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Introduction

As you receive this brochure, please take a few moments and read through the many opportunities to grow in your discipleship specifically in the areas of “learning the faith,” and “being community.” As you read, you will discover a brief description of the opportunity along with the presentation style and discipleship emphasis.

There are three presentation styles. An **introductory approach** assumes no previous biblical and/or theological knowledge on the part of the participants. These opportunities serve as a great entry point or review into learning the faith. Secondly, an **exploratory approach** assumes some previous knowledge about the subject and the teaching emphasis is a bit more focused. Thirdly, an **in-depth approach** assumes that the participants have previous knowledge about the Bible and theology so the teaching approach goes much more in-depth into the subject.

The brochure is laid out according to the church year calendar and when the opportunities will be happening. There is also a table of contents on the previous page that you may find helpful.

Lastly, in the back of the brochure you will find a “learning the faith commitment card.” Please take a moment, pray, and fill out a commitment card for yourself and for every member of your family, if that is your circumstance. There are extra cards and forms at the church kiosk or you can print off the website at your convenience.

On Wednesday night September 14th, or on Sunday September 18th we invite everyone to bring their completed cards as an offering to the worship services. This hopefully will accomplish two important things; facilitating planning and most importantly, it serves as a way of reminding us of the importance to continue learning the faith and being community.

May God bless our learning and community together!

Tonya Person
Director, Board of Education

Sarah Thomson
*Pastor of Children, Youth
and Family Ministry*

Mark W. Skinner
Senior Pastor

Time after Pentecost (September-October)

The Acts of the Apostles Bible Study



If you are looking for an opportunity to grow in your understanding of the Bible and your faith, meet some new friends and have a great time, then join Pastor Mark as he leads this 7 session series on the Acts of the Apostles. Learn

about the very beginnings of the Christian church, the Holy Spirit, the early missionaries and what all of that means for the church and God's world today. We will meet on Sunday mornings between services in the Fellowship Hall. The format will be large group interactive presentation along with small group discussion. Sign up as a small group or individually to join with others in a small group, by utilizing the opportunities sheet or contacting the church office.

When: Sunday mornings between services beginning September 18

Presentation Style: Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Sunday School



Youth ages 3 through 12th grade join together for a year of learning, sharing, and growing in our faith. Monthly pastor-parent Sunday for different grades along with small group rotation.

When: Sunday mornings between services beginning September 11

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Catechism



Youth grades 6th through 8th grade participate in a year of learning about the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, and the life of Martin Luther. Large group presentation, small group discussion, fun and enriching times together.

Youth in the 9th grade will spend a year looking at life application of the past three years of catechism. This year will give the youth the chance to look at all that they have learned and how it applies to their daily lives.

When: Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:15 pm beginning September 21st

Presentation Style: Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community, Serving in God's world

Couples Retreat

**FOR BETTER...
...FOREVER!**

"For Better . . . Forever" is an enjoyable one day retreat for couples. With wit, humor, and spirit, couples learn from the latest research in what works for couples in these primary areas and more:

- **Gender and personality differences:**
How to keep them working for you rather than against you.
- **Communication**
Everyone can learn to communicate better. The sooner the better!
- **Spirituality: The Divine Love**
Secrets to keeping your love feeling "heaven sent".

This Seminar is led by Pastor Ron Hunt, MA, MDiv, LP, who developed this retreat and presented it to excellent reviews in many ecumenical church settings. Ron is a licensed Psychologist in Minnesota (#4609) and is a licensed as a Marriage & Family Therapist in California (#35365). He is also an ordained Pastor, Spiritual Director, and Co-Founder of Lakeside Center. His wife Lisa is also a Marriage Educator.

When: Saturday, October 15

Time: 9:30 AM – 5 PM

Where: Lakeside Center, 21605 Reno Lake Rd., Deerwood, MN

Cost: \$55 per person (with lunch and snacks add \$10)

For more information: www.lakesidecenterMN.com or call 218-534-5377

NE MN Synod Middle School Gathering



The Middle School Gathering is a great opportunity to introduce young people to the larger church and enhance their confirmation teaching. The event includes a keynote speaker, band (comprised of synod youth musicians), large group assemblies, learning clusters (small group learning), family time (time to meet with your church group), hotel life (fun activities often including a dance, inflatable games, basketball, swimming pool, Wii, DDR and more), and worship.

