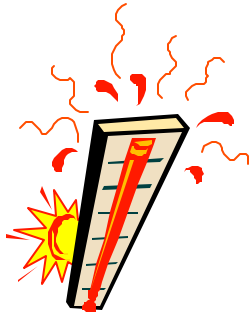


# The Union



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



**Summer is HERE!**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Letter to all	1
New stuff	2
Plea for returns	2
In the spotlight	3
Did you know...?	3
Bits & Pieces	4
2 inserts	5/6

*"The Union" e-mailed during the year-[www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://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](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org)*

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## The crazy, hazy, lazy days of summer....

Hi to all,

Summer is in full swing! The Fourth of July, 2004, is history. Vacations are being enjoyed, camping or sight-seeing, and everyone has put church programs and planning on the back burner.

Your Resource Center is going full speed! Folks have sent in Open File items which the team has been busy formatting and putting in the proper file location. Be sure to check "Recent Additions" on the home page of the web site, or "Past Recent Additions" for the new stuff.

One very important item I want to bring to your attention is happening September 13 & 14 - Soul Support. Secretaries and bookkeepers in our Synod are eligible to attend. This year we are traveling to Church Wide in Chicago to visit The Lutheran Center. How exciting it will be! Brochures are coming out very soon. Make plans now to be part of this wonderful adventure. You won't be sorry you took the time (leave Monday, return Tuesday) to get on the bus headed south. Refreshments, games, visiting, videos and connecting will be just some of the highlights AND that's just the bus trip!

After we arrive, we'll visit the Center, listen to speakers, go to the hotel for a delicious banquet with drawings and fun, swimming/relaxing time.

Then on Tuesday, we'll start

with worship at the Lutheran Center, have a guided tour of the 11<sup>th</sup> floor (the Lutheran floor), lunch, shopping at the Augsburg Fortress store right in the Center and then leave for home. Prices and particulars will be on the brochure. Do decide to come along. It will be a great time together!

The inside of The Union this time is devoted to resource titles. Some listed may not be hot off the press, but are guaranteed to be helpful. Remember that all are listed in the On-Line Catalog with a brief synopsis, so if you see a title you like, go there and find it complete with particulars and the ability to order it from us.

We are looking forward to a busy fall. Greg and I are booked for a lot of Sundays during September, October and November to be on the road for the Resource Center. By getting the word out we hope that more congregations will be willing to put us in their budgets. The plain truth is that we need your monetary support as well as using the Center regularly. It costs to keep the latest resources on our shelves!

Maybe everyone doesn't know how we are linked with all the other RC's across the country. If we can't find a resource you are looking for, or an answer to a question, we can go on-line, and almost always find an answer or the resource. This is not a small potatoes operation. Get that word out to your people that we're here to help! THANKS!

The SRC Crew

## New stuff for your programs.....

We have an excellent resource just in, called, "Grandfather's Birthday." It's a video with some excellent printed materials that accompany it for all ages that ask questions of the viewers about the emotions the video brings out. It would be a great program feature for any group.

One resource you will appreciate is "The Lord's Prayer" with Walt Wangerin. It would be great for adults or for confirmation age students. In his wonderful way of teaching, Wangerin sheds light on what the Lord's Prayer reveals about God's nature and our own nature, and on how we should live in relationship with God and one another. A great teaching tool!

The new Mosaic on The Life of Apostle Paul is also here. Journey to Jerusalem, Greece and Turkey with noted public television host, Rick Steves. This 45-minute program introduces Apostle Paul, the foremost theologian and missionary of the early church. Exciting viewing!

A book, "Sleeping with Bread: Holding What Gives You Life" is an excellent read for perhaps a book club in your congregation to read and discuss. Opening lines: During the bombing raids of World War II, thousands of children were orphaned and left to starve. The fortunate ones were rescued and placed in refugee camps where they received food and good care. But many of these children who had lost so much could not sleep at night. They feared waking up to find themselves once again homeless and without food. Nothing seemed to reassure them. Finally, someone hit up the idea of giving each child a piece of bread to hold at bedtime. Holding their bread, these children could finally sleep in peace. All through the night the bread reminded them, "Today I ate and I will eat again tomorrow." A great inspiring book!

