



RESOURCE REVIEW



SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD RESOURCE CENTER

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*Blessed is
the King
who comes
in the name
of the Lord!*



*Peace in
heaven and
glory in the
high heaven!*

Luke 19:38

“HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL”

It is that time of year once more. I thank God I have yet another year to celebrate the birth of the King, Jesus Christ. I love the lights, the ornaments, and the music that surrounds this season. I can't get enough of sitting close to my lighted tree at night, when all the world is calm and sleeping, to reflect on my life. I set aside the busy thoughts of the lists of things I have to do, the gifts I must get, the parties and events I must attend, to think about the babe that was born and laid in a manger so long ago. I think of his parents, and their profound awe at seeing him for the first time! How they must have felt to know they were selected, out of everyone else, to be the physical parents of the greatest king who would ever live! As they held him for the first time, I can only imagine their sense of responsibility for this beautiful newborn infant, and what a tremendous impact he would have on the world. On the day of his birth, they could hardly imagine he would ride humbly one day, into Jerusalem surrounded by the joyous cries of all the people! Or that songs of praise and joy would erupt by his mere presence! People had been waiting a long time for God to send them a Messiah. God kept His promise, as He always does. And so, as I reflect, I think of my love for Jesus, as I celebrate his birth with humility, amazement, and joy. For he brought light to this world, and new life and light into mine. (*Cindi Eckert, Director & Editor, SPS Resource Center*)

Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center

New Resources!



One Night with the King

Step into the exotic world of the Persian court, where one courageous woman dares to speak truth on behalf of her people! Based on Tommy Tenney's blockbuster novel, this captivating film tells the story of how beautiful Esther rises from peasant to princess, captures the king's heart, defies his malevolent prime minister, and thwarts horrific plans for genocide. *One Night with the King* features an all-star cast that includes Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif and John Rhys-Davies. Rated PG. Approx. 124 minutes.



Reflections on Psalm 23

Ken Curtis explores coping with advanced cancer from personal experience based on the inspiration of the 23rd Psalm. He was diagnosed with advanced cancer with little prospect for survival. He pursued a combination of traditional and alternative medicine, undergirded by strong spiritual dimension and prayer support team. Psalm 23 was a vital part of his spiritual component, and for this video Curtis went to Israel, home of David and the Psalm, to be with the shepherds, travel "through the valley of the shadow of death," and explore and enjoy the healing powers of the green pastures and still waters. This DVD includes thirteen 8-minute programs.



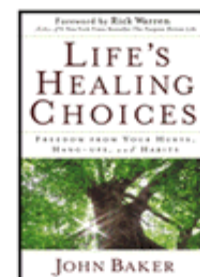
Heaven on Earth (Studies in Matthew, Together in Faith Series)

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! **Year A Jan 23 - Feb 27, 2011, 3-6 Epiphany**



VeggieTales: It's a Meaningful Life

The Salad Bowl is Stewart's biggest chance to become a star football player. But one botched play crushes his dreams---and he returns home to run his father's toy train factory instead. Then everything changes the day he boards a mysterious train. Where will it stop? And will Stewart discover his life's *true* purpose? Approx. 45 minutes.



Life's Healing Choices

"There is no more relevant word in this economy than recovery. But our most important need isn't financial recovery, it's Spiritual Recovery. Everybody is hurting, somewhere. Everybody has a hidden wound. Some don't know what it is, but everyone has hidden hurts that create fear, problems, worries etc. in their lives...Every single person where you work, in your neighborhood, in your family, every

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

Team Resource Centers!

God's Work *Alive and Well!* Kudos, Resource Centers!!!

November 6th, 2010 by Beth A. Lewis

One of the groups I enjoy interacting with the most are the [ELCA Resource Center Directors](#). These people, spread across the USA, one or two per synod at most, provide amazing support for the congregations and other ministry centers within their geographic areas. They assist pastors and other church leaders with finding helpful resources for use within their contexts. Sometimes worship resources, sometimes faith formation resources, sometimes pastoral care resources, etc.

