

# what's new?

in the **RESOURCE CENTER**

**FEBRUARY 2010**

The following resources are highlighted and recommended for your consideration.

If you have questions or would like to reserve a resource, contact Julie Aageson at 701-232-3381 or [julie.aageson@ecunet.org](mailto:julie.aageson@ecunet.org) / [juliea@eandsynod.org](mailto:juliea@eandsynod.org)



Our new electronic resource, **Open for Exploration**, provides a monthly reminder about current resources. It's downloadable and can be used as a bulletin insert or in congregational newsletters. It is also a feature in the synod monthly e-news, **eQuip**. Download this resource and/or subscribe to eQuip online at [www.eandsynod.org](http://www.eandsynod.org)

Two new Vacation Bible School kits are available for preview. **BaobabBlast** from Augsburg Fortress focuses on God's creation and the community of faith. **ReNew** from Spark House uses the Parable of the Sower to address care of creation and a green environment.

A ten-session dvd program, **Living Faith** by Tom Wright, explores the essentials of Christianity. The sessions explore scripture, history, beliefs and practices and how Christianity differs from other religions. (DVD315)

For congregations interested in using the **Alpha** course as a practical introduction to Christianity, we have the "**Just Curious Kit**" introducing Alpha as well as the dvd set, The Alpha Course (express version and full length version). (K169) (DVD312, 313)

**The Missional Church** is a twelve-session dvd to help a congregation think more intentionally about its calling. Sessions focus on biblical understandings of the missional church in the Old and New Testaments, a Reformation understanding of mission, confessional and theological perspectives, and strategic models for helping lay leaders think about ministry in daily life. (DVD311)



Another excellent resource for rethinking what it means to be a missional church is **The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church**. Participants will learn how to recognize six important realities church leaders must face if we are to move beyond "churchianity" to a more authentic and missional Christian faith. This ten-session dvd curriculum includes a leader's guide, participant guide, and four dvds. (DVD202)

For older youth and adults, the **LIQUID** series invites participants into the Bible by pointing to specific stories and making them come to life with contemporary examples. **Crossing** features five stand-alone stories from Joshua. **Mirror Image** brings five well-known parables to life. (DVD316, 317)

A dvd resource about the history of conflict between religion and homosexuality has been given to the resource center. The documentary, **For the Bible Tells Me So** provides thoughtful reflection and background and offers clarity, healing, and understanding to anyone struggling with issues of scripture and sexual identity. (DVD 272)

**EarthBound: Created and Called to Care for Creation** is a cutting edge six-session series that takes Martin Luther's understanding of justification and vocation and expands it across God's magnificent creation. It addresses the origins of our misconceptions about scripture's portrayal of creation and invites viewers to recognize God's call to us to relate to the whole creation as our vocation. (DVD314)



A PBS special, **The Congregation: Questions of Faith in Changing Times** is the story of a church struggling with basic questions about being the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A discussion guide accompanies the DVD. (DVD44)

## Exploration of Faith and Emerging Church Resources

Many new resources on the topic of the emerging church are available. See the collection posted at <http://www.eandsynod.org/resource-center/topic/emerging-church/> under FEATURED TOPICS called **Being Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Themes from the Emerging Church**. Check out the following:

- The Future of Christianity: A Startling New Vision of Hope for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (DVD262) Go to [www.futureofchristianity.com](http://www.futureofchristianity.com) to learn more about this conversation
- *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith* by Diana Butler Bass (B3419)
- The Gods Aren't Angry (DVD243) Rob Bell's latest presentation on the origins of religion
- *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World* by Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk (B3453)
- *A New Kind of Christian* by Brian McLaren (B3387)

**Nooma** films continue to be good discussion starters for all ages. The online catalog includes twenty-four titles including the newest, “Whirlwind” about wanting certainty and answers in a world that is often uncertain. (DVD278)

[www.elca.feautor.org](http://www.elca.feautor.org) Check out this excellent open source site for sharing unpublished religious resources. Many resources posted here come from Eastern North Dakota Synod.

We have a large collection of **CHILDREN’S BOOKS** for loan. Check them out!

**Modern Parables: Living in the Kingdom of God** is a DVD-based bible study combining cinema and theology. Short dramatic films explain Jesus’ parables. 12 sessions, 12-20 min. each for older youth, adults. (DVD249)

Down and out: it’s the life God gives us, the life to which God calls us. **Down and Out: Where Grace Takes You** is a six-part series for adults about rediscovering what Martin Luther made so clear five centuries ago: grace takes us out into God’s world, out of our churches, to co-create with God on behalf of others, for the sake of the world. (DVD204)

LeaderResources has given us a preview copy of **The Many Faces of God: An Interfaith Encounter for Youth and Adults** by Denise Yarbrough. For ongoing study of interfaith issues, this provides a very thorough process for learning about other traditions. More information available at [www.leaderresources.org](http://www.leaderresources.org) (PR992)

Logos Productions is highlighting a recent book by Marcus Borg, **The Heart of Christianity** together with two very interesting companion resources:

- **Experiencing the Heart of Christianity** is a twelve session program for small groups led by Tim Scorer and Borg (accompanying DVD) divided into two main parts: Seeing the Christian Tradition Again and Seeing the Christian Life Again.
- **Living the Heart of Christianity**—also a companion to Borg’s book—is a guide for putting faith into action.



## **ALBAN INSTITUTE Resources**

Alban’s free online guide to resources for faith communities is available at [www.congregationalresources.org](http://www.congregationalresources.org) Check it out—it’s a treasure! Alban also offers regular webinars on topics of congregational life. Call the Resource Center for more information. We also subscribe to the Alban Weekly and have most Alban publications available for loan.

## LABYRINTH

Our portable labyrinth, **Circle of Peace Labyrinth** continues to be well-used. This twenty-four foot Circle of Peace canvas labyrinth is a seven-circuit Chartres design. It can be used as a spiritual tool, a way of silencing the noise and turmoil in our busy lives, and for centering and meditative or contemplative prayer. Call the Resource Center to reserve! (K147)



If you are interested in using the labyrinth, you may like to borrow a dvd, **Rediscovering the Labyrinth: A Walking Meditation** which introduces this ancient practice. (DVD100)

Continuing his series of conversations in spiritual theology, **Eugene Peterson's books and study guides** provide stimulating grist for discussion:

*Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading* (B3280)

*Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology* (B3487)

*The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways that Jesus is the Way* (B3388)

*Tell It Slant: A Conversation on the Language of Jesus* (B3648)

## NEW CURRICULUM

**Fed and Forgiven** is a set of print and DVD resources introducing children and adults to the sacrament of holy communion. DVD segments explore the many meanings of the Eucharist in ways that are appropriate for each age level. A feast for all ages! (K168) (DVD279)

**SPARK!** Curriculum samples (ages 2-Grade 6) are available for preview. We also have SPARK children's bibles as well as the new Lutheran Study Bible for loan. If your congregation is still deciding which material to use, go to a free curriculum selection tool from Augsburg Fortress at [http://www.activatefaith.org/Pages/curriculum\\_picker.htm](http://www.activatefaith.org/Pages/curriculum_picker.htm)

the Resource Center

Eastern North Dakota Synod

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