In This Week’s Issue

Design with a Purpose Challenge
Open Houses during Ramadan
Minnesotans Standing Together
Addiction and Recovery in Faith Communities
DREAM Act Sabbath
Protect the Least of These with Non-Toxic Back the School Supplies
Resources to Mark the 10th Anniversary of 9/11
Personal Water Use Calculator

Design with a Purpose Challenge

The Design for a Purpose Competition is an opportunity to create a home for the homeless, welcome new arrivals from all over the world, and participate in a fun, high impact project with your friends, coworkers, or congregation. Flex your creative muscles, settle that friendly office rivalry, and most importantly, change the lives of refugee families. Click here for the competition rules and to learn how to enter.

Upcoming Events

Open Houses during Ramadan

Here’s the opportunity you’ve been waiting for to get to know your Muslim neighbors and visit a Mosque. Come to any of the open houses at mosques around the metro area in this special Ramadan series sponsored by Taking Heart. The Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which falls during August this year, is when Muslims fast from sun up to sun down. At each open house you are invited to share in the Iftar meal, in which Muslims break their daily fast after the sunset prayers. If you would like to attend one of these events, please register by clicking here.

Fri, Aug 19, 7:00
Masjid Al-Rahman
8910 Old Cedar Ave, Bloomington

Please register by clicking here. For more information contact Gail Anderson at gail.anderson@mnchurches.org.

Minnesotans Standing Together

Sunday, September 11, 2011, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., MN State Capitol Steps

September 11, 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In observance of that day a coalition of faith organizations is presenting a community observance which will honor the ideals of freedom and democracy, lament loss, offer healing, and create hope and inspiration for great cooperation in our diverse state and nation. The ceremony is coordinated by the Minnesota Council of Churches and will feature an unprecedented coalition of religious, civic and public officials, musicians and artists from across Minnesota. Governor Mark Dayton will provide a keynote address. More at http://minnesotansstandingtogether.com/

Addiction and Recovery in Faith Communities

September 16, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Minnesota Recovery Connection, 253 State St, Saint Paul

Get involved:
Adult forums, guest preaching, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy training.

Stay in touch with the Minnesota Council of Churches on Facebook.

DONATE NOW
powered by Razoo
Equip your faith community to create and deliver addiction recovery support. Through individual and panel presentations as well as group discussion, this workshop offers the latest information, resources, and strategies on how to educate, support, and provide hope to individuals, families, and communities affected by addiction. Sponsored by the Minnesota Recovery Connection. Pre-registration by September 9, 2011 is required. Email nell@minnesotarecovery.org or click here.

**DREAM Act Sabbath**

**Anytime between September 16 to October 9, 2011**

You can support the immigrant students in your community by supporting the proposed DREAM Act. During DREAM Sabbath 2011, communities of faith will lift up the lives of DREAM students in the prayers, readings, reflection and education during at least one Sabbath service as a way to help educate and spread awareness of DREAM students and their hopes to attain full recognition of their contributions to our communities. Click here to learn about DREAM Sabbath 2011.

**Advocate**

**Protect the Least of These with Non-Toxic Back the School Supplies**

Lunchboxes, backpacks and binders are all designed to help your children do well in school. However, some of them are made with PVC. PVC is unlike other plastics in that it contains lead, phthalates, and cadmium, which can leach out of the plastic and onto skin and other material it touches. These chemicals have been linked to asthma, cancer, obesity and learning disabilities. If you are back-to-school shopping, you can help make mindful decisions that protect your vulnerable and growing student by using this back-to-school product guide.

**Resources**

**Resources to Mark the 10th Anniversary of 9/11**

The Evangelical Lutheran, Greek Orthodox, Presbyterian USA, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist denominations have all created resources for use in worship on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Find them, and interfaith worship elements, here. You can also find a litany for use in interfaith gatherings here.

**Personal Water Use Calculator**

As we read about the drought in the Horn of Africa, we are mindful of the water we have access to and the abundance of rain we have had in Minnesota this summer. The city of Tampa, Florida offers a form where you can estimate your daily water use. Try it out - you might be surprised how much water you use every day!
More than 1 million people of faith strengthening communities.