

Learning Opportunities



To order DVDs of the plenary sessions and the Global Fest at the recent **2006 ELCA Global Mission Event** held at the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts, log on to: http://www.elca.org/gme/dvd_order_form.pdf Six DVDs are available, including the performances by the Indonesian dance group from Imanuel Lutheran Church, Newington, NH; the bell choir from St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Gales Ferry, CT, and Al-Raja Folkloric Dance Troupe from the Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah. Each DVD is only \$6 (which includes postage).

New England Synod Center for Faith and Learning, located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 20 Meadowlark Road, Vernon, CT, is offering courses this fall starting with: **Building Community: It's More Than "Small Groups"** led by The Rev. Tom Walsh on Saturday, Sept. 30, **Being a Voice for Peace and Justice: Advocacy for Congregations** led by Christopher Allen-Doucot on Saturday, October 14, and **Soul Care: Spiritual Practices That Help Us Stay Connected to God** led by Steven A. Kennedy on Saturday, Oct. 28. All of these are held from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm and require a payment of \$20. See brochure in this care packet.

The Christian Conference of CT welcomes **Professor Martin E. Marty** at their twenty-sixth annual ecumenical forum, speaking on "Ecumenical Suffering, Endurance, Character and Hope." The event will be held October 17, 2006, at St. Thomas Seminary, 467 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, CT. Professor Marty is one of the most prominent interpreters of religion and culture today. The event begins with a reception at 5:15 pm followed by the lecture and a discussion time beginning at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$19 per person (Seniors \$13) or \$10 for lecture only. For more info call 860-236-4281 or email christianconferenceofconnecticut@comcast.net Registration deadline is October 13.

Learn about the **Kerygma** program of adult Bible study October 21, 2006, 10 – 3, at First Church of Christ, 689 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT. \$25 pp or \$100 max per church includes lunch and workshop materials. Register at www.kerygma.com/workshops/registeronline.htm or call 800-kerygma or email explore@kerygma.com for details.

LSA-DN Spiritual Life Conference, **One God, One Call**, will take place at St. Louis, MO, October 23-25, 2006. This event of the Lutheran Services in America Disability Network is led by Bethesda Lutheran Homes and designed to meet the needs of pastors, parents, and volunteer teachers in a congregation. Four areas of emphasis are: inclusion of people with developmental disabilities into the life of the congregation, disability outreach and evangelism, congregational accessibility, and christian education for people with developmental disabilities. Cost is \$175. Visit www.blhs.org/?ogoc for details.

The New England Synod Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Understanding and Lutherans Concerned/North America – Reconciling in Christ Program are co-sponsoring **Reconciling in Christ Leadership Training**, October 26-29, 2006, at the Walker Center, 144 Hancock Street, Newton, MA. All who are interested in supporting the expansion of the welcoming church movement are encouraged to participate. Fees start at \$85/commuter or \$250 single/\$300 double occupancy. Space is limited, so register early. Registration deadline is October 12. See flyer in this care packet for details, links, and scholarship info.



- Thinking about **spiritual gifts and vocation**? Visit www.projectconnect.org to learn about local discernment events and other opportunities to test your gifts for ministry.
- **Pastors**, log in your youth as they head off to school. They will be connected to local Lutherans while away. www.projectconnect.org/subpages/leaders.htm
- **Students**, use this resource to locate a nearby congregation or campus ministry when you head off to college, or to connect with LSM, the Lutheran Student Movement in your area. www.projectconnect.org/subpages/students.htm

The Lord's Day Alliance of the United States exists to encourage Christians to reclaim the Sabbath—the Lord's Day—as a day of spiritual and personal renewal, enabling them to impact their communities with the Gospel. Their 2006 Lowndes Sermon Competition theme is “Seeking Sabbath: Liberating Our Lives” and based on Mark 2:23-28. Prizes are \$1,000, \$750, and \$500. For details visit www.ldausa.org

Need *inspiration*? The ELCA website offers prayer and devotion and a **daily Bible reading**: www.elca.org/spiritual.html You can also subscribe and have it forwarded to your personal email.

The ELCA Seminaries offer programs for pastors and lay leaders throughout the year. Check out their websites for new events. Visit the ELCA unit for Vocation and Education for links to them and to Lutheran colleges www.elca.org/theologicaleducation/seminaries/

Wheat Ridge Ministries offers financial grants to Lutheran congregations providing **sabbaticals** for pastors and other full-time church workers. Visit www.wheatridge.org and click “projects/services” to reach their sabbatical resource pages. Read about and join in their special “Bethlehem We Care” project which supports Dar al-Kalima Academy in Bethlehem, Palestine.

Small parish? Virginia Theological Seminary offers **The Summer Collegium**, a nine-day intensive residential program, ecumenical in scope, for clergy in mid-career serving small parishes (average worship attendance 100 or fewer). Costs are covered by a Lilly grant. The 2007 Summer Collegium, June 20-28, 2007, will emphasize “Christian Education in the Small Church.” Limited to 25 persons. See details at www.vts.edu/education/collegium/

Calling **Golfers** coming to **Bishop's Convocation**: Pastor Paul Henry announces that there are five slots reserved starting at 10 am on October 23rd. The first 20 golfers who contact him will be assured a tee off time. Location is Heritage Country Club, off Route 20 on Sampson Rd., Charlton, MA. \$25.00 greens fees with cart. To join in, call him at 860-289-4317, or email Leadingeyes@Yahoo.com