



Candidate Jessica Zimmerle at a recent Deaconess Assembly. Sisters and candidates accompany one another daily and regularly attend community gatherings.

Deaconess Community stretches church boundaries

Members of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA engage in the world and are called to a life of service in many ways – sometimes stirring the church to think beyond its boundaries.

It is a community of women who – equipped with theological education and spiritual preparation – use their gifts and skills in specific areas of service, such as chaplaincy, teaching, congregational ministry, youth ministry, pastoral care, health care and social justice work.

“Social justice is not something you can do on your own. It takes a community to do it. That is another huge reason why I want to become part of a community that is dedicated to and excited about social justice. ... It is something we are a part of – picking up that cross together; you can’t pick up

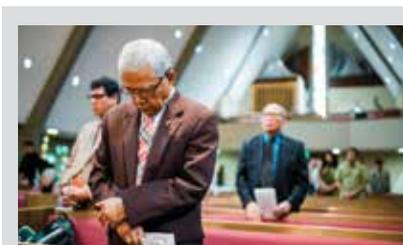
that cross of social justice alone,” says Katie Thiesen, hospice chaplain and Deaconess Community candidate.

A deaconess strongly values intentional community as part of her ministry of service. Her work calls her to engage daily in her surrounding community. Her investment with the Deaconess Community sustains her, accompanies her and provides her with encouragement, guidance and deep prayer essential for being active in God’s work of serving the church and world – wherever she is called and her gifts are needed, including realms of ministry that may seem unfamiliar or untraditional.

In writing about Sister Dottie Almoney’s advocacy work, Acting Bishop Thomas McKee of the Lower Susquehanna Synod said, “In her faith walk, Sister Dottie exemplifies the

African proverb, ‘When you pray, move your feet,’ because her entreaties to God are always followed up by action in the real world. In advocacy, she not only prays for change but also gets her feet moving to educate the unaware, awake the slumbering, inspire and prod to action the people who can and should make a difference.”

To learn more about becoming a deaconess, the Deaconess Community’s 2019 J-Term course (open to anyone), financial resources to partner with Mission Grant recipients, or calling a deaconess to your congregation, ministry or organization, visit deaconesscommunity.org or contact Sister Noreen Stevens, directing deaconess, at deaconess.community@elca.org.



Stories of Faith in Action highlights how we are church together.

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Advent resources help us anticipate and prepare.

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Honoring veterans and service members on Veterans Day.

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A caring, hope-filled guide to understanding addictions.

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CONTACT US

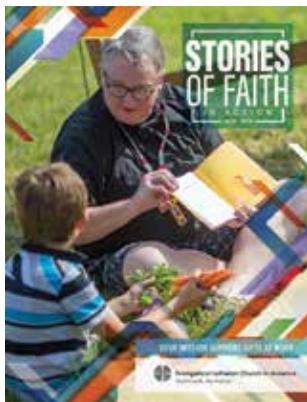
Inspire and educate with Stories of Faith in Action

Stories of Faith in Action is a free, annual ELCA publication that highlights how we are church together through your Mission Support offering.

Each year ELCA congregations vote to set aside a percentage of their finances for Mission Support, which is shared by synods and the churchwide organization. Members may wonder how their Mission Support offering is being used by the wider church.

Through stories and photographs, Stories of Faith in Action shows the impact of our shared ministry as the ELCA, and it is now available at ELCA.org/SOFIA.

Here are a few ways you can use the newest edition of Stories of Faith in Action to thank and inspire your congregation:



- **Use it as part of your stewardship emphasis.** Distribute Stories of Faith in Action in stewardship packets and keep them near your congregation's bulletin board. Let members know their giving in 2017 helped make these stories possible. Download video resources, bulletin inserts for printing and order printed copies of

"Where Does My Offering Go?" for display in your congregation.

- **Share it with new and homebound members.** Share the colorful, inviting features of Stories of Faith in Action at new-member orientations and with those who have limited mobility and help them feel more connected to the work of the church.

- **Let it spark discussion for new, creative ministries in your congregation.** Use the new devotional component at the end of this year's Stories of Faith in Action to open your next council or other committee meeting.

