

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 13 Identity

Introduction (1)

Introduction

Transition Dynamics

Reflection

Heritage	Past	Where have we been?
Identity	Present	Where are we at?
Vision	Future	Where is God leading?

Action

Mission	Definition	What is God's purpose for this congregation?
Leadership	Operation	How is God's purpose to be carried out?
Connections	Cooperation	Who are the partners in mission God provides?

- Heritage appreciate how the past of the congregation informs the present
- Identity discover who the congregation is in the current context
- Vision discern what it is this congregation understands God is calling this congregation to be
- Mission define a sense of purpose and direction for the congregation in God's mission
- Leadership engage people of the congregation in God's mission
- Connections explore all the relationships a congregation shares beyond itself

Rethinking Faith Formation: Christian Identity and Practice in a Pluralistic World

In a world with varied faith traditions, cultural identities and religious experiences, it can be difficult to foster a distinctly Christian identity within a congregation. Join us July 223-25 for Rethinking Faith Formation: Christian Identity and Practice in a Pluralistic World and leave equipped to cultivate this identity in your own context.

https://www.luthersem.edu/elerts/article.aspx?article_id=972&elert_id=108

[Images for Rethinking Faith Formation: Christian Identity and Practice in a Pluralistic World](#)

Dorothy C. Bass, Director, Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith

Dorothy C. Bass led the teams that created "Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People;" "Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens;" and, for young adults, "On Our Way: Christian Practices for Living a Whole Life." She has also convened teams of pastors and theological educators to author "Practicing Theology" and "For Life Abundant." She explored the Sabbath and other practices in "Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time." She is a member of Christ Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Valparaiso, Ind.

[Images for Dorothy C. Bass, Director, Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith](#)

Resources

[PDF]Wise or Unwise?

Practical Wisdom and the Life of Faith

https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/faith_formation/DBass_RFF2014.pdf

[Images for Wise or Unwise? Practical Wisdom and the Life of Faith by Dorothy Bass](#)

For Life Abundant: Practical Theology, Theological Education, and Christian Ministry [Dorothy C. Bass, Craig Dykstra]

Bass and Dykstra have written extensively and collaboratively on Christian Practices, arguing that what Christians have done faithfully over time constitutes a life-giving way of life, and that this living of Christianity is more primary to what it means to be Christian than doctrinal confession, that our confessions spring from faithful living rather than the other way around. This book contains numerous essays that take up the question of Christian Practices and ministry--the preparation of ministers, theological education, etc. in a post-Enlightenment understanding of the relationship of practice and head knowledge. Because the book is the result of a community conversation, it doesn't have a clear thesis, but it models its conviction that reflection on theology arises from community conversation around our life in discipleship together. An extremely helpful beginning to a conversation about ministry, practices of faith, clergy preparation, etc., as the time has come to integrate the kind of learning that comes in the classroom with the kind that only comes from living the faith with others.

<http://www.amazon.com/For-Life-Abundant-Practical-Theological/dp/0802837441>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3025188-for-life-abundant>

<https://www.eerdmans.com/Products/3744/for-life-abundant.aspx>

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<http://www.practicalmattersjournal.org/issue/1/reviews/for-life-abundant>

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<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9647.2009.00575.x/abstract>

<http://blogs.acu.edu/sensingt/files/2010/10/Bibliography-for-Practical-Theology-2018.pdf> Page 1

<http://books.upperroom.org/book-author/dorothy-c-bass/>

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/arts/educational-magazines/bass-dorothy-c-1949>

<http://collegevilleinstitute.org/author/dorothy-bass/>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/dorothy-c-bass>

https://www.isbns.tw/author/Dorothy_C_Bass

<https://www.logos.com/product/44109/eerdmans-dorothy-c-bass-collection>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/126238.Dorothy_C_Bass

[Images for Dorothy C. Bass](#)

https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3ACraig%20Dykstra

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/414444.Craig_R_Dykstra

[Images for Craig Dykstra, author](#)

[Images for For Life Abundant: Practical Theology, Theological Education, and Christian Ministry \[Dorothy C. Bass, Craig Dykstra\]](#)

On Our Way: Christian Practices for Living a Whole Life by Dorothy Bass (Author), Susan Briehl (Author), Dorothy C. Bass (Editor), Susan R. Briehl (Editor)

A collection of essays offering a fresh approach to life topics of particular relevance to young adults.

<http://www.amazon.com/On-Our-Way-Christian-Practices/dp/0835810178>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7366250-on-our-way>

<https://www.christianbook.com/christian-practices-for-living-whole-life/9780835810173/pd/810173>

<http://books.upperroom.org/book/way/>

http://books.google.com/books/about/On_Our_Way.html?id=ZrxhQgAACAAJ

http://www.practicingourfaith.org/sites/practicingourfaith.org/files/OnOurWay_LeaderGuide.pdf

<http://www.practicingourfaith.org/>

<http://www.valpo.edu/ils/gallery/2009.php>
<https://www.amazon.com/Susan-Briehl/e/B001KHN4Y6>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/473739.Susan_Briehl
 Images for Susan Briehl (Author)
 Images for On Our Way: Christian Practices for Living a Whole Life by Dorothy Bass (Author), Susan Briehl (Author), Dorothy C. Bass (Editor), Susan R. Briehl (Editor)

Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People [Dorothy C. Bass]

An updated edition of the down-to-earth resource that offers twelve practices to make Christian faith a way of life. Many Christians are looking for ways to deepen their relationship with God by practicing their faith in everyday life. This best-selling guide helps take belief out of the realm of theory and shows how to live it out in a series of twelve central practices such as hospitality, forgiveness, healing, testimony, and keeping Sabbath. Designed to work across a wide range of Christian laypeople, leaders, denominations, and study groups, this is the second edition of the book that *Theology* called "... a stimulating contribution to the work of making explicit the connection between what Christians do and what they believe." Contains information on the practices discussed in the book and shows how they relate to and intersect with prayer, worship, and Bible study. Offers a guide for conversation, learning, and growth at the back of the book. This updated and expanded new edition includes a new introduction and two additional chapters that describes new insights into and experiences with the "practicing our faith" approach. The book includes a variety of prominent contributors, who draw on their rich shared experience as believers, theologians, ethicists, and educators.



<http://www.amazon.com/Practicing-Our-Faith-Searching-People/dp/047048411X>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/682905.Practicing_Our_Faith
http://books.google.com/books/about/Practicing_Our_Faith.html?id=KSqaVLJ6gAAC
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-7879-0336-7>
<http://www.practicingourfaith.org/>
<https://books.google.com/books?id=KSqaVLJ6gAAC>
<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/grant-product/practicing-our-faith-a-way-of-life-for-a-searching-people>
<https://www.samford.edu/congregational-resources/files/Annotated-Resource-Guide.pdf> Page 15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1Hfc6vtBQk> An Invitation: Dorothy C. Bass – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npD8T3E-skC> Theology Live with Dorothy Bass – YouTube
<http://www.ptsem.edu/lectures/?action=results&by=creator&qtext=creator%3A%22Bass,+Dorothy+C.%22+sort%3Atitle>
<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=318> Keeping Sabbath: Reviving a Christian Practice
<http://collegevilleinstitute.org/author/dorothy-bass/>
 Images for Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People [Dorothy C. Bass]

Practicing Theology: Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life [Miroslav Volf, Dorothy C. Bass]

In a time when academic theology often neglects the lived practices of the Christian community, this volume seeks to bring balance to the situation by showing the dynamic link between the task of theology and the practices of the Christian life. The work of thirteen first-rate theologians from several cultural and Christian perspectives, these informed and informative essays explore the relationship between Christian theology and practice in the daily lives of believers, in the ministry of Christian communities, and as a needed focus within Christian education.

