

As you go to websites or read books, be discerning as to content. Websites change owners. Authors may have very different doctrinal views than you. Take from the resource that which is helpful. If a resource you find particularly helpful is not on the list, call and ask that it be added. (Similarly, if you find something on this list that is just awful, please let us know!) Also check out the guys' list of resources. There are a lot of excellent books listed there as well. I will pay the annual \$25 registration fee (you will be billed separately), and I will purchase study materials as requested.

New Resources in 2014

- *Blessings and Prayers for Parents* by Lisa Clark (Concordia Publishing House, 2014) — For parents of all ages with children of all ages, *Blessings and Prayers for Parents* points readers to our heavenly Father as the only perfect parent and speaks to parents' need to hear God's specific words of forgiveness and grace.
- *Getting to Know Your Congregation* by John Hirsch (revised by Carrie O'Donnell) — This topic, in booklet form, gives the new pastor (and wife) some tips in "getting acquainted" with the new congregation through a better understanding of the congregation's history, with the hope of finding a healthy balance between expectations and reality. This is an excellent first topic for pastors and wives new to the parish.
- *Your Marriage by God's Design* by Scott and Julie Stiegemeyer (Concordia Publishing House, 2014) — How are Christians to start, or keep, marriage as God intends? How are God's children to respond when the picture of Christ and His Church is portrayed as a cultural institution open to anyone's interpretation and traditional marriage is openly mocked as irrelevant? In *Your Marriage by God's Design*, we learn that God has not left us directionless but instead has a beautiful plan and purpose — His design — for marriage, for your marriage.
- Creative Ladies Ministry (www.juliabettencourt.com) — This website has ideas for women's devotionals, crafts and more. Take what you like, ignore what you don't.
- Just Between Us (www.justbetweenus.org) — From the website: Just Between Us (JBU) is published to provide encouragement, inspiration, spiritual support and practical insights for ministry wives and women in church, parachurch and missions leadership. Begun as a newsletter for pastors' wives in 1990, JBU has grown into a quarterly magazine with international impact, with subscribers in 75 countries and in all 50 states. In the words of executive editor Jill Briscoe, "Ministry wives and missionary wives, Christian educators, seminary students, Bible study leaders and women in ministry all face special challenges and pressures that warrant peer help and encouragement."
- Just Moved Ministry (www.justmoved.org) — From the website: Has moving affected your life? You're not alone... Whether your move was a welcome opportunity or a dreaded event, you face tremendous change and the daunting task of starting over in a new place. Just Moved Ministry is a non-profit organization committed to the spiritual growth and emotional well-being of women who are uprooted because of a move. Through biblical teaching and personal support, we are committed to prepare, encourage and equip a woman to let go of the past, rebuild hope and embrace her new life as she trusts God with her future.

Websites

- Pastors' Wives Thriving in the Fishbowl (www.pastorswives.org) — From the website: Welcome to an online ministry of help, support and encouragement to wives of pastors, ministers, missionaries and clergy. You're the pastor's wife, and you're among friends! Online at www.pastorswives.org, we help each other thrive in our "fishbowl life," not just survive. You, as a pastor's wife, truly are among friends at a website that honors, supports, encourages and helps all pastors' wives, regardless of denomination.
- LCMS Pastors' Wives Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LCMS-PWs/>) — This group, as well as LCMS-PWs2, is for pastors' wives in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The purpose for these groups is to encourage and support each other in our roles as pastors' wives and in our personal ministries.

In addition to these Yahoo groups, there are a number of pastors' wives groups on Facebook. Urge your women to use judgment when participating in these groups. They can sometimes become a snowball of complaints.

