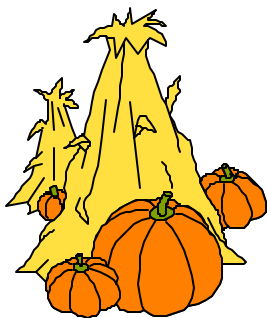


The Union



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



VBS workshop coming up! . . .

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Hi to all,

What a year this has been. Sorry to not have gotten more issues of *The Union* out to you. A minor health issue this summer took me out of the loop for almost 2 months. Every thing seems fine now and it's full steam ahead. A busy fall has taken over and we're getting things lined up for the 5th annual VBS Workshop hosted by the Resource Center here at First Lutheran Church. AND for the Rotation Model Sunday School Workshop to be held a Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd here in Eau Claire on April 5, 2008. Those are two dates you'll want to be advertising in your congregations very strongly.

VBS for 2008 from Augsburg Publishers is called, "Rainforest Adventure." If you haven't gone on-line to look at already, be sure to do it soon. Go to our site: www.synodresourcecenter.org and click on the Augsburg logo on the left-hand side of your screen. That will take you right to the site. New stuff goes up almost daily.

We will meet on our usual date for the workshop, the first day of deer hunting at First Lutheran Church, 1005 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire. If you need to call, 715-833-1153, will get you to the Resource Center. No pre-registration is necessary. Just be here by 8:30am and we'll get started by 9. We should be finished around 11 or 11:30. Snacky

things and juice/coffee will be served. Lori Nicol, Augsburg Fortress rep, will be here to show all the new resources and crafts. It will be a fun morning with plenty of time left over for having a fun lunch and shopping! Who can beat that?!

The other event, Rotation Workshop on April 5, is coming together nicely. Shelly Christopherson from Good Shepherd, Darlene Kalfahs and Dolly Bilstad from East Central Synod, Karen Harthan from The Lutheran Resource Center in Clear Lake, Iowa, Greg Kaufmann and myself have had two face-to-face meetings to get things lined up. We all have our jobs to do and will have information to your congregations by the end of November or early December. Mark your calendars now in your offices and get the word out to your education/ Sunday School people right away. This is going to be a good one, AGAIN, to attend.

We've had a lot of traffic in the Center looking for Christmas programs. There are lots of items to look at for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Dramas, crafts, suggestions for just about everything you might need.

Lots of new resources are here for you to come and see or go on-line and browse the catalog. We're anxious to help YOU anyway we can.

"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

Phone-715-833-1153;

fax-715-833-1156;

Rev. Greg Kaufmann, director; Bonnie Weber, assistant director; Diane Kaufmann, Delores Harrison, Tim & Gay Fehr, Howard Weber, volunteers.

SRC Crew

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



We are so excited! Through some contributions from a couple of churches in our synod, we have been able to purchase all 18 of the “Nooma” dvds! If you have never seen these great presentations, you are in for a treat. All ages just soak up the material that is on each disk. Youth Groups really enjoy them, but so do Senior Citizen groups and all ages in-between They are only about 12-15 minutes in length so you can view each one and have good discussion following. They should be here in a few days. Call, stop by, go on line to make your selection.

Another resource(s) that are so popular are: Bad Girls of the Bible, workbook and dvd; Really Bad Girls of the Bible, workbook and dvd; Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible, workbook and dvd. By the same author, Liz Curtis Higgs: Unveiling Mary Magdalene, workbook and dvd. These make excellent studies for small groups, women or men.

The “Building Hope” dvd is a companion to the Discovering Hope video and workbook about small town and rural communities applying the 6 core values to build hope and joy inside their walls and outside into their communities. There is a wonderful message in this dvd no matter what the size of your congregation. A study guide comes with it so your group can have a good discussion.

The “No Experience Necessary” small group Bible studies continue to be popular. There are dvd’s to go with the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th workbooks. They are a great connecting tool for group study.

There are some really good Advent studies available that would be great for a group to get together and study during the “waiting.” Kerygma has one, new last year, that also has a dvd with it for study materials. Maybe a study during Advent would help parishioners get a handle on what the season is really all about.

The Augsburg Adult Bible Study series that comes quarterly is always an interesting study. It is written by various writers in the ELCA that gives it depth, different points of view, and is something that helps groups get a good discussion going.

The Lutheran Voices series continues to be an excellent choice for a limited number of participants. Questions at the end of each chapter help students discuss what they have just read. New additions to the series are added regularly. The latest is one written by Professor Gary Simpson, one of the instructors in our Lay School of Ministry from Luther Seminary.

One of the most frequently asked questions in the Center is: “What do you have for adult Bible study?” Hopefully, now you have a little insight into what we have available. There are many more that space won’t let me mention, but you can go on line and see what we have in the catalog, or come in and look for yourself. We love to have visitors stop by! Access the catalog at www.synodresourcecenter.org - click on the “click here” on the left-hand side of page, and on the next window click on “On line catalog...” You’ll be amazed at what we have!



Don’t forget about the great assortment of magazines we keep here at Your Resource Center. Leadership, Net Results, Lutheran Partners, Christian History, Biblical Archaeology Review, Church Educator, The Lutheran, Lutheran Woman Today, just to name a few. Anytime you are in Eau Claire, just stop in and see what is available. You may check them out just as you would any resources. Thanks for your continued support of YOUR Resource Center!

