How do we observe the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation?

That’s a question many church leaders are asking as we near the year 2017, five hundred years since Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses in the city of Wittenberg, Germany.

Yet for most of us this question is just one of many as we plan another year of activity in the life of our Christian communities. In the year to come:

• How will we enliven worship, gathering God’s people in the Spirit around the life-giving means of grace?
• How will we grow in faith together, deepening our conversation with the Bible, raising up our children and youth, wrestling with how our faith meets a world in need?
• How will we equip ourselves and others in our congregations to lead more confidently, preach more boldly, and care more wholly?
• How will we help God’s people nurture faith at home, embracing kids with the joy of knowing they are God’s beloved children, and refreshing our own spirits?

These activities—enlivening worship, growing together, equipping leaders, nurturing faith—are among the gifts of the Reformation and the Lutheran heritage that center our ministries, year in and year out. In the upcoming year, however, many of us will be looking for ways of doing these central things that highlight our five-hundred-year journey to this anniversary year and energize our mission and ministry for the future.

This summer, in collaboration with the ELCA churchwide organization, Augsburg Fortress is bringing you several resources in the series Together by Grace to support your ministry in 2016–2017 and beyond. The Reformation 500 Sourcebook with a wealth of ideas for worship, learning, service, and communication. Papa Luther, a graphic novel for all ages. Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans, a richly illustrated study book on the Lutherans and what we’re all about, from the Reformation into the future. Declaration on the Way and other resources to stimulate ecumenical engagement. Anniversary editions of Luther’s Small Catechism to support the ELCA’s catechism initiative. Even a free Catechism app!

We’re also featuring highly useful resources for Lutherans from our publishing partners at Sparkhouse and Fortress Press—Colaborate: Lutheran Confirmation, well-researched Reformation studies like the Annotated Luther series, as well as popular titles like When Lightning Struck!

We’re privileged to be your partners in your callings to faith and service. With you we give thanks for being freed and renewed in Christ. How can we support your ministry?

Peace and joy,

Martin A. Seltz
Publisher
Augsburg Fortress
Contents

Anniversary Resources for Congregations. ................................................................. 4–9
Luther’s Small Catechism ......................................................................................... 10–11
Ecumenical and Interfaith Study .......................................................................... 12–13
Martin Luther ........................................................................................................ 14–15
Writings of the Reformation .................................................................................. 16–19
Colaborate: Lutheran Confirmation ....................................................................... 20–21
Sundays and Seasons and Reformation 500 ......................................................... 22–23
500 Years! October 31, 2017, will mark 500 years since the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation, spurred by Martin Luther’s posting of the Ninety-Five Theses

This is an important anniversary and one that deserves to be lifted up not just on a global scale—as it will be—but in your congregation and community as well. Through several avenues, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Augsburg Fortress will be highlighting a wide range of ideas and possibilities from various sources with ways to mark and observe this milestone.

Reformation 500 Sourcebook

$29.00
978-1-5064-0637-4

As congregations plan the ways they will mark the Reformation’s 500th anniversary, this Reformation 500 Sourcebook will be an essential guide. The Sourcebook content is gathered into three main sections that focus on the areas of worship, education, and service. Within these covers you will find a treasury of ideas for planning worship services, education events, music festivals, service projects, and connections with other Christians. A CD-ROM of reproducible, customizable content is also included.
HOW DO WE OBSERVE THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION?

The first instinct for many will be to throw a big party. Give thanks! Celebrate! And there will be plenty of that as we near the year 2017, five hundred years since Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses in the city of Wittenberg, Germany.

But there is more to marking this milestone. Luther and a number of his fellow reformers were teachers—of university students, of pastors and bishops, of all people. In education has a rightful place in our observance. They took part in conversations—witty, raucous, with Christians of various traditions. So continuing conversations deserve to be included in our plans. And to be candid, the events of the Reformation are rooted in the places where it continues to this day. Luther and some who have followed his teachings have done so with some burliness and jarring things. So humor and seriousness will also color our observance. There are just a few of the dynamics of this anniversary, which extend to the fields of worship and music, the sciences and cultural studies, social action and public witness, and many more.

