



## Report of Augsburg Fortress, Publishers

Always  
being made  
New.

25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

### Board of Trustees

Ms. Linda J. Brown, *chair*, Fargo, N.D. (2013)  
Ms. Mary L. Butler, *secretary*, Durango, Colo. (2013)  
Mr. Robert T. Flynn, Woodland Hills, Calif. (2013)  
Mr. Randall S. Foster, Carson, Calif. (2017)  
Mr. Robert D. Hahn, Walkersville, Md. (2015)  
Pr. Beth Marie Halvorsen, Franklin, Tenn. (2013)  
Pr. Brian C. King, Cedar Falls, Iowa (2015)  
Mr. Timothy I. Maudlin, *vice chair*, Eden Prairie, Minn. (2015)  
Ms. Rosemary R. Ohles, Lincoln, Neb. (2015)  
Pr. Winston D. Persaud, Dubuque, Iowa (2015)  
Ms. Julie Stecker, Gettysburg, Pa. (2017)  
Pr. Scott J. Suskovic, Charlotte, N.C. (2013)  
Pr. José R. Valenzuela, Phoenix, Ariz. (2017)  
Ms. Susan G. Worst, Brookline, Mass. (2017)  
*Vacant, female clergy (2015)*

### Advisors

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Chicago, Ill.  
Mr. David D. Swartling, Chicago, Ill.  
Bp. Steven L. Ullestad, Waverly, Iowa

### Leadership Staff

Ms. Beth A. Lewis, *president and  
chief executive officer*

### Statement of Purpose

Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, is the ministry of publishing for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The constitutional description of this separately incorporated ministry appears in continuing resolution 17.40.A11, printed in Section XII of the *Pre-Assembly Report* and e-binder.

### Stewardship and the Ministry of Publishing

Augsburg Fortress is both a ministry and a business. As a self-funded unit of the ELCA, not a for-profit company, Augsburg Fortress encourages leaders throughout this church to make “stewardship” decisions with every purchase made of curricula, Bibles, books, worship and music resources, and so forth. All profits made by Augsburg Fortress are reinvested into the development of new ministry resources for this church and the larger Christian community.

### 2011–2013 Accomplishments

Over the past two years, Augsburg Fortress has focused the publishing ministry and business in two core areas:

- supporting congregations by creating innovative resources to be used in community for faith formation and worship and music; and
- supporting academic scholarship by publishing textbooks, monographs, and reference materials for higher education institutions teaching religion and theology.

Among the congregational resources Augsburg Fortress launched in this biennium:

- Augsburg Fortress has continued to publish a number of resources in support of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) in partnership with ELCA Worship and Liturgical Resources, including the [\*ELW Prayer Book for the Armed Services\*](#) and eBook versions of [\*ELW Pastoral Care\*](#).
- In partnership with the North American Association for the Catechumenate (NAAC), Augsburg Fortress published [\*Go, Make Disciples: An Invitation to Baptismal Living\*](#). Intended for group use, this book and [CD-ROM](#) resource provides updated tools for preparing adults for baptism or affirmation of baptism, and for Christian discipleship.

