



The Union



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**It's that time
again to bundle up!**

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"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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Everyone, stay warm!....

Can you believe it? 2005! Seems totally impossible. Thank God we haven't had any disasters or nothing too bad for weather. Our snow probably will come yet, but it is needed, so we'll make the best of it when it gets here.

We have just some wonderful resources, some brand new and some that aren't, but all are great for your needs.

One that is just in the door and we haven't had a chance to really look at it, is "Just Neighbors - helping communities of faith help people in need." This is a totally awesome kit. It was highlighted at the ERCG (Ecumenical Resource Center Gathering) held in Tempe, AZ in November. I didn't get to that workshop, but others were so inspired by it. It has everything you need to educate your congregation about poverty. If you would like to see it, I'll bring it to your congregation and demonstrate how it is used. You will enjoy it!

Another new item is a CD on suicide by Walter Wangerin, Jr., called "Chaos of the Heart". For those grieving the loss of a loved one, this is an invaluable tool. If you, or you know of someone who is working with this kind of grief, be sure to make this resource available to them. We also have a number of Lutheran Vespers CD's and audio tapes that would make a wonderful program for a small group, W/ELCA gathering or however you could think to use them.

Keep them in mind.

Another resource you won't want to overlook is the DVD or VHS of "Luther." This is the movie that came out a year ago in theaters. Joseph Fiennes stars as Luther and is a very well done movie. Beginning on Monday, January 10, an education kit will be offered FREE to Lutheran churches, schools and educational ministries on a first come, first served basis. Contained in the kit: a leader's guide with background information and reference material on Luther; five stand-alone, 50 minute education activities (use one or all); The "Getting Saved Game" board and playing cards; full-color participant handouts; links to key scenes in the movie. This is enjoyable for middle-school ages through adult. Call this toll-free number to get your kit: 1-800-836-7862 and mention reference number 003520101. This great resource comes through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Lent is just around the corner. You can go to the on-line catalog to see what we have, or stop in and browse. Another excellent e-mail address to wander through is: www.elca.org/globalmission/lent You will find sermons, bulletin covers, soup/meal ideas and other global mission resources. Be sure to take a look at that.

Thanks, as always, for all your help and support. We couldn't do it without YOU!

The SRC Crew

A great big treat is waiting.....

Don't miss this one!

Your Education/Sunday School staff are in for one great big treat! On Saturday, March 5, 2005, we will again present our 3rd Annual Rotation Model Sunday School Workshop at Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church in Osseo, WI.

Darlene Kalfahs from the East Central Synod Resource Center in Appleton will be with us and people from that synod are also invited to attend. We will hear a whole new batch of ideas and suggestions that have been tried and have worked out in their synod.

A woman from the East Central Synod, Allison Thome, will lead two sessions: The Basics of How to Design a Lesson and Designing Your Own Lesson. These will be in-depth sessions with all kinds of

hints and tips.

There will be something for everyone - whether you are into Rotation for a while or whether you are just starting or trying to decide if it is for your congregation or not.

And, of course, there will be the wonderful snacks and meal put on by the women of Osseo Evangelical. If you were there last year, you remember very well how great the food was.

There will be lots of materials to take home, lots of pointers, suggestions and ideas for you to take back and use in your own setting.

More information will be on the registration form that should be coming out in a week or so. **MARK THE CHURCH CALENDAR NOW** and your personal calendar so you don't miss out on this great workshop.

Pass the word on to the W/ELCA & others.....

A new video from LWR in their "Stand with Africa" campaign is "Peace To This House". It is 16 minutes long and comes with a study guide. The story is about the Maasai people and farmers in the area.

A quarrel broke out between the two factions over water, animals, etc. After many lives were lost and relationships shattered, then they all asked for help. Tensions were eased, but healing the broken community came much harder.

From Jan Anderson, Trinity Lutheran Church Women of Cumberland: "Thank you for the good video on 'Peace To This House.' It was so good how 2 extreme

reactions were worked out together! Very humbling for all of us."

Check this video out for use with your group!



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. We're here to help make life easier for planners!

All kinds of good stuff for ministry....

✓ Two new books from Alban Institute: "Practicing Right Relationship"-Skills for Deepening Purpose, Finding Fulfillment, and Increasing Effectiveness in Your Congregation by Mary K. Sellon & Daniel P. Smith; and "Becoming a Blessed Church"-Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence, and Power by N. Graham Standish.

✓ "Cities of Paul" -CD-ROM from Fortress Press by Helmut Koester with images and interpretations from the Harvard New Testament Archaeology Project.

