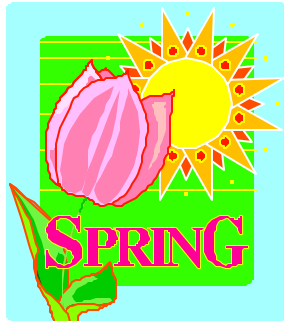


The Union



www.synodresourcecenter.org "Uniting churches with the latest resources" 715-833-1153



We have been busy....!

Your Resource Center workers have been busy since the year of 2006 started and we are keeping right at it!

Volunteers Delores Harrison and Kathy Oelschlager have been diligently working on old Sunday School materials, taking them apart and filing stories, games, crafts in plastic holders. When someone comes in looking for lesson helps on a certain Biblical story, we'll have some information to aid them in their work. It has been a big effort to get all the old materials gone through - still with a bunch to do. Many thanks to both of them for their stick-to-itiveness!

I was at New Richmond on March 25 for a Women's Retreat at First Lutheran Church. The organizers asked me to talk about the Resource Center and Lay School of Ministry. That same day, Greg was in Forest at Immanuel Lutheran Church for the St. Croix Valley Morning of Renewal. He also spoke about the Center, Lay School and other things pertinent in the Synod. The NEXT day we were at Frisstad Lutheran in Centuria with our two wheeled tubs loaded with resources, Lay School demonstration and Greg was the preacher. Last month we were at Hope Lutheran in Ladysmith and Glen Flora Lutheran where Greg preached at all services, I set up shop at Hope with four tables full of resources, and Howard was there, talking about Lay School. Diane was also along talking about Malawi. The last Sunday in April we were at Trinity in Birchwood with the same schedule. Our lives have been busy, but so necessary to make connections with people of our Synod. So many even yet aren't sure what the Center is all about or the Lay School of Ministry.

It's a great opportunity to tell that LSM is a life-changing experience AND the Resource Center is there for all to use.

I attended the Akaloo training session at Onalaska, April 17 and 18 to learn more about this new intergenerational, life-long learning resource from Augsburg Fortress. It looks so exciting! I would love to share the information obtained at the session. Perhaps I could come to your church and give a short presentation on it.....? It's going to be an exciting resource that all congregations will want to get going for parishioners to get involved in. What's more important than our continuing education in the Word of God?

We have some excellent resources that are new and wonderful. Such as: Introducing Jesus of Nazareth, the newest DVD from Mosaic - excellent study resource; Love is Patient, Saving Sex for Marriage, a DVD from Paraclete - a good resource to show to your young people; of course, The Lutheran Course Kit that has been quite popular for folks to see how they can use it in their congregations. This is just a few. Read further in the newsletter to find more.

Don't forget to have a one-liner in your monthly newsletter reminding your people of the Resource Center. List the telephone number and the e-mail address for quick and easy access to us. Maybe on the calendar or page where you list your own address, phone numbers, etc. Don't forget to list the Synod Office, too.

Enjoy the spring weather! We're looking forward to the Synod Assembly!

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

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

Phone-715-833-1153; fax-715-833-1156;

Rev. Greg Kaufmann, director; Bonnie Weber, assistant director; Diane Kaufmann, Delores Harrison, Tim & Gay Fehr, Howard Weber, Kathy Oelschlager, volunteers.

The SRC Crew

New videos/DVD's . . .



“Introducing Jesus of Nazareth” is the newest DVD from Mosaic Television of the ELCA. Your guide in the journey of Jesus is Peter Marty of the Grace Matters radio program. Based on the Bible’s four Gospel accounts - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - it shows us the places where Jesus lived, taught, died, and was resurrected. It includes a study guide with some suggestions for use. Great for adult classes or youth groups.

“A Time for Burning” - an academy award nominee for Best Documentary Feature. It is a classic touchstone which poignantly captures the awakening of the civil rights movement as it challenged the nation to change its ways. Has other features. A great teaching tool for youth and adults. It will challenge your thinking, your comfort zone, where you are in your faith and understanding.