<http://www.amazon.com/Practicing-Theology-Beliefs-Practices-Christian/dp/0802849318>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/215333.Practicing_Theology
http://books.google.com/books/about/Practicing_Theology.html?id=13M1t6lyrdIC
http://www.faithformation2020.net/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/theological_understanding_of_practice_-_bass.pdf
<http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/4931/practicing-theology.aspx>
<http://practicingourfaith.org/what-christian-practice>
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<https://digitalcommons.fuller.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1026&context=dmin>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/topics/v/miroslav-volf/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miroslav_Volf
<http://faith.yale.edu/people/miroslav-volf>
<https://www.amazon.com/Miroslav-Volf/e/B001IGJSHG>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6215.Miroslav_Volf
 Images for Miroslav Volf, author
 Images for Practicing Theology: Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life [Miroslav Volf, Dorothy C. Bass]

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Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time [Dorothy C. Bass]

In this spirituality of time, Dorothy Bass invites readers into a way of living in time that is alert to both contemporary pressures and rooted ancient wisdom. The celebrated editor of *Practicing Our Faith* asks hard questions about how our injurious attitude toward time has distorted our relationships with our innermost selves, with other people, with the natural world, and with God. As an alternative to the rhetoric of management and mastery, *Receiving the Day* offers a language of attention, poetry, and celebration. Bass encourages us to reevaluate our understanding of the temporal and thereby to participate fully in the Christian practice of knowing time as God's gift. Embraced in this way, time need not be wrestled with each day. Instead, time becomes the habitation of blessing.

<http://www.amazon.com/Receiving-Day-Christian-Practices-Opening/dp/0787956473>

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<http://practicingourfaith.org/pdf/RTDguide.pdf>

<http://www.baylor.edu/ifl/christianreflection/SabbathinterviewBass.pdf>

<https://forthesomedaybook.wordpress.com/2012/01/12/book-review-receiving-the-day/>

http://www.peaksprebytery.org/catalog/Calibre%20Library/_catalog/book/book_67.html

[Images for Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time \[Dorothy C. Bass\]](#)

Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens by Dorothy Bass (Author), Don C. Richter (Author, Editor), Dorothy C. Bass (Editor)

"I want to find a way to live that keeps me involved in what God is doing in me and in the world around me. Do you know a way to live that is like that?" Eighteen teens and 18 adults tackle that question in *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens*. Their different points of view and personal stories make living a Christian life real. "This book invites you into a community of people who don't just go with the flow," says the editors. "This community's image of 'the good life' is not about having lots of stuff or being more successful than other people. Instead, it's about getting involved in the loving, challenging life of God." Find out how Alex dealt with all his stuff, how Marie expressed her creativity with a paint roller, what Jack learned about play. These are just a few of the Christian practices this team of writers explores. Some ancient Christian practices turn up as ways to deepen awareness of God's presence in our lives today. Discover how to use your imagination when reading the Bible - à la Saint Ignatius - and practice tuning in to God like Brother Lawrence of the 17th century.

This fun graphics-filled book will start teens on the spiritual journey of a lifetime!

<http://www.amazon.com/Way-Live-Christian-Practices-Teens/dp/0835809757>

<http://waytolive.org/flash.html>

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[Images for Don C. Richter \(Author, Editor\)](#)

[Images for Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens by Dorothy Bass \(Author\), Don C. Richter \(Author, Editor\), Dorothy C. Bass \(Editor\)](#)

Kelly Chatman, Senior Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

In addition to serving as pastor, Kelly Chatman is director for Redeemer's non-profit entity, Redeemer Center for Life. Chatman also serves as adviser to the bishop for the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA. From 1995 to 2001, Chatman served as director for Youth Ministries for the ELCA. Chatman serves on the board for Youthprise. He formerly served on the boards of Camp Amnicon, Aeon Affordable Housing Development, Cookie Cart, Gustavus College Trustee, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, Wheat Ridge Ministries Foundation and Youth Community Connections. Chatman is a Princeton Theological Benjamin E. Mays Fellow with the Fund for Theological Leadership and 2006 recipient of the Luther Seminary Race, Church and Change Award. He was awarded Portland Public School's volunteer of the year in 1992, the mayor of Portland's citizen of the year and the 2003 recipient of the Tom Hunstad Award for distinguished leadership in Youth and Family Ministry.

[Images for Kelly Chatman, Senior Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis](#)

FAITH FORMATION

Kelly Chatman



https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/faith_formation/KChatman_FF2014.pdf
[Images for FAITH FORMATION Kelly Chatman](#)
<http://www.redeemermpls.org/staff--leadership.html>
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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kelly-chatman-8823437>
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<https://www.redeemercenter.org/staff>
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<http://www.stolaf.edu/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=Details&id=10654>
<https://www.goodleadership.com/tag/kelly-chatman/>
<http://worshipandmusic.org/leadership/>
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[Images for Kelly Chatman, Senior Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis](#)

Kelly Chatman - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014 - YouTube
www.vootvids.com/watch?v=lbZkHOyrogY
[Images for Kelly Chatman - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014](#)

David Lose, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary
 David J. Lose joined the Luther Seminary faculty in July of 2000 as assistant professor of homiletics. In May 2005, he received the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching and was named Academic Dean in June of the same year, a post he held through 2008. He is the author of "Making Sense of Scripture" (2009) and "Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World" (2003). His teaching interests include preaching, biblical interpretation, and the relevance of Martin Luther's theology for a postmodern world.
[Images for David Lose, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary](#)

David Lose - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014 - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8otY9FT1T8>
https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/faith_formation/DLose_RFF2014_sm.pdf Faith Formation 101
[Images for rethinking faith formation david lose 2014](#)
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/david-lose-rethinking-role-pastor>
<http://www.davidlose.net/2014/08/what-role-does-the-church-play-in-our-lives/>
<http://eandsynodfaithformation.squarespace.com/to-proclaim/>

Resources

Baptismal Problems and Promises by David Lose – WorkingPreacher.org

Never before have so many been willing to offer our people an **identity**, most often linked to a product being sold. And whether you are young or old, rich or poor, steeped in the faith or relatively new, we all crave a sense of identity and so are all too susceptible to such false promises.

