational Health

- Bridgebuilders danbiles@pa.net 717-968-7741
Bridgebuilders is a resource for congregational health, a conflict resolution process for helping congregations in conflict to move from confusion to clarity and action.
- Healthy Congregations danbiles@pa.net 717-968-7741
Healthy congregations is a seminar to help church leaders in maintaining and improving the health of the congregation
- Chaplaincy Corp - WordAlone Ministries www.wordalone.org 1-888.551.7254
Chaplains across the country who will assist clergy and congregations
- Alban Institute www.alban.org 1-800-486-1318
Resources for congregational life and health
- Healthy Congregations Center Trinity Lutheran Seminary Contact Dr. Emlyn Ott, Director
Provides training, resources in understanding congregations as systems
- Pastor Peter Steinke hcongregations@austin.rr.com 11713 Astoria Drive Austin, TX 78738
Leader in this field, founder of Healthy Congregations and Bridgbuilders
- Pastor Peter Rudowski prudowski@fuse.net 513-791-8920 Cincinnati, Ohio
Offers seminars in congregational change, administration, vision and mission planning

Evangelism

- Alpha www.alphausa.org 1-800-362-5742
The *Alpha* course is a practical, 10 week introduction to the Christian faith.
- Lutheran Evangelical Movement www.lemdeeperlife.org
- PowerSurge* This is a book by Michael Foss that guides congregations in making the move from membership to discipleship. Pastor Foss focuses on the six marks of discipleship for a changing church.

Ministry in Daily Life//Vocation/Priesthood of All Believers/Equipping the Laity

- Call Inc. www.callinc.org 972-723-9688 Midlothian, TX
Built upon the foundation of Jesus' call to know, follow and uniquely serve Him, Call Inc. provides teaching events, resources, services, and training to help individuals and churches seek, discover, and "incorporate" God's call into all of life. Also provides teaching and materials on personal stewardship, discipleship, and related "call" topics

Marriage

- Marriage Encounter www.wwme.org
"Turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!"
- United Marriage Encounter <http://www.unitedmarriage.org/> 1-866-483-8889
"United Marriage encounter is a worldwide non-profit organization dedicated to improving marriages by introducing practical, ongoing communication tools while combining practical methods, sound psychology, and Christian values to improve communication between husband and wife."

- Lutheran Engaged Encounter www.lutheranengagedencounter.org
Weekend retreat for engaged couple
- Retrouvaille 1-800-470-2230 www.retrouvaille.org
Begun by the Roman Catholics, this is a program that aims to help heal and renew marriages.

Spiritual Formation/Spiritual Direction/Prayer

- Renovare www.renovare.us
“Renovare is a nonprofit organization that advocates, encourages, and resources intentional living and spiritual formation. Drawing from the example of Jesus Christ and the historical Church, Renovare encourages people to develop renewed, sustainable, and enriched spiritual lives.”
- Christos Center for Spiritual Formation www.christoscenter.org
Encouraging spiritual maturity through the historic Christian traditions of contemplative prayer, discernment, spiritual direction, silence, and solitude.

Societies for Lay, Clergy, and Congregations

- The Seven Marks Society www.sevenmarks.org
“The Seven Marks Society is an association for bishops, pastors, laity, and congregations who intend to carry on the faith of the church as it has been faithfully transmitted across the generations and millennia.”
- WordAlone Ministries www.wordalone.org
“Preaching, teaching, and confessing Christ as God’s Word alone.” Many resources may be found here helpful for congregations in transition from their denomination.

Stewardship

- Kairos Christian Resource Development kairos@kairosandassociates.com 1-800-851-3019
Resources and consultation for stewardship
- RSI (Resource Services, Inc.) www.rsistewardship.com 1-800-527-6824
Resources and consultation for stewardship
- Call Inc. www.callinc.org 972-723-9688 Midlothian, TX
Built upon the foundation of Jesus’ call to know, follow and uniquely serve Him, Call Inc. provides teaching events, resources, services, and training to help individuals and churches seek, discover, and “incorporate” God’s call into all of life. Also provides teaching and materials on personal stewardship, discipleship, and related “call” topics

House Churches

- Life Together Churches www.LifeTogetherChurches.com or contact Thomas Walker at the WordAlone Ministries www.wordalone.org 1-888.551.7254
Resources for developing House Churches This is for both existing congregations that want to expand/grow and for groups that need to form.

Pastoral Care

-Stephen Ministry www.stephensministry.com 1-314-428-2600

“The Stephens Series is a complete system for training and organizing lay people to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around your congregation.”