New books and other resources.



Something new for women is “Praying in Color” book and dvd. This is something new and very meaningful for women or anyone to help immerse themselves in prayer. It’s unique and a method everyone can do. Great for a women’s gathering or retreat.

Another great resource for women, either in a small group or retreat setting, is “The Bloomery”. It combines fun, faith & flowers; no speaker is needed; it contains all you need for a memorable faith event; it’s easy; relational, personal, enriching and adaptable for all ages. Crafts, break-out sessions and a fun-filled event is almost guaranteed!

A cookbook for ages 5 -12 is a new addition on our shelves. “Gobble Up the Bible” has some really good recipes that kids can manage, plus each one has an activity or craft with it that teaches a lesson. Great fun for the family.

“The Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts” is for anyone just wanting to learn more or for anyone teaching a class that should have a map to look at. Many are reproducible. Each book in the Bible is illustrated and talked about.

“Helpmates, Harlots, and Heroes” is brand new. Women’s Stories in the Hebrew Bible make this interesting reading. The struggle for dignity in the Old Testament is brought out very clearly.

Another book for families is, “Family Faith Walks”. Every week of the year has an activity to do, questions and statements that help inquisitive minds think about what you’ve done plus things to do that will help everyone learn more about the walk and life. Great book for all ages.

“Caring for Mother - A Daughter’s Long Goodbye” is an excellent book for anyone going through the struggle of caring for a parent suffering from dementia. It will help you anticipate some of the emotional turbulence you will encounter along the way.

“Losers, Loners, and Rebels - The Spiritual Struggles of Boys” is an important examination of the spirituality of boys....Many men will find the book’s insights and frank honesty enlightening. Through the common experiences of life, boys learn important lessons that help shape the spirituality that will last a lifetime.

“40-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer” is newly published by Augsburg. This book will give you much to think about, much to pray about, and much to do on the road to radical discipleship.

“What Can I Do?” contains ideas to help those who have experienced loss. Dozens of suggestions to say or do at a time when it’s hard to know what to say or do. Excellent book to help those who are hurting.

Growing God’s Children, Dec. 1 & 2!

This is a one-day conference you won’t want to miss. If you are a parent, grandparent, congregational leader, Christian educator, involved in Youth and Family Ministry or just plain interested in the topic, you will want to be involved in the day.

Saturday, December 1 here at First Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, 10am to 4pm OR Sunday, December 2 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake 2pm to 8pm. You may register on line at www.nwsynod-wisconsin.org

The charge is \$25 per person or \$300 maximum per congregation. Congregations will receive

vouchers to spend in the Youth & Family Institute Resource Center worth 60% of their registration fees.

If you have any questions, call Mary Toufar at 715-859-2215 or mary@lutherpark.org

Mark your calendar NOW as an important date that you must keep. The children in your life will benefit from your involvement!



Items for your newsletter



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

♦The annual Rotation Model Sunday School Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Eau Claire. Plans are being made, speakers being secured, and the caterer is spoken for so get that date to your education team & on your calendars now.

♦Remember to contact your Synod Resource Center, 715-833-1153, for information about the Lay School of Ministry. We are taking registrations for the fall 2008 class now. Call today if you have questions. New information packets will be coming out after January 1.

♦The new items in your Resource Center have been coming in regularly. Nooma dvds are some of the best resources available right now. They are for all ages, youth through senior citizens. Some women's groups are using them. They're short, 12 to 15 minutes and really pack a message. They will be arriving any day.

♦When you are looking for adult Bible studies, remember to come to the Center and browse or go on line to see what we have. The Book of Faith initiative is a great motivator to get started studying the Word of God!

♦An important date to get on your calendar is Saturday, Dec. 1 for the "Growing God's Children" Conference held at First Lutheran in Eau Claire from 10am to 4pm; OR Sunday, Dec. 2 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake from 2pm to 8pm. Register on line at www.nwsynod-wisconsin.org for \$25 per person or \$300 maximum per congregation. You will give the child(ren) in your life a life-long gift by attending! Questions? Call Mary Toufar at 715-859-2215 or mary@lutherpark.org

♦ Christmas and Advent materials abound at your Resource Center. Everyone has their Christmas program in place by now, but if you need anything else at the last minute, we're here to help. Lent comes very early this year, February 6. You may want to get your Lenten emphasis lined up soon. Come see us!

♦A dvd just in, "Understanding Fundamentalism" is a great study for adult forum! Anyone interested in studying this life impacting movement that affects all of us? Study guide included.

News for your information....



Keep checking the on line catalog for new resources. We have some pastors in our synod who have reduced their libraries and made the Resource Center recipients of what they don't want anymore. We are happy to do that. Greg will go to the pastor's house/office and look through the stash of good books. Anything that we already have or can't use will be left for the pastor to decide. The rest Greg brings here. I have a huge number of good things to code in.

If anyone in your congregation is interested in getting a beautiful, colorful embroidered Malawi symbol on a shirt, jacket, fleece or whatever, contact the Resource Center soon. It will be put on a garment of your choice for \$8. It is an eye-catching addition to your wardrobe.

Don't forget - Your Resource Center staff is ready, willing and able to come to your congregation to do a presentation on Sunday morning or Bible study for your group or just about anything you need. Call us!

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, are so important to get out to your readers on a regular basis. To have those contacts at their fingertips is so important. 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!