

The Union



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Waiting for the LAST leaf to fall!

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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

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

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

The beautiful season of fall is coming....

This year has gone by so fast. Fall is upon us and you know what comes next - SNOW! For some, it is absolutely great. For others, it is something less than great! Yet, whatever comes, we praise God and live our lives in that joy and grace.

What a wonderful time at Soul Support this year. We left from our last pick-up point, Black River Falls and arrived in Chicago Monday afternoon after taking the scenic route to the Lutheran Center. We were welcomed by Mim Woolbert, communications expert at the Center and then we scattered to the elevators for the 11th floor. Dick Bruesehoff, Laura Barkenquast, Deb Myers and Marty Smith spoke to the group. We got back on the bus and went to our motel for the evening.

In the morning, after a light breakfast, we left for the Lutheran Center again. We began our day with worship in the chapel that was conducted in Spanish, except for the sermon and a few other parts of the service. It was a neat experience.

The speakers, Pastor Kevin Jacobson, Sonia Solomonson and Kate Elliot were just great. We were taken on a tour of the Lutheran offices. How interesting to see where all the work gets done and passed on down to the congregations throughout church wide. Thanks so much to Sue Hildebrand for all her work in

making this happen for us.

We finished by shopping in the Augsburg Fortress Bookstore located right by the main door to the building. All were tired but happy and glad for the wonderful time together.

As we head into fall, your Resource Center has some great resources just waiting to be checked out and used. Check the on-line catalog or come in and see us. You have no idea how many things are available to help everyone do their jobs easier and more completely.

We have some really nice things for Thanksgiving/Fall for programs, children's time and dramas.

Advent is just around the corner. Many good things are here to enhance the worship experience of your congregation.

Inside The Union is quite a number of things—some are brand new and some are old friends. Be sure to check the on-line catalog for lots of goodies.

The big news is the VBS workshop that we will have here on Nov. 20, a Saturday, from 9am to noon. Read the article on page 3.

The DVD-Baptismal Journey is going great guns. We're so excited about it and what it can do for congregational programs everywhere. Pastors are really anxious to view it. Simply call or e-mail the Center to order yours.

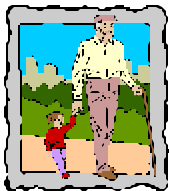
Thanks again for all your wonderful support in your congregation. Without it, we couldn't be here!

The SRC Crew

Some excellent new items.....

Grandparenting

"Good Grandparenting", a DVD with a bonus feature: The Sandwich Generation. This is produced by the ELCA Mosaic Department.



When your children have children, you become a grandparent. That's the easy part. But what is a good grandparent? What is a faithful grandparent?

Today there are more grandparents than ever. Nearly 60 million Americans are over the age of 55, and grandparenting roles once modeled by their grandparents have changed dramatically.



Americans live longer and are more mobile than any generation before. High divorce rates and single-parent homes have opened new roles for grandparents as primary caregivers and 4 million grandparents are primarily responsible for raising their grandchildren.

Some grandparents are legally prevented from seeing, or even contacting their grandchildren. Other older adults

are fulfilling non-biological grandparenting roles by being surrogate grandparents.

Given the many changes in our society and in the make-up of the family, many grandparents wonder what their roles are. What do children need and how can grandparents use their talents and influence to fulfill those needs?

This is a must-see DVD!

Here is an absolutely great gift item, either for yourself or someone else you think highly of. It's called, "The Family Christmas Cookbook". This book contains best-loved recipes from "The Christmas Annual" published each Christmas by Augsburg Fortress for years and years. Beyond traditional Christmas recipes from around the world, this delightful cookbook features: Full-color interior, stories about customs that accompany each recipe, and ideas for helping children participate. Include your own recipes or traditions on the pages provided to make this cookbook a family keepsake.



Family cooking

Firelight is here!.....

The new Firelight Rotation model Sunday School curriculum is here.

The first one is called, "This is most certainly true." It is set up for ages 2-3 up through 5th & 6th grades. Maybe we're finally getting smart by teaching the very young the Lord's Prayer, 10 Commandments and all the other parts of the catechism. It is just exciting to see how this is set up for young learners to learn!

Beautiful posters highlighting communion, baptism, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments add beauty and teaching opportunities.



The NEXT new rotation model, called "Circle of Seasons-Living the Church Year" is also on our shelves. What an exciting Bible learning curriculum. This, too, is set up for ages 2-3 through the 5th & 6th grades.

More beautiful posters, a CD with take home reproducible pages carry on the learning ability of the student and family. There are lots of good helps in the leader guides that will make each class time special.

Both of these new curricula will be a great addition to your Sunday School. You can check them out anytime!



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....

✓ A new set of books from Augsburg Fortress is generating a lot of excitement! "Why Worship Matters" by Robert A. Rimbo contains 20 bite-sized essays with questions following each one about why we do what we do in church; "Daily Bread-Holy Meal—Opening the Gifts of Holy Communion" by Samuel Torvend. It again has short chapters with questions for discussion following. It talks about the meaning of Communion; "A Place of Encounter-Renewing Worship Spaces" by D. Foy Christopherson. This one takes us to the place where we worship and explores the importance of our worshiping environment; "A Three-Year Banquet-The Lectionary for the Assembly" by Gail Ramshaw. Gail has gone through the how's and why's of the lectionary, where it came from and what it means for our worship. All four books are "must" reading for pastors and congregations.

✓ "One Bread, One Body" by Michael Hawn. This book explores the worship experience and what can be done about it. Excellent reading!