The Lutheran church is diverse, and it is decentralized—meaning that no one will be giving congregations a blueprint for how they should observe this anniversary. These choices will vary, depending on your context. Here is an invitation to form the plans your congregation will make. Through several sessions, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Augsburg Fortress are highlighting a wide range of ideas and possibilities from various sources. We hope the information and resources in this sourcebook encourage you to start planning today! It’s a checklist to help you organize your observance is included in the sourcebook on p. 175.

And remember, this anniversary involves much more than one year. Significant events of the Lutheran church were included in this sourcebook on p. 175. For marking baptismal anniversaries, we commend the Children’s Catechesis: A Baptism Manual for Parents and Sponsors by Daniel Erlander, pages 29–30.

Blessings to you and your congregation as you seek to answer that question in the places where you live and serve.

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Blessings to you and your congregation as you seek to answer that question in the places where you live and serve.
A new graphic novel that tells the story of Martin Luther through the eyes of his children. Perfect for children, youth, and more than a few adults, too!

**Papa Luther: A Graphic Novel**

Daniel D. Maurer, writer
Caitlin Like, illustrator

$7.99  Quantity pricing available

978-1-5064-0639-8

The exciting story of Martin Luther, told through the eyes of his children Hans and Magda. This colorful, 88-page “comic book” is geared especially toward children ages 8 to 13, but will intrigue all ages. An online leader guide for use with groups will be available Fall 2016.
A human being is not only responsible for what he or she says, but also for what is not said!

Unless you can convince me with the Word as it stands in the Bible -- or by simple logic and reason -- what I say is captive to the Word of God. My conscience tells me I am right. I cannot go against God, and I cannot go against my conscience. I cannot and I will not recant!

Here I stand. God help me.

The questioning had begun... Martin Luther... laid before you are the works which we have determined are against the church, and against God. Did you write them?

I am the author of these works. Yes.

Do you recant what you have written here?

Because I do not want to make a mistake, I ask the court for time to think my answer over. May I have one day to do this?

The court gave me one day to rethink my decision. I prayed for that whole evening for a simple answer, but I knew what I had to do.

That evening—I'll be honest with you, children... that evening I was terrified. I didn't know what was going to happen.

You see. Frederick the Wise had made plans for my safe travel. I was supposed to be safe to and from this hearing. But truth be told, I didn't trust the powers to keep their word!

The questioning had begun... Recant means that a person no longer believes the message that he or she had once said. It's like a "take-back."

7 Recant means that a person no longer believes the message that he or she had once said. It's like a "take-back."

These writings have all sorts of different things I say. In some of them, I might have said what I wanted too harshly. I suppose that's my German temper.

But what I believe is a different story. Collecting money to forgive sins is wrong, and the abuses of the Church are too great for me to say nothing.

Unless you can convince me with the Word as it stands in the Bible -- or by simple logic and reason -- what I say is captive to the Word of God. My conscience tells me I am right. I cannot go against God, and I cannot go against my conscience. I cannot and I will not recant!

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The questioning had begun... Recant means that a person no longer believes the message that he or she had once said. It's like a "take-back."
Who are the Lutherans? Engage the Reformation today with a colorful new study for adults about Lutheran faith and mission

Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans

Kathryn A. Kleinhans, editor

$12.00  Quantity pricing available

978-1-5064-0638-1

Who are the Lutherans, and what are they all about, both historically and around the world today? Some of our most gifted pastors, scholars, and writers here offer a glimpse at Lutheran faith, worship, and mission. An online leader guide is also available for use with groups.

