



The Union



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The advent of our Lord is near.....

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We are excited! October 22-27 we (Greg Kaufmann and I), were in Chicago at Churchwide for an every-other-year meeting of the ALRC - Association of Lutheran Resource Centers. Our gatherings took place right in the Lutheran Center where we can be part of the hub of our faith lives for those 5 days. What a great experience! Over 30 Resource Center directors and staff were part of sharing, meetings, workshops, fun and seriousness, too. We came away with new ideas of how to do things, lots of handouts and give-aways, chocolate puzzle pieces (our theme was "Connecting the Pieces) and a pin made out of puzzle pieces. So if you see me wearing my pin, you'll know where it came from. It's always good to go to gatherings and become renewed in your thoughts, dreams and goals, for yourself personally, and with your job.

Soul Support, which I attended November 4 & 5, is just such an event. If you have never been to one of these great times together as secretaries/bookkeepers in the Northwest Synod, you really need to make plans to attend next year when a very special time is being planned. Be watching Synod mailings for further updates.

We have so many new resources on the shelves it's hard to know which ones to highlight in this limited writing space. Be sure to read through all the pages to

discover what's new. If you have the chance to come to the Center and just browse around, be sure to do it. If you can't, then go to the on-line catalog - www.synodresourcecenter.org - where you can review all the new items right on your computer. Remember, we will send anything to you for your review and then you just send it back or bring it in to the Center. That is your only cost.

While we were in Chicago, I picked up some 4-session bible studies that would be excellent for a Sunday morning adult forum, W/ ELCA groups or for any time to get folks together to study God's word. Titles are: Study; Pray; Serve; and, Invite, and all are from the Call to Discipleship emphasis of 2000.

We have some excellent videos for teaching - How do Lutherans interpret the Bible is a two video set featuring Dr. Mark Allen Powell. It is an excellent resource that congregations/councils/committees/groups should view before digging into ethics discussions. It is in two congregations right now, but should be back in the Center by the first of December. Excellent material!

Thanks for your partnership in this ministry. Promotion of the Resource Center in each congregation is so necessary and vital to our survival. We appreciate all you do as chief communicators in this Synod.