

The Union



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The Season of Easter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter to all	1
Global Mission Events	2
New Helps from AF	2
New publication for	3
Did you know...?	3
Bits & Pieces	4

"The Union" e-mailed during the year-www.synodresourcecenter.org- by the Northwest Synod of WI Resource Center located at 1005 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703.

*Center hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm daily; special times by appointment
www.synodresourcecenter.org*

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*Rev. Greg Kaufmann, director;
Bonnie Weber, assistant director;
Diane Kaufmann, Delores Harrison, Vicki Fankhauser, Tim & Gay Fehr, & Howard Weber, volunteers.*

The Season of Easter is upon us....

Happy Season of Easter to everyone! What a great time of year to celebrate Easter/resurrection when all things are becoming new again after the long sleep of winter.

Now we are busily preparing for some meetings we will be facilitating in area churches for education helps, a women's group meeting, church appearances, the W/ELCA Conference in Eau Claire April 30 and May 1 (which was a wonderful time together!), AND then the big one - the Synod Assembly to be held June 4 & 5 in River Falls. What an exciting time to be the church! There are so many possibilities just waiting to be explored and implemented. If your congregation is looking for help in any area of church life, don't hesitate to call the Resource Center to set up an appointment to come and see us, or to have us come and see you! We're here as a service to the congregations of this synod doing whatever we can to help you do ministry where you are.

As parish secretaries, don't forget to remind your members that our synod is front and center in providing this Resource Center as a gift to the entire church. We're grateful for the support we receive from committed congregations who are helping to keep your Resource Center a strong, viable connection.

Also, as parish secretaries, get

on your calendars right now the Soul Support excursion September 13 and 14. It is going to be a great time together. We will travel to Chicago and visit The Lutheran Center! This is the hub of our church life.

What an opportunity! More information will be forth coming very soon. If you are a first timer, you will receive a reduced price to attend AND if you convince a first timer to go, YOU will get a special rate. Tell your pastor/council now that you need that Monday and Tuesday off for continuing education plus fun time for yourself. And, as long as your Continuing Education is already in the budget, you're all set to go and enjoy!

There are so many excellent resources being printed that help so much in everyone's planning. Just to mention one: TALK, the great educator's resource chock full of suggestions, helps, hints, crafts- everything that teachers need to carry out their task. Published by Augsburg Fortress, subscribe to it now! Pages are reproducible so one copy covers everyone. If you want to see a copy before ordering, come to the Resource Center. We have the latest one, "Experiencing Spring 2004". Read more about it on page 3. It is just great.

The newsletter has lots of different articles this time. Be sure to pass along the directions for finding it on the web site to others who need to know what we have to offer.

Two dates to get on your calendars.....



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the folks who organize Global Mission Events, taking place this summer in Montana and Wisconsin, I'd like to talk up the many communication resources posted at www.elca.org/gme in hopes that you will include them in your synod and organization newsletters, web pages, and assemblies.

If you're a synod communicator, you already received a letter with the GME promotional video, brochures, and posters, and a pitch to help promote these outstanding events. Thanks for any promotional efforts you have already launched. We greatly appreciate them!

Basic info on the two events plus a 4-minute, 23-second promotional video clip can be found on the GME home page. (We have it at the RC for loan) Click on "publicity/resources" to find:

- .. Downloadable graphics
- .. Three press releases you can use or adapt, one for both GMEs, and one each for Bozeman and Milwaukee
- .. PowerPoint slides that can easily be

dropped into your synod assembly overheads
 .. A promotional insert for your synod assembly, created for the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (one each for Bozeman/Milwaukee)
 .. Information, updated weekly, about the plenary sessions, speakers, and other participants as they are confirmed

In the Bozeman section of the web page, you can find a link to the Montana State University web site, which is organizing before-and-after the GME tours to Yellowstone National Park.

Coming soon to the web:

- .. More info on speakers, musicians, plenary sessions, and teaching sessions
- .. A map of Montana with info on how to get to Bozeman (requested by Ann Hafften-thanks, Ann!)