✓ "I Am Joseph Your Brother" is a 59-minute videotape produced jointly by the Inter-religious Coordinating Council in Israel and the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies in Baltimore MD. It is an excellent unit for a four-part adult or youth education series. Also, from the same folks, a number of copies of "Film, Faith, and Film-Making" which is a viewer's guide to presentations of the Passion of Jesus.

✓ "What's So Amazing About Grace" -a video/book kit by Philip Yancey continues to be very popular with the folks in our Northwest Synod of WI. If you haven't used it for your small group discussion, come check it out. Congregations really like it.

✓ "Renewing Worship" - we have all the editions of this emphasis of our church: New Hymns and Songs; Life Passages; Holy Baptism; Principles for Worship; Congregational Song; Holy Communion; The Church Year; and Daily Prayer. These are excellent materials designed to enhance the worship experience. If you aren't familiar with the series, check them out today!

✓ "The Women in the Early Church" DVD from Mosaic Television of the ELCA. Use this DVD as a way to highlight the gifts and ministry of women in the church.

✓ "Holy Conversations" - Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations. From Alban by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann

✓ "Beginning Ministry Together" - The Alban Handbook for Clergy Transitions by Roy M. Oswald, James M. Heath, and Ann W. Heath.

✓ "Getting the Word Out" - The Alban Guide to Church Communications by Frederick H. Gonnerman—foreword by Martin Marty

✓ "Ignite!" series—Sparking Biblical Curiosity. Biblical Texts about War and Peace; How Lutherans Read the Bible/Biblical Texts that Shock and Appall; Some Biblical Basis for Faith Claims; Biblical Texts that Stand in Tension; Biblical Texts on Sex; Some Biblical Basis for Faith Claims. Excellent discussion materials!

✓ "Sing the Faith" series - Hymns on Prayer; Hymns of Comfort; The Presence of God; Hymns of Grace; Hymns to the Creator; Hymns of Community; Spirituals; Carols of Christmas. Each volume explores the music, poetry, and stories associated with five well-loved hymns of the Christian faith. Participants reflect personally...

✓ "Luther" - DVD and VHS. Excellent production that will be accompanied with a study guide. This will be just a great supplement to your confirmation program. It is for nearly all ages—adults will really appreciate viewing and learning!



Come see
what is
waiting
for you
in the
Resource
Center!
On-line
or in-
person.

It is here, it is here.....!

It is here and boy! has it been worth the wait!

I'm talking about the new "Splash! Pack." It is great material for cradle roll children and their parents. The first pack is for 1-12 months and contains 12 monthly newsletters and a music CD. The second pack is for 13-24 months also with the newsletters and music CD; and the last pack

is for 25-36 months complete with newsletters and music CD.

The packs are educational, fun, and full of ideas for bring faith into the everyday life of parents and children. It's easy to connect with parents and families every month. A chart on the back of each pack makes keeping track of your mailings easy. It's a snap to mail the newsletters—

just remove from the folder, fold the sheet in half, tape it shut, address and add your return address, stamp and mail!

What a great resource!



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

HELLO, ONE AND ALL! The Resource Center is always ready to go on the road! 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 about the Center, Companion Synods—Brazil or Malawi—education curriculum, other excitement in the Synod, any time during the week, day or evening. Call: 715-833-1153 or e-mail gkaufmann@synodresourcecenter.org and tell us what you want us to do. 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” for available dates. We on the road Jan. 9 to First in Amery, Jan. 30 to Fristad in Centuria.



The Resource Center
On The Road!

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.



Piling up
ideas like
SNOW!

(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!)

ARE YOU USING THE ACTION PACKET that comes every other month from Churchwide? There are so many good things for various leaders in the congregation in the packet. Don’t forget to go through it and give the items to the important folks in your leadership.

AS WAS LISTED ON THE FIRST PAGE—the DVD or video of the “Luther” film is now available at your Resource Center. There will be a study coming out on Monday that is free for Lutheran churches. Get that phone number and reference number and call for your FREE study. Written by Dr. Mark Edwards, Jr., and his daughter, Teon, it is good to have in your possession. It is great for confirmation or adults. Thanks to Thrivent Financial for providing this material.

DON’T FORGET TO GET THE WORD OUT to your education folks about the Rotation Model Sunday School workshop coming up on March 5. It will be held at Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church in Osseo, WI. Registration forms with all the information will be coming out in the next week or two. Mark those dates now—you won’t be sorry you took the time to be at this workshop!

IF YOUR CONGREGATION did not take a special offering for the Resource Center in December or if they have not put the Center in the budget, please make a special effort to talk to your pastor about it and see if a date can be scheduled for the offering or if your Council will consider putting us in the yearly budget. Thanks for taking this seriously and doing something about the shortfall that has occurred in our synod.

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