Ministry/Support Resources

- *After the Boxes Are Unpacked* by Susan Miller (Tyndale, 1998) — More than 40 million Americans move each year, and studies show it can be one of the heaviest strains on a marriage. For women especially, relocating can be a traumatic event. With true stories, ingenious insights and helpful hints, this great book makes transitioning smoother so women can get on with their lives. Those who are moving will find this valuable book as important as packing tape.
- *Antagonists in the Church* by Kenneth Haugk (Augsburg, 1988) — Antagonism exists in the church. It leaves in its wake broken lives: people who are hurt, discouraged and apathetic. Although only a very few persons are antagonists, these individuals have the potential to disrupt and even destroy a congregation's mission and ministry. In this balanced and practical book, Kenneth Haugk shows how congregational leaders can learn to prevent or reduce much of the pain and suffering caused by antagonism; tell the difference between constructive, healthy conflict and destructive antagonism; and cope with antagonism when it arises.
- *Because God Has Called* by Tom Rogers (Concordia Publishing House, 1999) — 70 devotions for church workers. From a review on Amazon: "We use one of these devotions to open our staff meetings in the church where I work. Tom Rogers brings up pertinent issues that professional church workers and staff deal with on a regular basis. His devotions are current, useful and grounded in Scripture."
- *Bible Studies for New Pastors' Wives* by Jerry Wollenburg (PALS resource) — There are nine studies on topics chosen based on the input of wives and pastors in active ministry. This collection is meant to address these topics in fellowship with other LCMS clergy spouses. Bible passages and topical remarks are referenced in order to guide and inspire the discussions among sisters in the faith who share the commonality of being a clergy spouse.
- *Boundaries: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Take Control of Your Life* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend (Zondervan, 1992) — From a review by Gail Hudson on Amazon: "In order to call themselves good Christians, many people have drawn overly flexible boundaries (unwilling to say no, always accommodating others' needs) or overly rigid boundaries (to the point of being righteous and judgmental). Psychologists and inspirational speakers Cloud and Townsend show readers how to set reasonable boundaries in order to follow the true path of Christianity. This book has become immensely popular, most likely because it makes personal boundaries easier to define and is filled with spiritual purpose. Some cautions: the format can be overly self-helpish for such a complex discussion and the authors at one point imply that judicious spankings may be an acceptable form of setting boundaries with children. However, many Christians will probably find themselves grateful for this biblical context of boundaries."
- *But Mom, I Don't Want to Move!* by Susan Miller (Tyndale, 2004) — When a child hears the words "We're moving!" it can trigger a range of reactions from excitement and anticipation to anxiety and anger. *But Mom, I Don't Want to Move!* gives parents the guidance they need to get their children through this major change. Susan Miller, author of *After the Boxes Are Unpacked*, provides specific ideas, based on the ages of children and the reason for relocating, that will make the adjustment to a new house, school and community as smooth as possible.
- "Communication and Conflict: Opportunities for Connecting in Grace" by James E. Otte — Through the use of lively video lecture, PowerPoint, workbook and discussion, this course challenges pastors and their wives to view conflict as an opportunity to achieve greater relationship connection. It introduces a theologically grounded and easily applied set of steps for working through the "ITs," from which hurt and resentment, division and disconnection can flow.
- *Financial Peace, Revisited* by Dave Ramsey (Viking, 2003) — The reader learns that it takes considerable sacrifice, discipline and patience to control money, and Ramsey contends that a huge percentage of Americans, caught in a web of instant gratification, need help in managing their finances. An updated, expanded version of Ramsey's first book about overcoming debt and managing personal finances, this edition boasts new chapters on the relationship between money matters and family matters. The new chapters offer financial advice for singles, spouses and parents. Agreeing on money matters, Ramsey says, leads to "fabulous unity" in a marriage.
- *Grace Notes: Meditations for Women in the Church* by Ruth N. Koch (Concordia Publishing House, 1997) — Koch has written a collection of meditations for women in ministry that meets them where they're at, supplying God's words of encouragement and support. Every meditation concludes with a practical tip to put into practice immediately.
- *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver (WaterBrook, 2007) — An invitation for every woman who's ever felt she isn't godly enough, isn't loving enough, isn't doing enough. The life of a woman today isn't really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet ... but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve Him ... yet you struggle with weariness, resentment and feelings of inadequacy. Then comes Jesus, into the midst of your busy life, to extend the same invitation He issued long ago to the two sisters from Bethany. Tenderly, He invites you to choose "the better part" — a joyful life of intimacy with Him that flows naturally into loving service.
- *Heart to Heart with Pastors' Wives* by Lynne Dugan (Regal Books, 1994) — Join hands with pastors' wives and hear from women who have found their own place supporting their husband's work and reaching out on their own.