In addition, they spread their wings far beyond their own geographic centers. They use the Internet & listservs to network with one another, providing helpful advice to each other. And, through monthly conference calls that we host through Augsburg Fortress, they learn from us about new and forthcoming resources and provide incredibly helpful feedback to our editors and marketing managers. This feedback helps us make our resources better and better for use "on the ground." (*Editor's Note: Beth Lewis is the President/CEO of Augsburg Fortress. She graciously granted permission for this article to be printed*). To hear more about what Beth has to say, please visit her blog at:

www.augsburgfortress.org/blog

Thank you Beth!

Confused about Christianity?
Want to make sense of the
Christian Faith? Here is a new
Resource you may want to
check out!



Making Sense of the Christian Faith (in the Resource Center now!)

Lead your small group as they ask questions and engage in conversation about the major theological doctrines of the Christian faith. *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* is an eight-session course however it is flexible and this leader guide contains suggestions for a variety of session times.

(Editor's note: Following is an article submitted by the former director of the SPS Resource Center, Delores Wright. I asked if she would share with us her experiences in Slovakia for the better part of this year! Included are some wonderful pictures as well! I am grateful she had a safe and very enriching trip! Welcome home Dee!)



Soli Deo Gloria, Mynska Street Church, Kosice



Presov, Slovakia- Slovak Lutheran Church, Diocese



Pr Arden Haug, International Congregation in Bratislava

A year of teaching English Conversation in Kosice, Eastern Slovakia, was a wonderful, unforgettable, rewarding year! I attended **Soli Deo Gloria**, the Slovak Lutheran church on Mlynska (me-lin-ska) Street nearly every Sunday. Speaking some Polish which I learned as a youngster was a tremendous help as the two languages have many similarities. I was able to communicate with Pr Linksch and his wife, Mrs. Pr. Linkschova—both Lutheran pastors. (All feminine names are given the “ova” ending—socially as well as legally.) Both were Associate Pastors for this congregation and Pr Dusan was the Senior Pastor as well as our chaplain at EGJAK. EGJAK is the acronym for our school, Evangelical Gymnazium JA Komenius. I was able to become a bridge between the congregation and the Kosice volunteers, voicing some of our needs in the flat (they were our landlords) and our desire for an English service which finally came about in May.

In Slovakia thirty, even twenty years ago, church membership was a quiet affair. The Communists did not close the churches, but they knew which families were members and who the church leaders were, and these families would not be offered prime jobs or even university acceptance. So we felt honored to attend the special Sunday afternoon ceremony when one of our Slovak English Teachers became a member. She had grown up under Communism, was part of the Young Pioneers which she cheerfully joked about, and had married a Lutheran man. Now her children were ready for Communion instruction and she had gone through several weeks of classes, memorized all the required materials and had been tested by Pastor Dusan—she was ready to be confirmed! She could share the news—all of her family members were in attendance—we could share the joy!

This new age of independence, since the fall of Communist Russia in 1989, is evident throughout Slovakia. Learning English is permitted, previously only German and Russian were offered in schools. All church schools were closed. One of the first Slovak church decisions was to reopen church schools, connect with the Lutheran Church in America and invite ELCA Global Missions to bring English teachers to Bratislava. In succeeding years this mission was extended to Kosice, Liptovsky Milukas, Tisovec, Presov and now, Cieszyn, Poland. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone with a college degree, young or old, to live in a friendly, relatively safe, part of the world and experience a different social and professional culture!

***Dee Wright**, member Good Shepherd ELCA, Fresno.*

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SPS Resource Center:

Books

Curriculum/Bible Study

DVD/Videos

VBS Materials

Music, and more!

Located in Hope Lutheran

Help Wanted: Part time volunteer, call (559) 449-8735.

Editor & Director, Cindi Eckert

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