

# The Union



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



## Christmas is over, Lent is coming....

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Letter to all	1
Dates to remember	2
Where are we safe	2
New stuff	3
Did you know...?	3
Bits & Pieces	4

Yes, Christmas is over. It all seems like a long time ago, doesn't it? Some of us plan for Christmas nearly all year long, so when it's over, we almost feel like we've lost something and just can't find it! How beautiful our Moravian Star was during the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany seasons hanging in the window. It was so nice when all the lights were off in our office and it could shine out in the darkness, uncontested, in all its beauty. I hope some of you got to see it!

But now, Ash Wednesday is February 25 and what a busy time the Lenten season is in the church office. Secretaries have more bulletins to produce and fold, more services to make sure they come off as expected, and more organization to do than usual. We have some great resources to aid in that organization and planning.

Check us out on the on-line catalog or come in and browse around. We have the excellent "Picture Journey Through Lent" - pictures are modern day - with many thought provoking opportunities for discussion. Great for an adult forum. The whole thing is on a slide presentation, too.

There are others, such as a Seder Feast - if you have never tried this in your congregation, you might want to do it. It has such meaning for Lent/Easter. We have a couple of books you can use for this purpose. There are some

great devotionals out, either personal or for groups - "Never Said a Mumbalin' Word" is written on the spirituals which is just a great resource; "Scripture Out Loud" contains dramatic readings for Lent and Easter, some are only a few minutes long with a few readers and non-speaking parts and simple props, to 8-10 readers lasting 10-12 minutes. All are very meaningful and thought-provoking. We also have good materials from Alternatives for Simple Living. One is called, "Who's Risen From the Dead, Anyway?" This one has all kinds of resources for Lent and Easter that you can adapt for your situation.

This is just a quick sampling of a few things - there are so many more....Be sure to contact us in the Resource Center. We're here to help you.

Two dates you will want to start publicizing are: March 6 and April 3. Read inside and on the insert for further information.

The BIG news for all of us is that The Union is now electronic! It will be far easier and more cost effective sending it to you on your computers. And, PLEASE, PLEASE share it with your pastor and whom-ever else needs to know what the Center is offering. It is in a pdf file that you can readily download and print as many copies as you need.

Thanks for your support and enthusiasm for the Resource Center!

*"The Union" published 8 times a year by 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;  
Kathy Wohlers, Diane Kaufmann,  
Delores Harrison, Vicki Fankhauser,  
Tim & Gay Fehr, Dennis Wohlers, & Howard Weber, volunteers.*

## Two dates to get on your calendars.....

March 6 will be a great day for all Rotation Model Sunday School leaders. Last year in June, you may remember, we met at Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church. Darlene Kal-fahs, Resource Center director from Appleton, was our main speaker/leader.

Well, good news! We're doing another session, at Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 6 from 9am - 2pm with a delicious lunch and snacks, AND Darlene will be with us again. This Rotation Model Sunday School is one of her main areas of expertise. She conducts many workshops in her synod, East Central, and has lots of wonderful lessons on her web site.

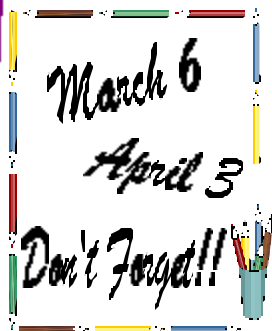
First, get your interested folks lined up, then call the Resource Center to register, and then, COME ON MARCH 6 at 8:30am for registration. It doesn't matter if you've been doing Rotation for a year or longer, or just thinking about doing

it. There will be something for everyone that day. You'll receive some great things to take home as well as an abundance of inspiration for starting/continuing Rotation Model Sunday School. Cost is \$15 per person with a maximum of \$45 per church.

One more thought: Bring questions you would like to ask. That way, your concerns can be met and more than likely, help others with your questions.

The other date is April 3, 9am to 2pm, at the Resource Center/First Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. This will be our fourth annual Education Day for Sunday School/Confirmation/VBS materials. There are great resources out there for you to make use of in your setting. The same prices will apply, including a delicious lunch: \$15 per person and a maximum of \$45 per church. We will have our usual drawings for give aways, some great speakers, great ideas and the works!

Circle those dates, publicize, and BE HERE for two gr-r-r-reat events!



## Where are we safe?!?.....

Maybe all of you have read this one before, but I thought I would include it. It's a neat filler for your newsletter.

How to stay safe in the world today

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. Above all else, avoid hospitals.

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!



Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.



**FOR SAFETY'S SAKE - Attend church and read your Bible ... IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!**



**Remember secretaries, this publication is NOT for your eyes only! Don't forget to pass it on to others - staff/leaders - who need to know what's goin' on at the Resource Center! Make copies if you can't BEAR to give up the original!**

## New stuff, new stuff, new stuff....

We have a few new items—not as many new things as we would like to be able to provide for congregational leaders, but thanks to Augsburg Fortress who sends us gratis copies of some of their hot-off-the-press publications occasionally. There are lots of things here for you to use—things I’m sure will be new to you.

As I mentioned in the last edition, “How Do Lutherans Interpret the Bible” by Dr. Mark Allen Powell, is a “must see” for each congregation. The best time to explore these two videos would be now, BEFORE any discussion in your congregation on the sexuality issue. They are checked out very regularly. Call soon to reserve it for your classes. Dr. Craig Nesson’s new book—“Many Members, Yet One Body” is also in high demand. It’s here—a short, easy, good read. Reserve both resources now!