- *High Call, High Privilege* by Gail MacDonald (Tyndale House Publishers, 2000) — There is something here to fit just about everyone’s ministry world — the excitement, the struggles, the blessings and the consequences. Gordon and Gail MacDonald look gratefully at the journey they have shared through their years of ministry.
- *Holding Up the Prophet’s Hand: Supporting Church Workers* by Bruce Hartung (Concordia Publishing House, 2011) — While the book is designed to be utilized by church workers and congregations seeking to support their church workers, the topics covered and the way they are presented in the book would commend this book for the PALS setting. Topics include “Satan’s Strategy,” “Stressors and Stress,” “Burnout” and “Secondary Traumatic Stress.”
- *I’m More than the Pastor’s Wife* by Lorna Dobson (Zondervan, 2003). A new discussion guide is now available through www.lcms.org/PALS. — Lorna Dobson knows firsthand the struggles and joys of being married to a pastor — and the questions, not the least of which is, “What is a ‘pastor’s wife,’ anyway?” As her poll of hundreds of women reveals, the wife of a minister is rarely the piano-playing, committee-leading stereotype. Here are frontline insights on making friends and cultivating personal support outside the church; balancing time and using your gifts, supporting your husband and growing closer to him; prioritizing prayer for your husband, family and church; knowing your capabilities and limits; dealing with “problem people” and church conflicts; and much more!
- *Life in the Fishbowl* by Tom Rogers (Concordia Publishing House, 1996) — Do you live in the public eye — a fishbowl? Tom Rogers draws from 15 years of experience as a parish pastor to provide uplifting, inspirational messages containing both empathy and humor for those who live out their lives in front of others.
- *The Measure of a Woman* by Gene A. Getz (Regal Books, 2004) — *The Measure of a Woman* helps women discover their strengths and learn from their weaknesses so that they can truly live in accordance with God’s Word. The world tells us one thing about beauty, but God’s Word relates that beauty is something much deeper. When women learn how to be beautiful from the inside out, they gain respect and serve as examples to other women.
- *Parenting in the Pew: Guiding Your Children into the Joy of Worship* by Robbie Castleman (InterVarsity Press, 2002) — Marva J. Dawn, author of *Is It a Lost Cause?* and *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down*, says: “Robbie Castleman does wonders in this book! Her biblically grounded theology and experientially tested practical ideas give us wonderful suggestions that deepen our own participation in worship, even while we help children truly worship instead of merely keeping quiet. This book is essential — for pastors, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, parents and every other member of the congregation (since we all are responsible for forming the church’s offspring). The Christian community could be changed by this book; read it avidly and give it to everyone you know.”
- *Quiet Places* by Jane Rubietta (Bethany House Publishers, 1997) — This women’s guide for Christian retreat offers meditations and encouragement for enriching spiritual life during a busy day or in an organized group setting.
- *Safe People: How to Find Relationships That Are Good for You and Avoid Those That Aren’t* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend (Zondervan, 1996) — Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend offer solid guidance for making safe choices in relationships, from friendships to romance. They help identify the nurturing people we all need in our lives, as well as ones we need to learn to avoid. *Safe People* will help you to recognize 20 traits of relationally untrustworthy people. Discover what makes some people relationally safe and how to avoid unhealthy entanglements.
- “Stewardship of Time for Pastors” by Ralph Blumenberg — Through the use of video presentation and discussion questions, this course examines the management of our time through four main themes: 1) stewardship, which helps us see time as God’s gift of opportunities; 2) boundaries, which help us work toward a fair division of time between work, family and personal life; 3) priorities, which help us to set aside our best time for our most important opportunities; and 4) discipline, the ability to know time-wasters and keep them at bay so we can make the most of our time.
- “Thinking About Stewardship” by Joel D. Biermann — This course contains three sessions: 1) “My Money, My Responsibility”; 2) “The Stewardship of Evangelism”; and 3) “All of Life as a Disciple.” Each session begins with a video introduction by Biermann that presents some of the core ideas or thoughts that will undergird the subsequent study. In each session, at least one section of Scripture will be presented for more careful study in conjunction with the material contained in the video. Guiding questions for discussion relating to the video and the Scripture will be offered for each session.
- *You Can Still Wear Cute Shoes: And Other Great Advice from an Unlikely Preacher’s Wife* by Lisa McKay (David C. Cook, 2010) — An utterly honest, charmingly witty and biblically insightful guide for every minister’s wife who wants to serve the church and support her husband — without losing herself along the way. When most women think of a “pastor’s wife,” certain images come to mind: either a woman who’s so holy she doesn’t seem human, or someone sentenced to a life without fun, fashion or friends. You will feel an instant sisterhood with McKay, a senior pastor’s wife happily serving in the trenches. She understands the challenges of a life lived before a congregation, from finding friends and coping with criticism to saying goodbye and starting all over again.

Marriage Enrichment/Communication, Family and Christian Life Resources

- *Boundaries in Marriage* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend (Zondervan, 2002) — This book shows how you and your mate can experience marriage at its best. You’ll learn how to deal with serious violations and betrayals and develop a haven of mutual love, care, appreciation and growth. *Boundaries in*

Marriage will show you: why boundaries and the “Ten Laws of Boundaries” are vital for a thriving, productive marriage; how values form the structure and architecture of marriage; how to protect a marriage from intruders, whether parents, other people, affairs or personal idols; why each partner needs to establish personal boundaries, and how to go about it; and how to work with a spouse who understands and values boundaries — and how to work with one who doesn’t.

