



# The Union



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## Two great Saturdays! . . .

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What a wonderful two-Saturdays-in-a-row we were privileged to be part of in March!

First, it was the Rotation Model Sunday School Saturday, March 17 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Neenah. About 80 people were in attendance and took part in some delightful workshops. AND one of the most enjoyable sessions, according to the Evaluation Forms, was the Large Group presentation, 7-member panel discussion. It was a time for questions and answers, suggestions, trials and errors, just all kinds of exchange.

The church gymnasium, where we gathered, ate, and displays were set up, was decorated and so welcoming. Fresh fruit kabobs, tiny muffins, and pastries were devoured by the attendees.

We had Irish Stew for lunch, which was delicious, and a dazzling assortment of cake, bars, cookies, and other delights!

It was a great day and many thanks to everyone who attended, those who presented, planned, cooked, cleaned up, and worked so hard to make it happen.

Now, for the second Saturday we experienced – March 24 at Tomahawk, WI – High Tech...High Touch: Tools for Meaningful Ministry. It was totally awesome! When we started planning for it, we thought if we get 100 folks, we will be happy. The registrations kept rolling in until a total of 244

was reached and 79 churches were represented from 4 states!! Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and all points in Wisconsin were there. Needless to say, we were beyond happy, not to mention overwhelmed! It was wonderful being at Grace Lutheran Church – their hospitality was fabulous and even included nursery privileges for the little ones. One of the mothers said she would not have been able to attend if the nursery hadn't been available.

Robert Driver-Bishop held two great workshops; Beth Lewis gave the keynote address; and, other presenters were ones in the area of our two synods who have worked with technology in their own congregations.

Presenters were great, the facility was wonderful, and the food was fabulous. Evaluation comments were very appreciative: I wish we would have had something like this sooner; thanks for planning something like this; you will be doing this same thing, won't you, closer to Illinois so we won't have to drive so far?; we have learned so much and are going home with some great ideas and possibilities. These are just some of the comments we received.

We are grateful for all the people who planned, came, worked, helped in any way to make this event happen. I'm sure you will be seeing pictures....

SRC Crew

*"The Union" e-mailed during the year-[www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org) by the Northwest Synod of WI Resource Center at 1005 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703.*

*Center hours: 9:30am to 5:00pm daily; special times by appointment [staff@synodresourcecenter.org](mailto:staff@synodresourcecenter.org)*

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*Rev. Greg Kaufmann, director;  
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## New stuff for programs, small groups, etc. . . .



**“Sharing the Easter Faith with Children” - Helping Children Observe Lent and Celebrate Easter is a great resource that contains materials for children from birth to age 12; includes reproducible booklet for parents. Contains liturgies, guides to planning worship and is a great guide for adult study.**

**“Hosanna - A Spiritual Journey Through Holy Week” is a five session course study for Holy Week consideration from Kerygma. In true Kerygma tradition, it is a great, meaningful study for adults.**

**“No Experience Necessary” units 5, 6, and 7 complete with dvds by the authors, Kelly Fryer and Rolf Jacobson. These studies are unique and thought-provoking. Try them in your congregation!**

**“Jacob’s Ladder” dvds are something different geared for ages 10-15. Teens journey to Bible times and experience the stories firsthand, finding wisdom for today. Some of the Old Testament personalities covered are: Gideon, Naomi & Ruth, Ruth & Boaz, Samuel, Saul - in different episodes, and David. These are great for your confirmation classes, etc.**

**“Ordinary to Extraordinary” - a dvd from Lutheran World Relief that follows quilts, layettes, kits and soap as they are distributed to our brothers and sisters in impoverished lands. Twelve minutes in length.**

**“No Greater Love” - a 16 minute dvd from 1956 when refugees flee from Communist Hungary following the demise of a revolution against Soviet occupation. Great discussion starter.**

**“Given to Him” is a worship video with lots of beautiful footage and music that you will love to listen to and watch. Scenery and animals make this a memorable viewing.**

**“Created by God” is a wonderful sex education unit that treats this subject very well and completely. It has a loose leaf notebook for the leader guide and a student book that is very well written. Parents and children alike will appreciate this publication; leaders will be grateful for the ease in presenting the subject. Retreats are encouraged when parents and young folks can attend.**

**“The Holy Spirit” is the newest Mosaic dvd from the ELCA. It is a great resource, in true Mosaic tradition, that can be used for adult education, Bible study, or small group settings. So useful to introduce a foundation of the Christian faith.**

**We also have “Frost Among the Eskimos” which is the memoirs of Helen Frost, missionary in Alaska from 1926 to 1961. Amazing stories of survival in a huge country. Great reading!**



**We have so many GR-r-r-EAT resources here at the Center. You have to see them to believe them. We can't possible highlight each one in “The Union”. You simply MUST come and browse. The on-line catalog is great - don't forget to go there to read about what we have. Anytime you are in Eau Claire, just stop in and see what is available.**

**Thanks for your continued support of YOUR Resource Center!**

## New books and other resources. . . .



If you are looking for something new for year-long stewardship, we have the newest from the ELCA, “Stories to Tell & Gifts to Share”. It’s a resource designed to guide members toward daily stewardship... we live gracefully and gratefully because of the love of God in Christ....

Another great stewardship program is the one designed right here at First Lutheran Church by Pr. Duane Pederson, called “Hooked on a Mission”. Everything you need to make this program come true for your congregation is contained on a CD.

A new, test marketing publication, “The Little Lutheran” aimed at children age 6 and younger is here at the Center. It will appear 10 times per year and will likely launch with the July-August issue. If you want a sneak preview, come and see....!