✓ "Stand Up, Sit Down, Sing, Pray..." by Patti Thisted Arthur. Why we do what we do in Lutheran worship. An excellent guide through worship for grade schoolers right on up through adults who often haven't a clue what's behind worship. Excellent!

✓ "Turn my heart" by Susan Briehl & Marty Haugen. This book is for anyone who is wounded or weeping, anyone making the journey toward healing and hope....Here are psalms of longing and lament, words of comfort and courage, and songs of sadness and renewed joy. Here is a guide to prayer, whether you are by yourself or with others. Here, too, are simple prayer services for times when one you love nears death or when you, or others, need healing or long to be consoled.

✓ "Remember Who You Are" by William H. Willimon, is about baptism, a model for Christian life in day-to-day living. It includes an educational guide for small group use.

✓ "The Power of Asset Mapping" by Luther K. Snow. How your congregation can act on its gifts. An operating manual for transitions in congregations.

✓ "Grieving the Death of a Pet" by Betty J. Carmack who offers readers support when dealing with the loss of a pet.

✓ "The Practicing Congregation" by Diana Butler Bass. She helps us to look afresh at the church in our era.

✓ "The Hidden Lives of Congregations" by Israel Galindo. A valuable tool to help focus ministry in the church.

✓ "More Teaching Kids to Love the Earth" by Jim Kasperson & Marina Lachecki encourages children to love, trust, and nurture the earth.

✓ "Little Brother Moose" by Jim Kasperson helps all of us appreciate the inner workings of nature and ourselves.



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

A VBS workshop is coming.....!

You asked for it! It is coming! A VBS workshop, that is. November 20, 2004—a Saturday morning from 9am to noon at First Lutheran Church, 1005 Oxford Avenue in Eau Claire.

Leslee Nestingen, Augsburg Fortress rep, will be here and you are going to love it! Notify your VBS coordinator right away. There will also be an item on

Synod Clips about it.

If orders are placed before the first of the year, you will receive a set of finger puppets and stage free! Augsburg Fortress had great success with Davey & Goliath—Camp Creation, 2004. It was an easy, complete program. This year, Davey & Goliath Circus Celebration, 2005, will be even better.



We're planning a very special three hour presentation, so you won't want to miss it. No need to pre-register, just COME!



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.



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. (Heard about Church: One congregation used one of the Kerygma Bible studies that has 30 sessions; the student book cost \$30, so the pastor suggested to the students to bring \$1 to every session and by the time they were done, their book was paid for. Coffee and cookies were supplies each time and highly enjoyed!)



(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!)

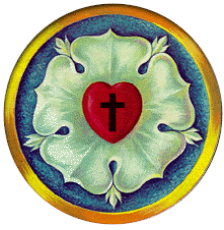


AN EVENT FOR OUR SYNOD—Be sure to read page 5 of the newsletter. A Lay School of Ministry sponsored retreat is coming to our Synod on October 29 and 30. Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe of our companion Synod of Malawi will be here for a Friday evening and a Saturday presentation. This is the only place he will be appearing for this year. He will be working on his thesis at Luther Seminary and needs to be there to finish. Presentations and refreshments will be at Chetek Lutheran Church in Chetek; housing will be at Luther Park Bible Camp. Get your reservations in soon to the Resource Center, 1005 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703 or call 715-833-1153. This is going to be a great time!

DON'T FORGET ABOUT the Resource Center as budget time is coming up in many congregations. We get lots of praise from folks in person, on-line, in the mail, and on the telephone. It makes us feel like we are doing a great thing for all congregations. Remember, we need your monetary support!

YOUR RESOURCE CENTER Director, Greg Kaufmann, and assistant director, Bonnie Weber will be in Tempe, Arizona, November 11-16, to be in on the ERCG (Ecumenical Resource Center Gathering) which is held every other year. This is a great time of sharing and learning with our colleagues around the United States. Volunteers will hold down the fort here at 1005 Oxford Avenue: Diane, Delores and Vicki. Business will go on as usual. Be sure to stop in and visit.





What's It Like to be a Lutheran in Malawi?

You are invited to the following retreat with Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe, hosted by the *Lay School of Ministry*. This will be a wonderful time of sharing and learning more about our companions in Malawi. **You won't want to miss it!** Please advertise it far and wide in your congregation and bring lots of folks to this event. Gain a common understanding of the ministry happening in Malawi and a vision for further developing our companion synod relationship!

Fall Retreat: October 29-30, 2004. "*What's It Like to be a Lutheran in Malawi?*" Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi* will take us on a journey through the birth, growth, and ongoing development of the ELCM. Emphasis will be placed on how the church is trying to impact the many social issues facing the people of Malawi.

This retreat is open to all congregational members and clergy of the Synod. This will be the only opportunity to meet Bishop Bvumbwe while he is here completing his doctoral thesis.

Where: Chetek Lutheran Church with overnight accommodations available at Luther Park Bible Camp. There is also a Super 8 motel in Chetek.

Cost per person: \$25 commuters,

\$40 includes overnight in cabins at Luther Park,

\$50 for a private room in either the Welcome Center or Shalom Center (Limited to 14 rooms only-first come, first-served).

Times: Friday, October 29 7:00-9:00 p.m.;
Saturday, October 30 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Deadline for registration: Wednesday, Oct 27th.

To register and/or to reserve a room at Luther Park, contact:

Synod Resource Center, Call 715-833-1153,

Email, staff@synodresourcecenter.org,

or mail: 1005 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Checks should be made out to: NW Synod of Wisconsin

The Lay School of Ministry Board has voted to support the following two areas of synod ministries by giving all proceeds after expenses to the Malawi Common Basket, the Malawi Choir trip in 2006, and the Synod Resource Center.