



# NetworkKonnector

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## Scripture for reflection...

*2 Corinthians 3:2-4. Imagine this window frames your ministry. Imagine the frame representing the life giving Spirit. What is inside your frame? What is outside the frame?*

*Pray that the Holy Spirit fills your ministry across all life stages.*

## **Connecting with the ELCA**

Free downloadable Parent Guides are available to help inform you about media and family issues such as social networking, emerging technologies, online gaming and video addiction. Check <http://www.mediafamily.org> From the ELCA Corporate Responsibility program.

## Competencies of the Heart...

Each year children all over the United States take competency tests. I wonder what a Christian Education fall competency test would look like.

- All volunteers recruited – ✓
- Confirmation attendance 100%- ✓
- Christmas Program chosen – ✓
- Adult Education planned – ✓

As Christian Educators, there is only one competency and it is found in 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 " our competency is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit". If your heart is true and open to the Spirit, you pass the test!

Blessings on your ministries,

**Diane Monroe**

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## Keep on Networking

Pastor Cassie Nault,  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN

I just graduated from seminary this spring, after four years of working in a church at least part-time while completing my degree. It surprised me that in this transition, the biggest loss I felt was the absence of that almost daily interaction with others in children's and youth ministry. As an admitted introvert, I was not expecting this. **-continued**

## **Konnecting with Augsburg Fortress**



What do you think it means for a publisher to “go green?” It’s more than just using less copier paper –there are many aspects of “going green” that reflect positive stewardship decisions. For example:

-Augsburg Fortress’ VBS programs use SFI certified paper – paper made using sustainable forestry practices.

-Akaloo, the VBS Web Tool Kit, and other web resources reduce paper waste by making lesson plans available electronically- users only print what they need!

·Whenever possible, AF program kits and packs use corrugated cardboard instead of plastic or styrofoam.

·No Augsburg Fortress curriculum ever uses food as part of a game or activity. As we work to end poverty and hunger in our country and world, we are intentional about not wasting our food resources.

## **Konnecting with Ministry Partners**

**CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE:  
Christian Perspectives  
June 14 to 17, 2009  
Concordia University, River Forest, IL**

The Program Committee welcomes submissions reflecting work on children and spirituality in these categories:

Biblical/Historical, Research/theory, Social Contexts/Social Justice, Pedagogy and Spiritual Formation Practices. See

<http://childspirituality.org/conference>

*-continued*

While I am blessed to work alongside a wonderful professional staff and great volunteers at a vibrant church--it's just not the same. Before, classmates, professors, and visiting professionals all shared ideas. I could hear success stories and cautionary tales to help me keep from making mistakes. There was camaraderie, and most importantly, I was kept grounded in the Spirit and reminded on a regular basis that ministry was not all about me—nor all about the children—but all about God’s love and grace!

Perhaps you haven’t yet had the chance to be in a place like seminary, where you could get feedback, stay grounded, or just feel like your work was really important (and definitely not mundane!) job. Well, now is your chance—there are children’s ministry networking groups forming in many areas and if there isn’t one near you, start your own! Invite a few fellow Christian Educators or Children’s Ministry folks out to dinner to chat about a challenge you face or have a brainstorming session about how to improve Sunday School or VBS. We work as the hands and feet of Christ, so shouldn’t we come together, as one body, to discuss how we might help each other in our work?

Don’t just keep on trucking in your work, keep on networking (or get started) and see how ministry is enriched!

## **Konnecting with Ministry Partners** **FISHER'S NET SELECT**

Another fine partner konnection....

Congratulation to Rev. Greg Kaufmann, the new director of Fisher's Net Select! This combination of two online services, Fisher's Net and Select Multimedia Resources, provide educational resources to ELCA members.

For years Greg has been teaching the Biblical courses in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's Lay School of Ministry [www.layschoolofministry](http://www.layschoolofministry). In this month of all-things-Luther/Reformation, Greg points to a couple of his favorite resources: "Luther's Legacy for Laity" and "Down and Out: Where Grace Takes You." Both are available from *Select*.

"These two DVD series were made for each other. *Down and Out* is a 6-session, fascinating and engaging exploration of grace and vocation. *Luther's Legacy for Laity*, a four DVD series with study guide, approaches significant teachings of Martin Luther and the Reformation presented by some of the top theologians and historians across the ELCA.

Please visit [www.fishersnet.net](http://www.fishersnet.net) and [www.selectlearning.org](http://www.selectlearning.org) to see the wide variety of courses and materials available. For more information, contact [gkaufman@ecunet.org](mailto:gkaufman@ecunet.org)

## **Ministry *BY* the Children**

**-Christy Olson**

Often children's ministry consists of many activities planned by adults *for* children. These activities are creative expressions of our deep heartfelt desire to care for our children and to help them grow into faith-filled adults.

The question is what does ministry *BY* our children look like in our congregations.

Stephanie is 8 years old. Sitting in worship, she observes a new family sitting in the pew ahead of her family. One child, about her age, was having a power struggle with his Mom about his activity and speaking during worship. As both families leave exit the church, Stephanie puts a hand on the boy's shoulder and says, "being a middle child is really difficult. I know, because I'm a middle child, too"? Pastoral ministry *BY* a child.

Two days before his fourth birthday, Aidan's family loses a baby girl a few weeks before her birth. Aidan doesn't know. The family decides to tell him after he celebrates a happy fourth birthday. Flash ahead one year... Aidan's Mom gives birth to a healthy little girl. Aidan is almost five. As he enters the birthing room, he places his hand on his heart and sings, "Baby Kenna died and lives with Jesus. Baby Kylee lives with us. But we will always remember Kenna." Grief ministry *BY* a child.

Look for stories about children in your congregations who do ministry. Be sure to lift up these ministries by children and know that we are called to be ministers, no matter what our age.

### **Quotable**

***And we can say we know full well that before you were born God wrote your days in a book and sent you to us."***

Before You Were Born. Nancy White Carlstrom