This year's focus for the Middle School Gathering is on the Ten Commandments. The commandments are more than just guidelines, they are "Loving Rules" that teach us to love each other and to love God. They are rules on how to love, because as Christians, love rules our life - and fulfills the law. Cost for the event is \$60 (early registration). See Pastor Sarah for more details.

When: November 18-19 2011 at Cragun's Conference Center

Presentation Style: Introductory / Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Baptism Seminar



This seminar is for anyone contemplating baptism for themselves or for their child. This seminar is intended to be informational, stressing biblical and theological roots for baptism along with providing an opportunity for small group interaction.

When: Offered Saturday (9:00-10:30 am) October 1, February 11, April 21

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Discerning God's Call in My Life Retreat at Camp Knutson (Crosslake, MN)



This retreat is for anyone contemplating God's direction for the next step in life's journey. Join us for this focused time of discovery, discernment, and renewal. Together we will explore our spiritual gifts, personality types, life experiences and other theological insights about what God is doing in our lives and calling us to be. Cost is \$70 which includes materials, meals and lodging. Limited to 15 participants. Note: this retreat is geared toward adults.

When: Friday night October 21st, 2011 and Saturday, October 22nd, 2011 (At Camp Knutson, Crosslake, MN)

Presentation Style: Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Advent-Christmas (November-December)

Good God questions



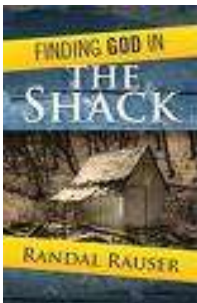
Sometimes questions about God are hard to ask and even harder to answer. Sometimes we get stuck at the questions and sometimes we stumble. Questions like human suffering, hell, the resurrection, heaven, and much more. Join leading faculty members from Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN who address Good God Questions with honesty and compassion true to the biblical witness.

When: Sunday morning forums...November 20, 2011 through January 29, 2012.

Presentation Style: Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being in Community

Finding God in the Shack – Small Group Reading Series



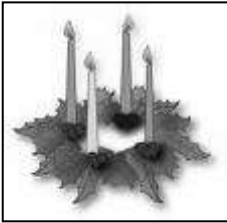
Join the author Dr. Randal Rauser as he explores the theology behind this best-selling book. His critical analysis lifts up some of the big God questions that are present all over this best seller. If you have already read The Shack, this will be a good follow up. If you haven't this may serve as a helpful lens to come at the book. Should be some good conversation and learning opportunities for all.

When: Wednesday nights beginning November 30, 2011 from 7:00-8:15 pm (4 sessions)

Presentation Style: Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Build an Advent Wreath Event



Join us for fun and fellowship as we make our own advent wreaths and devotion packets. This event is for young people ages K-5th grade and parents and family join as well.

When: Wednesday, November 16 from 7:00-8:15 pm

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being in Community

New Member Group



Interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem? Join us for these three sessions together between services followed by new member reception between Sunday worship services.

When: November 20, 27 and December 4, 2011; reception December 11th, 2011

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

Epiphany (January-February)

Overview of the Bible



Join Pastor Mark for this three-part multi-media series of the entire Bible including major themes, books, characters, and historical development. This is for anyone that is brand new to reading the Bible or for someone who reads the Bible regularly and wants a good review.

When: Tuesday nights: January 10, 17, 24th 2012 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith

Parent/ Youth Night with Jodi Harpstead , CEO LSS



We welcome Jodi Harpstead, CEO of the largest non-profit agency in Minnesota to speak about the many initiatives our church has for serving our neighbor in local neighborhoods and

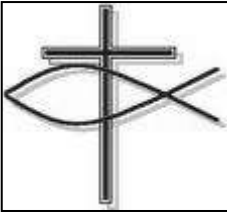
throughout the State. Jodi will speak about some of the greatest social service challenges we face and how we might begin to think more creatively about how to respond in faith.

When: Wednesday, January 11, 2012 from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Serving in God's church and world

Making Sense of the Christian Faith – Eight Session DVD and Small Group



Making Sense of the Christian Faith is an exciting and inviting exploration of the basic theological doctrines of the Christian faith in the order of the biblical story. Topics include Theology, Creation, Sin, Covenant, Law, Community, Incarnation, Atonement, the Church and Holy Spirit, and Eschatology. Facilitated DVD by Dr. David Lose from Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN. Participant books are \$12 (optional).