Table of Contents excerpt

Part 1: The Faith We Confess
Part 2: From the Sixteenth Century to Today
Part 3: Worship and the Arts
Part 4: Faith Active in Love
Part 5: Being Lutheran Together in a Wider World
Part 6: Voices and Places—Stories from the Global Lutheran Family
It’s All about Grace

Kathryn A. Kleinhans

Each year, the students in my Lutheran heritage class at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, read Martin Luther’s Ninety-five Theses. “What surprised you?” I ask them. Typically, the biggest surprise is what the Ninety-five Theses are not: They are not a laundry list of all the things Luther didn’t like about the Roman Catholic Church. What they are is an academic argument focused on one specific topic—indulgences.

Luther wasn’t the first to criticize the church’s use of indulgences, but he is certainly the best remembered. In 1517 he was still a fairly young professor of biblical theology at the University of Wittenberg. At the same time, a persuasive preacher named Johann Tetzel was authorized to sell indulgence letters nearby. The money received for those indulgences would finance the completion of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, as well as expand the territory of a prominent German bishop.

The conflict between Luther and Tetzel was the spark that ignited the Reformation. To understand the controversy, it’s helpful to know some background.

The Roman Catholic Church in Luther’s day distinguished between the “guilt” of sin and the “penalty” of sin. Forgiveness of guilt didn’t automatically eliminate the penalty or consequence of one’s sinful actions. That may sound harsh, but many parents will recognize the dynamic.

A child playing ball too close to the house breaks a window. “Of course I love you,” the parent says, “and I forgive you for disobeying me. However, you’ll have to do extra chores to pay for replacing the broken window.” Both

Together by Grace

he drafted a series of statements challenging the value of indulgences among other scholars and church leaders to debate him on the topic. The debate never happened, Luther’s Ninety-five Theses quickly its way to a printer and were reproduced widely. The most powerful element of Luther’s critique of indulgences is the alter- offers. Indulgences, purgatory, penalty, and merit—the practices of his church formed a complicated system. Luther cuts through all the gospel heart of the matter. His point is most clearly and centrally thesis 62: “The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of and grace of God.”

In his explanation to the Ninety-five Theses, Luther develops this central explanation to the Ninety-five Theses, Luther develops this central gospel is a preaching of the incarnate Son of God, given to us by merit on our part for salvation and peace. It is a word of salvaged grace, a word of comfort, a word of joy.”

Luther goes on to say “that the law is fulfilled not by our works but by the grace of God . . . not through works but through faith, not by anything we offer God but by all we receive from Christ.”

In other words, it’s all gift! Grace isn’t something that can be saved up in a treasure chest and later redistributed piece by piece. The gospel is all or nothing, a free gift with no strings attached, no hidden shipping-and-handling fees. Christ has already paid the full price. There’s nothing left for us to pay or for the church to charge.

Understanding the gospel as a free gift has life-changing consequences. From the very first thesis, Luther challenges us to think—and to live—dif-
Resources to help you and your congregation study and treasure Luther’s Small Catechism

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has issued an invitation to ELCA members and congregations to engage Martin Luther’s catechisms in renewed study and conversation during the months leading up to October 31, 2017. In support of the anniversary and this churchwide invitation, Augsburg Fortress has developed new print editions and a mobile app of Luther’s Small Catechism.

Luther’s Small Catechism, Anniversary Pocket Edition

$5.99 (5 per package)  Quantity pricing available

978-1-5064-1598-7

A translation of Luther’s explanations in the Small Catechism, along with other catechetical helps and prayers. NRSV and Evangelical Lutheran Worship texts are used for the Ten Commandments, The Lord’s Prayer, and Apostles’ Creed. Includes a letter from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Luther’s Small Catechism, Anniversary Study Edition

$6.99  Quantity pricing available

978-1-5064-1599-4

A translation of Luther’s explanations along with other catechetical study helps, such as prayers, worship rites, and Luther’s introduction. NRSV and Evangelical Lutheran Worship texts are used for the wording of the Ten Commandments, Lord’s Prayer, Apostles’ Creed, and the included worship rites. The new Anniversary Study Edition includes a letter from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, a revised introduction by Timothy Wengert, and features new illustrations by Roman Catholic artist Gertrud Mueller Nelson.
Luther’s Small Catechism, Gift Edition

$14.99  Quantity pricing available
978-0-8066-5603-8

This beautiful and elegant edition of the Wengert translation makes a great confirmation gift, and includes the Study Edition content.