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=2987>
<http://www.davidlose.net/>
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=b7cc0fec827096b2504c5164ecc9831028ee1cfc87caab27e817dcd7c6ba625>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/people-news/writers/david-lose>
[Images for Baptismal Problems and Promises by David Lose](#)

Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World [David J. Lose]

With its relentless insistence that there is no reality beyond that which we construct, postmodern thought questions the presuppositions of many disciplines, including homiletics. Offering a lively description of the postmodern worldview and its implications for Christian faith, *Confessing Jesus Christ* by David Lose teaches preachers how to rise to the challenges posed by our postmodern world. Few if any books on preaching offer such a comprehensive investigation of postmodern thought or yield such a wealth of insights for relevant Christian proclamation. Significantly, Lose sees postmodernism not primarily as an obstacle to the church but as an opportunity for it to stand once again on faith alone rather than on attempts to prove the faith. According to Lose, preaching that seeks to be both faithful to the Christian tradition and responsive to our pluralistic, postmodern context is best understood as the public practice of confessing faith in Jesus Christ. He explores the practical implications of a confessional homiletic for preaching and also provides concrete methods for preparing sermons that meaningfully bridge biblical texts and contemporary congregations.



<http://www.amazon.com/Confessing-Jesus-Christ-Predaching-Postmodern/dp/0802849830>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/703854.Confessing_Jesus_Christ
<https://www.christianbook.com/confessing-jesus-christ-predaching-postmodern-world/david-lose/9780802849830/pd/49831>
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<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=b7cc0fec827096b2504c5164ecc9831028ee1cfc87caab27e817dcd7c6ba6255>
<http://www.preaching.com/book-reviews/11547533/>
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<http://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2005-10/confessing-jesus-christpredaching-parables-postmodernstestimony-exiles>
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<https://faithandleadership.com/david-lose>
<https://ltsp.edu/President>
<http://www.davidlose.net/>
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=b7cc0fec827096b2504c5164ecc9831028ee1cfc87caab27e817dcd7c6ba6255>
<http://www.mtolivet.org/news/pastor-david-j.-lose>
http://day1.org/374-the_rev_dr_david_lose
<https://www.amazon.com/David-J.-Lose/e/B001KHP2DW>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/375536.David_J_Lose
 Images for David J. Lose
 Images for Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World [David J. Lose]

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Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions About the Book of Faith [David J. Lose]

In *Making Sense of Scripture*, David Lose invites the reader to engage in a conversation, one that he imagines discussing around his kitchen table, about seven major questions of the Bible. More than a standard biblical reference book, *Making Sense of Scripture* is a dialogue that encourages readers to bring their questions or doubts to the table when reading Scripture. During this conversation, there are different opportunities for the reader to interact with the Bible, ultimately leaving room for personal transformation of the heart and mind.

<http://www.amazon.com/Making-Sense-Scripture-Questions-About/dp/0806699531>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6680888-making-sense-of-scripture>
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8692/Making-Sense-of-Scripture>
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/123/Making-Sense-of-Scripture>
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/contributor/5559/David-J-Lose>
<https://www.christianbook.com/making-sense-scripture-questions-about-faith/david-lose/9780806699530/pd/699530>
<http://makingsensecourses.com/mss.php>
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB56EEC32982C608C> Making Sense Series – YouTube
 Images for Making Sense Series: David Lose - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfsltGzr3L4&list=PLB56EEC32982C608C&index=1> Making Sense of the Christian Faith Session Sample - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srwubO3JcQ4> Making Sense of Scripture Session Sample - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfsltGzr3L4&index=3&list=PLB56EEC32982C608C> Making Sense of the Christian Faith Session Sample - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srwubO3JcQ4&index=4&t=2s&list=PLB56EEC32982C608C> Making Sense of Scripture Session Sample - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJYNAKTKXY&index=5&list=PLB56EEC32982C608C> David Lose answers: What elements of the Christian Faith and the Bible have you struggled with? - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJqySmrABR8&index=6&list=PLB56EEC32982C608C> About Making Sense of the Cross - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obYCw6sHpzA&index=8&list=PLB56EEC32982C608C> Making Sense of the Cross - Why the Cross? - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uF7NnqhJ64o> Making Sense Series - Why These Books Were Written - YouTube
<http://makingsensecourses.com/mss.php>
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=1816> Review
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=2717 Review
 Images for Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions About the Book of Faith [David J. Lose]

Lois Malcolm, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Luther Seminary

Lois Malcolm joined the Luther Seminary faculty in 1994 as assistant professor of systematic theology and became an associate professor in the fall of 1999. She has a Ph.D. in theology from the University of Chicago (1998), an M.A. in theology from Luther Seminary (1989), an M.A. in applied linguistics from the University of Minnesota (1985), and was a magna cum laude graduate of Bethel College (1981). She has published articles in theology and linguistics journals and presented papers at regional and national

levels in the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Christian Ethics.

http://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=lmalcolm

Images for Lois Malcolm, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Luther Seminary

[PDF]THE GENERATIVE GRAMMAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/faith_formation/LMalcolm_RFF2014_rev.pdf

Images for GENERATIVE GRAMMAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lois Malcolm - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3CCs4zzEEw>

Images for Lois Malcolm - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014 - YouTube

Holy Spirit: Creative Power in Our Lives (Lutheran Voices): Lois Malcolm

Who is the Holy Spirit? How does the Spirit work in our lives as individuals, families, communities, and in the world at large? What would happen if we claimed the promise of our baptism - that the Spirit truly is with us, creating within our bodies the new life we have in Jesus Christ? Drawing on Scripture, Luther's writings, and contemporary theology, Lois Malcolm invites readers to experience the Spirit's creative life and power - precisely within the complexity of our everyday lives.



<https://www.amazon.com/Holy-Spirit-Creative-Lutheran-Voices/dp/0806670584>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6884378-holy-spirit>

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8131/Holy-Spirit-Creative-Power-in-Our-Lives>

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<https://www.amazon.com/Lois-Malcolm/e/B002CE4VB6>

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Images for Lois Malcolm, author

Images for Holy Spirit: Creative Power in Our Lives (Lutheran Voices): Lois Malcolm

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<http://store.afcanada.com/store/productfamily/102/Lutheran-Voices>

Images for Lutheran Voices

Rodger Nishioka, Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education, Columbia Theological Seminary

While Rodger Nishioka teaches in the area of Christian education and practical theology, he specializes in ministry with youth and young adults. He completed a research project comparing the participation of young adults in mainline Protestant congregations and non-denominational independent Christian movements. Prior to joining the faculty at Columbia, Nishioka served for 12 years as denominational staff in youth and young adult ministry for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Nishioka received his undergraduate degree from Seattle Pacific University, his master's degree in theological studies from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, a Doctor of Divinity degree from Austin College and his Ph.D. from Georgia State University in Atlanta. He has published several articles, chapters and books largely focused on ministry with youth and young adults and the educational ministry of the church as spiritual formation. http://www.ctsnet.edu/files/faculty/Nishioka_Rodger_CV2012.pdf

Images for Rodger Nishioka, Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education, Columbia Theological Seminary

Rethinking Faith Formation: Christian Identity and Practice in a Pluralistic World

Rodger Y. Nishioka,



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[Images for Rodger Nishioka](#)

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John Roberto, President, Lifelong Faith Associates

John Roberto is editor of the journal Lifelong Faith, works as a consultant to churches and organizations, teaches courses and conducts workshops in faith formation and has authored books and program manuals about faith formation. John works on the Vibrant Faith Ministries team as coordinator of FaithFormationLearningExchange.net and leader of the three-day Vision and Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation training program. His latest publications include “Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century” (2014); “Generations Together: Caring, Celebrating, Learning Praying, and Serving Faithfully” (co-authored, 2014); and “Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith” (2010).