Visit ELCA.org/SOFIA now to:

- Order free copies of Stories of Faith in Action for your congregation. (All you pay is shipping!)
- Access videos with stories from this year's edition.
- Download bulletin inserts containing selected stories.
- Download a Mission Support FAQ sheet for council, finance or congregational meetings.
- Download an electronic copy of Stories of Faith in Action.
- Download an electronic copy or order print copies of "Where Does my Offering Go?"

Bridging Youth to Youth initiative coming soon

After taking a virtual migrant journey from Central America, through Mexico, to the U.S.-Mexico border and then to a U.S. community, 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering participants signed 5,000 cards asking Congress to champion trafficking protections for unaccompanied children, provide pathways to permanency for "Dreamers" and individuals with Temporary Protected Status and provide funding to help address root causes in Central America through development programs that work with communities.

Now AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) is encouraging youth groups to deepen their understanding of the ELCA's commitment to migrants and refugees, and connect with migrant and refugee youth in Central America, the United States or Egypt. Each three-session module will give youth the



chance to get a glimpse of the challenges young people face in different parts of the world.

For additional information on this upcoming youth initiative (as it is available) go to ELCA.org/AMMPARO or contact Mary Campbell, program director of AMMPARO, at mary.campbell@elca.org.

Resourceful Servants helps leaders improve financial wellness

Financial wellness is a vital component in our endeavor to live well, and the financial wellness of the leaders of our church benefits all of us.

Resourceful Servants encourages practical steps and services to help candidates, rostered ministers and congregations address financial needs. Entering its second year, we are hopeful the impact of Resourceful Servants on you and our church can be even greater than the first.

Financial counseling is an effective way to improve financial wellness. Last year, through Resourceful Servants, more

than 400 candidates and rostered ministers took advantage of free financial counseling. Many reported feeling more knowledgeable, less anxious and more hopeful about their finances.

Resourceful Servants also addresses two primary concerns raised by rostered ministers of the ELCA: lack of emergency funds and retirement savings. The Resourceful Servants Savings Matching programs provide qualified rostered ministers with matching funds to grow their emergency and retirement savings.

Finally, through Resourceful Servants,



congregations can access tools to increase financial stability in five key areas: accounting, finance, human resources, risk management and stewardship. Participants have said that greater transparency and improved financial practices have allowed them to focus more deeply on faith formation in their congregations and communities.

To learn more about financial counseling, qualifying for matching programs or to discover more financial resources for your congregation, visit resourcefulservants.org.

Seeds for the Parish

ELCA.org/seeds
LivingLutheran.com/seeds

Seeds for the Parish (ISSN 0897-5663) is published four times a year (January, April, July and October). It is distributed without charge to congregations, rostered ministers, retired rostered ministers, synod offices and resource centers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Current and past issues of Seeds for the Parish are available for download at ELCA.org/Resources/Seeds-for-the-Parish.

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Note: Not all resources and program ideas listed in **Seeds for the Parish** have received official ELCA review or endorsement.

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ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge meets goal



Thanks to generous giving at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston and beyond, we've raised more than \$1 million to support the work of ELCA World Hunger through the Global Farm Challenge.

The Global Farm Challenge is a year-long, youth-driven fundraising challenge to help end hunger and poverty. Gifts to the challenge will be used to support ELCA World Hunger's agricultural programs and equip communities around the world with livestock, seeds, tools, training and more.

Thanks to generous friends in the ELCA, all gifts toward this challenge – including gifts from individuals and congregations – were matched up to \$515,000. That means that working together, we've raised more than \$1 million to support this lifesaving work.

Want to see how your gifts are making

a difference? The same 360-degree, virtual reality video that 4,000 youth and adult leaders watched during the Interactive Learning tracks at the Gathering is now online. Watch "Seeds of Change in Malawi" by searching YouTube for "ELCA World Hunger Seeds of Change" or visiting [YouTube.com/ELCA](https://www.youtube.com/ELCA) and see how our church is at work in Malawi, where most families rely on their small farms for food and income.

The Global Farm Challenge continues through 2018. Find more videos, resources and information at [ELCA.org/globalfarmchallenge](https://www.elca.org/globalfarmchallenge).