As your education committee looks toward fall and all the planning, suggest they read the book, "Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear." This is a great inspiration/idea starter for what you should expect from your education program. It's getting rave reviews!



## A plea for returns.....

The plea is going out to all church secretaries, where you know that your members have used the Resource Center, to please remind folks to return materials they have borrowed. Perhaps a little reminder in the newsletter or bulletin will help.

There are a number of things that have not been returned for months or even a year or two. We are so happy that members of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin use the Resource Center. When we get calls from folks who would like to borrow a resource and it can't be found on our shelves or in the drawers, then we have to scramble to recover it.

OR we have to purchase a new one. To be fair to us and to all users of the Center, we will have to ask folks to pay for restocking of lost resources.

We hope you will understand. It's easy to put books/videos on your shelves at home and forget. Please check and see if you have resources that need to be returned. Thanks.



*We miss our resources!*



**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!**

## New rotation model Sunday School materials, and.....

- ✓ The excitement is mounting for the new Firelight rotation model Sunday School materials to hit the market! It will be on Catechism and Church Seasons. As soon as we receive the materials here, we'll let you know.
- ✓ Renewing Worship materials have been coming regularly. We have two copies of the video that is both an introduction and an invitation to be part of this initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Both tapes are currently checked out, but get your name on the reservation list. One of them will be sent asap.
- ✓ Speaking of rotation model Sunday School, or any model, we have a ton of resources for your programs: beautiful pictures, stories for a lot of the Bible characters-parables-situations, some really neat stuff.
- ✓ "Tear Soup" by Pat Schwiebert and Church DeKlyen. Great book to teach about grief.
- ✓ "Beginning Ministry Together" by Roy M. Oswald, James M. Heath, and Ann W. Heath. The Alban Handbook for Clergy Transitions.
- ✓ "Getting the Word Out" by Frederick H. Gonnerman. The Alban Guide to Church Communications.
- ✓ "A Story Worth Sharing" with Kelly Fryer, Editor. Engaging Evangelism.
- ✓ "unLearning Church" by Michael Slaughter with Warren Bird. Just when you thought you had leadership all figured out.
- ✓ "Learn to Dance the Soul Salsa" by Leony Sweet. Seventeen surprising steps for Godly living in the 21st century.
- ✓ "Carpe Manana" by Leonard Sweet. Is your church ready to Seize Tomorrow?
- ✓ "Amazing Grace" by Kathleen Norris. A vocabulary of Faith.
- ✓ "Faith Journey through Fantasy Lands" by Russell W. Dalton. A Christian dialogue with Harry Potter, Star Wars, and The Lord of the Rings.
- ✓ "Borning Cry" by John Ylvisaker. Volumes I and II, second edition. Hymns, anthems & Biblical songs in volume I; Psalms, Carols, & Spiritual Songs in volume II.
- ✓ "Mission Trip Prep", leader guide & student books. Excellent for planning a trip.
- ✓ "With Sacred Threads" by Susan Towner-Larsen and Barbara Brewer Davis. Quilting and the Spiritual life.
- ✓ "If You Want To Walk On Water, You Have To Get Out Of The Boat" by John Ortberg. You're one step away from the adventure of your life! (Video kit)
- ✓ "Wrestling with Angels" featuring Tony Campolo, Philip Yancey, Richard Foster, Lewis Smedes, Madeleine L'Engle, Keith Miller. An intimate look at the tough questions of life. (Video kit)
- ✓ "The Odyssey of St. Paul" by Dr. Paul Maier. Travels in Israel, Turkey, Greece, and Italy. (Video kit)
- ✓ "Wise as Serpents"-a Christian resource to develop street-smart youth. (Video kit)
- ✓ "We Say Yes!" stewardship program from Augsburg that helps people everywhere say 'Yes!' to God, 'Yes!' to their church, and 'Yes!' to a new commitment...