When: Tuesday nights beginning January 31 through March 27

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith

First Communion Workshop



This workshop is for all 5th graders (and parents) who would like to receive their first communion. This is a fun and exciting opportunity to learn and grow in our understanding of holy communion and the faith. Youth will celebrate their first communion on Sunday, February 5, 2012 after attending the workshop.

When: Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 am – noon.

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Epiphany Mission Conversations



Join us for year two of our conversations focusing on “What has God been doing?” and “What does God want to bring about?” specifically in the areas of worship and sharing the faith.

When: Sunday mornings; Feb, 5, 12, 19, 2012 between services.

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Serving in God’s church and world, Being in Community

Pre-marriage Retreat



For those contemplating marriage or have already made plans for getting married, this retreat is for you. Cost for the daylong retreat is \$125 which covers all materials, meals, etc. Couples that successfully complete the retreat will receive a discount on their marriage license through Crow Wing County. To register, go to our website; www.belcnet.net and click on the pre-marriage link.

When: To be determined

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Being community

Baptism Seminar



This seminar is for anyone contemplating baptism for themselves or for their child. This seminar is intended to be informational, stressing biblical and theological roots for baptism along with providing an opportunity for small group interaction.

When: Offered Saturday (9:00-10:30 am) February 11, April 21, 2012

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Lent-Easter (Feb/Mar -May)

1 John Bible Study: the Confessing Community



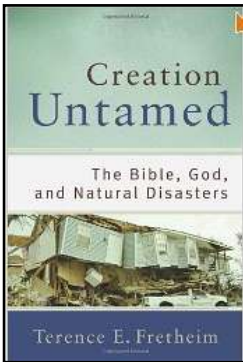
Join Pastor Mark in this large group presentation of 1st John along with small group discussion. We cover this challenging book in the New Testament focusing on such themes as; confession and forgiveness; Christ the atoning sacrifice, the community of God and Spirit in the world, the nature of confession, and how God's future determines our lives in Christ.

When: Sunday mornings; February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25 2012 between services.

Presentation Style: Introductory/exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith

Creation Untamed Book Study



Join us for this five week small group study of the book, *Creation Untamed, the Bible God, and Natural Disasters* by Terence E. Fretheim, professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul. In this book Fretheim explores the themes of human suffering, God, creation and much more. This is a great preparatory book for Dr. Fretheim's seminar on Saturday, March 24th at Bethlehem. Don't miss this great conversation and learning opportunity! The cost for the book is \$14.

When: Wednesday nights beginning Feb. 29th from 7:00-8:15 pm (five sessions)

Presentation Style: Introductory/Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith

2012 NE MN Lutheran Men In Mission Retreat



Join us for an exciting time of fun, fellowship and learning together in the faith at our 11th annual retreat to be held this year at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd. This year our keynote speaker is Dr. Rolf Jacobson from Luther Seminary. Dr. Jacobson was with us two years ago and did a wonderful job presenting and engaging the discussion. Meals, workshops on hunting, fishing, other sports, plus great worship together – men won't want to miss this opportunity!

When: Friday night March 2nd and Saturday March 3rd 2012 at First Lutheran

Presentation Style: Introductory/Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Cardia Deo Retreat (Senior High Retreat)



We are Called, Gathered, Equipped and Sent to share the Heart of God (Cardia Deo) in the world. This year we focus on what it means to be Sent. Bible studies led by the LYO Board and college interns, servant events, worship, mystery event, camp life, and an adult track led by the retreat chaplain all make this event a deeply meaningful, fun and faith-nurturing event.

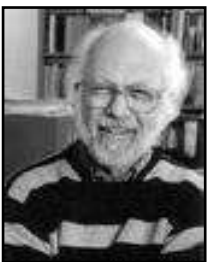
Evaluations by youth from previous retreats consistently say that the Bible studies and servant events are the highlight of the weekend. No matter your group size (many churches bring 1-5 youth), this event is a worthwhile investment in the faith life of your high school youth! Cost is \$110 (early registration). See Pastor Sarah for more information.

