

# Synod Resource Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA

December 2010

*"What issues are most important to your congregation?"*

*"What resources are most helpful to you in working those issues and why?"*

According to the Alban Institute, these questions are at the heart of resource center ministry; a ministry that exists to support congregations. In short, resource centers:

- are inviting PLACES where you can review and borrow resources.
- have experienced STAFF trained in identifying and evaluating resources, listening to your needs and finding the right resources.
- are vital LINKS between ELCA ministries, Augsburg Fortress, other publishers and you!

In addition, your synod resource center hosts the Association of Lutheran Resource Centers (ALRC) website ([www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org)) where you will find an organized collection of best practices, web links, an online catalogue, and a new blog.

This December marks the tenth anniversary of the ministry of your synod resource center. In 2000, we began providing resources—books, videos, best practices from other congregations, and publications of all kinds—to individuals and congregations throughout the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. A lot has changed over the years—especially in regard to technology—but your resource center has continued to keep up with the latest publications, equipment and information.

While resource materials have proliferated over the years, most congrega-

tional budgets to purchase them have shrunk. Congregations need assistance in choosing the resources that best fit their circumstances and in making good use of the resources they do choose. Your synod resource center, along with all the member centers of the ALRC, work together to help your congregation do ministry.

How does it work? Whether you are looking for Sunday School materials, information about strategic planning, or simply want to browse through the

shelves or online catalogue, you are encouraged to visit our center located at 1005 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire (in the First Lutheran Church building) or, if it's more convenient, you can log on to the website ([www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org)) for a virtual tour. If you're not sure where to begin, contact Bonnie Weber at 715-833-1153 or [staff@synodresourcecenter.org](mailto:staff@synodresourcecenter.org). Bonnie has years of experience and is eager to help. It gets even better! You could

*(Continued on page 2)*



The Synod Resource Center also supports our companion synod ministries through displays such as this one that highlights our relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi. To borrow a display for your congregation, contact the SRC.

*The Synod Resource Center is a ministry of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.*

## What others are saying . . .

We started a Rotation model of Sunday School from scratch nearly eight years ago and the staff of the Resource Center guided us through lessons and lesson plans from sources all over the map. What a terrific help to us! Since then, we at Faith Lutheran look to Bonnie for items we can preview for adult Bible studies, even borrowing resources to use without having to purchase them ourselves. The Resource Center is the FIRST place to start searching!

*Rev. Patricia Turner of Faith Lutheran, Marshfield*

I cannot imagine being without the Synod Resource Center. Its many resources are, of course, available through other means. But how much time would it take to find them, if ever? The technology helps, but having real people to work with and make the technology work for us is the real blessing. They and the Center are excellent examples of good, solid stewardship. We need to keep them!

*Rev. Curt Rohland, Interim Pastor, Greenwood parishes*

We at St. John's depend upon the Resource Center for materials that we only use once a year for Sunday school units on prayer and stewardship. They also have been extremely helpful in pointing us in the right direction for materials that we needed for other Bible studies, curriculum support, etc. We would be lost without the Resource Center, their resources and knowledge save us time, money and storage space.

*Jenny Nieman, secretary for Spencer/Riplinger parishes*

*(Continued on page 3)*



*(Continued from page 1)*

have the resource center come to your congregation and set up a large display on a Sunday morning to help people better understand the richness of this resource. (You'll want to plan this well in advance, since there is only one resource center and over 200 congregations!)

We're here to help, so pick up the phone, send an email, stop by when you're in the area, or visit the website and begin to discover the wealth of resources that are available to help expand your ministry.



Synod Assembly approved forming a resource center—a three year experiment. Funds to operate the center to come from ELCA grants, supplemented by gifts from congregations and individuals.

May 2000

First Open House and celebration and Greg Kaufmann's installation as assistant to the bishop. Bonnie Weber hired as Assistant Director of the Synod Resource Center

December 2000

Greg Kaufmann elected to the position of Vice President of The Association of Lutheran Resource Centers (ALRC). He served in this capacity for four years.