- [\*Worship Matters: An Introduction to Worship\*](#) provides a five-session introductory course developed to help newcomers and long-time members of Lutheran congregations grow into a richer understanding of the foundations of Lutheran worship.
- In January 2013, Augsburg Fortress launched a dynamic web-based subscription resource for church musicians. [PreludeMusicPlanner.org](#) allows church musicians to create plans easily in just a few clicks. Musicians can browse hundreds of pieces from a number of different publishers based on lectionary days, keywords, skill levels, and more; then purchase them, downloading complete pieces instantly.
- Augsburg Fortress has continued to publish a number of resources in support of the ELCA's Book of Faith Initiative. Following his other two popular faith formation resources in the "Making Sense..." series, Augsburg Fortress published David Lose's [Making Sense of the Cross](#) in this biennium and expect to publish his *Making Sense of the Christian Life* in July 2013. In addition, Augsburg Fortress continues to publish annual [Book of Faith Advent Reflections](#) and [Book of Faith Lenten Journey](#) resources. And, Augsburg Fortress has published more studies in the "Book of Faith" series on [Acts, Jeremiah/Lamentations, Revelation and Ruth](#).
- Because of their expertise in digital Bible publishing, Augsburg Fortress is pleased to partner with Olive Tree Bibles to create a number of different digital versions of the very popular [Lutheran Study Bible](#).
- As this report is being written in April, a resource is being written by the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to assist congregations and synods with their work in missional transformation. The book will provide the scriptural and theological foundations for this church's participation in God's mission in the world and will invite congregations into conversations about how they are called to be God's hands in the world.
- In August 2010, Augsburg Fortress launched a new ecumenical division, [sparkhouse](#). The sparkhouse mission is to spark new life in Christian communities. Augsburg Fortress does so through the creation of innovative faith formation resources for children, youth, and adults. Because of the ubiquitous nature of "screens" in our lives, most of these faith formation resources incorporate video to encourage learner engagement. Among the best sellers from sparkhouse are [Holy Moly!](#) Sunday school for children ages K–grade 4; [Connect!](#) Sunday school for "tweens" and children in grades 5–6; [re:form](#) youth and confirmation resources; and [animate.faith](#) and [animate.bible](#) for adults.
- As Augsburg Fortress continuously learns about creative uses of technology to proclaim the Gospel, it experiments with a number of different social media tools to provide free information to congregational partners in ministry. A comprehensive listing is available at [www.augsburgfortress.org/social.jsp](#). Augsburg Fortress also offers free educational opportunities to congregational leaders through the use of regularly scheduled webinars on a wide range of topics. Participants may register at [www.augsburgfortress.org/webinar](#)
- For more than 50 years, [Fortress Press](#) has been a pioneer in religious scholarship. Augsburg Fortress's commitment to publishing timely, relevant, and transformative materials has led its publications to become authoritative works in their respective fields. In November 2012, Fortress Press announced a new brand and logo at the AAR/SBL (teaching theologians) conference. But, more important than the brand re-launch is the investment of Augsburg Fortress in Fortress Press. You can learn more about the Fortress Press publishing plans at [fortresspress.com](#). A sampling of some of the many resources published by Fortress press in this biennium follow.

**(Note: "Both" refers to both print and digital formats)**

[Matthew: Fortress Bible Preaching Commentaries](#) by O. Wesley Allen, Jr. (both)

[Acts of the Apostles](#) by Ronald J. Allen (both)

[History of New Testament Research, Vol. 3](#) by William Baird (both)

[The Theology of Martin Luther: A Critical Assessment](#) by Hans-Martin Barth (both)

[The Collected Sermons of Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#), edited by Isabel Best (both)

[Empowering Couples: A Narrative Approach to Spiritual Care](#) by Duane R. Bidwell (both)

[The Imposing Preacher: Samuel DeWitt Proctor and Black Public Faith](#) by Adam L. Bond (both)

[Luke 3: A Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 19:28-24:53](#) by Francois Bovon, translated by James E. Crouch, edited by Helmut Koester (print only)

[Leviticus and Numbers: Texts@Contexts](#), edited by Athalya Brenner and Archie Chi Chung Lee (both)

[Exodus and Deuteronomy: Texts@Contexts](#), edited by Athalya Brenner and Gale A Yee (both)

[Joshua and Judges: Texts@Contexts](#), edited by Athalya Brenner and Gale A. Yee (both)

[Ecumenical, Academic and Pastoral Work: 1931-1932, Volume 11](#) by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (both)

[\*Soundings in the Religion of Jesus: Perspectives and Methods in Jewish and Christian Scholarship\*](#), edited by Bruce Chilton, Anthony Le Donne, and Jacob Neusner (both)

[\*Moral Choice: A Christian View of Ethics\*](#) by Dolores L. Christie (both)

[\*Ain't I a Womanist Too? Third-Wave Womanist Religious Thought\*](#), edited by Monica A. Coleman (both)

[\*Listening to Popular Music: Christian Explorations of Daily Living\*](#) by Don H. Compier (both)

[\*The Cry of Tamar, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: Violence against Women and the Church's Response\*](#) by Pamela Cooper-White (both)

[\*Creator God, Evolving World\*](#) by Cynthia Crysdale and Neil Ormerod (both)

[\*Ethics: A Liberative Approach\*](#) by Miguel A. De La Torre (both)

[\*The Quest for the Historical Satan\*](#), edited by Miguel A. De La Torre and Albert Hernández (print only)

[\*2 Maccabees: A Critical Commentary\*](#) by Robert Doran, edited by Harold Attridge (print only)

[\*Christian Music: A Global History\*](#) by Tim Dowley (print only)

[\*The Devil's Whore: Reason and Philosophy in the Lutheran Tradition\*](#), edited by Jennifer Hockenbery Dragseth (both)

