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Volume 9 Issue 3

SPS Resource Center
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Mother's Day is May 10th



The Resource Review

After Lent...

**Yesterday
I was crucified
with Christ;
today I will be glorified
with him.**

**Yesterday
I died with Christ;
today I will return to
life with him.**

**Yesterday
I was buried
with Christ;
today I will rise
with him
from the tomb.**

Christ lived the life we could not live, and took the punishment we could not take, to offer the hope we cannot resist...he is risen!

A beautiful hardback book has come to the Resource Center. It is called "**His Name is Jesus**", by Max Lucado. Max has authored many books that center around Christ and Christianity, but he has definitely out-done himself with this one. The graphics are incredible. If you ever

wanted to read deeper into Christ's life, know where he walked, who he met, what he did, then this book is a must have. Max Lucado takes you on a journey into the life and ministry of the One who gave himself to win your heart. Here is a brief quotation taken from the book (used with permission):
"God lives to hear your heartbeat. He loves to hear your prayers. He'd die for your sin before he'd let you die in your sin."

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RESOURCE CENTER:

- Library and Instructional Materials
- Located at Hope Lutheran Church, Fresno
- DIRECTOR: Cindi Eckert
- 559-449-8735
- rspselca@pacbell.net

News! News! News!

UPDATED WEBSITE!

Have you been to our website lately? There is a new look! Check it out at **resourcecenterspselca.org**. There are tons of new materials listed there, and you will be given instructions on how to navigate and check out these resources. Not only can you find what you

are looking for, but there is also a little information about each resource so you can select just the right one for your needs! This site will be updated often, so be sure to come back and visit frequently. There are also important links that you can click on to get where you want to go fast! In addition,

this quarterly newsletter and archives of it will also be linked for your convenience.

RESOURCE CENTER HOURS:

Monday: 9-3
Tuesday: 10:30-2:30
Wednesday: 9-3



New Resources!!!

Looking for new resources? You can access our current resources by going to the website at:

www.resourcecenterspselca.org

You will see the home page, and use the links to search or scroll down to: **Request Manager Web**. That will take you to the search box. Type in the subject and scroll down. You get a complete list of resources on that subject!

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

(A passage from Isaiah)



PEOPLE OF FAITH:

In these four-session studies, groups will focus on four major people in the Old Testament (one per session). Read and discuss passages, and engage in related group activities. This will be available summer and fall, 2009:

- A Gardner, Two Travelers and a Cheat (Adam, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob)

(Continued...)

- God’s Will for Life (Studies in Mark)
- God’s Extraordinary Church (Studies in Ephesians)
- God’s Standard or Gold Standard? (Studies in Proverbs)



NEW BIBLE STUDY

SERIES:

I would like to introduce three new Bible study series designed to support the Book of Faith Initiative. Try one or mix and match to create your own customized study. For each course, I will be carrying leader guides, learner books, and session preparation DVDs for leaders.

BOOK OF FAITH:

Study books of the Bible with

an eye toward the historical, literary, devotional and Lutheran theological approaches to the text. Will be available this summer and fall:

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Numbers
- John
- Romans
- Galatians
- 1 John

TOGETHER IN FAITH:

Use these studies to connect with worship themes that follow the Revised Common Lectionary. These studies approach major themes using the four-method approach central to the Book of Faith Initiative. Available summer and fall, 2009... (continued)

- A Lamentor, a Dreamer and Two Pretty Good Leaders (Rachel, Joseph, Moses, Joshua)
- A Grandmother to a King, a King-maker, a King and a Royal Pain (Ruth, Samuel, David, Elijah)
- A Prostitute, Two Prophets and Poor Ol’ Job (Gomer, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Job)

Foundational Courses:

Making Sense of Scripture: *Big Questions about the Book of Faith* is a seven-session study written by David Lose of Lutheran Seminary. This fresh, conversational study focuses on seven big questions about the Bible. This is a great introductory course for

those just getting started with the Book of Faith Initiative, or anyone new to Bible study. Available Summer 2009

REDISCOVERING THE BOOK OF FAITH:

This three-session course provides a succinct overview of the formation of the Scriptures

"If we teach a child to read, yet develop not the taste for reading, then all our teaching is for naught." (Charolotte Huck) May is "Get caught reading" month!

into the Bible we now call our Book of Faith. An excellent resource for those new to Bible study. Available now.

