



Marriage Encounter **is** a weekend experience designed to help married couples communicate more intimately with one another in order to deepen and enrich their relationship. The emphasis is on communication between husband and wife. In a private, comfortable environment away from the distractions and responsibilities of everyday life, you are given the opportunity to look into yourself and your relationship with each other and with God. You will learn a special communication technique that you can take home with you to continue to grow in love and appreciation of each other. Marriage Encounter is a positive, building experience. More than a weekend away, it's a weekend of discovery together.

Marriage Encounter **does not** ask you to talk about yourself or your marriage, in front of other couples. Marriage Encounter **is not**:

- a retreat
- a workshop
- a sensitivity group
- a counseling session
- therapy
- an attempt to solve problems
- a group-oriented weekend

Couples are not urged to attend because they "need" a weekend, rather couples who wish to grow in their love "deserve" a weekend.

Although the presentations are given to the group as a whole, there are no group discussions. Personal sharing takes place only in the privacy of each couple's own bedroom

The link below is to the United Methodist Church's Marriage Encounter; however the drop down list **contains all the Marriage Encounters** by denomination; it is the quickest way to find a Marriage Encounter Weekend in the United States for 2004 and 2005.

<http://216.170.58.5/interfaith/usenglish3.htm>

The Lutherans are the most active with Marriage Encounter Weekends; in fact, there are several in our area, scheduled for February 2005. I strongly encourage you to look at the dates and locations below and schedule this weekend. Think of this weekend is a gift to you and your spouse.

The Web Page for the International Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend is  
<http://www.ilme.org/dates.htm>

These are the closest locations for us. If you are interested, don't let these dates in February pass you by...

CA, US -- Pleasanton -- 11 Feb 2005

CA, US -- Pleasanton -- 21 Oct 2005

**ID, US -- Pocatello -- 11 Feb 2005**

**WY, US -- Sheridan -- 11 Feb 2005**

There is a video that describes Marriage Encounter Weekends. Inquire in the office or ask Michael Kennedy, Director of Christian Education.