[Images for John Roberto, President, Lifelong Faith Associates](#)

REIMAGINING FAITH FORMATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.

John Roberto



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[Images for REIMAGINING FAITH FORMATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. John Roberto](#)
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[John Roberto - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014 - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sa31QSAxtI>

[Images for John Roberto - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014 - YouTube](#)

Resources

Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith Formation by John Roberto (Author)

How can Christian congregations provide vibrant faith formation to address the spiritual and religious needs of all ages and generations in the 21st century? How can churches envision the shape of faith formation in the year 2020 and design initiatives to respond proactively to the challenges and opportunities in the second decade of the 21st century?

Churches across the United States are facing significant challenges in their efforts to provide vibrant faith formation for all ages and generations. The new environment in which Christian faith formation operates will demand new thinking and new models, practices, resources, and technologies to address the spiritual needs of all generations.

Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith Formation guides churches in imagining new directions for faith formation and engages leaders in designing faith formation for the second decade of the 21st century. The book presents four scenarios for envisioning the future of faith formation with 1) people of vibrant faith and active engagement in the church community, 2) people who participate occasionally but are not actively engaged or

spiritually committed, 3) people who are spiritual but not religious, and 4) people who are uninterested in the spiritual life and unaffiliated with religion.

The book offers practical strategies, ideas, innovations, and resources for targeting the spiritual and religious needs of people in all four scenarios.

<https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Formation-2020-Designing-Future-ebook/dp/B007387MZ8>

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[Images for Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith Formation By John Roberto](#)

Generations Together: Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating, and Serving Faithfully by Kathie Amidei (Author), Jim Merhaut (Author), John Roberto (Author)

Faith is transmitted from generation to generation in extended families and intergenerational congregations. Every congregation can discover its intergenerational heart and soul and become an intentionally intergenerational community that nurtures the faith of all ages and equips them for living as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

When a congregation commits itself to building a culture of intergenerationality through its congregational life of *caring, celebrating, learning, praying, and serving*, each element becomes a sign of and instrument for the full experience of the Body of Christ by all ages and generations.

Generations Together guides leaders in learning what this vision looks like in practice, and how to guide a congregation in envisioning and designing projects and initiatives to become more intentionally intergenerational.

<https://www.amazon.com/Generations-Together-Learning-Celebrating-Faithfully-ebook/dp/B00LYX3YA0>

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<https://www.stanthony.cc/staff/view/id/9807> Dr. Kathie Amidei, Pastoral Associate

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/86806.Kathie_Amidei

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[Images for Generations Together: Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating, and Serving Faithfully By Kathie Amidei, Jim Merhaut, and John Roberto](#)

Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century: Engaging All Ages & Generations by John Roberto - Lifelong Faith

Reimagining Faith Formation is a proposal for what twenty-first century faith formation can look like. Much has been written about the challenges facing Christianity and faith formation. This book seeks to provide a way forward. How can we address the big adaptive challenges facing churches and faith formation? How can we reimagine faith formation with a vision that honors the past and is open to the future? How can we build a new faith-forming ecosystem that supports religious transmission and faith growth? How can we design new models with the best understandings and practices of learning and faith formation? And how can we engage all ages and generations in growing in faith and discipleship for a lifetime?

Chapter One explores four big adaptive challenges facing churches and faith formation to identify the need for a new faith forming ecosystem and new models of faith formation. Chapter Two presents a reimagined faith formation ecosystem for the twenty-first century incorporating five, essential, interconnected components: intergenerational faith formation in the congregation, age-group and generational faith formation in a variety of physical places and online spaces, family faith formation at home, missional faith formation to the spiritual but not religious and the unaffiliated, and online and digital faith formation. Chapter Three presents a reimagined model of faith formation as a *network* of relationships, content, experiences, and resources—in physical places and online spaces that is *lifelong* and *life-wide*—everywhere, anytime learning within a network of mentors, teachers, family, and peers. Chapter Four presents a reimagined understanding of faith formation curriculum that is holistic, comprehensive and balanced, systemic, lifelong, contextual, digitally-enabled, connected, and multi-platform. Chapter Five reimagines the role of faith formation leader as *curator*.

<https://www.amazon.com/Reimagining-Faith-Formation-21st-Century-ebook/dp/B00XNHQZY>

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[Images for Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century: Engaging All Ages & Generations by John Roberto - Lifelong Faith](#)

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Daniel Taylor, Writer, Co-Founder, The Legacy Center

Daniel Taylor (Ph.D., Emory) is the author of ten books, including "The Myth of Certainty," "Letters to My Children," "Tell Me a Story: The Life-Shaping Power of Our Stories," "Creating a Spiritual Legacy," and, most recently, "The Skeptical Believer: Telling Stories to Your Inner Atheist." He speaks frequently at conferences, colleges, retreats, and churches on a variety of topics. Dr. Taylor is also cofounder of The Legacy Center, an organization devoted to helping individuals and organizations identify and preserve the values and stories that have shaped their lives. He is a contributing editor for Books and Culture. Website: www.WordTaylor.com
[Images for Daniel Taylor, Writer, Co-Founder, The Legacy Center](#)

Daniel Taylor - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkzVghodRSg>

[Images for Daniel Taylor - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014](#)

Resources

Creating a Spiritual Legacy: How to Share Your Stories, Values, and Wisdom [Daniel Taylor]

We establish wills to pass on our possessions and property to family members and friends, but what about the things that really matter: our values, beliefs, wisdom, and stories? Those are the things of lasting significance, the things that make up a spiritual legacy. Daniel Taylor, a heralded teacher, bestselling author of *Letters to My Children* (over 50,000 sold), and a proven master of preserving spiritual legacies, shows how anyone not just professional authors or those who consider themselves creative can preserve and pass on their vision of life. No matter what age or stage of life you're in, creating a spiritual legacy both enriches your own life and blesses the lives of those you love. Chock full of practical guidance, exercises, and examples, this handsome book helps ordinary people identify wisdom and core values and articulate them in an enduring story form. Taylor promotes the importance of spiritual legacies and shows how to express them not only in writing but also using audio visual formats and crafts.

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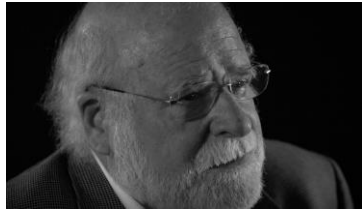
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[Images for Creating a Spiritual Legacy: How to Share Your Stories, Values, and Wisdom \[Daniel Taylor\]](#)

The Myth of Certainty: The Reflective Christian & the Risk of Commitment [Daniel Taylor]

Do you feel equally uncomfortable with closed-minded skepticism and closed-minded Christianity? If so, then *The Myth of Certainty* is the book for you. Daniel Taylor suggests a path to committed faith that is both consistent with the tradition of Christian orthodoxy and sensitive to the pluralism, relativism, and complexity of our time. Taylor makes the case for the reflective, questioning Christian with both incisive analysis and lively storytelling. His brief fictional interludes provide an alternative way to explore key issues of belief and vividly depict the real-life dilemmas Christians often face. Taylor affirms a call to throw off the paralysis of uncertainty and to risk commitment to God without forfeiting the God-given gift of an inquiring mind. Throughout he demonstrates clearly how much the world and the church need people--maybe people like you--who are willing to ask tough questions.