Some great little Easter books that are new in your Center are: “A Jelly-Bean Easter—Three Dramas for Children”; “The Symbols Speak—A Story for Easter in English and Spanish text; “Easter A to Z—Every Letter Tells A Story”; “One Surprising Morning” in English and Spanish. These are all excellent ways to celebrate this wonderful time of year with the younger crowd who can lead us in worship.

The latest Lutheran Voices additions are: “Living Lutheran - Renewing your Congregation” by Dave Daubert. “If millions of people are going to meet Jesus and discover in him the face of a God who loves them, our churches are going to have to change and get back out in the world making difference.” from the Preface. And, “Holy Purpose-The Blessings of Service, Obedience, and Faith” by Carolyn Coon Mowchan. This book is for anyone who is trying to sort out the increasingly anxious questions and confusing conversations about God’s presence in their lives. Both have questions at the end of each chapter making them, as with all Lutheran Voices publications, excellent for group study.

As a result of being in Tomahawk for the technology workshop, Augsburg Fortress provided books for us to give to every church in attendance. The book is, “For the Sake of the Gospel” by Kent V. Wilson. It has lots of tips, suggestions, examples, and ideas plus a DVD with lots more “stuff” to help you plan and create great worship services.

“God Gave Us You” is a wonderful story using polar bears for family actors. A great story for us to tell to our little “bears” about how they came to be in our family.

“The Parable of the Lily” is a cute story about a little girl whose grandfather helps her understand the power of grace, forgiveness and the true meaning of Easter.

Check the on-line catalog for more information on these resources.

## The dates for Synod Assembly are June 1 & 2. . . . !

The dates for the annual Northwest Synod of Wisconsin assembly are June 1 & 2 at Stout University in Menomonie.

Even if you aren’t voting delegates, you can still attend as “visitors” and be part of this momentous occasion.

It is a great feeling to see how our church handles the business that comes before them—everyone has a chance to express their opinions at the microphones, and vote with the green card, red card or yellow card.

There will also be a celebration banquet held for Bishop Berg Friday evening for all to attend.

This year, the vote for a new bishop is so important to all of us. The ecclesiastical ballot allows anyone in the United States who is ordained to be eligible for nomination. That makes it a very interesting process with a lot of names able to be brought forth for consideration.

Make your attendance at this important gathering a priority. Your Resource Center will be there, as usual, with a vast array of excellent resources that can be checked out right there. It’s always a lot of fun to be involved in the history of our church!

## Items for your newsletter . . . . .



### Here are items for your newsletter/bulletin all ready for you to cut and paste.

- The annual Northwest Synod of Wisconsin assembly will be held June 1 & 2 at Stout University. Make your plans now to be there. If you are not a voting member, you can still go as “visitors” and be part of this momentous occasion. Talk to your pastor or church secretary about signing up to go.
- Remember to contact your Synod Resource Center, 715-833-1153, for information about the Lay School of Ministry. We have some registrations in for the class this fall. Call today and an informational packet with a registration form will be sent to you pronto!
- The newest DVD from Lutheran World Relief, “Ordinary to Extraordinary” is now at your Resource Center. If you want to reserve it for a program, call today. First come, first served. A list will be kept for those who want to show it. It’s only 12 minutes in length, so you can easily work it into the day.
- When you are planning for fall, curriculum, Bible study or other programs, don’t forget to contact your Synod Resource Center for ideas and helps to do what you need to do. Staff members stand ready to come and help you any way we can. Call 715-833-1153 or email [staff@synodresourcecenter.org](mailto:staff@synodresourcecenter.org) We’ll come to you or you come to us.
- An idea seen at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Neenah: The Lutheran Handbook in every pew along with the hymnals. They are read consistently and faithfully. “One of the best things we have ever done”, was a comment from a member there.
- “Thanks be to God!” is an 8 -minute DVD from Bishop Mark Hanson that could be shown to church councils, WELCA groups, Youth Group meetings and any other groups in your congregation. If you would like to preview it, contact your Synod Resource Center soon.
- An event you won’t want to miss: Milestone Ministry Conference on Monday, July 30 - Wednesday, August 1, 2007 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, MN. Discounts for Teams, Staff, and Pastors. Details and Registration at: [www.tyfi.org](http://www.tyfi.org) Milestone Ministry is a wonderful way for a congregation to be involved in the lives of babies at baptism right on through adulthood. Call 715-833-1153 if you need more information.

## News for your information. . . .



**NEWS FLASH** – Next Year – The annual Rotation Sunday School Workshop will be held in the Northwest Synod, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. April 5, 2008 needs to be marked on your calendars right away. Get the word out to all so that everyone can take advantage of a great, learning day. Plans are due to begin very soon. Any thoughts or ideas? Call me, 715-833-1153.

Come to meet our companion synods officials on June 5, 6:30-8:30 at Bethany Lutheran Church, Rice Lake. Bishop Joseph and Maria Bvumbwe from Malawi, and the Pastor President Waldir Trebien and Rev. Armin Hollas from Sinodo Centro Companha Sul, Brazil. This will be a special time of being together for planning future events together. Advertise this event in your congregations, especially if you are a matched congregation. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Please remember to consistently list the Synod Resource Center in your newsletter.** Contact information: phone number-715-833-1153, fax number-715-833-1156, mailing address-1005 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire WI 54703, and email address-[staff@synodresourcecenter.org](mailto:staff@synodresourcecenter.org), are so important to get out to your readers on a regular basis. To have those contacts at their fingertips is so handy. We really appreciate your help in the getting the word out to everyone that we’re here to help and to make their work easier. Thanks!