Luther’s Small Catechism Mobile App

The English Small Catechism and Spanish El Catecismo Menor de Lutero are both included in a free mobile app, available from the Apple iOS App Store and on Google Play. Content from the Study Edition is also available as an in-app purchase. Search “Catechism Augsburg Fortress” in the Apple or Google app stores.
Honoring Our Neighbor’s Faith: A Lutheran Perspective on Faith Traditions in America, Revised Edition

Robert Buckley Farlee, general editor
Beth Ann Gaede, editor

$12.99
978-1-5064-0058-7

Hundreds of Christian denominations and dozens of non-Christian traditions have followers in the United States. How do we view this wide variety of beliefs and practices? How does the Lutheran tradition compare with others? Since its release in 1999, Honoring Our Neighbor’s Faith has been widely embraced as a valuable resource for congregational study or personal exploration around these questions.

Honoring Our Neighbor’s Faith, Revised Edition brings new light and nuance to these questions, which are as timely and vital as ever. Use this book to explore thirty-two faith traditions that represent a wide spectrum of beliefs or stand out due to their size or public profile in America. Each tradition constitutes a “chapter” that includes key teachings, worship patterns and practices, and how each is governed. This revision also includes updated statistics, enhanced tools for group study and discussion, and updated resource and website lists to facilitate further study.

African American Methodist Churches | Assemblies of God | Baptist Churches | Buddhism | Christian and Missionary Alliance | Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) | Church of Christ, Scientist | Church of God | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | Church of the Brethren | Church of the Nazarene | Eastern Orthodox Church | Episcopal Church | Evangelical Covenant Church | Evangelical Free Church | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | Hinduism (Vedanta) | Islam | Jehovah’s Witnesses | Judaism | Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod | Mennonite Church | Methodist Church | Moravian Church | Presbyterian Church | Reformed Church in America | Religious Society of Friends | Roman Catholic Church | Salvation Army | Seventh-day Adventist Church | Unitarian Universalist Association | United Church of Christ
Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist

$12.00  Quantity pricing available
978-1-5064-1616-8

_Declaration on the Way_ celebrates fifty years of international and regional Lutheran-Catholic dialogues and harvests the results of those efforts into Statements of Agreement on church, ministry, and eucharist. It invites both communions to affirm the unity achieved through these agreements and establish church practices that reflect this growth.

At the same time, this is a declaration “on the way.” Not all differences on church, ministry, and eucharist have been reconciled at this time. The _Declaration on the Way_ task force offers some possible ways forward and encourages Catholics and Lutherans to continue their journey together toward unity.

Read and discuss _Declaration on the Way_ in adult study groups, affirm and celebrate these Lutheran-Catholic agreements, and take steps toward greater unity in your neighborhood or community.

One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ

Julie K. Aageson, John Borelli, John Klassen, Derek R. Nelson, Martha Stortz, Jessica Wrobleski

$12.00  Quantity pricing available
978-1-4514-9652-9

_One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ_ is a rich ecumenical resource designed to help Catholic and Lutheran communities mark the approaching 500th anniversary of the Reformation. By gathering together to reflect on and discuss its contents, Christians will foster the church’s unity on a grassroots level and grow in their awareness of the ways that unity already exists. The essays in _One Hope_ are the product of an intense collaborative process by six gifted scholars and pastoral leaders, three Lutheran and three Catholic.
Learn about the life, theology, and times of this highly influential reformer

When Lightning Struck!: The Story of Martin Luther

Danika Cooley

$16.99

978-1-5064-0583-4

Martin Luther’s life was too exciting not to be written for younger readers! In this fast-paced, action-packed novel of his life, teens (and more than a few adults!) will be introduced to the drama and meaning of the Reformation, and the life and adventures of Martin Luther. Perfect for young adults and confirmation students!