Endowment management services for congregations and ELCA ministries

Designed specifically for congregations and other ELCA ministries, the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust – Fund A is a collective, long-term investment of funds belonging to the church. Together, these investments help secure the future of our congregations and the ministries that make an impact on our communities and the world. In 2017, distributions from the endowment totaled \$36.4 million.

Fund A follows, to the extent practical, the ELCA's guidelines for socially responsible investing, which discourages investments in companies that profit from the production of weapons and alcohol and seeks positive social investments, such as markets connected to community development and renewable energy. Participating organizations retain ownership of the funds and determine the ministries

to benefit from the distributions.

Helping expand mission and impact

Peace Lutheran Church in New Braunfels, Texas, is just one of more than 800 congregations participating in this pooled investment. After receiving bequests from members, they chose to establish the Peace Mission Endowment Fund with the goal of expanding their congregation's mission in their community and the wider church. Today, their distributions benefit the ELCA Youth Gathering, a local new start congregation, their synod's lead-



ership development fund and more.

"Fund A is diversified, making it a very secure investment with a consistent rate of return, all of which provides us the best opportunity to financially support mission ministries," says Deacon Dave Heise.

The ELCA's network of regional gift planners is available

to help your congregation explore the variety of possibilities for your congregation's endowment fund. To schedule a no-obligation appointment with the gift planner nearest you, please visit [ELCA.org/foundation](https://www.elca.org/foundation) or call 800-638-3522.

2018-19 devotion guide for teachers and Christian education leaders

The Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) serves ELCA schools and learning centers and has just published its *2018-2019 Devotional Guide: Grace Filled Days*. Our ELCA schools and learning centers are where many children encounter God's abundant and amazing grace for the first time, and these devotions will help inspire anyone who works with children in these and other settings. Contributors include pas-

tors, administrators, teachers, board members and other advocates for faith formation and weekday ministries.

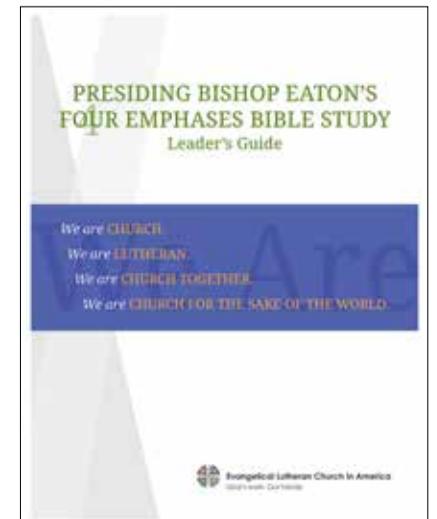
The annual ELEA devotion guide is lectionary-based and perfect for weekly school and center staff meetings, congregational staff and council meetings, school board meetings and Christian education



gatherings. Download *Grace Filled Days* at [elcaschools.org](https://www.elcaschools.org) (click the "Resources" tab).

Explore the wealth of other member benefits and support for educators, administrators, faith-based schools and early learning centers provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association ([elcaschools.org](https://www.elcaschools.org)).

"Presiding Bishop Eaton's Four Emphases Bible Study"



Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has identified four guiding emphases for the ELCA: We are church, We are Lutheran, We are church together, We are church for the sake of the world.

The Book of Faith ministry has connected these emphases to Scripture through a Bible study resource – "Presiding Bishop Eaton's Four Emphases Bible Study." The studies utilize the four lenses of the Book of Faith Initiative as a framework for studying the Bible: the devotional lens, literary lens, historical lens and theological lens. A more detailed explanation of these lenses is found in the resource.

The Bible study includes a leader's guide and a participant's guide. The leader's guide emphasizes that you do not have to have an in-depth knowledge of Scripture to lead the sessions, but it is essential to have curiosity, advance time to read the material and prepare, good listening skills, and the ability to ask questions that stir thought and conversation.

The participant's guide places information at the fingertips of participants and suggests they continue to read, study and share their insights with others after each session. The resource identifies 10 things that Bishop Eaton hopes will be achieved by engaging in this Bible study, including that we will "understand and live into what we believe as Lutherans."