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[Images for The Myth of Certainty: The Reflective Christian & the Risk of Commitment \[Daniel Taylor\]](#)

Amy Thompson Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop, Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, ELCA

Before she was called to her current synod, Amy Thompson Sevimli served as associate pastor at Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arlington, Va. She has a passion for connecting with those longing for God but not finding that longing filled in a church. She also deeply loves the church. Thompson Sevimli has a Master of Sacred Theology from the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, a Master of Divinity from Duke University Divinity School, and a Bachelor of Arts from Wittenberg University.

[Images for Amy Thompson Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop, Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, ELCA](#)

[PDF]WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Amy Thompson Sevimli

Re-thinking Faith Formation



https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/faith_formation/ASevimli_FF2014.pdf

[Images for WHAT SHOULD I DO? Amy Thompson Sevimli Re-thinking Faith Formation](#)

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Deanna A. Thompson, Professor of Religion, Hamline University

Deanna has won awards by colleagues and students alike at Hamline University for her teaching and scholarship. A frequent speaker on how we talk about the toughest times in life in the context of faith and hope, Thompson is also the author of numerous articles and three books, including a theological commentary on Deuteronomy, "Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith and Accepting Grace" (Cascade, 2012) and "Crossing the Divide: Luther, Feminism and the Cross" (Fortress, 2004).

[Images for Deanna A. Thompson, Professor of Religion, Hamline University](#)

[PDF]Faith Formed by The Virtual Body of Christ: Christian Identity in a Wired World

Deanna A. Thompson

https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/faith_formation/DThompson_FF2014.pdf

[Images for Faith Formed by The Virtual Body of Christ: Christian Identity in a Wired World Deanna A. Thompson](#)

We live in a wired world where 24/7 digital connectivity is increasingly the norm. Christian megachurch communities often embrace this reality wholeheartedly while more traditional churches often seem hesitant and overwhelmed by the need for an interactive website, a Facebook page and a twitter feed. This book accepts digital connectivity as our reality but presents a vision of how faith communities can utilize technology to better be the body of Christ to those who are hurting while also helping followers of Christ think critically about the limits of our digital attachments.

This book begins with a conversion story of a non-cell phone owning, non-Facebook using religion professor judgmental of the ability of digital tools to enhance relationships. A stage IV cancer diagnosis later, in the midst of being held up by

virtual communities of support, a conversion occurs: this religion professor benefits in embodied ways from virtual sources and wants to convert others to the reality that the body of Christ can and does exist virtually and makes embodied difference in the lives of those who are hurting.

The book neither uncritically embraces nor rejects the constant digital connectivity present in our lives. Rather it calls on the church to a) recognize ways in which digital social networks already enact the virtual body of Christ; b) tap into and expand how Christ is being experienced virtually; c) embrace thoughtfully the material effects of our new augmented reality, and c) influence utilization of technology that minimizes distraction and maximizes attentiveness toward God and the world God loves.

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[Images for The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World \[Deanna A. Thompson\]](#)

Deanna Thompson - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFxEb5vZNdo>

[Images for Deanna Thompson - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014](#)

Resources

Deanna Thompson | Faculty and Staff | Hamline University

TEACHING STYLE

Religion matters: maybe not to you individually, but it matters greatly to societies, to governments, and to billions of people across the globe. It's also the case that religion matters not just in positive ways but also in harmful and destructive ones. My courses, focused primarily on Christian traditions, critically investigate the history of religion mattering negatively through unjust systems like patriarchy and racism while also considering how religion can matter for good in its embodiment of wisdom, justice and healing. Studying religion together requires not simply good reading and writing skills (although they're vitally important!) but also a willingness to ask big questions, listen deeply for answers, reexamine what we hold dear and why, and consider how our neighbors' and classmates' views impact our own. It's tough work studying religion, and it's well worth the effort. Come join us in becoming more informed, educated, and compassionate citizens of the world.



<http://www.hamline.edu/faculty-staff/deanna-thompson/>
[Images for Deanna Thompson | Faculty and Staff | Hamline University](#)

Crossing the Divide: Luther, Feminism, and the Cross Author: Deanna A. Thompson (Author)

Over the last two decades, traditional formulations of the idea of atonement have come under heavy attack from feminist theologians and others. They argue that the traditional view valorizes suffering and encourages people to acquiesce in needless self-sacrificing, that it is unseemly to think of God as demanding suffering of his son, and that the theology of the cross needs to be rethought in light of the whole life, ministry, and resurrection of Jesus.

Equally committed to the insights of the theology of the cross and feminist theology, Deanna Thompson takes up these contentious issues here in a creative and nuanced way. Her work emerges from direct engagement with Martin Luther and the Heidelberg Disputation as well as with the architects of reformist feminism. She finds surprising common ground on issues of suffering, abuse, atonement, reform, ethics, and the import of Jesus, and her book culminates in a constructive and promising feminist theology of the cross.

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[Images for Crossing the Divide: Luther, Feminism, and the Cross Author: Deanna A. Thompson \(Author\)](#)

Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith, and Accepting Grace by Deanna A. Thompson (Author)

"We tend to use words like miracle and mystery in the context of serendipity. In this frank and eloquent account of life transformed by cancer, Deanna Thompson explores these articles of faith as they are also wont to appear—on the hard edges of hope and the dark side of joy." —Krista Tippett, from the Foreword

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[Images for Deanna A. Thompson \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith, and Accepting Grace by Deanna A. Thompson \(Author\)](#)

[Laura Sumner Truax, Senior Pastor, LaSalle Street Church](#)

LaSalle Street Church is a non-denominational church in downtown Chicago with a long tradition of uniting individual faith in Christ with God's call for justice and compassion lived out in the world. Sumner Truax is the author of "Undone: When coming apart puts you back together" (InterVarsity Press, August 2013). Truax holds a master's degree in pastoral studies with an emphasis in spirituality and a Master of Divinity degree. She serves as a teaching pastor for the University of Chicago. <https://www.ivpress.com/laura-sumner-truax>

[Images for Laura Sumner Truax, Senior Pastor, LaSalle Street Church](#)

Laura Truax
The Value of Difficult Conversations



https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/faith_formation/LTruax_RFF2014.pdf

[Images for THE VALUE OF DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS Rev. Laura Sumner Truax Senior Pastor, LaSalle Street Church](#)

Laura Truax - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAheUOxHQ0>

[Images for Laura Truax - Rethinking Faith Formation 2014](#)

Undone: When Coming Apart Puts You Back Together by Laura Sumner Truax (Author)

Pastor Laura Truax, originator of the "reverse tithe" at LaSalle Street Church in Chicago, wasn't always in this same place of faith. In *Undone* she shares her journey of seeing Scripture with new eyes. Whether a big crisis shakes us or little things wear away at us, these are moments where we are confronted with ourselves. This is not the way that things are supposed to be. We feel like failures. We are undone. Worse yet, we realize that underneath our masks and facades, we are not the person we are pretending to be. Who are we, really? Laura Truax knows what it's like when life hits the fan. But she discovered that these times of exposure and vulnerability can become opportunities to find out who we really are and what we are meant to be. When we come to the end of ourselves, God can meet us there to help us face our fears, take off our masks and rediscover our true self as part of his larger story. Your journey isn't done. Come discover how you can become the person you long to be.

