



RESOURCE REVIEW



SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD RESOURCE CENTER

JANUARY 2012

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1



"Don't pretend just to love others, really love them!"

Romans 12:9

*(Jesus said)...
"When you obey my commandments you remain in my love..."*

John 15:10-11



An Expression of Love from Jesus



I love you with an everlasting Love, which flows out from the depths of eternity. Before you were born, I knew you. Ponder the awesome mystery of a Love that encompasses you from before birth to beyond the grave. You need the certainty of My loving Presence in order to weather the storms of life. During times of severe testing, even the best theology can fail you if it isn't accompanied by experiential knowledge of Me. The ultimate protection against sinking during life's storms is devoting time to develop your friendship with Me.

Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center

2311 E Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93710

We Made the “News”!

I am proud to say that Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center was featured on the ALRC Blog for the month of January, and also included as the headline article for ALRC’s newsletter, Loaves and Fishes! (see article below)



**This article was featured on the
ELCA’s Association of Lutheran Resource Centers Blog!**

by Cindi Eckert

A new year always brings a sense of adventure, newness, and a change of pace to the soul. Isn’t it exciting to think that as we step into a fresh new year, we enter a season of renewal? We have hope for the year, and pray for a good one! We have just celebrated our Savior’s birth.

Now we take down our lights and pack our beloved Christmas treasures carefully and lovingly into boxes, to store for next year. The time has come for us to huddle down and experience some introspection: Where do I see myself in the next New Year?

A wonderful blank canvas has been laid out before us- just waiting to be filled. This year I challenge you to walk closer to Jesus, for Christ’s birth dramatically changed the world as we know it.

When Christ entered the world, the Gospel was proclaimed to the ends of the earth. Celebrating Christmas therefore, is celebrating the wonder of Incarnation, something that Christians cherish and hold close to their hearts. Jesus Christ and his life on earth was dedicated to expressing the fullest possible way humans could unite with God.

Christmas changed everything. God is reachable, through the power of Christ when Jesus took on flesh. So ask yourself, is there room in your hearts for Christ today? This year? To the end of time?

May His love shine bright for you and upon this world as we begin anew.



(Cindi has been the Director for the Sierra Pacific Synod for three years. Cindi sees Resource Centers as valuable and important assets for congregations. She believes Resource Centers serve as a nexus between the technology of today and the timelessness of our faith.)

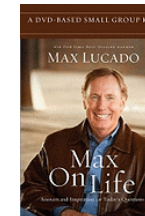
New Resources...Check them



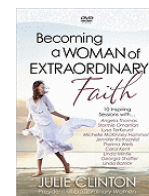
➡ **Making Sense of the Cross...** Narrated by David Lose, author of *Making Sense of Scripture* and *Making Sense of the Christian Faith*, this session DVD is designed to be used during course sessions. The first session is designed to prepare those leading the course. The following sessions are intended to be integrated with each course session. Leader and Learner Guide available with DVD. (6 Sessions)

➡ **Max On Life...** We have questions. Child-like inquiries. And deep, heavy ones. In more than twenty-five years of writing and ministry, Max Lucado has been the receiving line for thousands of such questions. The questions come in letters, e-mails, even on Dunkin Donuts napkins. In *Max on Life* he offers thoughtful answers to more than 150 of the most pressing questions on topics ranging from hope to hurt, from home to the hereafter.

Max writes about the role of prayer, the purpose of pain, and the reason for our ultimate hope. He responds to the day-to-day questions-parenting quandaries, financial challenges, difficult relationships-as well as to the profound: Is God really listening?
(A special addendum includes Max's advice on writing and publishing).