We have a copy of the new hymnal in the Renewing Worship series called, New Hymns and Songs. This is not the one that is being worked on to replace the LBW, but is offered for testing and evaluating. There is an evaluation form in the back of the book to be filled out by those using it, and Augsburg Fortress is urgently requesting your help. If you use the book, please let them know what you think of the choices, suggestions, etc. Feedback will help to shape the final outcome.

Another offering in the Renewing Worship Series is the latest, “Presiding at the Assembly”. Not presuming to promote one “right” way of presiding, it calls for considering how presiding communicates the gospel and facilitates the assembly’s work. Filled with ideas and suggestions, it’s an excellent addition to your pastor’s library.

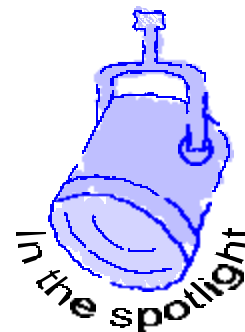
We have a video called, “Korea’s Hope: Reconciliation and Peace” that would be great for an adult forum or small group study. This video seeks to help American Christians understand why the question of North Korea has become such an issue for our government. It has a study guide and thoughtful questions.

An excellent study for Lent is from the Augsburg Adult Bible Studies series. This one is, “Jesus Fulfills His Mission (Passion Narratives)” and “Living Expectantly (1,2 Thessalonians; Revelation)”. A thirteen session study, it would be very meaningful during Lent and following Easter. The writer is Rev. Dave Kehret.

A great book has been received at our Resource Center depicting the life of Martin Luther in colored pictures and story that covers his life very well. This is part of an exhibition that started in Winnipeg, Canada this last summer at the Lutheran World Federation gathering and has gone to various cities in the United States and will continue in Northern Europe and Southern Africa. This would be a great resource for confirmation study or for adults wanting to know more about the Great Reformer.

The Lutheran Voices Series has really been popular at the Center. Each book includes end-of-chapter questions for self-study, small group work, and congregational book clubs. Two new books in the series will be here shortly: “Public Church: For the Life of the World” by Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda and “Getting Ready for the New Life: Facing Illness or Death with the Word and Prayers” by Richard F. Bansemer.

Come in and see what we have that can help your ministry.



Now is the time to visit the RC, either in person or on-line. Help is waiting!

## Did you know...?

...Witness materials for the second semester and Life Together for February 29 to May 30, 2004 are here. If you are thinking about using either of these top-notch Sunday School curricula, come in and look it over first, here at the Resource Center. You can make better decisions for your staff and children if you can look at different choices, first-hand.

The Resource Center is willing to come to your church on Sunday morning or any evening with all kinds of resources to help you spread the Word.

This last Sunday we were at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Greenwood; on the last weekend in February we will be at First Lutheran in New Richmond for Saturday evening services

and on Sunday morning. During the summer we will be at North Valley in Centuria in June and at Nazareth Lutheran in Withee in July.

We will also be at the Council Leadership Training days and the W/ELCA Convention the end of April.

We’re here for you!



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



**HELLO, ONE AND ALL!** The Resource Center is alive and well! 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 any time during the week, day or evening. Call: 715-833-1153 or e-mail [gkaufmann@synodresourcecenter.org](mailto:gkaufmann@synodresourcecenter.org) Also, check the website [www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org) for openings! Click on the logo in the lower left-hand corner, and then "Resource Center on the go".

**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. (We heard about a church who had 1' x 18' strips of cloth on the pews so at the appropriate time during the morning Sunday School program, all worshipers came forward with the cloth strips and put them in the wooden cradle for the Baby. A neat visual for everyone—truly, Cloth for the Cradle!)



(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!)

**HAVE YOU BEEN PROMOTING** the new on-line magazine for women, Café? I had the particulars in the last Union: Each issue is centered around a hot topic such as fair trade, sexuality, the environment, finances, and spirituality, all viewed through a faith-focused lens. To subscribe call 773-380-2744; send e-mail to [cafe@elca.org](mailto:cafe@elca.org); or access Café at the Women of the ELCA website at [www.elca.org/wocafe](http://www.elca.org/wocafe) This can be such a fulfilling publication for all women, regardless of their age.

**SOMETHING NEW ON THE WEB SITE OPEN FILES** is a wonderful Lenten calendar with devotions, pictures, ideas of things to do as a family, reproducible and just great. Go to the site and click on recent editions. This was created by two sisters who live in Medford, Hildegard and Loretta Kuse. You will be amazed at how helpful it is. These two ladies are a fountain of information and resources. We hope to receive more of their creations. Other Lenten helps are under the Personal Growth button as well as under the Worship heading.

**HOPEFULLY, YOU HAVE BEEN CHECKING** the Recent Editions feature on our home page often. The current month is listed there along with past months contributions. New ideas have been going up very regularly. A full range of subjects await you there! If you are into knitting, click on the new one about mittens.

**THE ON-LINE CATALOG** has over 2,900 resources as of today, February 11. Be sure to go there and search for your wanted item. We just might have it. If you can't find it, call us. One young lady came in today looking for devotions for the Council meeting tonight. We had some things that are not on the catalog. She was able to find something to help her make devotion time more meaningful.



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