“Sacred Space Denied: Bethlehem and the Wall” is another DVD much like “A Time for Burning” - just a different country, different players. The Holy Land is God’s gift to all faiths. We must become informed about what is happening there, and take some action toward peace. This wall that is being erected runs around Bethlehem and confiscates large tracts of Palestinian land. This will not lead to peace or security for the Israelis or the Palestinians. Another good teaching/learning tool for youth and adults

Along these same lines is a brief, 10-minute DVD called, “Forbidden Family.” It’s a partial story of one family’s struggle in Israel to even live together because of being born in one part or another of the country. The Wall is now dividing them even more. A good, informative, short resource.

We have a “Congregational Profile” DVD from Faith Lutheran Church in Cameron. Produced by 2 Senior High youth from Faith, it can be used to education people about a congregation. Great piece for youth and adults as a springboard to do your own presentation.

“For Such a Time as This” is produced by the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response. It’s a great, short piece to show at Church Council meetings, Bible studies, Youth meetings, any time. Well done, showing the needs and the help going on in mission areas.

An excellent video has just been received at your Center: “Faithful and Wise, Being a Good Steward.” This would be great for a day-retreat at the church for Council members, Stewardship Committee, any other groups you can think of. It is about 45 minutes long total with 6 separate parts. There is a guide with discussion questions and activities for the group. It would be a good time for church members to gather, to learn and to talk with each other. If you would like a Resource Center person to come and present this video to your group, call us. We’re available to do a presentation of any of our resources.



Synod Assembly—June 2 & 3—Stout University

We hope to see all of you at our display in the Crystal Ballroom on campus, early Friday morning and all day, and until noon on Saturday. Come see what we have brought along, share some great chocolate and pick up some of the great free-bees we will have there.

We look forward to seeing old friends and making lots more new friends!

New books and other resources.



The newest in the Lutheran Voices series is “On Being Lutheran” by Timothy Lull. It has reflections on Church, Theology and Faith with a foreword by Mark S. Hanson. “The freedom that he knew in that loving word of God fueled Tim’s passion and made his life and his words a witness to the gospel to which he fully gave himself. Take and read these words. Filled with the life and joy of Christ, they will leave you more alive, too. They are the witness of a free man, my friend, Tim.” From the review written by David L. Miller.

Speaking of Lutheran Voices, there are new ones coming this spring as well as later on toward fall. Titles: A Life Worth Leading; American Destiny and the Calling of the Church - this spring; Reclaiming the “C” Word - Daring to Be Church Again; Ending Poverty: A 20/20 Vision: A Guide for Individuals and Congregations; God in the Raging Waters: Stories of Love and Service Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita - later in the fall.

“Ending Hunger Now” is a great book by Bob Dole, George McGovern, and Donald E. Messer with a Foreword by Bill Clinton. It definitely brings a challenge to persons of faith. “Hunger is not just a problem for politicians. We all have an ethical and moral obligation to help people who are suffering.”—from the Foreword. An excellent book for small group reading/discussing.

A little book called “What Can I Say?” is a guide to visiting friends and family who are ill. It helps you: avoid the most common mistakes made when visiting the sick; cope with the emotions of illness and healing; convey the four elements of compassion used by gifted healers; find resources for healing and support; and, transform someone’s darkest hour into a time of healing. Excellent helps.

A Handbook to the Liturgy, “Prayer Around the Cross” by Susan Briehl and Tom Witt, is one of the most meaningful services that can be offered in your church. It is from Holden Village, a contemplative worship that can take many forms. It can have a healing emphasis or one of intercessory prayer, held in the dark around the cross illuminated with tea lights. With summer coming, this is an easy and impressive service to speak to all ages. The book gives many helps and suggestions.

Some books just in from Alban: When a Congregation Is Betrayed—Responding to Clergy Misconduct - gives lots of support and help to those who have gone through this; Where 20 or 30 Are Gathered - Leading Worship in the Small Church has lots of excellent ideas; Tell It Like It Is - Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony helps members realize the blessings that come when we tell what we have seen and heard. All three are excellent for small group study/reading.

The new Evangelical Lutheran Worship Kit is in. It has all the information you need to get your creative juices flowing in how you can use this wonderful new resource. Be sure to stop in and check it out!

A wonderful day in Plover.!



What a fabulous time we had at the Energizing Education Day at Plover on March 4! We had over 100 attendees and were treated royally by the folks at Good Shepherd.