Table of Contents excerpt

1. Thunderstorm!, July 2, 1505
2. The Dark before Dawn, 1483–1497
3. Begging for Bread, 1497–1502
4. The Edge of Death, 1503
5. The Black Death, 1503–1505
6. A Ticket to Heaven, 1505–1507
7. The Stinking Sand Dune of Thuringia, 1507–1510
8. O, Holy City, 1510–1511
9. Truth Reigns, 1511–1516
10. The New Theology and a New Man, 1515–October 1517
11. The Breaking Point, October 30–31, 1517
12. Fallout!, November 1517–October 1518

From Chapter 1

“Out of the furious firmament came a thunderclap so loud, Martin was certain he heard God’s voice shouting at him. At precisely the same moment, a bolt of lightning hit the elm tree above. The leaves and trunk of the tree burst into flames, throwing Martin to the ground. Flinging his arms over his face in terror, Martin rolled on his back like a defeated knight fending off the inferno of an encroaching dragon. His eyes were blinded in the blaze of light. Martin was certain now that God was indeed speaking to him—and God was angry. What can I do to fend off such a God—a God of lightning and thunder, a God of judgment? Certainly I cannot approach Him on my own! ‘Saint Anna, help me!’ he screamed, calling to the patron saint of miners. ‘I will become a monk!’”
Resilient Reformer: 
The Life and Thought of Martin Luther

Timothy F. Lull and Derek R. Nelson

$44.00

978-1-4514-9415-0

In this account, Luther is an energetic, resilient actor, driven by human strengths and failings, always wishing to do right by his understanding of God and the witness of scripture. At times humorous, always realistic, and appropriately critical when necessary, the authors tell the story of an amazing, unforgettable life, one that impacted our world in countless ways.

Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career, Second Edition

James M. Kittelson and Hans H. Wiersma

$27.00

978-1-4514-8888-3

Available October 2016

For nearly thirty years, Luther the Reformer has been the standard Luther biography. Fair, insightful, and detailed without being overwhelming, Kittelson was able to negotiate a “middle way” that presented a more complete chronological picture of Luther than many had yet portrayed. In this revised edition, Wiersma has made an outstanding text even better. The research is updated, and the text is revised throughout, with images, bibliographies, and timelines to enhance the experience. It’s a great volume, greatly improved.

Table of Contents excerpt from Luther the Reformer

Part I: The Reformation of the Young Man

Part II: The Genesis of the Reformer

Part III: An Outlaw’s Work

Part IV: No Other Gospel

Part V: The Later Years
Writings of the Reformation

Dig deeper with Lutheran confessional writings and Reformation documents across the years. Hear Luther and other reformers in their own words from primary sources.

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Tim Dowley

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3. Catholic Reform and Counter-Reformation
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Mark D. Tranvik

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978-1-4514-9011-4

One of the hallmarks of Luther’s theology was its concern for daily life. In the midst of debates about justification and salvation, church authority, and the Lord’s Supper, Luther himself demonstrated his own powerful sense of vocation. In this refreshing book, Mark D. Tranvik turns attention to the importance of vocation in Luther's life and in doing so discovers renewed insights into this important doctrine. Vocation, the called life, is a way of understanding that all of life is under the care and interest of God. All of our activities as a spouse, parent, child, worker, citizen, and church member are a part of a called life.
Martin Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses: With Introduction, Commentary, and Study Guide

Martin Luther
Timothy J. Wengert, editor
$15.00
978-1-4514-8279-9

This new translation sets the Ninety-Five Theses in its historical context with a detailed introduction and illuminating study notes. Perfect for individual or group reflection and conversation!