- *Each for the Other: Marriage as It’s Meant to Be* by Bryan and Kathy Chapell (Baker, 2006) — Marriage requires not just love, but sacrificial love, says Bryan Chapell. In his newly revised and updated book, *Each for the Other*, Bryan Chapell shows married couples how to emulate the unselfish, sacrificial love of Christ. While imparting invaluable instruction grounded in Scripture, Chapell not only helps husbands and wives understand the nature of God’s care but also affirms the importance of building a spiritual foundation that binds them together as one. By presenting a biblical model of marriage, Chapell encourages couples to dive into the deeper dimensions of their relationship. The result, he says, is a Christ-centered marriage and a grace-filled family.
- *The Five Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts* by Gary Chapman (Northfield, 2010) — Marriage should be based on love, right? But does it seem as though you and your spouse are speaking two different languages? *New York Times* bestselling author Dr. Gary Chapman guides couples in identifying, understanding and speaking their spouse’s primary love language — quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service or physical touch. By learning the five love languages, you and your spouse will discover your unique love languages and learn practical steps in truly loving each other. Chapters are categorized by love language for easy reference, and each one ends with specific, simple steps to express a specific language to your spouse and guide your marriage in the right direction. A newly designed love languages assessment will help you understand and strengthen your relationship. You can build a lasting, loving marriage together.
- *He Remembers the Barren* by Katie Schuermann (Lutheran Legacy, 2011) — This book addresses questions frequently asked by those struggling with infertility. Issues such as control of our bodies, family planning and the source of conception are examined through a theological lens. Dr. James Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life, says, “This resource will be a powerful tool in the hands of pastors, helping them understand barrenness and helping them minister to those dealing with it.”
- *Intimate Allies* by Dan B. Allender and Tremper Longman III (Tyndale, 1999) — In *Intimate Allies*, counselor Dan Allender and theologian Tremper Longman III merge their minds and skills to strip away cultural expectations and takes a fresh look at God’s design for the marriage relationship. The authors focus on five foundations taken from Genesis 1–3 and include an extensive review of other biblical passages on marriage. Each section begins with a real-life story concerning an

unresolved marriage issue and concludes with the same story built on the “foundation” of a godly marriage. With eloquence and wisdom, *Intimate Allies* will challenge readers to move their marriages out of the mundane and into the fulfilling and enriching experiences God intended.

- *A Little Book on Joy: The Secret of Living a Good News Life in a Bad News World* by Matthew C. Harrison and John T. Pless (Concordia Publishing House, 2011). A list of suggested chapters is included in your facilitator binder. — Rediscover the joy of being a Christian! LCMS President Matthew Harrison has produced a well-written exploration of the nature of life in the fallen world and the joy that we have in Christ. Read about the joy of life together in community, marriage and family, or the joys of humor, worship, the sanctity of life and the wonders of creation. The book includes study questions at the end of each chapter and a prayer guide for “The Great Ninety Days of Joy after Joy” with texts and prayers from Ash Wednesday through Pentecost.
- *Love and Respect: The Love She Most Desires; The Respect He Desperately Needs* by Emerson Eggerichs (Thomas Nelson, 2004) — Based upon Eph. 5:33 and extensive biblical and psychological research, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs reveals the power of unconditional love and unconditional respect and how husbands and wives can reap the benefits of marriage that God intended.
- “Marriage by God’s Design” (DVD Kit) by Tim and LeeAnn Radkey (Concordia Publishing House, 2010) — Today, there are a lot of conflicting ideas about what marriage is and isn’t. Love. Adoption. Engagement. Children. Divorce. Wedding. Civil union. Single living. Widowhood. Separation. Chastity. Until death do us part. What does it all mean? Are there any concrete answers, or is it all just opinion?

Thankfully, God has given us the reliable guide to help us navigate through the confusion: His holy Word. “Marriage by God’s Design” is a unique resource that mines the riches of Bible texts speaking to God’s holy institution of marriage. Through thought-provoking questions and explanations of Greek and Hebrew terms, participants will explore, learn and grow in their appreciation of Christian marriage. Video vignettes of real couples and singles will foster meaningful and fruitful discussions about the challenges and joys of married — and single — living.