Sue Lennartson was the key-note speaker and also a workshop presenter; Greg Kaufmann and Darlene Kalfahs showed their breakout attendees what marvelous things await you on the internet; Allison Thome once again displayed her unique gifts in decorating, planning and teaching; erica page worked her magic with music, games, etc.;

our hosts at Good Shepherd gave some wonderful helps, answered questions during lunch so everyone could get their knowledge and expertise, and just generally took care of us very well; all the breakouts were well done and appreciated by all.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to come to Plover. Every church representative took home something from the drawings held off and on during the day. Snacks were yummy; the noon meal was great!

We are so thankful for the day together!

A neat gift-giving opportunity.....



Here is something I found out about at St. John's Lutheran Church in Spencer last November. Maybe more of you know about it, but it was news to me. Pastor Rebecca Tarras and her congregation were so excited over the Operation Christmas Child. Shoe boxes were being brought in that morning I was there and they had many, many of them.

What you do is take a shoe box, standard size, which you may wrap if you like - lid must be wrapped separately. Decide if your gift will be for a boy or girl and the age category: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. Labels are provided that have "Boy" or "Girl" on them with squares to check for the size category.

The first ingredient to pack in the shoe box is prayer (1 John 5:14). Then, fill the box with a variety of gifts using the list provided as a guide. In a separate envelope you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

Important: Please enclose a check for \$5 or more in the attached envelope to help cover shipping and other costs. Please make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse, and note on the memo line that the gift is for Operation Christmas Child. You may pack more than one box, but each one needs the \$5.

Suggested gifts: Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

School supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or makers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, etc.

Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

Other: hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, sunglasses, flashlights (with extra batteries), ball caps, sock, T-shirts, toy jewelry, hair clips, watches, small picture books, etc.

DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: Used or damaged items; war-related items: toy guns, knives, military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items: snow globes, glass containers; aerosol cans.

If this is something you would like to try in your congregation, call your Resource Center at 715-833-1153 or you could call St John's in Spencer: 715-659-5158.

The organization does accept these boxes all year long shipped to their headquarters. Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham, son of Billy and Ruth Graham. You can go on-line at www.samaritanspurse.org and find out the latest on what they do.

News for your information....



At the monthly conference call that ALRC member Resource Centers participate in with Augsburg Fortress representatives, which was held on April 25th, much good news was shared.



The Akaloo program is creating quite a stir among those of us who have been able to preview the materials. Seminars will be held around the country at many different locations and times. Ours will be held in Menomonie at Stout in the Student Union on Thursday, June 1, from 8am until noon. This is in conjunction with the Synod Assembly, so make your plans to come a day early to take in the seminar. It is an exciting emphasis incorporating intergenerational learning into your educational program. An accompanying CD will be coming out in June. Go on line to register for the seminar by clicking the Augsburg logo on our home page: www.synodresourcecenter.org

The next excitement is the Here We Stand Student site that will be up and running in July. This site will contain lessons that can be used for make-up work, homework, class connections, games, word search, Jeopardy game, word scramble, crossword, just all kinds of student friendly stuff. A fabulous deal: sign up for the 2 years of Here We Stand and get the Student site free! Otherwise, it is priced according to your worship attendance AND you can add it as an upgrade if you are already enrolled in Here.....

The next excitement is No Experience Necessary will be adding 4 new units. Number 5 is available now. The next ones will be scattered through the year. There will be a DVD with each unit including an introduction to the unit in general. This Bible study has caught on very well and the additional units will be just that much more exciting. A fabulous deal: if you order 10 or more of a new unit study books, you will receive the DVD free - a \$20 value!

The next excitement is One Mission Media that will be on-line about July 24. It is a collection of video resources that can be used with the lectionary. It will have great images to use in bulletins, newsletters, programs, wherever you want to add some interest. A book, entitled, "For the Sake of the Gospel" which will also have a DVD and from the Worship Matters series, "A Moving God" will be available at the synod assembly with a 30% reduction. All will work together with this new One Mission Media.

If you need more information on any of the above items, just give a call to your Resource Center, 715-833-1153, and we will try to answer any questions you may have.

Augsburg Fortress have really been working hard to provide people with resources to make their jobs easier or just for pleasure reading, etc. Thanks to them for their hard work and planning great resources!