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NEWS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Minnesota Council of Churches

January 5, 2011



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Get involved: Adult forums, guest preaching,

Host a Free Flu Shot Clinic

If your faith community contains people who typically avoid the flu immunization because they are uninsured, have no medical home or don't trust the government or medical system, then please arrange to host a free flu shot clinic. The [Fairview MINI project](#) is looking for community groups to host, advertise and provide interpreters for free flu shot clinics. Contact Pat Peterson, MINI Director and Faith Community Outreach Manager, at 612/706-4562 or via email at ppeters1@fairview.org.

Wheelchairs Needed

Refugee Services is currently assisting a new arrival from Somalia who arrived with a very damaged wheelchair. All of our local lending sources are tapped out, so we're hoping to find someone who will loan Miriam a wheelchair for a few months until she can get her own, or even donate one to her. We are expecting another need for a wheelchair in January for an elderly man who lost one of his legs to a landmine. Contact Holly at holly.larsen@mnchurches.org or (612) 230-3249.

Children of Abraham Youth Leadership Grants

Application deadline February 1, 2011

Students in grades 10-11 are invited to submit an essay and proposal for implementing a practical teen-based community project on "welcoming the stranger" from the perspective of the Abrahamic traditions. Twenty grants of \$1,000 will be awarded. Matching grants of \$1,000 are available to grantees who raise an additional \$1,000 toward project implementation. Visit www.futureofchildren.net/home.html for additional information. Organized by the Fund for the Future of our Children (FFC) and co-sponsored by Georgetown University's Office of Campus Ministry.

Upcoming Events

volunteer opportunities, and advocacy training.

Stay in touch with the [Minnesota Council of Churches](#) on **Facebook**.

giveMN.org



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iCAN Webinar: Gearing Up for the 2011 Legislative Session

January 12, 2011, offered twice, 12:00pm and 7:00pm

Learn more about the Interfaith Child Advocacy Network's Legislative Goals and strategize on how to achieve them. You can find the goals on the [iCAN website here](#). For questions and to RSVP for webinars, please email rachel@icanmn.org.

"In Search of Enough" Art Exhibit

Opening Friday, January 14, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis

A Minnesota Without Poverty and Bethlehem Lutheran Church are sponsoring an arts exhibition entitled "In Search of Enough." Opening reception will include the visual and performance art interpreting "Enough." Refreshments will be served. [More information](#).

Seminary of the Streets

Thursday, January 20, 6-8 p.m.

El Milagro Lutheran Church, 3751 17th Ave S., Minneapolis

This month's topic: "Following the Christ. Our Missional Imperatives: The Latino Community and Immigration." Faculty will be The Rev. Judith VanOsdol, El Milagro Lutheran Church. Text is Acts 16:1-11. Seminary of the streets is a joint venture between the Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA, Faith in the City and the people in the pews with the purpose of exploring what God is going in the Minneapolis Area Synod. Free. [Registration](#)

Post-Racial? Removing Hidden Barriers to Beloved Community

Saturdays January 22 & 29, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cherokee Park United Church, 371 West Baker St, St. Paul

In this workshop we will examine specific practices, mindsets and life-ways that hinder the creation of an inclusive community despite our best intentions. In short we will name the barriers to a multicultural, multi-racial church and identify models of transformation leading to what the Early Church was striving to realize—a community characterized by "right relationship"—a Beloved Community. Led by: Herbert A. Perkins, MDiv, PhD, Co-Creator of ASDIC Antiracism Study-Dialogue Circle program. www.asdic-circle.org

This workshop is offered on a sliding scale, ranging from \$340 for those who can afford such a fee, to full scholarships, to \$700 per person (the actual cost of the retreat), and everything in between. Pay what you can. All are welcome without regard to financial circumstances. [More information and links to registration here](#). Co-sponsored by the Academy of Vital Christianity of United Theological Seminary and the ASDIC Metamorphosis Ministry.

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Saturday, January 30, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 511 S 5th St, St. Peter

Join in an ecumenical celebration for Christian Unity, sponsored by the [Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA](#).

JRLC Day on the Hill

Thursday, February 17, 2011, 8:30 – 3:30

Saint Paul RiverCentre and Minnesota State Capitol

Each year hundreds of Minnesotans from across the state join come together to speak with their legislators about issues of poverty, fair taxation, human rights, health care, children, and more. JRLC members from the Islamic, Jewish,

Protestant Christian, and Catholic communities join their voices in sending a message to our elected officials that people of faith demand fair and just policy that protects and benefits all people. [Click here to register.](#)

Advocate

Torture Policy Being Investigated by Nonpartisan Task Force

Torture is wrong according to the tenets of every major religion—its execution stains policy-makers, torture victims, and interrogators. The Constitution Project is taking the first step in removing that stain by [forming the Task Force on Detainee Treatment](#). This body, which includes members of the Clinton and G.W. Bush administrations, will try to shine a light on past and current treatment of US detainees. This is news worth writing a letter to the editor of your newspaper about—[find tips and talking points here](#). The task force will be limited in its scope because it does not have subpoena power, but you can ask [President Obama to create a Commission of Inquiry to FULLY investigate US torture](#) today.

Resources

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Worship resources and promotional materials for the 2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) are now available at the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute site at www.geii.org. The theme for 2011 is *One in the Apostles' Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of the Bread, and Prayer*, based on Acts 2:42. The theme was chosen by Christians in Jerusalem who seek to promote a spirit of ecumenism grounded in the experience of the early church.

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