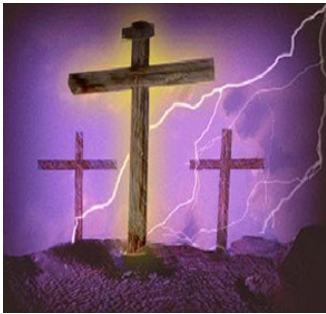


SPS Resource Center
364 E Barstow
Fresno, CA 93710
Director: Cindi Eckert
resourcecenterspselca.org



The Resource Review

Inside this issue:

<i>The Cross</i>	1
<i>News...</i>	2
<i>Go Global...</i>	2
<i>Anti-Racism...</i>	2
<i>Lent Resources...</i>	3
<i>A Few Words...</i>	3

- The **cross**, a symbol of hope. “He who can dig the Grand Canyon with his pinkie , thinks you’re worth his death on Roman timber.” (Max Lucado). Jesus, the name, means “The Lord Saves.” His name bears meaning, and through his death and resurrection, the world will be saved. Jesus gave his life as a payment for our sins, and because of his suffering, we can have a true relationship with our powerful God. During Lent, we get a chance to look inward, and deeply ponder our faith, lives and how we are living as Christians. Jesus forgave those who nailed him to the cross. There, in the most unjust situation in history, unlimited forgiveness was extended. As we accept forgiveness we are freed to forgive those who have sinned against us. When we examine our lives like this, we may feel unworthy and we may even struggle through genuine remorse and feel unworthy to ask God for anything...

The

RESOURCE CENTER:

Your library for:

- +Books
- +Curriculum/Bible Study
- +DVD/Videos
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- +Music

Located in Hope Lutheran Church,
Fresno

559-449-8735



...But, Jesus assures us with his story: “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a dishonest tax collector. The proud Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! For I never cheat, I don’t sin, I don’t commit adultery, I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. “For the proud will be humbled, but the humbled will be honored.” (Luke 18: 10-14). Jesus chose this illustration to show it doesn’t matter where we fit in society’s hierarchy. It is the humble heart that opens the door to God’s forgiveness. Victory **does** come through the cross. As I approach Lent, I will stand at the cross and give thanks to the Lord for the freedom from sin. **Thanks be to God!**



“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans to give you a future and a hope. You will find me when you seek me, if you look for me in earnest.”

(Jeremiah 29:11, 13)

Sierra Pacific Synod Announces...

The Synod Council extended a call to Pr. Jim Goldsmith to the position of Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Mission support. The council was delighted when Pr. Goldsmith accepted. Jim is married to Karen, and they currently reside in the Fortuna/Ferndale areas. The plan is that Jim will eventually be located in the Office of the Bishop in Fresno. Jim and his wife are quite active in church ministries and we are blessed that they will be sharing their wisdom and knowledge in this capacity. Jim will be spending half his time working with Campus Ministry, Communi-

cations, and the congregations and leaders in that region of the synod. The other half of his time will be on stewardship with Pr. Harvey Bloomberg and the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit of the ELCA. Extend prayers and support to the Goldsmiths!

Go Global this Lent!

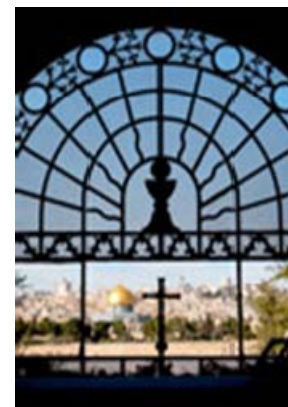
Go global this Lent!

Enhance your mid-week Lenten services by using the **2010 Global Mission Lenten series**.

Weekly, meet sisters and brothers in Christ from a different country through the eyes of ELCA missionaries who serve there.

Weekly resources include devotional reflections, bulletin inserts, Lenten supper recipes, prayer petitions, and photos in a downloadable power point.

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Lenten-Series-2010.aspx>



Anti-Racism Workshop

Bishop Mark Holmerud and the Racial/Ethnic Working Group of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA invite you to a two and a half day anti-racism workshop. This will be March 11-13, 2010. Starting at 6:00 p.m. Thursday with dinner, and ending 4:00 p.m. Saturday. This

will be at Mt. Cross Retreat Center, 7795 Highway 9, Ben Lomand, CA 95005. Cost is \$200 per person, and includes meals, snacks, lodging, materials, 3 professional anti-racism trainers. Partial & full scholarships are available. If inter-

ested, please contact Pr. Adisa Armand Miller, United Lutheran Church at 510-569-0689. Or contact Cindi at the Resource Center for registration form, at 559-449-8735.



A Few Words From the New Resource Center Director...

Lenten Resources

Books:

40 Days and 40 Nights: Praying Through Lent –

Gail Ramshaw (B7126)
Provides a biblical image for each day in a meditative format.

Each day's devotion includes a biblical citation, meditation, prayer, Bible reading, and hymn text.

Book of Faith Lenten Journey:

Marks of the Christian - David Miller

A 40-day journey exploring Romans 12.

In this chapter, the apostle Paul calls us to new life in Christ and identifies marks of the Christian life.

Video Based Studies:

Nooma DVDs by Rob Bell
Noise (DVD), Name (DVD), Luggage (DVD), Dust (DVD), Lump (DVD), Rhythm (DVD), and Shells (DVD) would make a great Lenten study based on self reflection. Looking at issues such as why we are so afraid of silence, why we don't always get what we want if God is such a loving God, why forgiveness is so difficult and what exactly God sees in us.



Remember: **Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17th** **March 14th** daylight savings time begins **March 28th** is Palm Sunday - Holy Week begins! **April 4th** is Easter Sunday!

Augsburg Fortress :

Everything you Need For Lent. All in One Place!

Order your Lenten supplies by logging on to:

Augsburgfortress.org

Supplies include Lenten Banners, Book of Faith Lenten Journeys, 40-Day Journey Books, Paschal Candle, Worship Guidebook for Lent, and The Three Days, Ashes.

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God... (Psalm 40:3)



A Few Words from the Director:

Gentlepeople of Faith: It has been over a year now that I have been blessed to be the SPS Resource Director. This road has gifted me with so much more than I could have ever envisioned! Image spending your day in an office filled with nothing but the word of the Lord! There is so much to read and to learn, I feel like I have just begun. I am a daughter of the King, and each day I serve you in this capacity, I honor that and rejoice! I have a scripture taped to my door that says: ***"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has given me strength, that he con-***

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:26-28)



sidered me faithful, appointing me to his service." (1 Timothy 1:12).

I love this time of year. For me, it means renewal and an opportunity to look within and analyze my journey. Am I doing all I can to be the Christian woman I know I should be? Where can I grow in my spiritual life? Because of Christ, I am saved. At the foot of the cross I will pour out my transgressions, and walk anew. May you all find your own personal journey through Lent, and may the Lord bless you abundantly as children of God. **Cindi Eckert**