2001

## How is all of this possible?

At the 2006 synod assembly, all congregations promised to give an annual gift to support the ministry of the synod resource center rather than adding this ministry to the synod budget.

Has your congregation lived into that commitment? Are you wondering how you might do that? Here are some helpful examples shared by rostered leaders in our synod that you could use:

- Give \$1 per year for each person in your congregation—everyone can afford that!
- Select ten families in your congregation and ask each commit to giving \$3 per month.
- Have a special (noisy?) offering one Sunday a year—perhaps in December to celebrate the anniversary?
- Invite members to give a gift to the SRC in tribute of someone who has helped shape their own faith.
- Ask your congregation's council to add \$200 or more to your annual budget to support the ministry of your synod resource center.

Help the Synod Resource Center continue this vital ministry by sending your gift to:

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Attn: Gail Brown  
944 24 1/4 Street, Suite 2  
Chetek, WI 54728



Synod Assembly votes to continue the SRC for three more years. Funding shifted from churchwide grants to annual gifts from congregations and individuals.

May 2003

Synod assembly votes to continue the resource center permanently. Each congregation will give an annual gift to support this ministry. Additional grants will be sought to do special projects.

May 2006

3

*(Continued from page 2)*

We very much appreciate being able to borrow material from the resource center for our circle. We didn't find enough depth or stimulation in the Lutheran Woman publication, so we like finding other resources to study. I know everyone is struggling, our congregation included. So we like having your books to borrow! Thanks so much.

*Nancy Dean, lay leader, Greenwood parishes*

The Synod Resource Center has been a very integral part of information gathering for me both when I was a parish secretary and currently, as a lay minister. With the help of the knowledgeable staff and the ability to access information online, I have prepared and planned several unique worship services. Without these materials or Greg and Bonnie's help, the worship experiences would not have been as thought provoking or meaningful to the worship participants.

*Vicki Fankhauser, lay leader, English Lutheran of Bateman*

We, at Fristad Lutheran in Centuria, have called on and used the services of the Resource Center many times in a variety of ways. We have hosted the team twice at our place for the "traveling road show" to inform our members about the great resources available to us; we have checked out Sunday School and Confirmation curriculum; ordered Spark Bibles; found helpful stewardship programs; and borrowed videos on various topics. This is a rich resource that is helpful to us in this synod; one that we can be proud to share with the wider Church.

*Rev. Mel Rau of Fristad Lutheran in Centuria*

*(Continued on page 4)*

The SRC received a large grant from the ELCA to convert the website to a searchable database.

November 2006

(Continued from page 3)

The SRC has been so valuable in creating or expanding our various ministries as it provides us with the opportunity to explore new and different approaches to ministry. *And* we are able to stay more current with the materials we borrow from the Center. Having a connection at Lay School has enabled us to pick up and return materials to Chippewa Falls and eliminates any shipping costs which is really good stewardship! I want to extend a sincere "thank you" to Bonnie for the times she has gathered specific materials that we requested saving precious time, another good example of stewardship.

*Rev. Sandy Johnson of Prentice/Brantwood parishes*



[www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org) • 715-833-1153

### Meet the SRC staff . . .



Greg Kaufmann, Director  
gkaufmann@nswi.org



Bonnie Weber, Assistant Director  
bweber@synodresourcecenter.org

The Synod Resource Center depends on your support. Send your gift today to:

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Attn: Gail Brown  
944 24 1/4 Street, Suite 2  
Chetek, WI 54728

The Synod Resource Center works in collaboration with the East Central Synod of Wisconsin to offer educational events including Book of Faith and Rotation Sunday School workshops.

The website, [www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org), was given a complete makeover, including the addition of a blog. Currently there are over 5600 resources available in the online catalogue.