



RESOURCE REVIEW



SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD RESOURCE CENTER

MARCH 2011

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2



Love

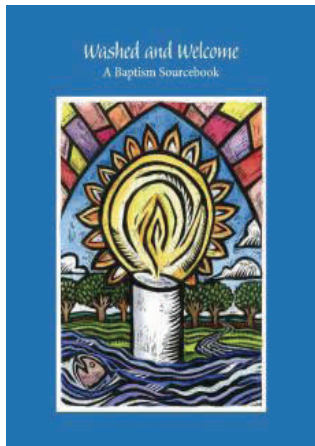
“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance...Three things will last forever-faith, hope, and love-and the greatest of these is love. -1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13

Love is the defining attribute of God. His love is real and unconditional. We were not created by accident, but by the graceful hands of God. He created us in His own image, so we could have a close relationship with Him and bring Him glory. God’s love is a loyal love-He expresses this by refusing to give up on us no matter how often we disappoint Him. To be loved is a wonderful thing. We pursue love from the very moment we are born. To be loved by God is a gift from our Creator. This promise is ours for eternity.

In a world so unpredictable, I am comforted to know how much God truly loves me. And in return, I express my loyalty and love for Him by obedience to His word and sharing His love with others.

Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center

New Resources!



Washed and Welcome is a vibrant series of resources to support pastors, parents, and sponsors as they prepare for the sacrament of Holy Baptism. In addition, *Washed and Welcome* provides practical helps and ideas for parents and sponsors, as well as content and ideas to engage the entire assembly.

Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Seven Wonders of the Word

Explore how God's Word creates, calls, commands, saves, sustains, shapes, and sends you and the church. Take this journey on your own or invite a friend or small group to join you. You can also use the weekly worship helps to share the journey with your congregation.



Book of Faith Bible Studies:

Heaven on Earth, Leader & Learner Books

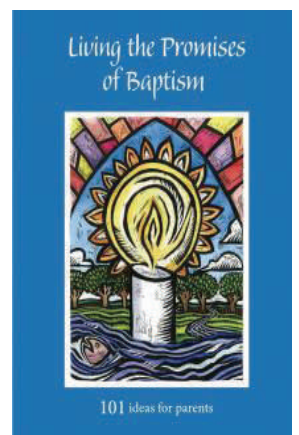


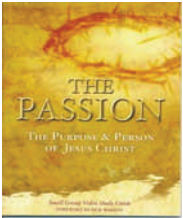
Who does not want a heaven on earth or for love to come first in a cruel and broken world? This is the core meaning of Jesus' most important words in the Gospel of Matthew, describing for us the importance of love, so that "the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 4:17). That means we do not have to wait to experience heaven after we die. This 6-session Bible study delves deeper into what it means for heaven to come to earth: studying Jesus' words, his way of life, and the manner in which he loved. Discover how we are the change agents Jesus is calling forth to make the Kingdom of heaven a reality on earth!

Of all the gifts parents can pass on to their children, faith is the most precious. The heart of our role as Christian parents is sharing and living out that faith with the children God gives us.

This small book is filled with concrete ideas for celebrating with your children the gifts of baptism in daily living. Meals, bedtime, play, seasons, milestones, transitions-all these occasions and more become opportunities for practicing faith.

The ideas in *Living the Promises of Baptism* are for children from infant to upper elementary. Whether your child is a newborn, a preteen, or somewhere in between, you will find yourself returning to this book again and again for support, encouragement, and inspiration.





The Passion. The Purpose & Person of Jesus Christ

Includes a short Introduction DVD by Rick Warren, and 4 Workbooks that will cover three sessions for a small group study.

This study will surely stir something up inside of you, at a very profound level. Experience a fresh way the love of God has for you. This unique study is here to help participants discover the tremendous hope, love, and forgiveness that are available through Jesus Christ. (3 sessions)



I want to know more!