(CPH has agreed to allow the PALS office to make the DVD in the kit available free of charge to PALS groups with the provision that the DVD purchased by the PALS office is for exclusive use in PALS meetings. The PALS office has assured CPH that there will be no duplication of the DVDs and that they will not be used in congregations, which are both clear violations of CPH’s copyright. Facilitators using this resource will be required to return it immediately following their PALS meeting. Contact the PALS office to reserve this resource or with any questions you may have.)
- *Marriage Is Like Dancing* by Richard Eyer (Concordia Publishing House, 2007) — *Marriage Is Like Dancing* uses the biblical themes of the image of God and the mystery of the one flesh union of marriage to assert that marriage is not whatever we

choose to make of it, but it is what God has made it to be. Readers will identify with the sometimes humorous, sometimes difficult, nature of dancing that parallels the humorous and difficult nature of marriage. This is not a book on how to fix a bad marriage, but how to support a good marriage. Newlyweds who want to get started in building a good marriage will also find this book useful. The author shares personal illustrations from his own marriage and offers a discussion guide for couples. Each chapter opens with a short story about dancing which leads into a discussion on marriage.

➤ *Pew Sisters* by Katie Schuermann (Concordia Publishing House, 2012) — This 12-session Bible study for women tells what God has done in the lives of real women in the church today. From alcoholism to postpartum depression to cancer, 12 different women generously share the story of God’s faithfulness in their lives for the consolation of their sisters in Christ. Each session begins with a Scripture reading followed by a narrative of an individual woman’s real-life story. Eight study questions, designed for both personal and group study, help the reader apply the reading and narrative to her own life in Christ. A meditative hymn stanza and collect complete each session.

The goal of this study is to encourage and build up the faith of our Christian sisters. Every woman sitting in the pew has a story to share of God’s faithfulness in her life, and women love nothing more than to hear a good story and to delight in the sisterhood of believers.

➤ “The Power of We” by David Ludwig (Concordia Publishing House, 2009) — “The Power of We” is a DVD that takes a deep look at marriage — a union in which God promises that “two will become one flesh.” This oneness is one of the most powerful and mysterious forces on earth. By joining them together for life, God enables husbands and wives to weather all storms and forces that would destroy. This study provides insight into this enduring relationship by discussing both theoretical understandings of the “WE” and practical, day-to-day wisdoms to help form a good marriage.

➤ *The Relationship Cure* by John Gottmann (Three Rivers, 2002) — From the country’s foremost relationship expert and *New York Times* bestselling author Dr. John M. Gottman comes a powerful, simple five-step program, based on 20 years of innovative research, for greatly improving all of the relationships in your life — with spouses and lovers, children, siblings and even your colleagues at work.

➤ *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* by John Gottman (Three Rivers, 2000) — John Gottman has revolutionized the study of marriage by using rigorous scientific procedures to observe the habits of married couples in unprecedented detail over many years. Here is the culmination of his life’s work: the seven principles that guide couples on the path toward a harmonious and long-lasting relationship. Packed with practical questionnaires and exercises, *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* is the definitive guide for anyone who wants their relationship to attain its highest potential.

➤ *You Just Don’t Understand: Women and Men in Conversation* by Deborah Tannen (Harper, 2001) — As a sociolinguist, Deborah Tannen’s focus is not just on language, but on how communication styles either facilitate or hinder personal interactions. According to Tannen, men and women are essentially products of different cultures, possessing different — but equally valid — communication styles. While women generally seek to “connect” with other people in intimate, parallel relationships, men approach conversation as a “one-up or one-down situation.” As a result, women often feel silenced by men, although that is not necessarily men’s intention. Presented as a tool for understanding and change, this book offers clear analyses of example conversational exchanges between the sexes; excerpts from the works of linguists, sociologists and others; and samples from various media, including TV and novels. By illustrating the cause and effects of these different conversational styles, Deborah takes the blame/self-recrimination out of communication snafus so that we may begin to build bridges in understanding.

Other Topics Led by Facilitator Wives in the Past

- Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter — the pastor’s family during these busy times of year
- The Call Process — How does it work? When do you know it’s time to go? What should you think about when considering the call?
- The District and Synod — resources, how they operate, etc.
- Forgiveness (pastors have used *Dying to Live: The Power of Forgiveness* by Dr. Harold Senkbeil)
- Grief
- Joy
- Mercy
- Pastors’ Wives — roles and expectations
- Prayer
- Preparing for Sunday
- Rest
- Sanctification
- Spiritual Warfare
- Stress Management
- Supporting Our Husbands
- Taxes
- Team Ministry — issues that arise in these situations
- Thankfulness
- Time Management
- Women in the Bible