



# The Union



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## Do you have November 19 marked?....

**Our Annual  
VBS Workshop will be  
held at First Lutheran Church,  
1005 Oxford Avenue  
in Eau Claire, WI  
November 19, 2005 -  
beginning at 9:00am  
and finishing before noon.**

**Leslee Nestingen, Augsburg Fortress  
representative, will be here to  
highlight the VBS kit:  
Gospel Express.  
Many of the craft items from the kit  
will be on display.**

**We will have a drawing for the  
"Emmanuel House" - a  
replica of the houses that are being  
built in Nicaragua where homes  
were destroyed in the 1998  
Hurricane Mitch.  
  
This is going to be a G-R-R-R-EAT  
morning. No charge, no pre-registration.  
Just come and enjoy the morning!**

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

The SRC Crew

## A Christmas message from Bishop Mark Hanson . . . .

Christmas 2005

Dear friends,

We wait in darkness, fearing that the light will never come.  
 We wait in silence, fearing that there will be no good news.  
 We wait alone, fearing the isolation and separation that darkness  
 brings. We attempt to illumine our own path  
 but find neither the way nor the truth.



Scripture brings words of promise to us:  
 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness  
 has not overcome it.  
 We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only  
 Son from the Father.  
 To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
 In him is life, and the life was the light of all people.

The song of the angels and the glory of the heavens  
 pierce our darkness and fill our silence. Joy overcomes our terror  
 and we believe the wondrous good news that Jesus,  
 Savior and Messiah, has been born.  
 We rejoice, carrying the light of Christ as we tell the  
 Good News to everyone.

This Christmas season, may you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
 the clarity of the angels,  
 the joy of the shepherds, the determination of the magi,  
 and the light and peace of the Christ child.

With you, we are living in God's amazing grace,

Mark and Ione Hanson



"Joy to the World," a one-hour  
 ABC television special produced by  
 the ELCA, is scheduled to air on Christmas Eve  
 and Christmas Day, 2005.

Check local listings for the exact airtime  
 in your area.

You can go to:

[www.elca.org/joytotheworld](http://www.elca.org/joytotheworld) and you will  
 find listings of ABC stations who will broadcast  
 the program AND downloadable  
 flyers in black & white, color, & color photos  
 from the production.



## News Release from Augsburg Fortress. . .

### Love The Lutheran Handbook? Then Take The Lutheran Course!

**Minneapolis, MN (November 9, 2005)**— Based on the recent bestseller, *The Lutheran Handbook*, *The Lutheran Course* takes adult learners through the fundamentals of Lutheranism in seven sessions.

To be released in December, *The Lutheran Course* expands *The Lutheran Handbook* into an adult curriculum, perfect for new members looking for an introduction to Lutheranism and current members hoping for a refresher course. *The Lutheran Course* will use the same winning combination of humor and sound theology as *The Lutheran Handbook* to engage adult learners.

“People learn more when they laugh,” says Bill Huff, publisher of the Congregational Life and Learning unit at Augsburg Fortress. “That has been a big part of the success of *The Lutheran Handbook* and a key feature of *The Lutheran Course* as well.”

The new curriculum incorporates large and small group activities, taking participants through the fundamentals of Lutheranism in seven sessions, each inspired by an entry in *The Lutheran Handbook*, and featuring DVD presentations by ELCA theologians:

"Five Things You Should Know about the Lutheran Reformation", Ken Sundet Jones;  
"How to Tell the Difference Between the Law and the Gospel", James Nestingen;  
"The Anatomy of a Baptism", Winston Persaud;  
"How to Receive Communion", Foster McCurley;  
"The Three Most Rebellious Things Jesus Did", Barbara Rossing;  
"How to Read the Bible", Rolf Jacobson; and  
"How to Share your Faith with Someone", Kelly A. Fryer.

Each session begins with a meal, followed by a large group DVD presentation and small group time. The goal of each session is to help participants better understand their Lutheran faith and have a good time along the way.

*The Lutheran Course* will be available December 28, 2005 and was recently field-tested by 150 ELCA congregations across the country.

“*The Lutheran Handbook* has been a phenomenal success,” says Huff. “And given the tremendous response by congregations during field-testing of *The Lutheran Course*, the curriculum should be a hit as well.”

**Advance praise for the Lutheran Course:**

“. . . an absolutely wonderful course . . . this has been needed for some time . . . the Handbook connection is a definite strength.”

—Pastor Paula J. Ziems,  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New Prague, MN

*(Continued on page 4)*

## More on the Lutheran Course....

*(Continued from page 3)*

**“The course moved right along. The questions and material made people think differently about the ideas of Law and Gospel and how to read Scripture and listen to Scripture.”**

—Reverend Cheryl Corneliusen, pastor of Education and Stephen Ministry, Hope Lutheran Church, Palm Desert, CA

**“ . . . easy to follow and generated good discussion.”**

—Pastor Scott A. Kuechenmeister Hall,  
Lutheran University Center, Pittsburgh, PA

**“The materials make you think . . . they connect with daily life.”**

—Reverend Richard Handschin,  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Brevard, NC

The Lutheran Course Starter Kit is now available to preorder for delivery in December. Pre-order today & save \$10.00 off the individual component cost. Visit [www.lutherancourse.org](http://www.lutherancourse.org)

The Lutheran Course Starter Kit: 0-8066-5279-9 \$54.99

### About The Lutheran Handbook

Since its release in early April, more than 100,000 copies of The Lutheran Handbook have been sold, making it the fastest selling resource since *With One Voice*.

The Lutheran Handbook is a witty, easy-to-read, reliable all-in-one collection that helps readers understand the essential information about the theology, culture and Lutheran way of life. Organized by Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff and Bible Stuff with how-to's like "How to Forgive Someone" and lists like "The Top-10 Bible Villains", this resource encapsulates essential principles of the Christian life, making many of the complexities of the Lutheran religious tradition accessible for confirmation students, or anyone looking for an introduction to Lutheranism.

The Lutheran Handbook: A Field Guide to Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff and the Bible - 0-8066-5179-2 \$14.99 - 5" x 7", 4-color cover, 2-color interior, 264 pp. Augsburg Fortress

## A few new items on our shelves.....



- ♦Unit Two of No Experience Necessary: You're Hired. This one reveals how our purpose in life is connected to God's multifaceted mission.
- ♦New units from Kerygma: Amos & Hosea: Boundaries, Tough Love, Amazing Grace; History of the Bible in English DVD; Job and the Life of Faith; The Gospel of Mark.
- ♦“Ending Hunger Now” by George McGovern, Bob Dole, and Donald Messer - Foreword by Bill Clinton.
- ♦“You Can Do Christian Puppets” - instructions from idea to ending presentation, patterns, everything.
- ♦“Caregiver Wellness” DVD that provides tools and resources to help caregivers transform stress and maintain wellness.
- ♦“Landscapes of the Heart” - a book that will inspire anyone to explore their own walk with the Spirit.
- ♦“Journeying Through Grief” - a series of four little books from the Stephen Ministries to be given to a grieving person at four different times of the year following the grief experience. These books highlight the stages of grief.

**Come in and browse - we've got excellent resources!**