

RESOURCES FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

O Lord, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence, let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. - Psalm 88:1-3

The Resource Center has numerous printed and audiovisual resources that deal with difficult times. Call the center if you are looking for helpful materials. And PLEASE SHARE with us ideas and resources you may know of that others might find beneficial.

The ELCA web site is an invaluable source of worship and study materials related to the September 11th attacks. Go to www.elca.org for helpful resources on a variety of topics including disaster response information, coping resources, materials for children, and resources for better understanding the Middle East.

The periodical "Living Pulpit" has issues on the topics of evil, sin, suffering, anger, conflict, community, and healing (as well as many other topics). Each of the magazines presents ARTICLES on the specific subject, QUOTATIONS, BOOKS, and IDEAS FOR PREACHING.

The Bereavement Ministry Program: A Comprehensive Guide for Churches includes helpful sections on bereavement care after traumatic events including war, terrorism and technological disasters. Also helpful are sections on the grieving process after a traumatic event, keeping healthy in the midst of anger and grief, suggested reading after a traumatic event, and a list of support groups. This resource, authored by Jan Nelson and David Aaker, is available from Augsburg Fortress or from Ave Maria Press as well as for loan from the center.

*Defenceless under the night
Our world in stupor lies;
Yet, dotted everywhere,
Ironic points of light
Flash out wherever the Just
Exchange their message:
May I, composed like them
of Eros and of dust,
Beleaguered by the same
negation and despair,
Show an affirming flame.*
- W. H. Auden

Trouble makes us one with every human being in the world. - Oliver Wendell Holmes

Liturgies of Lament provides thoughtful and substantive liturgies that address the community's response in ritual and prayer to violence and disaster. Five kinds of liturgies are included: the Liturgy of the Word, Evening Prayer, a Liturgy Based on the Structure of the Lament Psalms, Penitential Services, and Processions. Available from the center for loan or from Liturgy Training Publications.

Two worship resources that may be helpful: "A Light to Lighten Our Darkness: A Service of Prayer, Hope, and Remembrance" (available online at www.elca.org) and a new hymn called "O God, Our Words Cannot Express" available from the Resource Center for one-time use or from Carolyn Winfrey Gillette at 856-589-8444 or bruce.gillette@ecunet.org

I have been in Sorrow's kitchen and licked all the pots. - Zora Neale Hurston

A liturgy of trust from the Gospel of Matthew has been shared by Bob Schaefer, a seminarian and former religion major at Concordia College. Titled "I Trust You, Lord," it's a beautiful statement of faith and a service to be used on many different occasions.

Marva Dawn's book of meditations on Isaiah 40, *To Walk and Not Faint* is a collection of "cries" to help us make sense of frightening global issues. Available for loan or from Eerdmans Publishers.

For a thoughtful reflection on the many aspects of grief and loss, we recommend *Tear Soup-A Recipe for Healing After Loss*. Every congregation in the synod should have received a copy of this book. If you don't have it, let us know.

*Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit;
I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. - Job 7:11*

For a "window on the world" helpful in pastoral ministry, Pastor Steve Wold, Calvary, Grand Forks recommends subscribing to the New York Times online (www.NYTimes.com) He has found the editorials especially helpful in reshaping and informing what we read and hear on the news. On online subscription means that you will receive daily e-mail service from the New York Times.

We have many web site addresses for talking with children about tragedy. Call the Resource Center for more information or go to the ELCA web site for additional resources for children.

Pastor Mark Vitalis Hoffman has written a bible study on I Peter called: "TESTED BY FIRE: Living as a Christian in a Post-Christian Era." Copies available from Pastor Hoffman (701-235-6629) or from www.crossmarks.com Six sessions.

University extension services provide resources that address coping with fear, disaster, terrorism and war. In this synod, you can access materials from North Dakota State University at www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu or call 701-241-5700.

A Litany After an Act of Terror written by the Rev. Thomas Weitzel is available from the center.

Make sickness itself a prayer. - St. Francis de Sales

A bible study for youth from Midland Lutheran College can be found at www.nebraskasynod.org Click on "Bible Study to Help Cope."

A resource for discussion by young people including activities and a study is available from our center or you can go to www.synodresourcecenter.org Click on "Activities, Studies, Discussion for Terrorist Attack."

Remember this: All suffering comes to an end. And whatever you suffer authentically, God has suffered from it first.
- Meister Eckhart