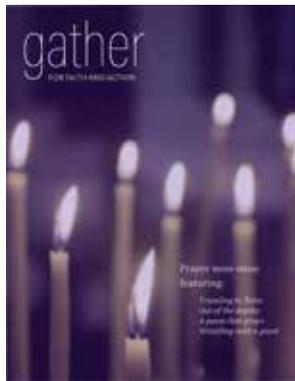
The Bible study guides are available as free downloads under the "Other Bible Studies" tab in both the Book of Faith and Bible Studies resource sections at [ELCA.org/resources](https://www.elca.org/resources).

Gather Advent/Christmas devotional, mini-issue on prayer and winter study on John

“Fear not: An Advent/Christmas devotional” (December)

When God’s people are afraid, it doesn’t mean we are outside of faith. “Fear not” appears frequently in the Bible, in a way that is comforting. Knowing God is with us, we can face our fears. As we enter the season of Advent, this devotional

by the Rev. Katie Hines-Shah, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale, Ill., will help us see that the Christmas



story is also the story of life in faith.

Gather’s free mini-issue on prayer

Did you enjoy *Gather’s* summer Bible study, “Let us pray” by Anna Madsen? Then you’ll love *Gather’s* free mini-issue on prayer. This downloadable, printable resource features some of *Gather’s* favorite

articles on prayer from past issues. Download it for free at gathermagazine.org/prayer.

Winter Bible study: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Get ready to reconnect with Jesus this winter in *Gather’s* four-session Bible study series, “The Gospel of John: Meetings with Jesus.” Over the course of this study in the January/February, March and April issues, author Julie A. Kanarr invites us to meet Jesus through his interactions with people as he engages them in honest and sometimes difficult conversations that lead to faith, renewal and transformation.

Learn more or subscribe at gathermagazine.org.

Marking the days from Advent through Christmas to Epiphany

Inspiring, meaningful family time from Advent through Christmas to Epiphany is a challenge for many families during the rush of preparation



in the church and home. “Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas” creates opportunities to celebrate and play at home from the first Sunday of Advent (Dec. 2) to the day of Epiphany (Jan. 6). This colorful deck of cards is full of rituals, prayers and reflections created with young families in mind. All-new content was created by pastors Melissa Bills and Anne Edison-Albright and illustrated by Claudine Gévy.

Cards can be hole-punched and hung on a Christmas tree, carried by children throughout the day or used as a reminder of the seasons around the home. These card decks make a great gift for families in congregations that are looking for a way to celebrate the entire season beginning with Advent, through Christmas and up to Epiphany. Quantity discounts make this an affordable option to provide for your congregation. Order today at augsborgfortress.org/adventcards.

New Advent resources from ELCA World Hunger

Your congregation is already making a difference in the fight against hunger and poverty, and ELCA World Hunger’s new Advent resources can help you continue to do so, as well as enrich the life of your congregation this season.

A new, printable Advent study is perfect for use in Wednesday worship, adult study or for members to take home and read each week. Along with the study, an Advent calendar counts down the days until the celebration of the birth of Christ. The days include a mix of hymns, prayers, Bible verses and information about how ELCA



Good Gifts make a difference. Distribute these calendars to your congregation’s members to enrich their Advent season.

In addition to the Advent-specific resources, ELCA World Hunger has a new, expanded bulletin insert. Seven new reproducible stories tell how gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response are at work in the world. These stories are perfect to include in bulletins or use as centerpieces for sermons, adult study or confirmation classes.

Order a packet of free resources or just the ones that interest you most at resources.ELCA.org. Download PDF resources at ELCA.org/hunger/resources.

Rethinking holiday shopping with ELCA Good Gifts



Sometimes the best gifts don’t cost the most; they mean the most. As Christmas nears, ELCA Good Gifts can be a useful tool for your holiday shopping. More than 50 gifts – including items like goats (\$50), water filters (\$30) and even a latrine (\$150) – help support people in need, while honoring friends and loved ones at the same time. With each gift you give online (ELCA.org/goodgifts) you can customize a card to

print, email or mail to let loved ones know about the gifts you’ve given in their honor.

Mafiyasi Lipenya, from Chole, Malawi, knows firsthand what a difference these gifts make. He describes the change he experienced after adding goats to his farm. “When I sell the offspring, I am able to use the proceeds to send my children to school,” he says.

