



# RESOURCE REVIEW



SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD RESOURCE CENTER

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Summer is in full swing now...hard to believe it was just spring, right? Have you noticed how church changes a little in summer? The pews are not so full...some congregations switch from three services to two. When summer is in full swing, many are about, traveling and attending family gatherings. I have been thinking about the summer and my relationship with my Father in heaven. I find myself drifting away from my usual routine, and I miss more Sunday services than I like to admit. This summer, however, I decided to change things. I am going to use summer as a time for greater personal reflection. The best way to have the time one needs is to devote time to God for worship and to oneself for rest. Devoting time to God gives you spiritual refreshment and the opportunity to hear His priorities for you. It also gives you the energy to do what you are called to do. To live with Christ on a daily basis changes us. Our speech becomes gentler and kinder, and our faces mirror His joy. Our hearts and motives become pure, and our actions are pointed more towards love and service to others. What could be greater than that? Than to have a heart like Jesus? What will you do this summer? Perhaps, this can be a season where you will grow deeper in your relationship with God, both in the time you spend away, and in worship with your church family.

Blessings for a safe and wonderful summer, thanks be to God!

Cindi Eckert, Director

*“All of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into his glorious image.”*

-2 Corinthians 3:18

Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center

# New Resources!



...And... coming soon!!!

## VBS!



### Son Surf Beach Bash

- Dude, It's All About Jesus on those hot summer days the best place to be is the beach! Cool off in the sparkling blue waves. Build a magnificent sandcastle. Explore

tide pools and collect seashells. The beach is a beautiful natural playground and the perfect place for VBS! As kids explore the wonders of the beach, they'll also discover the Big Answers to the Big Questions about Jesus, who He is and why they need Him. At SonSurf Beach Bash VBS, kids learn that there is only one truth: Jesus.

### Spark Bible

### Story Curriculum:



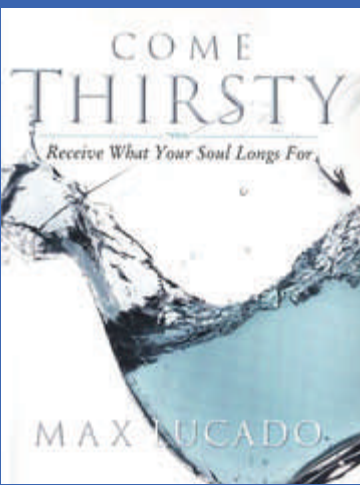
### Daniel & the Lions

### Jonah & the Big Fish

### Hannah and Samuel

### Solomon Builds the Temple

These rotation curriculum will take you through four months...then Christmas curriculum will be rolling out! Stay tuned...



Psssst! (coming soon!)

### *Come Thirsty - Receive What Your Soul Longs For*

We were not meant to live with dehydrated hearts... come and learn how to quench your soul. Like the woman at the well, we recognize our need for living water. We need moisture, a swallow of water, a long, quenching drink.

But where do we find water for the soul? We find it at the W-E-L-L. In this renewing and life-giving program, Max Lucado leads us to the four essential nutrients needed by every soul. Explore the well of God's love with this six-week study series.

Did you know...

August 9th is **BOOK LOVERS DAY!!!**



## THE ART OF CURATING WORSHIP

RESHAPING THE ROLE OF WORSHIP LEADER

Mark Pierson

### *The Art of Curating Worship : Reshaping the Role of Worship Leader*

Written by Mark Pierson, one of the pioneers in worship curation, this exciting new book explains why effective worship needs to be seen as an art form made up of a series of art works, rather than a mechanistic task of filling in the gaps in an order of service. At the heart of this new way of thinking about worship is the role of the worship curator. Many practical examples are used to illustrate ways in which worship, both inside and outside the church building, can be curated and delivered for spiritual formation and mission.

Here is what the **ELCA** says about worldwide disasters:

*"We help to bring God's comfort, healing and renewal to those affected by disasters. And when the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need."*

How blessed it is to be a part of a worldwide church committed to helping those suffering from incredible and unimaginable disasters! I was thrilled to have an article submitted to me by a congregation right here in our Sierra Pacific Synod...addressing this very issue which I am going to share with you. And please, I encourage you to send me your own stories! Tell us what you are doing in your congregations so we can share ideas as we all strive to live a life like Jesus did.