[\*Wide Welcome: How the Unsettling Presence of Newcomers Can Save the Church\*](#) by Jessicah Krey Duckworth (both)

[\*Matthew: Texts@Contexts\*](#), edited by Nicole Wilkinson Duran and James P. Grimshaw (both)

[\*Making Love Just: Sexual Ethics for Perplexing Times\*](#) by Marvin M. Ellison (both)

[\*Christian Social Teachings, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: A Reader in Christian Social Ethics from the Bible to the Present\*](#), edited by George W. Forell, revised and updated by James M. Childs (both)

[\*Eros and the Christ: Longing and Envy in Paul's Christology\*](#) by David E. Fredrickson (both)

[\*The Courage of Faith: Martin Luther and the Theonomous Self\*](#) by Mary Gaebler (both)

[\*Comparative Religious Ethics: Everyday Decisions for Our Everyday Lives\*](#) by Christine E. Gudorf (both)

[\*Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities\*](#) by Jeane Hoeft, L. Shannon Jung, and Joretta Marshall (both)

[\*Psalms 3: A Commentary on Psalms 101-150\*](#), Hermeneia series by Frank Lothar Hossfeld and Erich Zenger (print only)

[\*The Lutheran Confessions: A Digital Anthology\*](#) by Tim Huffman (CD-ROM)

[\*Parenting: Christian Explorations of Daily Living\*](#) by David H. Jensen (both)

[\*Romans: A Short Commentary\*](#) by Robert Jewett (both)

[\*Onesimus Our Brother: Reading Religion, Race and Culture in Philemon\*](#), edited by Matthew V. Johnson, James A. Noel, and Demetrius K. Williams (both)

[\*Moral Issues and Christian Responses\*](#), 8<sup>th</sup> edition edited by Patricia Beattie Jung and L. Shannon Jung (both)

[\*Abraham Our Father: Paul and the Ancestors in Postcolonial Africa\*](#) by Israel Kamudzandu (both)

[\*1 and 2 Corinthians: Texts@Contexts\*](#), edited by Yung Suk Kim (both)

[\*2 Chronicles: A Commentary\*](#) by Ralph W. Klein, edited by Paul D. Hanson (print only)

[\*American Civil Religion\*](#) by Gary Laderman (digital only)

[\*Soundings in Cultural Criticism: Perspectives and Methods in Culture, Power and Identity in the New Testament\*](#), edited by Francisco Lozada Jr. and Greg Carey (both)

[\*Portraits of a Mature God: Choices in Old Testament Theology\*](#) by Mark McEntire (both)

[\*Blessed Are the Consumers: Climate Change and the Practice of Constraint\*](#) by Sallie McFague (digital only)

[\*The Practice of Hope: Ideology and Intention in 1 Thessalonians\*](#) by Néstor O. Míguez (both)

[\*Ethics of Hope\*](#) by Jürgen Moltmann, translated by Margaret Kohl (both)

[\*Thinking Christ: Christology and Contemporary Critics\*](#) by Jane Barter Moulaison (both)

[\*Theologians in Their Own Words\*](#), edited by Derek R. Nelson, Joshua M. Moritzand, and Ted Peters (both)

[\*1 Enoch: The Hermeneia Translation\*](#) by George W. E. Nickelsburg and James C. VanderKam (both)

[\*1 Enoch 2: A Commentary on the Book of 1 Enoch, Chapters 37-82\*](#) by George W. E. Nickelsburg and James VanderKam (print only)

[\*The Christological Controversy\*](#), translated and edited by Richard A. Norris, Jr. (both)

[\*The Political Aims of Jesus\*](#) by Douglas E. Oakman (both)

[\*Jeremiah: Pain and Promise\*](#) by Kathleen M. O'Connor (both)

[\*Juan\*](#) by Alvin Padilla (print only)

[\*Israel's Poetry of Resistance: Africana Perspectives on Early Hebrew Verse\*](#) by Hugh R. Page Jr. (both)

[\*Irenaeus: Life, Scripture, Legacy\*](#), edited by Sara Parvis and Paul Foster (both)

[\*Who is the Church? An Ecclesiology for the Twenty-First Century\*](#) by Cheryl M. Peterson (both)

[\*Rethinking Faith: A Constructive Practical Theology\*](#) by James Newton Poling (both)

[\*Dem Dry Bones: Preaching, Death and Hope\*](#) by Luke A. Powery (both)

