



# The Union



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**Rally Day is coming!**

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## Fall is on the way.....

Last time I wrote that summer was coming. Well, I guess it's here and almost over with! Can you believe how fast the summer has flown by? One person I talked with said she thinks it's going to be an early winter because squirrels are packing away stuff, geese are gathering, the orioles have left, and the acorns are already falling. Who knows? We'll have to see if her predictions come true.

Greg & I were in Milwaukee for the Church Wide Assembly, August 11-17 with our booths for the ALRC (Association of Lutheran Resource Centers). The gathering was held in the Mid West Convention Center on Wisconsin Avenue. It is a huge building. We and Augsburg Fortress were in a great big room that had enough space for them and us PLUS feed everyone (nearly 2,000) without being the least bit crowded. What a place!

But what a privilege to see our ELCA in action. Bishop Hanson is a master at running the assembly with humor, knowledge and compassion. What wonderful speakers, singing, ethnic performances, and shared information. And the worship services! You just can't imagine how powerful they were with communion, healing, singing, different preachers each time as well as assistants, readers, liturgical dancing and other unique things in worship. It was a great experience!

We brought back some wonderful, new resources from Augsburg. Two books that I'm really excited about are: "School Year, Church Year - Customs and Decorations for the Classroom" and "To Crown the Year - Decorating the Church Through the Seasons". Both are filled with ideas and suggestions to make the classroom/sanctuary/narthex, wherever you want to give the feeling of the season a little more meaning.

Read about other new things on page 3.

As you will read on an inside page, we are already thinking about VBS! Augsburg Fortress will have their 2004 kit ready to go by October 15. If you place your order for the kit BEFORE Dec. 31, 2003, you will receive The Well, which costs \$40, free! There is a picture of it on the insert, as well as in the article that we took at the Church Wide Assembly. So, we are anticipating a workshop here at the Center (First Lutheran Church lounge) on Nov. 15. You can read more about the kit on the insert. Be sure to advertise this event in every newsletter, bulletin-as appropriate, on every bulletin board in the building, and, of course, by word of mouth! This will be major stuff for your planning crew.

As always, we thank you for your partnership in the important work of the Resource Center. Without your help in advertising, we would be really unknown & unused!

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