To learn more about what the ELCA is doing worldwide, please go to this link:

(<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/Disaster-Response.aspx>)



### **Submitted by Trinity Lutheran, Fresno:**

In contacting the secretary of the congregation in Joplin, Mo., our Trinity ladies learned that the church building was leveled. Being that this is a town of 50,000, the congregation has only about 100 members. Eighteen of their households had been affected by this tornado. But with faith and courage, they said they were pressing forward with the life of the congregation, and would be meeting and participating in a W-ELCA event with six other congregations in their Conference.

The [W-ELCA at Trinity Lutheran, in Fresno California](#), in response to this disaster and with prayerful hearts, sent a monetary donation and a prayer to the Women of the ELCA at Peace Lutheran Church, Joplin, Mo. Below, is a copy of their letter:

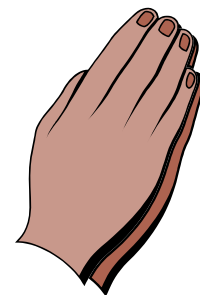
*Heavenly Father, you have allowed us to know wonderful and fulfilling lives, lives which we take for granted and within which we move with confidence and high expectations. But here and now, the world as we have known it has crashed around the people of Peace Lutheran Church. The power of nature and the winds of the recent tornado have shown them (and us) how fragile life can be. We are confident that the everlasting love of a Mighty God has also shown how faithful and caring He is in the lives of His children. We thank You today that You are there, Father, among the people of Joplin. We thank You for the blessing of community and the privilege of clasping the hand of a neighbor. We pray for Peace Lutheran Church, and especially for the women of Peace Lutheran Church. We pray that the peace that does indeed pass all understanding will strengthen and keep each of them during the days and weeks and months as the work of re-building continues. We thank You, Lord, for their ability to press forward with the hard tasks that are ahead of them, and trust that Your never-ending love will be evidenced in the faces of those they meet today and in some small way bring encouragement to their hearts and minds. In Your dear name we pray, Amen.*

We send our love and prayers from the Women of the ELCA

Trinity Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA

*"You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word."*

Psalm 119:114



Some people say they don't know how to pray...they aren't sure what to pray for...

Here is a little secret that someone shared about how to pray:



Picture your hand. Your thumb is the finger closest to you, which represents the people closest to you to pray for...like your family, your spouses, or your close friends.



The pointer finger reminds us of teachers, who used to point to us when we were answering a question in class. This is to remind us to pray for all the teachers in the world, in whatever form they teach, whether it be in school, or even in church or other places.



The middle finger is the taller than all the other fingers. It represents the leaders throughout the world and in our government and churches. This finger reminds us to pray for their leadership.



The ring finger, as most piano players will tell you, is the weakest finger. Let it remind us to pray for the weak, the sick, and helpless in the world!



The pinky is the "little" finger, the least and smallest of all, and the last on the row of fingers. Let the pinky remind us of ourselves, to put others before us, to pray for others and not place undue importance on ourselves.

# Fun Fact!

# Open Hearts...Open Arms

10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention

Sierra Pacific Synod Women of the ELCA

October 28-30, 2011

Under the theme *Open Hearts, Open Arms*, we will look at what it means to be in community, to be part of God's family. We will celebrate the uniqueness of each part as we come together, not as a 'melting pot' but as a 'tasty stew' (an image posed by one of our presenters!) where each part adds to the flavor but also retains its identity. We will give thanks for what every one can add to that 'stew'.

The Convention will take place at the Mission d'Oro Hotel in Santa Nella, CA. Santa Nella is just north of the exit for Los Banos. For more information, email [crosscurrenteditor@gmail.com](mailto:crosscurrenteditor@gmail.com)



# Save the Date!!!

SPS Resource Center:

Books

Curriculum/Bible Study

DVD/Videos

VBS Materials

Music, and more!

Located in Hope Lutheran  
Church, 364 E. Barstow Ave.

Fresno, CA 93710

Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge.

-Proverbs 23:12

## Visit our website at:

[resourcecenterspselca.org](http://resourcecenterspselca.org)

*A proud member of ALRC*

*Director of Resource Center: Cindi Eckert*

