



RESOURCE REVIEW



SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD RESOURCE CENTER

AUGUST 2010 VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4



BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.



Matthew 3:8

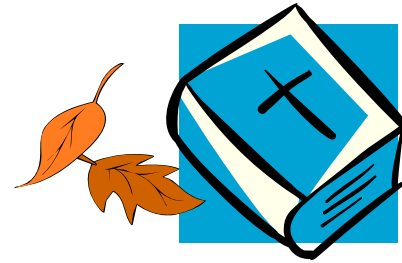
We are promised by God that if we keep our hearts pure, we will hear from God, know His love and hear His words. There is so much talk today about preserving our physical health. We are to lose weight, eat healthier, exercise more, etc. Many of us take this seriously, as we should. But Brothers and Sisters, how much time do you spend on checking upon your inner heart? That inner place that's hurting and possibly hurting others? Jesus had a pure heart, evidenced by the incredible love and compassion he showed for others. There wasn't room in his heart for anything else. What we allow into our hearts forms our thoughts. And we all know that what we feel in our hearts is just as powerful as committing that which we feel. God is concerned about our inner being. 1st Peter 3:3,4 says: *"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."* If you keep your heart conditioned you will have genuine inner peace, even in the most trying circumstances. Simply going through the motions of being a "good Christian", saying the right things, attending the right meeting is not enough. For God peers into our souls daily and He looks into our hearts. Let us remember to keep our hearts conditioned, for they determine where we ultimately end up in the course of our journey here on earth. (see Proverbs 4:23).



Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center

364 E. Barstow Ave. Fresno, CA 93710

New Resources for Fall!



re:form

Wow! We spoke, and they listened! Kudos to Augsburg Fortress with this new confirmation program! We (the teachers) said confirmation should be about exploration, not indoctrination. And Augsburg listened! Every congregation needs to have at least one copy of the new re:form DVD, leader guide and anti-workbook! It is wildly creative and joyful without being corny, it is humorous without being disrespectful! The DVD contains segments with question we all ask such as "Is the Bible true?" Or, "Am I supposed to believe that Mary was a virgin?" 40 questions such as these are answered with amazing clarity, ground in Lutheran theology without being condescending and using graphics that are clear and creative. This is a fresh and excellent new resource for your congregation, and it can easily be adapted for new member classes as well! Check it out before you buy at the SPS Resource Center today!



Book of Faith Bible Studies (recently added to the Resource Center):

Jonah - Four study sessions written by Karl Jacobson. (most congregations find they need twice the amount of designated sessions to satisfactorily cover the material).

Philippians - Four sessions one of which touches on human trafficking.

Songs of the Faithful: Studies in Psalms - Written to be used for the 15th-20th Sundays after Pentecost in the Year C or Psalms 1, 37, 51, 111, 113, 146.



Sneak Peek!

Later this month, every congregation and synod will receive the new ELCA World Hunger Resource Packet. The packet includes free samples of resources that are specially designed to help your group support ELCA World Hunger. It includes a month-by-month guide, reproducible bulletin inserts and a sample of the newest coin box that you will just have to see to believe. With all of these resources at your fingertips, taking action against hunger has never been easier.

Take a sneak peak. Visit the ELCA Resource Catalog to view new ELCA World Hunger resources as they are made available. Remember to check back throughout the month.

Sign up. Would you like to receive future editions of the ELCA World Hunger Resource Packet at home? Sign up today. It's free! (www.elca.org)

Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center

364 E. Barstow Ave.

Fresno, CA 93710

SPS Resource Center:

Books

Curriculum/Bible Study

DVD/Videos

VBS Materials

Music. and more!

Located in Hope Lutheran Church.

Fresno, Calif.

Help Wanted: Part time volunteer, call (559) 449-8735.

Editor & Director, Cindi Eckert

Visit our website at:

resourcecenterspselca.org

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VBS News!



VBS

VBS was a hit all around the various congregations this year! There are so many options for VBS planning, and the Resource Center is happy to help you plan your VBS curriculum each. We have loads of different VBS kits to choose from, and many of them are not in stock any more and hard to find, so check us out before you get frustrated, we are pretty darn sure we can help! Below are a few comments from happy “customers”!



OPERATION SPACE VBS: “Our congregation checked out the RC’s VBS, Operation Space. This vacation Bible School was a great success this year! The kids learned facts about outer space while also learning that the Bible is always right and we must read it in order to stay spiritually healthy. The “Cadets” were put through a rigorous training from obstacle courses and finding their way through the dark, to eating pudding through a straw! The decorating was fantastic...rockets, space, shooting stars...wow!”



Baobab Blast VBS: “Baobab is a type of tree that grows in Africa. A baobab tree provides shade, shelter, and resting places for so many of God’s animals in its hollows and branches. Imagine a huge tree where children gather and share God’s word! And that is just what we did at our VBS this year with this great and wonderful resource!”



High Seas Expedition VBS: “Thanks so much for suggesting these VBS materials. Both the kids and the leaders had so much fun. The material is so well set up and easy to follow. The kids especially loved the adventure! The activities were fun and easy to set up with all the material simple to gather or purchase. Thanks again Cindi, we will be contacting you soon for material for a fall Bible study!”

I know the Lord is always with me...He is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.

-Psalm 16:8-9

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 Each session starts with Scripture and prayer to center learners in God's Word. A designated storyteller(s) will also tell or read the story at the beginning of each session.
-  **PICTURING THE STORY**
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-  **SINGING AND PRAYING THE STORY**
 The selected psalms touch on themes addressed in the session. These can be read aloud either responsively as a group or by a solo reader. Additional instructions for doing this are given in each session.
-  **LOOKING AHEAD**
 This segment gives you an opportunity to introduce the next session briefly, encourage the reading of assigned Lutheran Study Bible introductions, and do the Mark It Bible reading activity for the week.

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