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

## Did you know. . . ?

...that if you order quantities of a certain book/resource from Augsburg Fortress, you can very often get them at a reduced price? It is always worth asking about when you place an order. See page 5 for a chart.

...that a new birth to age 3 resource (tentatively titled SPLASH) is coming out in October? There is more about it on page 6. It is

really exciting. Alert your cradle roll chairperson to be watching for it.

...the new VBS materials for 2005 are titled, "High Flying Gospel Adventure" with Davey and Goliath? If you place your order before the first of the year, you will receive a free puppet theater and hand puppets! We will host a workshop here at the Resource



Center probably sometime in October. Watch "The Union" for a definite date. It's going to be a great adventure again!



VBS is fun!

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



The Resource Center  
On The Road!

**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](mailto:gkaufmann@synodresourcecenter.org) and tell us what you want us to do. 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” for available dates.

**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 has used “Through The New Testament” by Jeff Nelson for their Bible study group. The entire NT is gone through with lots of discussion and questions answered. It has been a very popular study. Something great to check in to for your group!)



Planting seeds  
of ideas!

(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!)

**IF, IN YOUR CONGREGATIONS,** you are having a lot of interest in the “Left Behind” books, here is a link for you to go to for helps in looking at these publications through Lutheran lenses. <http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/item.asp?isbn=6000179995&clsid=155513> Augsburg Fortress has some great “Up for Discussion” topics on their site that you can download and make available for members for a small price of \$5. You make all the copies you need. What a deal for ready-made studies!

**DON’T FORGET ABOUT** what we talked about last edition—the TALK publication from Augsburg. They are looking for your ideas and suggestions to publish. “Rally Day, welcoming learners, getting teachers together for initial training, fun attendance charts, etc. Not much time? Send an outline via e-mail, I’ll (Vicky Goplin, TALK editor) get it in manuscript form, send it back to you along with request for permission to use it, and give you all the credit!” I hope you are getting this wonderful help tool for all your education staff. Only one copy is needed and you reproduce the sheets for the teachers/committee. Send questions, ideas, or articles to: Augsburg Fortress, Attn: Congregational Life and Learning, TALK Editorial Team, PO Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

**YOUR RESOURCE CENTER WILL BE CLOSED** August 9, 10, 11 and 12. Most of the staff is on vacation during that time so no one will be here to assist you. We will reopen on Friday, the 13th.

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



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# Breaking News from Augsburg Fortress

We have a new birth to age 3 resource (tentatively titled SPLASH) coming out in October that provides a wonderful way for churches to connect on a monthly basis with families with children under the age of three. Following is a description of the product—we are on the agenda for the August 31 call to talk more about this. We will also be looking for ideas for additional birth to age 3 product for the following year.



**SPLASH!** will consist of monthly newsletters for parents of children from birth to age 3—36 newsletters in all. Each page of the newsletter will contain the same category of information each month for consistency, but content will vary.

\* Page 1 will present a research-based, expert discussion of parenting, child development, and/or faith formation in children at specific ages. Articles on this page will be written by Nathan Dungan, David Walsh, David Lynn, and various seminary professors from across the country.

\* Page 2 will offer simple, but meaningful ways that parents can nurture faith in their young children through prayer, worship, and Bible stories.

\* Page 3 will offer ways to support parents and children having fun together, including a review of an AF children's book, an interview with one of the songwriters from the music CD (years 1 and 2), ideas for play-time activities, and a cartoon by cartoonist John Bush.

\* Page 4 will affirm families as they grow in faith together through a family devotion, baby-related words in other languages, ideas for supporting siblings and grandparent relationships, and an idea for a mealtime activity or recipe.

In addition to the monthly newsletters, families will receive a music CD for each year. Year 1 music will be soothing lullabies. Year 2 music will be active toddler songs. Year 3 will introduce children to the music they will likely hear when they start attending Sunday school. The newsletters will be mailed each month to the family, starting with the month of the child's birth, by a person designated by the congregation.



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