Retreat Ministries/Bible Camps

-Via de Cristo www.viadecristo.org

“Via de Cristo is a highly structured three day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God’s grace. It is a combined effort of lay people and clergy toward renewal of the church.”

-Walk to Emmaus www.upperroom.org/emmaus

Adaptation by United Methodist Church of Roman Catholic Cursillo Movement

-Mount Carmel www.mountcarmelministries.com 1-320-846-2744

Mount Carmel is a year-round Bible Study and renewal center near Alexandria, MN.

-Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps www.okoboji.org 712-337-3306 Located in Milford and Wallingford, Iowa

Ingham Okoboji is a Bible camp firmly committed to the Word as God’s proclamation and revealed will to His people. They support and teach an orthodox Lutheran and Biblical theology. All are welcome who wish to come and study the Word and be encouraged in faith.” Ingham Okoboji has two campuses, one on West Okoboji Lake, the other on Ingham Lake, just Southeast of Estherville, Iowa. Ingham Okoboji offers youth and family camps in the summer and retreats throughout the year.

Small Group Ministries

-Serendipity/Lifeway www.SerendipityHouse.com

-Augsburg Fortress Publishing House www.augsburgfortress.org 1-800-328-4648

Publishing House of the ELCA

-Willowcreek www.willowcreek.com Go to “Willowcreek Association”, to “Resources”, to “Group Life.”

-Renovare www.renovare.us

“Renovare is a nonprofit organization that advocates, encourages, and resources intentional living and spiritual formation. Drawing from the example of Jesus Christ and the historical Church, Renovare encourages people to develop renewed, sustainable, and enriched spiritual lives.”

-Zondervan www.zondervan.com

Military/Veterans

-Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc. www.lmvfm.org 1-260-409-8551

The Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc. (LMVFM) is a faith based ministry with a twofold mission focus. The LMVFM offers affordable quality training programs and support in order to prepare and equip churches and counselors for the unique challenges involved with ministry to veterans and their family members. The

second focus is on providing short term counseling, assistance in locating resources, and referrals.

Women's & Men's Ministry

- Women's & Men's Group Bible Studies by Sola Publishing www.solapublishing.org
Offering yearly studies for the Women's and Men's groups 1-888-551-7254
- WOW: Women of the Word by LCMC Heartland District www.lcmc.net/wow/html
- Lutheran Men in Mission – www.lutheranmeninmission.org
Men's ministry of ELCA (Master Builders Bible – Special edition of Serendipity NIV)

B. Resources for Pastoral Support

Care for Pastors

- Chaplaincy Corp WordAlone Ministries www.wordalone.org 1-888.551.7254
Chaplains across the country who will assist clergy and congregations
- Shepherd's Canyon Retreat www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org 1-800-783-3079
P.O. Box 51510 Phoenix, AZ 85076
"Shepherd's Canyon Retreat seeks to bring restoration to wounded professional church workers and their spouses through 8-day counseling retreats."
- For NALC congregations – contact your regional dean
- Davidson Clergy Renewal Center www.davidsonclergycetner.org 455 South Main Street
Davidson, North Carolina. Offers a five-day renewal program for pastors, covering spiritual, vocational, physical mental dimensions

Societies for Clergy

- Society of the Holy Trinity – www.societyholyltrinity.org
"The Society is an association (ministerium, order) of pastors who have ordained in Lutheran churches throughout North America and Australia. In a time of doctrinal confusion and moral uncertainty, we support one another in remaining faithful to the promises spoken at ordination."
- WordAlone Ministries www.wordalone.org
"Preaching, teaching, and confessing Christ as God's Word alone." Providing education, information, and advice to clergy in dealing with theological and ministerial issues.

Continuing Education

- Institute of Lutheran Theology www.ilt.org 605-692-0503
"As an independent, multi-location, pan-Lutheran institution we stand together with our partnering congregations to create a new kind of seminary. We equip members and leaders of the Church to know and proclaim faithfully the true gospel of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord, and to expose the false gospels of the world."
- WordAlone conferences WordAlone Ministries www.wordalone.org 1-888.551.7254

-Lutheran CORE convocations and conferences www.lutherancore.org

-Renovare www.renovare.us

“Renovare is a nonprofit organization that advocates, encourages, and resources intentional living and spiritual formation. Drawing from the example of Jesus Christ and the historical Church, Renovare encourages people to develop renewed, sustainable, and enriched spiritual lives.”

-American Lutheran Publicity Bureau www.alpb.org

“The ALPB makes the theological, liturgical and devotional resources of our confessional heritage accessible and relevant to all Lutherans as well as to friends in other communions.” Includes resources on prayer, Lutheran Identity and theology, etc.