If you love giving and receiving ELCA Good Gifts in your family, try sharing it with others in your congregation. Many congregations organize ELCA Good Gifts fundraisers, making on-site “shopping” fun and easy. Posters, bulletin inserts, coloring books and more are available at ELCA.org/goodgifts.

St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Minn., has been using ELCA Good Gifts as part of its Advent gift fair for

14 years. “It’s a great way to get the whole congregation involved, young and old,” said Lois Troemel, one of the event organizers. “We have more than enough stuff. These gifts are given to those who honestly need them.”

This fundraising idea is free and fun! Order a free (shipping included) package of assorted ornaments and decorate a tree full of pigs, honeybees and other popular gifts. Members can select which gifts to give and keep the ornaments. Visit resources.ELCA.org to order your package today.



Veterans Day 2018



Jamie Stall-Ryan, an ELCA pastor and Navy commander, presents a *Prayer Book for the Armed Services* to a service member aboard ship. The ELCA provides over 150 pastors as federal chaplains in military service, VA hospitals and federal prisons.

Each year, the nation pauses to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of military veterans. This year, Veterans Day is Sunday, Nov. 11, and presents an opportunity for congregations to pray for those who have lived part of their vocation in military service. Veterans Day resources are available at elcachaps.com. Under “Congregational Resources,” you will find prayers, responsive litanies, ideas for children’s sermons and more. Permission is granted for free use of all the materials on the website. Take time to explore this website and ELCA.org/Our-Work/Leadership/Federal-Chaplaincy-Ministries to learn more about Federal Chaplaincy Ministries.

Veterans Day resources and ideas are also provided in print and online versions of “Sundays and Seasons” available at augzburgfortress.org and sundaysandseasons.com. ELCA worship resources are also available at ELCA.org/resources/worship under the “Liturgy” tab.

One widely used, treasured resource prepared for spiritual care and support of military members, veterans and their families is the *Prayer Book for the Armed Services*. The prayer book is available at augzburgfortress.org for \$8 per copy and can be shipped to service members stationed internationally.

Ignite the Church Conference and church renewal opportunity – Orlando



About 80-85 percent of congregations in the United States remain plateaued or declining. The need for a season of change and renewal to ignite the church for another 500 years remains.

In the bold spirit of Martin Luther, the 2019 Ignite the Church Conference seeks to further conversation among church leaders by focusing on the ongoing need to re-form the church for mission. The conference will be hosted by Spirit of Joy in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 19-21.

Participants will be challenged by the opening keynote address by the Rev. Pedro Suarez, bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Tuesday evening, participants will visit the Castle Church Brewing Community (CastleChurchBrewing.com), one of the ELCA’s newest mission starts, for a tour, conversation and meal. Wednesday and Thursday offer opportunities to explore areas of ministry revitalization: reaching younger generations, expanding the impact of God’s kingdom, growing disciples, renewing music, engaging urban and rural contexts, developing missional leaders and more.

Registration is \$99 to \$159, depending on when you register. Conference proceeds will be donated to the ELCA Fund for Leaders. Learn more and register at IgniteTheChurch.net.

Start planning for a 2019 summer camp job

Now is the time to start planning for a job next summer at an ELCA camp or retreat center. There are 126 outdoor ministry sites across the United States, and most of them have summer camp programs.

Summer camps affiliated with the ELCA are organized into an association called Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM). LOM camps are all about providing children and youth an experience of living a faith-inspired life, affirming their faith in Christ and building relationships. Campers need positive, influential role models, and that’s what life is all about as a summer camp staff member.

Serving in a summer program is a chance to explore the satisfaction of making a difference in the lives and faith

of others, experience a new and beautiful part of the country, experience the best and most memorable summer of your life, and receive some decent pay at the same time. It’s a great opportunity for anyone who has the summer free – students, young adults, teachers and people between jobs or retired. The benefits of serving on a summer staff include:

- leadership development and working together as a team;
- making a positive impact on children and youth every day;
- learning new skills like becoming a lifeguard, CPR or first aid; and
- another great addition for your resume!

Find a summer camp near you or discover a place you’ve never been by searching lomnetwork.org under the



“sites” tab. For information on seasonal and year-round jobs and careers in outdoor ministry, click the “jobs” tab.