When: March 2-4, 2012 at Big Sandy Camp near McGregor

Presentation Style: Introductory/Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

God, Evil and Suffering ; an Old Testament Perspective with Dr. Terence Fretheim



Join one of the leading and most read Old Testament professors in the world today. Dr. Terence Fretheim, Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN as he leads us in presenting this timely and important topic that has perplexed humanity for centuries. Fretheim engages the biblical texts and seeks out the God that suffers in and with the creation. Cost for the day is \$20 which includes all materials and lunch. We begin at 9:30 am and conclude the day with worship at 4:00 pm.

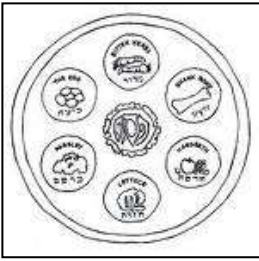
Don't miss this tremendous opportunity to grow in learning the faith.

When: Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 9:30am-4:30 pm

Presentation Style: Introductory/Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith

Seder Meal



Join us on Maundy Thursday (April 5th) at 6:30 pm for the celebration of the Passover Meal. Join us as we explore and enact this ancient Old Testament ritual that gives us a foretaste of the death and resurrection of Christ. Everyone is invited to attend. Catechism families are strongly encouraged to attend.

When: Thursday, April 5, 2012, 6:30pm

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

New Member Group



Interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem? Join us for these three sessions together between services followed by new member reception between Sunday worship services.

When: Sundays, April 15, 22, 29- New Member Sunday (May 6th)

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

Baptism Seminar



This seminar is for anyone contemplating baptism for themselves or for their child. This seminar is intended to be informational, stressing biblical and theological roots for baptism along with providing an opportunity for small group interaction.

When: Offered Saturday (9:00-10:30 am April 21, 2012)

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the faith, Being community

Time after Pentecost (June-August)

Middle School Day Event

Summer stretch

Middle school youth currently in 6th through 8th grade, come and join the fun! We will spend the day serving alongside ministries in the Brainerd/Baxter area, eat lunch, share in bible study, and play games or other fun activities. We will spend 6 Thursdays in June and July together along with three other local Lutheran churches learning, growing, and serving.

YouthWorks – Duluth (7-8th grade)



7th and 8th grade youth, we will be traveling to Duluth, Minnesota to serve with YouthWorks June 17-June 22, 2012. The cost for this trip will be \$395 per person. Please see Pastor

Sarah for more information. To register please turn in a \$50 deposit to the office or Pastor Sarah. Space is limited so reserve your spot now. Sign up by October 9, 2011.

Wet and Wilderness Week for 6th through 8th graders



Begin your week at Camp Emmaus in Menahga, Minnesota where you will participate in the low and high ropes courses to prepare yourself physically and mentally for the week ahead. The Crow Wing River will be your home for the next three days. Paddle and camp your way downstream until Thursday morning when you will be shuttled to Luther Crest near Alexandria, Minnesota for water skiing on the clear, blue waters of Lake Carlos or time at a nearby water park. This program allows you to test your outdoor skills as you utilize rustic campsites and sleep in tents throughout the week. **Individuals or groups can sign up for this camp.** Limited to 12 campers a week. Cost: \$365.

Mission Trip Synod Journey Mission Possible July 13-23



Youth in grades 9-12 will travel with 450 other youth from the Northeastern Minnesota synod to the National Youth Gathering, in New Orleans, Louisiana. On the way to New Orleans we will stop in the Gulfport/Biloxi area and spend four days learning and serving. From there we will travel to New Orleans and join 40,000 other youth in 5 days of learning, serving, and growing. It will be an amazing experience. Please see Pastor Sarah for more information, questions, or comments. Sign up by September 11, 2011.

Backpacking in Colorado for Young Adults ages 18 through 30.



Join the pastors for this three night backpacking trip in the pristine Rocky Mountains of Northern Colorado. We will travel together by vans to Colorado; trip cost (\$225) includes transportation, most meals, and lodging along the way. Limited to 12 people. To register submit down payment of \$50 along with the commitment card.

When: Leave Sunday, August 5th and return Saturday August, 11th.

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

Luther Crest Ministries



Youth of all ages, as young as 2nd grade are invited to check out the many opportunities for a week at Luther Crest Ministries in Alexandria, Minnesota. For a list of what camps are available please check out www.luthercrest.org