<https://www.amazon.com/Undone-When-Coming-Apart-Together/dp/083084306X>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17293100-undone>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830895566>

<https://books.google.com/books/about/Undone.html?id=BYqKAAAAQBAJ>

<https://www.ivpress.com/undone>

<http://loveletgobook.com/laura-sumner-truax/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8mc11cQHZU> Undone: A Video Interview with the Reve. Laura Sumner Truax

<https://lasallestreetchurch.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.patheos.com/Books/Book-Club/Laura-Sumner-Truax-Undone>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/laura-sumner-truax>

<https://www.facebook.com/undonebook/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Laura-Sumner-Truax/e/B00DMM4PH2>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6908619.Laura_Sumner_Truax

[Images for Laura Sumner Truax \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Undone: When Coming Apart Puts You Back Together by Laura Sumner Truax \(Author\)](#)

RETHINKING CHURCH: BETTER QUESTIONS, BOLDER QUESTIONS – LUTHER SEMINARY

JULY 26-28, 2017 – LUTHER SEMINARY, ST. PAUL, MN

Are we still doing Sunday morning just like it's 1950? In what ways have our worship, education, and fellowship changed? How is the Holy Spirit forming community in our contexts in 2017? In the last century, Christian congregations in North America largely imagined their mission as attracting people to Sunday morning. Active Christians were imagined as those who show up.

Congregations were taught to measure attendance and offerings. If you are ready to ask different questions than simply how to get people to come, Rethinking Church is for you.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/>

[Images for RETHINKING CHURCH: BETTER QUESTIONS, BOLDER QUESTIONS – LUTHER SEMINARY](#)

http://www.luthersem.edu/alerts/article.aspx?article_id=1319&alert_id=141

<https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/speakers.aspx?m=6143>

Tod Bolsinger, Vice President for Vocation and Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Fuller Seminary.

Presentation: *Adventure or Die: The Leadership Challenge for the Church Today*.

"Seminary didn't prepare me for this." This was the line that Tod Bolsinger heard from his consulting clients and Fuller Seminary heard in 2010 when they did a poll of their alumni. Even the best education and preparation is lacking when you find yourself in uncharted territory trying to navigate missional challenges that were never expected. How do we minister – how do we lead a ministry – in such a rapidly changing world?

Bolsinger, author of *Canoing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, will share what he has learned from 30 years of pastoral and higher education leadership, logging almost 200,000 miles, working with leaders of over 100 churches and denominations, and studying the best leadership thinking.

[Images for Tod Bolsinger, Vice President for Vocation and Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Fuller Seminary.](#)

Canoing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory by Tod Bolsinger (Author)

Explorers Lewis and Clark had to adapt. While they had prepared to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean, instead they found themselves in the Rocky Mountains. You too may feel that you are leading in a cultural context you were not expecting. You may even feel that your training holds you back more often than it carries you along. Drawing from his extensive experience as a pastor and consultant, Tod Bolsinger brings decades of expertise in guiding churches and organizations through uncharted territory. He offers a combination of illuminating insights and practical tools to help you reimagine what effective leadership looks like in our rapidly changing world. If you're going to scale the mountains of ministry, you need to leave behind canoes and find new navigational tools. Reading this book will set you on the right course to lead with confidence and courage.



<https://www.amazon.com/Canoeing-Mountains-Christian-Leadership-Uncharted/dp/0830841261>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/26267465-canoeing-the-mountains>
<https://www.cokesbury.com/9780830841479-Canoeing-the-Mountains>
<https://www.fuller.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Canoeing-the-Mountains-ch-1-and-2-courtesy-of-Fuller-Theological-Seminary-and-IVP.pdf>
<https://twitter.com/todbol>
[file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/17487-Article%20Text-67939-2-10-20170310%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/17487-Article%20Text-67939-2-10-20170310%20(1).pdf)
<http://pres-outlook.org/2016/07/canoeing-mountains-christian-leadership-uncharted-territory/>
<https://presbyphl.org/re-cap-canoeing-the-mountains-event/>
<https://faithandleadership.com/tod-bolsinger-what-does-it-mean-stop-canoeing-mountains>
<https://bolsinger.blogs.com/weblog/canoeing-the-mountains/>
<https://www.200churches.com/blog/episode-242-leading-in-uncharted-territory-with-tod-bolsinger>
<https://cbfblog.com/2019/02/11/cbf-podcast-canoeing-the-mountains-with-tod-bolsinger/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LSKPIY-Xnc> Tod Bolsinger, Author of 'Canoeing the Mountains' – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-XBWka58YY> Images for Tod Bolsinger, Author of 'Canoeing the Mountains' – YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrJk_co28XE 1. Acknowledging the Problem - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yu5PzgeKpT0> 2. Technical vs. Adaptive Challenges - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cx1zrjfyYws> 3. Example of an Adaptive Challenge – YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IG_pg73nUo 4. The Process of Change – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXiaqmlIAeA> 1. From Trying Harder to Training Better – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QFTzslJJS> 2. Fiduciary: Establishing Trust – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Z0lfl18cE> 3. Strategic: Becoming Effective – YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiTzq2yuu_E 4. Generative: Inspiring Creativity – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRlz8Ob-c6k> 1. The Gospel According to George Costanza - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A15U7E6r2qY> 2. Change Begins with a Complaint – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmmDUQByLjg> 3. Finding the Hidden Commitment – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwBVnfu8YdQ> "How do you define Leadership?" - Tod Bolsinger – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pb3Nn1dHWK4> Tod Bolsinger: "Built into Our DNA" – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pb3Nn1dHWK4> "Can anyone be a leader?" - Tod Bolsinger – YouTube
<https://www.amazon.com/Tod-E.-Bolsinger/e/B001K8AF0Q>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7089662.Tod_Bolsinger
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pb3Nn1dHWK4> Images for Tod Bolsinger (Author)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pb3Nn1dHWK4> Images for Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory by Tod Bolsinger (Author)

Elizabeth Drescher, scholar, writer, and public speaker on religion in everyday life, and a professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University.

Presentation: *Cosmopolitan Communities: Rethinking Ministry Beyond Communitarianism*

The so-called “rise of the Nones” and related cultural and social reconfigurations, all of which have much to do with the effects of media-saturated, digitally-integrated life practices, call ministry leaders to dramatically re-think long taken for granted structures of interpersonal connectedness and gathering. Not least among the concepts that changing patterns of religious and spiritual affiliation challenge us to reconsider is modern Christian communitarianism as it functions (or, often, does not) within an increasingly cosmopolitan world. This conversation will explore what it might mean to minister in a world in which relationships are defined – and often desire – on the basis of otherness and differences in values, beliefs, worldviews, and practices as they are on commonalities.