Even if you don’t have the availability to work at a Lutheran summer camp you probably know someone who would love to – please pass this article on to them.

Fortress Press announces the new “Living with Hope” series

Life happens. And when it does, it often hurts – but there’s hope. Fortress Press is now offering a series of artful and accessible books for pastors, caregivers and congregation members on how to live with hope as they wade through the troubled waters of life.

The “Living with Hope” series provides comfort, companionship, wisdom and hope for individuals dealing with life’s struggles and offers guidance for clergy, family and others who care for

them. It is an essential library of books to help pastors and other individuals deal with unemployment, chronic illness, parenting or the pain of broken relationships. The series presents compassionate, emotionally honest guidance through insight and personal narratives.

These books are practical, timely and well-suited for group or individual

Living with Hope



use, complete with tools, tips and real-world ideas for those who face life’s most difficult challenges – and those who care for them – body, soul and spirit.

Learn more about the “Living with Hope” series and individual titles at fortresspress.com/living-with-hope.

Civil conversations, faith and life together

We live in tumultuous times. Our nation, communities, churches and families are often divided on how to care for the common good and what faith has to say about our life together. Select Learning (selectlearning.org) has some resources that can help congregations explore faith in the context of public life.

An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story

Although he may be best remembered today as the author of the famed Serenity Prayer, Reinhold Niebuhr – an outspoken pastor, writer and political activist – remains one of the most influential public theologians of our time. Presidents have credited his impact on their thinking as well as countless historians, theologians, political thinkers and Martin Luther King Jr., who cited Niebuhr in his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.”

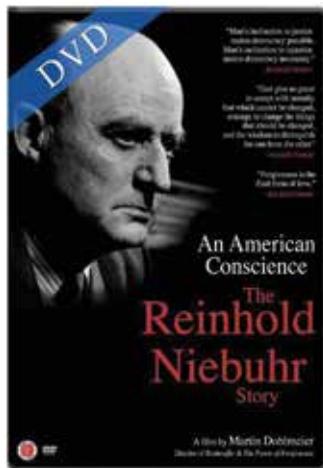
This documentary on Niebuhr is directed, written and narrated by Martin Doblmeier, the creator of provocative,

award-winning films on faith including *Chaplains* and *Bonhoeffer*. Study guide material is available at selectlearning.org.

Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture

Walter Brueggemann, arguably America’s leading Old Testament scholar and theologian, takes us through the poetic prophecy of the Hebrew Scripture identifying cultural contexts, putting a framework to Israel’s history and drawing connections between Israel’s sociological, economic and spiritual status and that of the United States today.

This DVD contains content for a six-session study. Each session begins with a 10-15 minute video presentation by Brueggemann followed by filmed interaction with a diverse small group.



“Faithful Citizen”

“Faithful Citizen” is a six-session small group adult study developed by the Center for the Congregation in Public Life that explores two views of current life in America – individualism and the common good – and asks how to faithfully respond to the interlocking global challenges of economics, ecology, security and health.

The course includes a DVD with six 10-minute conversations between sociologist Robert Bellah, author of *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life*, and Donald W. Shriver Jr., president emeritus of Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Creation-justice commentary for the lectionary



Lutherans Restoring Creation is again providing a fresh and timely creation-justice commentary for Revised Common Lectionary lessons.

For the fall Sundays (Series B), a number of new commentators are providing reflections: the Rev. Dr. Sigridur Gudmarsdottir, university teacher in Norway; the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Sassaman, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mertztown, Pa.; the Rev. Nick Utphall, Advent Lutheran Church, Madison, Wis.; the Rev. Dr. Kiara Jorgensen, teacher at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.; the Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright, Ascension Lutheran Church, South Burlington, Vt.; and the Rev. Dr. Jessica Chica, chaplain at Boston University.

Beginning in the new church year (Series C), the Rev. Dr. Tom Mundahl will offer the commentary for the four Sundays in Advent. Mundahl has served as pastor of Lutheran Church of the Reformation, St. Louis Park, Minn., and has taught in higher education. The Rev. Dr. Leah Schade will provide reflections for the two Sundays of the Christmas season. Schade is author of *Creation-Crisis Preaching* and teaches at Lexington Theological Seminary, Kentucky.

