

Details relating to St. Matthew's Lutheran Library collection:

Children's Books provide good quality reading for very young children through elementary age.

The categories for children's books are Preschool, Preschool Bible Stories, Elementary age books, Elementary Bible Stories, and Series.

Books for the Youth are located on the shelves marked "Youth". These books include such topics as relationships, quality fiction, and Christian reading specifically relating to the Youth. While books in this section are selection especially for this age group, the Youth are encouraged to use the adult materials as well.

Books for Adults can help answer spiritual questions, solve personal or family problems, or provide good, thought provoking reading. These books cover such topics as:

Bible Study	Christian Life
Parenting	Marriage
Prayer	Singles
Jesus Christ	Grief & Beyond
Finances/Business	Bible History
Biography	Theology
Spiritual Life	Men's Interests
Martin Luther	Women's Interests

Our strong **Christian Fiction** Section has been very popular because the books have realistic, interesting (even exciting) plots and believable characters, which integrate Christianity into real life.

DVD/CD-ROMs' are biblically based and/or present stories, which are fun while encouraging healthy thinking and good family values. CD's & CD-ROMs' offer a variety of Christian music and entertainment.

Current periodicals are also available in the library. Current issues of the following are available for casual reading or check out.

The Lutheran Magazine
Today's Christian Woman
Christian Parenting
Guidepost
Biblical Archeology Review
Various daily devotional booklets

Commentaries are located in the Bible Study section of the library. These sets of books explain and interpret the **holy scriptures**. They are arranged in the same order as the books appear in the Bible. Some commentaries cover the whole Bible; others cover the Old and New Testaments in separate books and still others cover just one book.

A Little About our Reference Books.

Because reference books are intended to be used to find specific information rather than to be read from cover to cover, St. Matthew's reference books are usually not checked out. However, if you need a reference book for a short time, please ask. The librarian will gladly check it out for you.

The Reference Collection Consists of:

Variety of versions of the Bible, such as the King James Version, the New International Version, the New Living Translation, and the Life Application Bible.

Atlases that provide maps of Biblical countries/kingdoms and routes taken by various groups/individuals and building layouts. They may include chronological data, and/or historical and geographical information

Concordances that locate **words** used in the **Bible**. The words are listed alphabetically, followed by a list of phrases using that word in context. Each phrase is followed by the scripture reference where the word of interest is found. Each concordance tells you whether it is complete or has left out such words as "a, an, or the", etc.

Dictionaries that define words used in the **Bible** and sometimes contain illustrations and brief descriptions of significant words.

Encyclopedias that provide articles about topics, people, places and events in the **Bible**. They may include pictures, outlines, maps and charts.

Historical, Biographical and Other Resources that provide historical and cultural information especially helpful to readers in understanding life at the time the **Bible** was written. Some also provide information that is more current.

Handbooks that provide brief, practical information on a variety of Biblical topics.

Specialized Bibles that provide a different approach to understanding the Bible.

Parallel Bibles that present several versions of the scriptures side by side for comparison.

Topical Bibles that is similar to concordances in that they present topics (rather than words) and list the places in the Bible where these subjects can be found.