[Images for Elizabeth Drescher, scholar, writer, and public speaker on religion in everyday life, and a professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University.](#)

Resources

Click 2 Save: The Digital Ministry Bible by Elizabeth Drescher (Author), Keith Anderson (Author)

Social media provide an opportunity for congregations to open the doors and windows to their congregational life before people ever step inside. It's no longer all about getting your message out as if people are passively waiting for the latest news from the parish, diocese, or national church. Rather, it's about creating spaces where meaningful relationships can develop. Click 2 Save: The Digital Ministry Bible is a practical resource guide for religious leaders who want to enrich and extend their ministries using digital media like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and church or personal blogs. An ideal companion to Tweet If You Jesus: Practicing Church in the Digital Reformation (Morehouse, 2011), Click 2 Save draws on extensive research and practical experience in church and other ministry settings to provide functional, how-to guidance on effectively using social networking sites in the day-to-day context of ministry."

<https://www.amazon.com/Click-Save-Digital-Ministry-Bible/dp/0819227749>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13795924-click-2-save>

<https://www.christianbook.com/click-save-reboot-digital-ministry-bible/elizabeth-drescher/9780898690316/pd/690316>
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http://scholarcommons.scu.edu/faculty_books/167/
<https://www.churchpublishing.org/click2save>
<https://www.facebook.com/click2save/>
<http://www.preachinginpumps.com/books/click-2-save-the-digital-ministry-bible/>
https://day1.org/articles/5d9b820ef71918cdf2003065/its_complicated_when_digital_ministry_gets_really_real
<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/pressreleases/elizabeth-drescher-digital-ministry-made-for-the-mainline/>
<https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/view/23094/click-2-save>
<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/edrescher-202>
<https://www.thebtscenter.org/bearings/contributor/elizabeth-drescher/>
https://twitter.com/edrescherphd?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor
<https://www.onfaith.co/onfaith/author/elizabeth-drescher>
<https://www.scu.edu/cas/religious-studies/faculty--staff/elizabeth-drescher/>
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<http://iym.ptsem.edu/author/kanderson/>
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<https://pastorkeithanderson.net/about>
<https://eformationvts.org/keith-anderson/>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/721623.Keith_Anderson
 Images for Keith Anderson (Author) click 2 save
 Images for Click 2 Save: The Digital Ministry Bible by Elizabeth Drescher (Author), Keith Anderson (Author)

Choosing Our Religion: The Spiritual Lives of America's Nones by Elizabeth Drescher

To the dismay of religious leaders, study after study has shown a steady decline in affiliation and identification with traditional religions in America. By 2014, more than twenty percent of adults identified as unaffiliated--up more than seven percent just since 2007. Even more startling, more than thirty percent of those under the age of thirty now identify as "Nones"--answering "none" when queried about their religious affiliation. Is America losing its religion? Or, as more and more Americans choose different spiritual paths, are they changing what it means to be religious in the United States today?

In *Choosing Our Religion*, Elizabeth Drescher explores the diverse, complex spiritual lives of Nones across generations and across categories of self-identification as "Spiritual-But-Not-Religious," "Atheist," "Agnostic," "Humanist," "just Spiritual," and more. Drawing on more than one hundred interviews conducted across the United States, Drescher opens a window into the lives of a broad cross-section of Nones, diverse with respect to age, gender, race, sexual orientation, and prior religious background. She allows Nones to speak eloquently for themselves, illuminating the processes by which they became None, the sources of information and inspiration that enrich their spiritual lives, the practices they find spiritually meaningful, how prayer functions in spiritual lives not centered on doctrinal belief, how morals and values are shaped outside of institutional religions, and how Nones approach the spiritual development of their own children.

These compelling stories are deeply revealing about how religion is changing in America--both for Nones and for the religiously affiliated family, friends, and neighbors with whom their lives remain intertwined.

<https://www.amazon.com/Choosing-Our-Religion-Spiritual-Americas/dp/0199341222>
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<https://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199341221.001.0001/acprof-9780199341221>
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<https://jimkane.wordpress.com/2016/03/15/my-review-of-elizabeth-dreschers-choosing-our-religion/>
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<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/655761> Review
<https://sacredmattersmagazine.com/seven-questions-for-elizabeth-drescher/>
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<http://portlandbookreview.com/2016/06/choosing-our-religion-the-spiritual-lives-of-americas-nones-by-elizabeth-drescher/>
 Images for Choosing Our Religion: The Spiritual Lives of America's Nones by Elizabeth Drescher

Tweet If You ♥ Jesus: Practicing Church in the Digital Reformation by Elizabeth Drescher (Author)

Churches everywhere are scrambling to get linked with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. But are they ready for the Digital Reformation: the dramatic global shift in the nature of faith, social consciousness and relationship that these digital social media have ushered in?

Tweet If You Love Jesus brings the wisdom of ancient and medieval Christianity into conversation with contemporary theories

of cultural change and the realities of social media, all to help churches navigate a landscape where faith, leadership and community have taken on new meanings.

The next Reformation is happening on Facebook, according to Santa Clara University professor Elizabeth Drescher, author of the new book *Tweet If You ♥ Jesus: Practicing Church in the Digital Reformation*.

Drescher explains that social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, are both powerful tools for the practice of Christian faith and a great challenge to modern understandings of what it means to be a friend, a spiritual companion, or a member of a community. "What does it mean to 'love your neighbor' in a world in which a 'friend' might as easily be the kid from down the street you grew up with as a woman in Botswana whom you've never seen in person and only know in the context of Facebook...?" she asks in the book's introduction.

Grounded in the histories of Christianity and mass communications, *Tweet If You ♥ Jesus* is an accessible blend of intellectual history and case studies that will help both novices and experienced church communicators sharpen their use of social media to share resources and build Christian community. "We must travel through this landscape on its own terms," she reminds church leaders, "open throughout to the possibility that God just might be doing an entirely new thing among us—140 characters at a time."



https://www.churchpublishing.org/media/custom/Press%20Releases/Tweet_release.pdf

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=productDetail&productID=8830>

<http://www.amazon.com/Tweet-You-Heart-Jesus-Reformation/dp/0819224235>

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https://books.google.com/books/about/Tweet_If_You_Heart_Jesus.html?id=kzRpadn3CZQC

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0819224529>

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<https://faithandleadership.com/elizabeth-drescher-digital-ministry-made-mainline>

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[Images for Tweet If You ♥ Jesus: Practicing Church in the Digital Reformation by Elizabeth Drescher \(Author\)](#)

Mihee Kim-Kort, Co-Pastor, ordained Presbyterian (PCUSA) minister with degrees in divinity and theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and English Literature and Religious Studies from the University of Colorado in beautiful Boulder.

Presentation: *Embodying Sanctuary*

What does it mean for the church to be a sanctuary? With all that is happening in recent news around immigration and refugees what are ways we as church can think more meaningfully about welcome and hospitality? Mihee Kim-Kort will talk briefly about her family's immigrant life experience, the sanctuary movement in the U.S., and more broadly about what radical, but everyday hospitality looks like as a faith value.

[Images for Mihee Kim-Kort, Co-Pastor, ordained Presbyterian \(PCUSA\) minister](#)

Resources

Mihee Kim-Kort | Pastor. Mother. Writer. Itinerant. Hopemonger.