The commentary offers church leaders reflections that integrate care for creation and justice for the earth into its exposition of texts and reflections on the world and society.

The Creation-Justice Commentary for 2018 can be accessed at lutheransrestoringcreation.org under the “worship” tab or at letallcreationpraise.org.

Impact of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

In June, over 30,000 youth, adult leaders and volunteers gathered in Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering – “This Changes Everything.” It was hot, humid and a transformative experience.

Every aspect of the Gathering experience – interactive learning, service learning, community life, synod days and mass gatherings – engaged and challenged participants to see how God’s call, grace, hope and son Jesus change everything.

Opportunities for congregations to share offerings and generosity were abundant, including the in-kind offering for the Blast Off for Books literacy campaign. With the help of the Houston Independent School District, a list of books was provided to col-

lect and disperse at book drives during service learning experiences. In all, 40,000 books were donated and given to families in the Houston area! Cosette, of Mount Carmel Lutheran Church in Mil-

waukee, was packaging children’s books at Blast Off for Books and said, “This is a good way to give kids an opportunity to gain knowledge and prepare for the future.”

To see other ways in which “This Changes Everything” was explored and lives



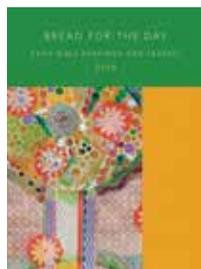
on with participants, watch the Bible studies and mass gatherings on youtube.com, look through the photos at facebook.com/youthgathering, read the Gathering blogs at

ELCA.org and engage in conversations using [#ELCAYG2018](https://twitter.com/ELCAYG2018) on social media.

Be sure to save the dates and prayerfully consider attending the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis June 30-July 3.

Bread for the Day 2019: Daily Bible Readings and Prayers

Bread for the Day is a daily-use devotional resource filled with rich treasures. Each day includes a brief Scripture reading following the lectionary as presented in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, a prayer and a hymn. There is also a



collection of meal prayers, prayers for holidays and seasons, a simplified form of morning and evening prayer, and prayers for various circumstances.

This guide for individual prayer and reflection can

also be used as a guide to family prayer, prayer in congregational and other settings, and prayer with those who are sick or homebound. View samples and order at augsborgfortress.org/bftd.

Learning to protect God's children from exploitation

Cherish All Children has joined forces with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota in the prevention of child sexual exploitation. Together, they've created the congregational discussion guide "My Neighbor is Not for Sale."

Designed to help congregations understand issues of child sexual exploitation and trafficking, this four-session guide is an excellent tool for becoming better informed and work for positive, hopeful change with others in the community.

This resource shares what signs to look for, how to talk with children and adults, and how to make changes in society and transform culture. Each session introduces a topic to prevent child sexual exploitation

and offers a biblical response and discussion questions.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, but every day of every month children are being exploited in the sex industry throughout our country. Any time is a good time to start this study and begin the work of protecting our children. Faith communities are powerful agents for change – we can make a difference!

"My Neighbor is Not for Sale" is free to download and copy. Go to the "Educate" tab at cherishallchildren.org to get

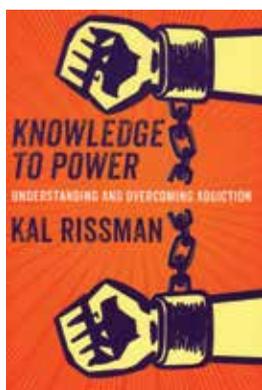


started. Contact executive director Joy McElroy at joy.mcelroy@cherishallchildren.org with questions or to purchase bound copies.

Understanding and overcoming addiction

Reports of tragedies caused by addiction show up routinely in the media. Many people have a family member, relative or know someone else who has an addiction problem. Even though addiction is a major health problem, our understanding of it is woefully inadequate.

Select Learning (selectlearning.org) now has a resource to help understand, address



and remedy this situation: "Knowledge to Power: Understanding and Overcoming Addiction." It offers a nonjudgmental understanding of addiction as well as solutions and hope for those afflicted with the disease and those affected by the disease.

"Knowledge to Power," in DVD and other digital formats, is based on the book of the same title written by the

Rev. Kal Rissman. He has spent almost 40 years as an addiction counselor, marriage and family therapist, hospital chaplain and ELCA pastor.