If you would like to insert brochures into your mailings or Synod Assembly binders, please contact Mia Cortez at 800/638-3522, ext. 2642. She can take your order for posters, brochures, and videos.

Many thanks for all of your assistance. Hope to see you in Bozeman or Milwaukee!

Anne Basye
 Associate Director, Global Resources
 ELCA Division for Global Mission

New helps from Augsburg Fortress.....

Many ELCA and other Christian churches are using **THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE** for congregational bookclubs, small groups, etc. Augsburg Fortress has had numerous requests for help in guiding discussions of this best-selling book from a Lutheran perspective. You asked for....you've got it!

Pastor Eric Burtness (St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Beaverton, OR) has just written AF's newest downloadable discussion guide: **UP FOR DISCUSSION: THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE.**

Like Augsburg Fortress' other popular, downloadable **UP FOR DISCUSSION** guides, this one is only \$4.95. And, purchasers have permission to reproduce it for use within their particular group (congregation, small group, seminar, etc.)

Here's the link, for your convenience:

<<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/item.asp?isbn=6000211775&clsid=110979>>
<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/item.asp?isbn=6000211775&clsid=110979>

WE ALSO HAVE a CD called, "3 Great Choices" for Sunday School curricula. Augsburg has included PowerPoint presentations for Firelight, Life Together and Witness, for easy teacher training use.

You are invited to use this resource as a new way for viewing Sunday School resources.



Check it out today!



Remember secretaries, this publication is NOT for your eyes only! Don't forget to pass on the electronic directions to others - staff/leaders - who need to know what's goin' on at the Resource Center! Print copies and make them available in your office for walk-ins.

New publication for you to subscribe to....

Here's a quick preview of the Getting Ready—Autumn 2004 issue so you can remind people to order now. The TALK Tool and core departments all center around "God Created." The TALK Tool will be a poster using the art and text excerpts from the beautiful book of the same title written by Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones with Jui Ishida as the illustrator. If you haven't seen it take a look at:
<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/item.asp?isbn=0806645687&clsid=91947&infoid=10652>

The reproducible articles center on what it means that God Created (and still creates) learners, and teachers, and planners, and spiritual journeys, and conversations at home.

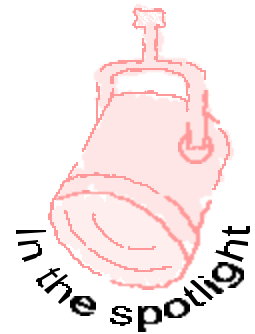
The TALK Tool Tips will invite teachers to think about how they can use the Autumn 2004 TALK Tool poster as an "open door" to create an exciting and engaging learning space—physically, relationally, and spiritually.

As you can tell I am very excited about potential this issue has for a "new" year of faith formation for kids and adults.

One request—and I've seen the speed with which you all can work—is that we've not been receiving submissions for the Your TALK Ideas section. You can help long term by encouraging people to send ideas—large and small—that have been successful in their learning ministries. In the short term, any ideas you have that could be included in the autumn issue would be VERY welcome. We can recycle "best of" from Parish Teacher, but I think readers would prefer new ones. Rally Day, welcoming learners, getting teachers together for initial training, fun attendance charts, etc. Not much time? Send an outline via e-mail, I'll get it in manuscript form, send it back to you along with request for permission to use it, and give you all the credit!

Peace to all,
 Vicky Goplin, TALK editor

Send questions, ideas, or articles to: Augsburg Fortress, Attn: Congregational Life and Learning, TALK Editorial Team, PO Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440



Now is
 the time
 to visit
 the RC,
 either in
 person
 or on-
 line.
 Help is
 waiting!

TalkTalkTalk

Did you know...?

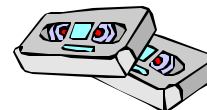
...there is something great for your committees/groups as the latest from the ELCA and Mosaic? For March, 2004: Confronting Conflict in the Congregation. We all deal with that at one time or another. Here is a resource to help you work through that dilemma.