[\*Reading the Bible for All the Wrong Reasons\*](#) by Russell Pregeant (both)  
[\*What is Christianity? An Introduction to the Christian Religion\*](#) by Gail Ramshaw (both)  
[\*Caiaphas the High Priest\*](#) by Adele Reinhartz (print only)  
[\*Traveling: Christian Explorations in Daily Living\*](#) by Joerg Rieger (both)  
[\*Ethics That Matter: African, Caribbean and African American Sources\*](#), edited by Marcia Y. Riggs and James Samuel Logan (both)  
[\*Women and Redemption: A Theological History, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition\*](#) by Rosemary Radford Ruether (both)  
[\*The Trinitarian Controversy\*](#), translated and edited by William G. Rusch (both)  
[\*Clothing: Christian Explorations in Daily Living\*](#) by Michele Saracino (both)  
[\*Martin Luther, the Bible and the Jewish People: A Reader\*](#), edited by Brooks Schramm and Kirsi I. Stjerna (both)  
[\*Changing Horizons: Explorations in Feminist Interpretation\*](#) by Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza (both)  
[\*Transforming Vision: Explorations in Feminist Theology\*](#) by Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza (both)  
[\*The Violence of Scripture: Overcoming the Old Testament's Troubling Legacy\*](#) by Eric A. Seibert (both)  
[\*Introduction to Christian Liturgy\*](#) by Frank C. Senn (both)  
[\*Caring Liturgies: The Pastoral Power of Christian Ritual\*](#) by Susan Marie Smith (both)  
[\*Loves Availing Power: Imaging God, Imagining the World\*](#) by Paul R. Sponheim (both)  
[\*Can Only One Religion Be True? Paul Knitter and Harold Netland in Dialogue\*](#), edited by Robert B. Stewart (both)  
[\*The Message of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and Ben Witherington III in Dialogue\*](#), edited by Robert B. Stewart (both)  
[\*Religions of the World: An Introduction to Culture and Meaning\*](#), edited by Lawrence E. Sullivan (print only)  
[\*Trauma and Transformation at Ground Zero: A Pastoral Theology\*](#) by Storm Swain (both)  
[\*Paul: Apostle to the Nations, An Introduction\*](#) by Walter F. Taylor (both)  
[\*Redeeming Fear: A Constructive Theology for Living into Hope\*](#) by Jason C. Whitehead (both)  
[\*Dorothee Soelle: Mystic and Rebel, the Biography\*](#) by Renate Wind, translated by Martin Rumscheidt and Nancy Lukens (print only)  
[\*Jewish Interpretation of the Bible: Ancient and Contemporary\*](#) by Karin Hedner Zetterholm (both)

## Augsburg Fortress Websites

Augsburg Fortress is constantly updating its [Augsburg Fortress](#), [sparkhouse](#), and [Fortress Press](#) websites. Several of the new features in the past year include the ability of Augsburg Fortress customers to log into a “My Account” section on the website to track orders, download invoices, pay their invoices online, apply credits to their invoices, and so on. And, I am delighted that Augsburg Fortress now offers [Gift Cards](#) for purchase and redemption via the website.

## Status of the Lawsuit Against Augsburg Fortress: Defined Benefit Pension Plan

At the beginning of this biennium, a lawsuit was in process having been filed against Augsburg Fortress, the ELCA, Ms. Beth A. Lewis [chief executive officer], Mr. John Rahja [chief financial officer], and Ms. Sandy Middendorf [vice president for human resources] over the termination of the Augsburg Fortress Defined Benefit Pension Plan and distribution of the assets to the Plan members. In April 2013, a mediated settlement between all parties was approved by the court, and the lawsuit was dismissed.

## 2013–2016 Plans

In the next triennium, the Augsburg Fortress strategic plan focuses on continuing to serve its core customers in congregations and higher education by:

- continuing to look for opportunities to support initiatives of the ELCA while also serving its full communion partners;
- creating clearly superior products to shape the market and deliver unmatched value;
- remaining agile to move quickly to optimize both the business and the ministry of publishing.

Augsburg Fortress expresses appreciation to the many talented authors, writers, editors, composers, arrangers, and artists with whom it works. In addition, Augsburg Fortress thanks the leaders of congregations and institutions of higher education for their support and use of the resources provided by the ministry of publishing of the ELCA.

Ms. Linda J. Brown, *board chair*

Ms. Beth A. Lewis, *president and chief executive officer*