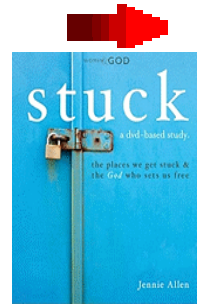


➡ **Becoming a Woman of Extraordinary Faith...** In this captivating DVD, popular author, speaker, and president of Extraordinary Women Julie Clinton illuminates the life-changing truths of her book *Becoming a Woman of Extraordinary Faith* to help women break through the ordinary busyness of everyday existence to embrace an incredible life of rooted faith in Jesus Christ.



Please check out our website at: www.resourcecenterspselca.org for all the resources since last newsletter! Our inventory is being updated weekly! If you can't find what you are looking for, please email **Cindi Eckert, Director**, for requests at: rspselca@pacbell.net

More Resources...and a Word on



STUCK... We are often so stuck in invisible struggles in our hearts and minds, we barely have space for God. These deep struggles, these stuck places, are familiar to every one of us: brokenness, anger, discontentment, fear, and sadness. Stuck takes on these struggles within us so that we can encounter God. Because until we recognize that we are stuck and in need of God, we will miss what He has for us. (*Jennie Allen's Bible studies are designed to draw women close to God and to each other. These shorter studies dig deep quickly, creating experiential conversations and allowing women to wrestle with Scripture in a deep and authentic way throughout the week.*)



Soul Surfer, 4-Week DVD Study...

Inspired by the movie SOUL SURFER and the true story of Bethany Hamilton, this four-week video study is designed for all ages: adult groups, teen groups or for groups where parents and teens study together! The study will inspire people to persevere and trust God in the midst of life's challenges.

Please note: There are just a few of the dozens of new resources we have to offer! Please check the online catalog regularly for updates.



The Season of Epiphany

January 6 is celebrated as *Epiphany*. For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6th until Ash Wednesday which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. Depending on the timing of Easter, this longer period of Epiphany includes from four to nine Sundays. The term *epiphany* means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. The ELCA website states that the principle themes of Epiphany are: The revelation of Christ to all nations; Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan; Christ as the light of the world; the public ministry of Jesus Christ, including Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana; and growth in Christian's baptized identity.

May the season of Epiphany remind you of our dear Lord, Jesus Christ, his incredible ministry on this earth, and why you are baptized and committed to being a Christian.



Peace, and may the Lord's love be with you, Cindi Eckert

Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center

2311 E. Shaw Ave.

Fresno, CA 93710

(Editor's note: Following is breaking news regarding the Resource Center!)

The Resource Center will be moving into the Office of the Bishop's building at 2311 E. Shaw Ave. (in the Lutheran Campus Ministry Building) effective by February 29th, 2012. We thank Hope Lutheran Church for 22 years of wonderful hospitality and allowing us use of the space there. As time changes, so do the areas in which we work, and after thoughtful consideration and prayer, we felt that the RC should be housed within the Synod office that is now located in Fresno at LCM. Please note that the Resource Center will be closed for the next several weeks to accomplish this very detailed and important move. Our website address will remain the same, and I will be checking emails periodically during the closure. I will retain Lent/Easter resources in the event that you need them and didn't have a chance to secure them before this notice was sent. The closure will take effect from Wednesday, January 25th until February 29th, however I will still be trying to fill online catalog orders as timely as possible during this time. I would especially like to recognize Pam Campbell, Parish Administrator of Hope Lutheran, and Nancy Hanson, Secretary of Hope Lutheran. They always helped my customers and assisted them when I could not be there. They accepted packages for me, and always supported me, and I will truly miss them. I will miss seeing Pr. Adam and Pr. Roger, and all the volunteers, especially Ada, George, and Joan. However, since Hope is my church family, I will see them on Sundays and other events! Stay tuned for more information on an upcoming Open House and progress on the move!

SPS Resource Center:

Books

Curriculum/Bible Study

DVD/Videos

VBS Materials

Music, and more!

Located in Fresno Office of the

Editor & Director, Cindi Eckert

A special thanks to all the Volunteers that past year!

Visit our website at:

resourcecenterspselca.org

A proud member of ALRC