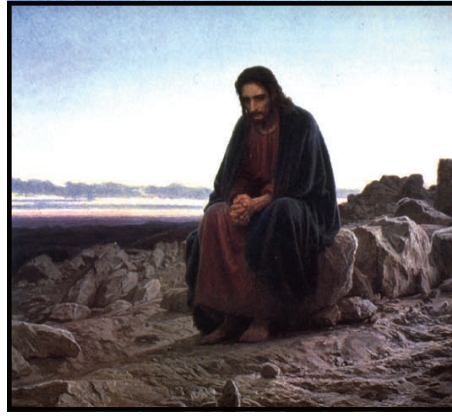
FAQ: How can I find resources online? **A:** Use your internet! Just click on this link, <http://www.resourcecenterspselca.org/> and then when you are on the web page, click on "resources".

Q: How do I navigate around the web program and find what I want? **A:** How To Use Request Manager: Click the link below and it will open a new window with a search criteria box. Type in your subject of interest, and select the Search button to proceed. You will get a complete list of resources on that subject available at the Resource Center. [Request Manager For The SPS Resource Center](#) (Note: Titles and resource numbers can be used but they must be exact.)

Q: Can I just come into the Resource Center and browse? **A:** Absolutely! The Center is open Mondays and Wednesdays, from 8-4, and soon to be open Thursdays with a volunteer staff support. There are occasions that staff is out mailing or delivering resources, so if you want to be sure we are open at the time you are coming, you can call 559-449-8735 (*for out-of-area clients, we will be happy to meet you at unscheduled hours, but please call first and set up an appointment with me).

Q: I am not able to get to the Center, will you mail me the resources? **A:** I will, and at no cost to you! Just follow the check-out procedures on the web page after you have selected the resources you want. I am notified immediately of your catalog request and I process that order ASAP. You may also leave comments for me if you want me to ship at a different time.

Recently, I have done a bit of renovation in the Center...there is now a nice lounge area to sit and read, or view DVD's/Videos or even listen to music. I hope you visit soon! If there are resources you would like us to carry that you don't see, please let me know! Thank you for letting me serve you, I value the Center and believe we are most blessed that we have such a jewel within our Sierra Pacific Synod that is loaded with wonderful resources. Peace & Blessings, your sister in Christ, Cindi Eckert, Director



By the time this newsletter comes out, we will already be in the Lenten season. I call it the “quiet” season. A time of reflection...a time to be introspective and take a look at our souls, and our relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ. What does this mean? For me, it began on Ash Wednesday. A traditional Ash service, one of the oldest worship services in the heritage of the Christian Church. I am always in awe that I am blessed to be part of this service each year. Seeped in tradition, the worship included Psalm 51, a special litany of Confession, the Imposition of Ashes, and Holy Communion. This year, I sat with two friends, one on each side of me, all of us, sisters in Christ, hungry for God’s grace. One of my friends is Baptist, and beforehand I had asked her to join me. She looked at me a little skeptically, so I said “We do worship the same God, don’t we?” She said yes, and she came to the service without another thought. My favorite part of the service was the Imposition of Ashes. To go up and kneel at the alter, and to have the mark of the cross put on my forehead makes me truly feel as if I am a daughter of God, one who knows without a doubt that Jesus lived, died and rose and is the Savior of this broken world. The service and message from the words of the pastor definitely brought me closer to an encounter with Christ. It was not a performance, but a gentle nudge to encourage me to think about the next 40 days. What will I bring to the cross? My sorrow? My worries? My repentance? My devotion to Christ Jesus? My hope, faithfulness and promise to serve my beloved Lord? My commitment to love others, as He loves me? When I received the Holy Communion...I felt honored to be a part of the gathering of my sisters and brothers, as we went to the Lord’s table. My eyes blurred with tears as I walked back to my seat. For I felt the love of God seeped into every pore of my being. The next 40 days I will bear witness to the very heart of Christianity, Jesus Christ.

Cindi Eckert, Editor

“May the Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26

Event Coming Up:



Beth Moore

Beth Moore, in Fresno at the SaveMart Center! April 1-2, 2011. It's not too late to sign up! Come join the hundreds of sisters who will gather for a collective Bible study & worship event!

"Beth's focus will be on the Scripture that God lays on her heart for each individual Living Proof Live event — no two are the same. As she explores the Bible and how it applies to real life, you'll be amazed by her own experiences as a believer, and you'll be inspired to magnify and strengthen your own relationship with God."

Who knew Bible study and worship could be so much fun!

Tickets & info: <http://www.lifeway.com/event>

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

A proud member of ALRC

Director of Resource Center: **Cindi Eckert**

