



Denominational News for December 9, 2018

RESOURCES FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

JOY TO THE WORLD - Hints of Christmas litter the Psalm book as the psalmists sing of the coming of a Savior, the Savior we now know as Jesus Christ. Join Groundwork as we examine Psalm 98, Psalm 96, and Psalm 72 to learn what we can expect his coming to bring and what it means for us and for the world. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

THE CHRISTMAS LIST MYSTERY - Cole's got a big bag of presents that he says are all for him! But why is he hiding his list, and why is he sneaking around town all night? It's up to the Lizarado Detective Agency to solve this Christmas Mystery! Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Free Giveaway: Kids Corner's "Know Your Bible Activity Book, Part 4!" Can you figure out all Kids Corner Christmas puzzles? www.kidscorner.net.

The Jesse Tree: A Family Devotional and Craft for Advent - Enjoy a fun and informative Advent activity to go along with December's Today devotional. You can download the devotional and Christmas ornaments at backtogod.net/downloads

Advent Family Faith Formation Tip - On this second Sunday in Advent, add things to your home that remind you that we are expecting Jesus to return. Set an extra place at the table when you eat, or create and decorate a mural together that says "Come, Lord Jesus." (Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

FROM CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Biblical Study Tour to Italy - (March 28 - April 9, 2019) Visit the Vatican with its Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Cathedral; the impressive monuments of ancient Rome; Hadrian's Villa; Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius; Paestum; Assisi; Florence; Ravenna; and St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational tour. Contact Dr. Weima at weimje@calvinseminary.edu or 616-328-3110.

Calvin Seminary's Dig Program - Dig is a summer program hosted at Calvin Seminary that helps youth uncover their future by exploring their callings while enriching and deepening their faith. By the end of the program, each student will leave with a clearer sense of their gifts and skills and an understanding of how God can use them to meet the needs of the world. This summer's program takes place July 8-27, 2019. To nominate a student or to apply yourself, visit dig.calvinseminary.edu.

FROM CALVIN COLLEGE

2019 JANUARY SERIES - the award winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on January 3 and continues weekdays through January 23 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. EST with topics such as technology and faith, the church and disabilities, restorative justice, cancer research, the #metoo movement, and so much more, by top experts in their fields. Thousands in west Michigan will join us on Calvin College's campus; others will watch the live feed at more than 50 remote webcast sites, while others listen online. For information about speakers, topics, remote sites, and listening options, go to www.calvin.edu/january

Calvin Symposium on Worship - You are invited to register and attend the annual Calvin Symposium on Worship, January 24-26, 2019, at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. The three-day conference brings together a wide audience of artists, musicians, pastors, scholars, students, worship leaders and planners, and other interested worshippers. There are excellent rates for students and groups from churches. All worship services are free and open to the public. See worship.calvin.edu/symposium/ for complete information and the registration link.

FROM OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Worship Materials - "We believe...that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world." These words from the Belhar Confession, along with Isaiah 65:23, are the focus of the CRC Office of Social Justice's worship materials to help your church honor Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 20. Visit crcna.org/life for worship resources including a bulletin insert, a prayer, and a responsive reading. The deadline for ordering bulletin inserts is December 19. NOTE: If your church has already ordered our bulletin inserts through the church ordering link you received from the CRCNA, you do not need to order them again.

FROM WORLD RENEW

Advent Means Fullness of Life - The miracle of Advent brings us Uzima or "fullness of life" (Jn. 10:10). Through World Renew's 2018-2019 Gift Catalogue, you can help a family with a filter for clean water to drink, give a child the food they need to grow with a nutrition kit, or provide shelter to a disaster survivor. Give someone the opportunity to experience fullness of life today. Give at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-730-3490 to order.

RFP - World Renew - Freelance Graphic Designer - World Renew, an agency of the Christian Reformed Church, seeks to engage an experienced graphic designer (individual or a firm) to create a series of products that illustrate the varied international development and disaster response work that we do. Important components of these designs include data visualization, conveying complex projects in an easily understood and visually compelling format, and customizable templates that highlight the variety of work that World Renew does. Please see our website for details on how to submit a proposal: <https://worldrenew.net/RFP>

Sign Up for Advent Devotions Today! - It's not too late! Take time to reflect on Christ's birth during this season of Advent with Monday, Wednesday, and Friday devotions sent to your email inbox from World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice through Christmas Day. This year's devotional series titled Holy Impatience will explore doing justice in a world that belongs to God, a world where so many people are marginalized and oppressed, with a holy impatience both celebrating glimpses of the kingdom and eagerly yearning for what is to come. Don't miss out: Sign up today at crcna.org/advent.

FROM RESONATE GLOVAL MISSION

Join the Global Prayer Safari! - In Swahili the word "safari" means "journey." Join a team of North Americans who appreciate the power of prayer as you journey hand-in-hand with teams from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. You'll learn about prayer from other Christian traditions as you visit schools, hospitals, jails, government buildings, markets, and more. Dates: January 31 - February 11, 2019. For more information, visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/safari.

Journey Through Egypt - Join Resonate Global Mission on an Egypt Vision Tour. History comes alive as you learn how scripture is connected to ancient Egyptian monuments. Dates: April 2-10, 2019. For more information visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/Egypt.

FROM OTHER

Tour the Biblical Lands of Israel - March 11-22, 2019. Experience a renewal of your faith and a deeper understanding of the Bible as you tour biblical lands with Pastor Peter Tuininga and Sindbad Tours of Israel. See Jerusalem, Galilee, Jericho, and other biblical places that will help the Bible come alive for you. For information go to toursofisrael.wordpress.com or contact Peter Tuininga at 1-289-877-8433 or peter.tuininga@gmail.com. Register by December 15, 2018.