The resource contains 21 sessions (about 18 minutes each) and includes a study guide with a synopsis of each topic and discussion questions. Sessions and presentations deal with addictions ranging from drugs, alcohol, gambling, spending, eating, sex, and even computer, game and phone addictions.

Available at selectlearning.org/store.

New releases from Fortress Press

These new books from Fortress Press will help deepen readers' understanding of the Bible, explore the joys and messes of Christian parenting, and challenge readers to be better neighbors with those of other faiths and backgrounds. They are perfect for reading groups and make great gifts. Available at augsbuorgfortress.org or call 800-328-4648.

The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today

Robert Williamson Jr. argues that the Five Scrolls – Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentation, Ecclesiastes and Esther – deserve more attention in the Christian tradition since they speak urgently to pressing issues in today's world, from human sexuality and grief to immigration and ethnic nationalism.

Why We Shouldn't Ask Muslims to Condemn Terrorism

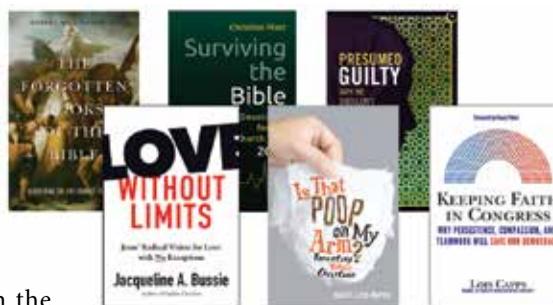
Renowned expert on Islamophobia Todd H. Green challenges us to ask better questions of our Muslim neighbors, ones based not on the presumption of guilt but on the promise of friendship.

Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions

Jacqueline A. Bussie imparts practical solutions for people of faith who yearn to love across division and difference in these troubled times.

A Devotional for the Church Year 2019

In the second of his popular three-book devotional series based on the lectionary, Christian Piatt guides us through major parts of the Old and New

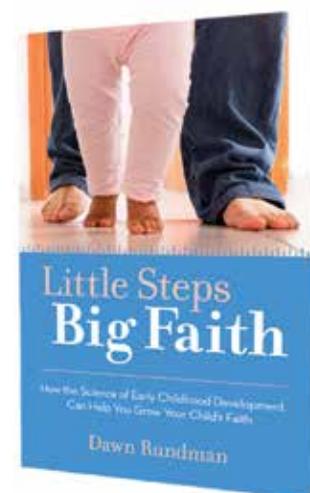


Testaments so we can finally understand them in plain English.

Is That Poop on My Arm? Parenting While Christian

Pastor and father of three, Justin Lind-Ayres chronicles his adventures – and misadventures – raising children and passing on his faith to them. With stories full of humor, honesty and even some poop, this book is welcome encouragement for parents, grandparents and anyone who cares deeply for the children in their life.

New parenting book from Beaming Books



Little Steps, Big Faith: How the Science of Early Childhood Development Can Help You Grow Your Child's Faith

From brain science to language development and social skills, we've never known more about how children's minds develop in the first five years of life. Yet with all the information available, Christian parents may find themselves confused about how to apply these learnings to daily life with their children.

In *Little Steps, Big Faith*, early childhood expert Dr. Dawn Rundman navigates the research to arrive at surprising insights about how very young children experience God and how parents can use science to teach faith. Each chapter ends with practical suggestions for ways parents can apply these principles at home.

A downloadable discussion guide and quantity discounts are available at augsbuorgfortress.org.



Looking for a downloadable copy or back issue of Seeds for the Parish? Go to ELCA.org/Resources/Seeds-for-the-Parish.



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We are church together. We respect and honor the diversity of traditions, cultures, languages, abilities and experiences among us in the ELCA and the larger Christian community. We seek full participation of all in the life and work of this church and strive to address the ways that racism, sexism, classism and other forms of injustice limit participation and harm people, communities and the whole body of Christ. ELCA.org/future

Camp Agapé in Hickory, Pennsylvania

Used an MIF loan to add classroom space. Now, along with the pool which the campers love splashing around in, they have a place to learn Bible stories—proving yet again that God's work needs no vacation.



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