

Learning Opportunities

A follow-up **DVD of the 2006 Synod Assembly** is being mailed to each voting member. This resource includes highlights of speakers and other items that may be shared with your congregation.



To order DVDs of the plenary sessions and the GlobalFest 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, N.H.; the bell choir from St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Gales Ferry, Conn., and Al-Raja Folkloric Dance Troupe from the Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah. Each DVD is \$6 (which includes postage).

Pastor Fred Reisz will speak on "**Lutherans Out in Public**" on Saturday, September 30, 7:00 pm, at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT. Pastor Reisz, now retired, has served as president at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and also as pastor at UniLu in Cambridge, MA. The event will feature a keynote address, a question and answer time, and dessert. To reserve your place, call 860-525-0894 or email Knute.ogren@emanuelhartford.org

The annual BTI (Boston Theological Institute) Dinner and Lecture, **From Conflict to Communion: Exploring a Sabbath Way of Life**, will be held Tuesday, October 3, 2006 Hosts: Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, together with the Schools of the Boston Theological Institute and the National Lord's Day Alliance. Speakers are: Marva Dawn, author of *The Sense of the Call. A Sabbath Way of Life for those who Serve God, the Church, and the World* (Eerdmans, 2006); and Tom Porter, Editor of *From Conflict to Communion* (Methodist Press, 2006) For more contact 617-527-4880 or btioffice@bostontheological.org

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

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 only \$150 if registered by Sept. 15 plus discounted rooms at \$69 are available. Visit www.blhs.org/?ogoc for details or to register.

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 followed by the lecture and a discussion time beginning at 6:30. Cost is \$19 per person (Seniors \$13) or \$10 for lecture only. Brochure included in this care packet. For more info call 860-236-4281 or email christianconferenceofconnecticut@comcast.net

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.



- 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 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.

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, 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