For June: The Life of Apostle Paul. Journey to Jerusalem,

Greece and Turkey with noted public television host Rick Steves. This 45-minute program introduces Apostle Paul, the foremost theologian and missionary of the early church. Great for adults or for confirmation classes.

We have the entire collection of Mosaic videos here at the Center. So many great topics are

covered in their presentations. For only \$40 per year, it can come direct to your congregation. Good stuff to keep all your members up-to-date.



Stay current with Mosaic!

Bits & Pieces, or important little things that need mentioning....

HELLO, ONE AND ALL! The Resource Center is busy, busy, busy! Remember that Greg is available to preach on Sundays when you are receiving an offering for the Synod Fund Appeal, and do a Power Point presentation either before or after the service. We will come with our tubs full of resources, set up a display in your fellowship area and just have a good time meeting all of you. Any of us, Greg, Bonnie, or Diane, will come and speak to your group any time during the week, day or evening. Call: 715-833-1153 or e-mail gkaufmann@synodresourcecenter.org Also, check the website www.synodresourcecenter.org for openings! Click on the logo in the lower left-hand corner, and then "Resource Center on the go".



Busy, busy, busy

AS ALWAYS, REMIND YOUR COUNCIL/COMMITTEES/PLANNERS to hold their meetings at the SRC. All the resources they need to help their planning are right at hand, and everyone can see for themselves what might be helpful to them. If you would like to meet here anytime during the day or evening, just give us a call—715-833-1153—and we will reserve a time for you & someone will be here to help.

IF YOU HAVE DONE SOME CREATIVE, NEW THINGS in your congregation, please let us know about them. We get requests all the time for things that are new and different, from worship services/ children's sermons to stewardship emphasis and fellowship ideas. Send your "new creation" to the SRC with permission to put it on the web site or that you would prefer it not to be put up for all to see. Whatever your wishes are, we will honor. And don't forget to include some photos! (Digital or regular photos). Check out the web site for new ideas. They go up weekly. (There's a recipe there for Chicken Rice Salad; plus the up-dated speaker list of available program options in our synod. As we go to other churches, we are seeing quite a few Augsburg Fortress book selling setups. Churches are really liking the extra funds that brings in.)



(A few of these articles I run in every publication because of the importance of reminding each of you about what is available or where we need your specific help. We want you to know we are here to try to make life a little easier for leaders in your congregations!)

SOMETHING NEW WILL BE ADDED TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY this year. The Resource Center Crew is going to have some fun and the attendees will reap the benefits! Be sure to be at River Falls, June 4 & 5. It will be great.

SOMETHING NEW ON THE WEB SITE OPEN FILES from the month of April is all kinds of Administrative helps in policies, procedures, staff evaluations, etc. We get lots of questions about that—now you can go on-line and find what you need. Be sure to check the "Recent Additions" and "Past Recent Additions" on the web site.

WE HAVE SOME NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE through a deal that Alban Institute offers for new books throughout the year. Three that have just come in are: "When Better Isn't Enough—Evaluation tools for the 21st Century Church" by Jill M. Hudson; "Reflecting with God—Connecting Faith and Daily Life in Small Groups" by Abigail Johnson; and, "The Power of Asset Mapping—How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts" by Luther Snow. Excellent reading. More will be coming later this summer. We also have a new video from Paraclete Press called, "The Lord's Prayer" by Walt Wangerin. It will be great for adults and for confirmation students. It is done in short segments so you can stop the tape and discuss. Great video. We also have received the video kit, "If You Want To Walk On Water, You Have To Get Out Of The Boat" by John Ortberg. This is a great piece for "after Alpha" or just for a searching group of members in your church. Browse the on-line catalog, or come and visit us. There is so much wonderful material at your Resource Center just waiting for YOU to use!



Thank you for visiting our website which is reaching around the world!!