OPENING THE BOOK OF FAITH:

Ready to start increasing Biblical literacy and fluency? This is an excellent resource for those already in Bible study who want to learn more about the four-method approach central to the Book of Faith Initiative. This is also an excellent course for leaders preparing to teach the four-method approach. Available now. (NOTE: Spanish-language version will be published in Fall 2009!)

LUTHERAN STUDY

BIBLE:

This is now available (NRSV) in both hardcover and paperback. It's designed to invite readers to experience the Bible and its message through background material, Lutheran insights and faith reflections. It contains notes and articles written by 60 Lutheran pastors and teaching theologians. Featuring reading plans and discussion questions, this Bible makes it easy to open Scripture and join the conversation. (NOTE: The Lutheran Study Bible will be available for purchase at the upcoming Synod Assembly May 28-30 at an excellent discount. After that, the price to order will be \$24.99 for the paperback and \$34.99 for the hardcover. Quantities will be limited, so don't wait to pick on up or call

the Resource Center at 559-449-8735 before May 15th to reserve yours!)

SPARK SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Featuring classroom, lectionary, and rotation models, along with two exciting new Bibles, Spark is an excellent way to build Biblical literacy in children. Now available to preview at the Resource Center.

NEW RESOURCES FROM THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA:

Over the next year, Women of the ELCA will be rolling out many new resources to help you grow in faith and serve others. Some will be best for small groups, and others will be more individual in nature. All will be available through their website at

www.womanoftheelca.org

There will be something new every month, and the Resource Center will also carry resources as well.

SACRED SPACES:

An example of an excellent resource the Women of the ELCA provides is **Sacred Spaces**.

Just as good nutrition and exercise are part of how you care for your body, a personal sacred space for prayer, meditation, and spiritual thought can be a part of your spiritual self-care that enriches and supports your regular worship within a community of faith. Sacred Spaces provides a helpful framework for creating personal space. This resource is

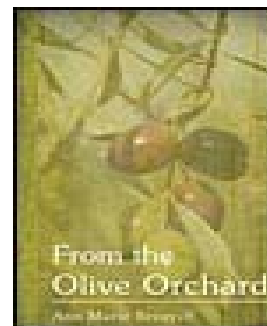
individual in nature, though it could generate lively discussion.



FROM THE DIRECTOR, CINDI ECKERT:



Re-source Center and today's Economy: Greetings! I hope this finds you all well, despite the challenging times we are facing in the world today. It's no joke. The economy is suffering and almost everyone is being affected in some way. Some good news: Traffic is on an upward swing at the Resource Center! As the economy has slowed down, people have been thoughtfully considering their options on how to cut back. The Resource Center is a wonderful opportunity that offers DVDs, books, curriculums, and kits, all FREE OF CHARGE! This has definitely boosted the number of people requesting resources, which of course, thrills me! Why buy when you can borrow?



SAVE THE DATE...

LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING EVENT!

I am pleased to announce a book signing event on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at Hope Lutheran Church, 364 E. Barstow Ave. Fresno, CA. The event will begin at 5:30 p. m. Refreshments will be served.

Come join author Ann Marie Bezaiff, an ELCA member of Trinity Lutheran, (Porterville). Come share in the wonderful story Ann Marie will tell of how she became published. Her book, "From the Olive Orchard", draws wisdom and life applications from the olives outside her window, which aren't ready to be eaten when picked, but have to undergo an extensive process of soaking, curing, and rinsing several times before they finally become edible. Bezaiff says: "These trees have the ability to survive in almost any condition, just like the Christian spirit, and their fruit is a reminder of the ongoing curing process that we experience as Christians in our everyday life." (Books will be available for purchase to be signed by the author).

