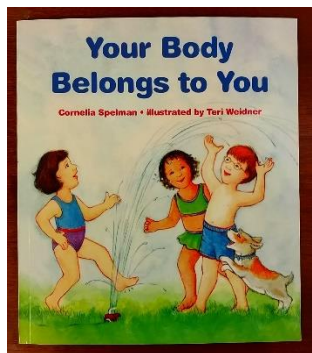


# Tackling Tough Topics

## Some Newly-Available Resources for Parents

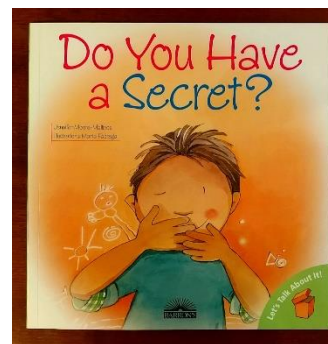
We approved and began to implement a new “Child Safety Policy” at Christ’s Lutheran Church in the Fall because we want you to know that, when you bring your children and/or grandchildren to church activities, they will be returned to you both healthy and whole.

The news is filled with stories about inappropriate contact between young people and adults. Statistics indicate that 1-in-4 girls and 1-in-6 boys will be inappropriately touched by an adult before the age of 18. But, how in the world do we talk about that with our children? How we as parents, grandparents, and guardians discuss a very difficult topic? Here are some new tools that we’d like to offer to you, as an adult, for use in your home....



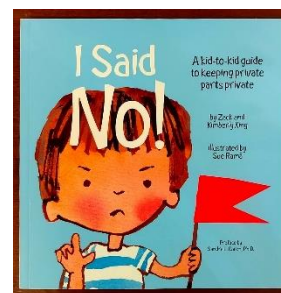
**Your Body Belongs to You** is a “first step” that’s been written to be used by parents, grandparents and legal guardians to share with a child who is four to seven years of age.

This is a beginner-level resource that can open a conversation about basic body safety. It’s OK for us to hug, snuggle and kiss other people – but it’s also OK to tell other people that we don’t want to be touched. Even if we don’t want a hug or a kiss right now, we can still be friends with other people! It’s OK for us to say, “No, I don’t want to be touched right now”; and, when people don’t understand what we’re saying to them, we can ask our Mom, or Dad, or another grown-up to help the other person understand what we are trying to say to them.



**Do You Have a Secret?** is a great way to start talking with a child about “good” secrets and the kinds of secrets that need to be shared with other people. This book is intended for parents to read with a child who is between six and nine years of age.

Secrets can be fun to keep - if they are secrets that make you and everybody else happy. But if you have a secret that hurts you, or makes you feel sad or scared, you will probably feel much better if you talk to someone. Secrets are sometimes hard to talk about; but, when we’re keeping a secret that makes us sad or scared, it’s best to be brave and talk about it with our Mom, or Dad, or a teacher.



**I said No!** is another good book that can start a great conversation with a child who’s between nine and twelve.

This is a book that can help parents open a conversation that doesn’t really need to be both daunting and awkward, and that can help young people learn to set healthy boundaries around their own “private parts.” This book can open a conversation about trusting the way we feel (our instincts), and about how we can respond when we’re not feeling comfortable. It’s not our fault when other people act inappropriately, and we can still find help – even when other people don’t seem to be listening to us.

**If you would like to borrow any of these books for a two-week period (so that others have a chance, too) – please contact Pastor Wayne.**