40-Day Journey with Martin Luther

Martin Luther
Gracia M. Grindal, editor
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Drawing from the vast collection of Luther’s sermons and other works, editor Gracia Grindal here selects forty inspiring passages that raise profound truths about faith and life. Includes a short introduction to Luther’s life, journal-writing exercises, and daily prayers. A rich resource for personal meditation or small group discussion. An inspiring companion anytime. Ideal for traveling through the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Day by Day We Magnify You: Daily Readings for the Entire Year, Revised Edition

Martin Luther
Marshall D. Johnson, editor
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This religious classic is made available here in a revised and updated paperback edition. A unique devotional for daily meditation, it dwells on the great themes of Christian piety and is drawn from Martin Luther’s sermons and other works. The readings are arranged according to the church year and organized under a central theme for each week. In addition to the devotions for each day of the year, select readings are provided for Thanksgiving, the Feast of the Reformation, and a Day of Penitence. Each daily meditation concludes with a prayer, a biblical verse, or a question to ponder.
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Sundays and Seasons and Reformation 500

With these 2017 editions of Sundays and Seasons we begin another three-year lectionary cycle. This year also brings us to the observance of the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation.

Within these resources you will find helps and suggestions throughout that will prepare worship leaders and the worshiping community for this significant moment in the life of the church.

Sundays and Seasons: Guide to Worship Planning, Year A 2017

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Sundays and Seasons supports comprehensive week-by-week planning with content and ideas for liturgy and music, preaching and visuals, shaped by the Revised Common Lectionary, the church year, and the assembly gathered around word and sacrament. Each year, a diverse group of contributors from across the church provides fresh, new weekly and seasonal helps for worship planning. In this 2017 edition, resources for the observance of Reformation 500 include:

- Helps and suggestions throughout the publication that will prepare your worshiping community for the observance of the anniversary
- Introduction to the year of Matthew with an eye to this anniversary year
- Suggestions for Reformation-inspired praying for the whole church in 2017
- Reflections on the hymn of the day as a Reformation inheritance

Sundays and Seasons: Preaching, Year A 2017

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In 2014, the Sundays and Seasons family introduced Sundays and Seasons: Preaching, an annual print resource that encourages and provides help for lectionary preaching, taking into account all the readings for the day, in addition to the rest of the service and the day itself in the church year. In 2015, sundaysandseasons.com introduced the new Preaching add-on module, allowing subscribers to access this publication’s content online, along with content from NewProclamation.com.

Reformation themes can find their way into preaching throughout the year. This 2017 edition recognizes Reformation 500 with contributions from some of our best preachers and scholars that help strike the right tone with commentary and ideas for proclamation.
Calendar of Word and Season 2017

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The beautiful work of Rafael López, who Augsburg Fortress commissioned to create the Reformation 500 Sourcebook cover art, is prominently featured in Calendar of Word and Season for 2017. López grew up in Mexico City where he was immersed in the rich cultural heritage and native color of street life. Influenced by Mexican surrealism and myths, he developed a style with roots in these traditions. His work is a fusion of strong graphic style and magical symbolism. Calendar of Word and Season helps you keep time in the office, sacristy, and home, and is the perfect gift for households, staff and committee members, and the congregation.

Bread for the Day: Daily Bible Readings and Prayers, 2017

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Offering Bible readings and prayers for each day, along with household prayers and blessings appropriate to the changing seasons, this devotional is perfect for individuals, congregations, households, or small groups. The 2017 edition includes Morning and Evening Blessings from the Reformation 500 Sourcebook as contemporary interpretations of Luther’s prayers. Also included are newly written prayers within the Prayers for Various Situations section, including “A prayer to begin the work day” and “A prayer to begin the school day,” as well as additional seasonal table prayers for Lent and Summer.
Reformation 500 Sourcebook: Anniversary Resources for Congregations

As congregations plan the ways they will observe the Reformation’s five hundredth anniversary, this Sourcebook will be an essential guide. Gathered in this Sourcebook will be a variety of ideas for planning worship services, education events, music festivals, service projects, and connections with other Christians. A CD-ROM of reproducible, customizable content is also included.

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