



The Union



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Everybody, Mark your *Calendars!*

November 18, 2006

VBS Workshop

at

First Lutheran Church

1005 Oxford Ave

Eau Claire, WI

8:30am - registration

9:00am - workshop begins -

- finish before noon.

**Snacks, fun, hands-on crafts,
drawings, sharing ideas**

Leslee Nestingen will be our leader

Come and enjoy!

"The Union" e-mailed during the year-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

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Kathy Oelschlager, volunteers.*

New stuff for programs, small groups, etc. . . .



Last issue I told you about “Stretch and Pray” - a daily discipline for physical and spiritual wellness. Now we have “Shibashi” which is the same type of resource. It was developed by Region 1 of the ELCA, which includes Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. It, too, is a DVD, has an instruction booklet and suggestions for use. Great prayer tools!

New videos for kids: LarryBoy - Leggo My Ego; LarryBoy - The Yodel Napper; VeggieTales—Larry’s Wonderful World of Auto-Tainment; Penguins - Trouble On Planet Wait-Your-Turn; Penguins - The Cheating Scales of Bullamanka; Penguins - Runaway Pride at Lightstation Kilowatt. Good entertainment with a message.

Water Washed and Spirit Born is the newest from Daniel Erlander. It’s a baptism manual for youth and adults.

A neat little story about a Mohawk girl called, Blessed Kateri and the Cross in the Forest, is a good story for all ages. It talks about her hard life growing up, but how her mother had told her at an early age about Jesus. The knowledge of Jesus’ love kept her going.

For ages 7-12, the Books of the Bible Game book will be entertaining as well as a teaching tool; 100 Ways to Tell God’s Great Story offers a collection of multidimensional approaches to learning. Excellent resource!

For the Middle School aged young people, two books, Eyes, Ears, and All My Senses, books one and two, will be a big help in teaching the catechism with a new twist. Be sure to take a look at them.

In that same age group, The Way They Should Go, has timeless advice for the Teen Journey. Excellent advice from more than 90 top leaders.

For the younger crowd, ages pre-k to grade 3, Jump With Jesus has a bunch of fun and educational material based on Bible verses and Bible related themes.

And, what you have been asking for, a book on puppetry! Peter and the Children has 66 short pieces that can be used for the children’s sermon, in classrooms or however you decide to use it. Generate your own ideas from those in the book. Great resource.

Series of books on various happenings in children’s lives: A New Baby is Coming!; Help is Here for Facing Fear!; When Someone You Love has Cancer; When Your Grandparent Dies; When Your Pet Dies. Each one contains great helps in terms young folks can identify with.

Kids Celebrate Our Worship Book - A series of three booklets that help younger kids learn about the new worship book. Very helpful to aid in their knowledge of something “new”.



Have you all checked on the “Open Files Recent Additions” lately? If you don’t know where it is: www.synodresourcecenter.org & click on “Recent Additions” in the middle of the page under the colored tabs. Also, go to “Past Recent Additions” & get all kinds of Lenten resources & other good things.

Be sure to get the word out about the VBS Workshop on November 18. It’s the first day of deer hunting, so the women can come to the workshop and then do lunch and some shopping!

New books and other resources.



The newest in the Lutheran Voices series is “God in the Raging Waters”, Stories of Love and Service Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, by Pastor Paul Blom whose father was a pastor at Our Saviour’s in Chippewa Falls. Paul spent his early years growing up there. Great stories.

“Preaching Paul” - great insights and helps in sermon preparation, content, and delivery

“Life in the Fish Bowl” - everyday challenges of Pastors and their families, humorous and serious.

“The Gospel According to Harry Potter” - spirituality in the stories of the world’s most famous seeker. A wonderful rebuttal for those who see something sinister in this children’s classic - from Tony Campolo

“Communion Services” - Ready-to-use Communion services suitable for Sunday, other special times.

“The Lutheran Handbook on Marriage” has been out for a few months, but now Augsburg Fortress is developing a Marriage Course that will feature the handbook and will be for all couples, newly married or those celebrating any number of anniversaries. Electrifying series! It will be available Dec. 1.

“Earth and All Stars” by Herb Brokering is a wonderful book of hymns and songs featuring many new words to familiar tunes. This is a great way to learn new songs when you already know how it goes. Also contains poems and some never-before-published texts. Delightful!

“The Cross & the Prodigal” - Luke 15 Through the Eyes of Middle Eastern Peasants.

“Holy Stuff of Life” - Stories, Poems, and Prayers About Human Things

“A Woman’s Place” - House Churches in earliest Christianity and how prominent women were in those very early years of Christian formation.

“Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples” - Introducing the Bible by Telling its Stories. Humorous re-telling of biblical stories make them easier for young and old to remember. Fun book!

A brand new Advent/Christmas music book “Piano Plus” - Hymns for Piano and Treble Instrument. The seasonal songs with instrumental parts separate in back of the book.

“Beloved Bible Story Samplers” - 8 cross stitch designs; “Afghans Inspired by Scripture” 10 beautiful designs in crochet.

“Bread for the Day” devotional for 2007. Daily readings, prayer, hymn, seasonal art and a bookmark.

The dates are now set for March.!

Two dates you will want to mark down right now are **March 17, 2007** and **March 24, 2007**.

The 17th will be a Rotation Model Workshop to be held with our sister synod, East Central at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Appleton. This will be our sixth annual Education/Rotation workshop. These have always been well attended and appreciated by folks who have been there.

Be sure to watch following Unions and mailings for more details.

The next date, the 24th, is going to be something new and very exciting: High Tech, High Touch:

Tools for Meaningful Ministry. This will also be held in conjunction with East Central Synod. We are going to have it at Grace Lutheran Church in Tomahawk, WI. There will be all kinds of great new ideas for worship planning. Get all your planners, musicians, pastors, anyone who has anything to do with your worship services, to attend.

The mailing of the brochure will be going out to all churches the beginning of December. It is so exciting to plan something as wonderful as this will be. You won’t want to miss it!

Questions? Call 715-833-1153.

Items for your newsletter



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

♦High Tech, High Touch: Tools for Meaningful Ministry

This is a workshop you won't want to miss. Mark March 24 on your calendars right now. This workshop will help pastors, worship planners, anyone involved in ministry, plan, dream and learn how-to make worship services more unique in one day. The event will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Tomahawk, WI, just 35 minutes north of Wausau on highway 51. More details will be coming soon. Watch Synod Clips and other mailings. Get your team fired up now!

(This is going to be a lively, very informative workshop. Worship teams won't want to miss it!)

♦It is an amazing thing, how registration blanks are going out for Lay School of Ministry for next year. If you are thinking about attending the class next fall, 2007, then it may be the time to get your registration in now. If you need more information, call the Resource Center, 715-833-1153. It is a life changing experience that you'll be glad you took part in.

♦Have you gotten the word yet that LWR will no longer be accepting clothing? Details will be in the ELCA Hunger Resource Packet that should be in your hands before long. Make sure that word gets out to everyone in your congregation. There are lots of excellent items in that hunger packet. Be sure to look at it closely.

♦An idea from the East Central Synod: Ladies from church knitting groups made Christmas Bags and filled them with practical, useful, fun, and caring gifts. From toothbrushes to hats and mittens to coloring books and all kinds of things, these bags were distributed to low income neighborhoods. Bags could be sewn out of material, too, for those who don't knit. What a neat way to reach out!

♦Plans are really moving ahead for the Rotation Workshop that will be held on March 17 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Appleton! Make sure your education team has that date written down. It will be a great opportunity to learn something new even if you are currently using Rotation.

News for your information. . . .



....notice from the front page that the VBS Workshop is set now for Nov. 18 beginning at 8:30 with registration. We'll be done before noon. It is the first day of deer hunting, so the women can have the day for learning and shopping!

....on-line you will find wonderful helps for studying with "The Lutheran" magazine. These are being very successful for adult forums and even adult classes after the evening meal. Go on line to elca.org and click on the picture of the magazine. There are all kinds of good stuff there to log into and print what you need.

....the new book of worship is one like none other. Opportunities to look at it, use it, hear suggestions about how to incorporate into your worship time is coming to your area. Check on-line at the Northwest Synod of WI site: www.nwsynod-wisconsin.org Augsburg Fortress is already on their third printing of the book. Congregations are ordering cartons-full at a time.

....we also have the Akaloo starter kit here. This is going to be a great way for congregations to get intergenerational learning going, either on Sunday mornings or weekday evenings. It is here for your use.

....we have a lot of Advent/Christmas materials; Thanksgiving services and other helps; Epiphany planning - I had a request the other day for Lenten materials. So folks are planning, and planning, and planning! Go on line for some new things or stop by the Center for hands-on goodies.



Just
Married!

Pastors, here is a great new study for all married members of your congregation regardless of their years of marriage. *The Lutheran Course on Marriage* that goes along with the purple *Handbook on Marriage* will be available December 1, 2006. The kit contains a DVD, leader guide and participant booklet. It's going to be great! Get your groups excited now!