<http://miheekimkort.com/>

[Images for Mihee Kim-Kort | Pastor. Mother. Writer. Itinerant. Hopemonger.](#)

<http://miheekimkort.com/about/>

<http://miheekimkort.com/tag/clergy-couples/>

Making Paper Cranes: Toward an Asian American Feminist Theology (The Young Clergy Women Project) by Mihee Kim-Kort (Author), Grace Ji-Sun Kim (Foreword)

Drawing on memories of making paper cranes with her mother at the kitchen table, Mihee Kim-Kort begins with one of her favorite stories from childhood about the tradition of making a thousand cranes. Intrigued by the symbol of the crane, she explores the migrations and movements of the community of Asian American women. What results is a theological endeavor that engages the social histories, literary texts, and narratives of Asian American women as well as the constructive theologies of feminist and liberation theologians. But, it is ultimately one young woman's embrace of living into this community and

identity, and articulating a particular theology that is hopefully accessible to all who have experienced powerlessness and marginalization. Simply put, *Making Paper Cranes* is about Asian American mothers, daughters, sisters, and women who courageously discover the grace in the struggle, the survival, and the song.

<https://www.amazon.com/Making-Paper-Cranes-American-Feminist/dp/0827223757>

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<http://www.chalicepress.com/Author.aspx?AuthorID=1340>

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<https://rachelheldevans.com/blog/yoked-andy-kort-mihee-kim-kort>

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<http://www.cpx.cts.edu/newmedia/findings/case-studies/the-young-clergy-women-project>

<https://www.amazon.com/Mihee-Kim-Kort/e/B008ACXHYG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6507903.Mihee_Kim_Kort

[Images for Mihee Kim-Kort \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Making Paper Cranes: Toward an Asian American Feminist Theology \(The Young Clergy Women Project\) by Mihee Kim-Kort \(Author\), Grace Ji-Sun Kim \(Foreword\)](#)

Kenneth Inskip, Director for Research and Evaluation in the Office of the Presiding Bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Presentation: *State of the Church*

The focus of the presentation is on ELCA congregations and growth. Comparisons are made between ELCA congregations and congregations in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Particular attention is given to the nature of worship, worship style, religious education, and evangelism. Each of these aspects of congregational life are an expression or reflection of a specific theology point of view. For ELCA congregations (and other religious groups), "Lutheran" theology creates "weak" communities that struggle to be relevant in a competitive religious marketplace.

[Images for Kenneth Inskip, Director for Research and Evaluation in the Office of the Presiding Bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Presentation: State of the Church](#)

Resources

Mainline decline - The Lutheran Magazine

Understanding membership drop

Mainline denominations matter. America needs them. Our country is polarized: Conservative religious groups are synonymous with political conservatism, while more liberal groups seem out-of-touch. But mainline denominations—if they hold true to their heritage—provide a place where all kinds of people can live together and learn from each other as Christians. Black and white, rich and poor, biblical literalists and modernists, political conservatives and liberals—all come together in one body to worship each week. This is critical to the well-being of society. It's time that mainline denominations celebrate this gift. Instead there is worry about declining numbers. We are well aware of the numbers.

Conservative religious groups including the Southern Baptists, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Assemblies of God have grown dramatically since 1940. At the same time, mainline denominations, including the United Methodists, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church and the ELCA, all have declined in membership.

But these trends need to be put in a broader context. Perhaps the figures aren't quite so bad, comparatively. And maybe shifts in the fortunes of mainline and conservative religious groups are due to factors that have very little to do with being liberal or conservative.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5806

[Images for Mainline decline - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

Report on the 2006 ELCA congregational survey | The Lutheran

In July of 2006, Research and Evaluation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) fielded a questionnaire to 1000 ELCA congregations. Six hundred seventy-nine questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 68 percent. The questionnaire was designed to gather information about ELCA congregations and the pastors who serve them. The same questionnaire was also fielded to an additional 184 ELCA congregations who are members of the Willow Creek Association. We chose to focus on these congregations because their interest in the Willow Creek Association suggests that they are intentional about church growth. We wanted to know if these ELCA congregations differ from other ELCA congregations and we wanted to know if the differences produce growth. One hundred forty-three of these congregations returned questionnaires for a response rate of 78 percent.



[Download the entire report](#)

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=6791

[Images for Report on the 2006 ELCA congregational survey | The Lutheran](#)

Ten Reasons You Should Be a Lutheran Kenneth W. Inskeep



<http://nwos-elca.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Ten-Reasons-You-Should-be-A-Lutheran.pdf>

<http://vimeo.com/24786301> Top Ten Reasons to be an ELCA Lutheran on Vimeo

[Images for Ten Reasons You Should Be a Lutheran](#)

http://www.ewaldsynod.org/images/E_Apr_16_CC_HiRes.pdf

<https://milwaukeeesynod.org/events/lead-and-learn-2/>

[Images for Kenneth W. Inskeep, director for research and evaluation](#)

10 trends to watch - The Lutheran Magazine

1. Declining church participation.

Who comes to church? According to the [General Social Survey](#), the flagship poll of the [National Opinion Research Center](#) of the [University of Chicago](#), fewer Americans are attending worship services. Weekly or more frequent attendance declined from 35 percent of the population in 1972 to 26 percent in 2008. At the same time, the number of Americans reporting that they never attend worship increased from 9 percent to 21 percent.

This trend has Roberto worried. "If you look at it generationally, the most loyal, the most engaged people are those 60 and older," he said. As that generation passes, they are followed by generations with "very low brand loyalty. In this next decade, we're going to see it in declining participation," he added.

Average worship attendance in the [ELCA](#) is 125 people, said Kenneth Inskeep, [ELCA](#) executive for research and evaluation.

"I'm predicting that by 2020, it will be down around 100 [in worship attendance] if the present trends continue," he said. At that size, he noted, most congregations can't afford a full-time pastor.

But Inskeep argues that we miss the bigger issue if we only look at numbers. "Lutherans have a particularly important tradition to represent, which is ... that God is a gracious God. It's not about attendance ... it's about having a voice ... with enough people to speak and be heard in the broader culture," he said.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=9970

[Images for trends to watch - The Lutheran](#)

The One Percent Principle

The Church We Want to Be

We want to be a church that belongs to Christ with a place for everyone.

We want to be a church whose unity is in Jesus, who gathers us around word and water, wine and bread.

We want to be a church that believes Jesus is God's "yes" to us and that our lives can be a "yes" to others.

We want to be a church that believes God is calling us into the world - together (a church that rolls up its sleeves and gets to work (restoring and reconciling communities).

We want to be a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder.

We want to be a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life (continually striving for a deeper understanding of what the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ means for the world.)

We want to be a church that is deeply rooted and always being made new.

Inskeep Session 2hot!

<https://ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Inskeep-Session-2-Slides.pdf>

[Images for One Percent Principle](#)

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Time to get to know each other – The Lutheran Magazine

BY ELIZABETH A. EATON

Kenn Inskeep, director for ELCA Research and Evaluation, notes that the ELCA's predecessor church bodies had a strong and widely shared Lutheran [identity](#) in the 1950s. There was a strong Lutheran theological identity. Theology was primarily the domain of the clergy, but many lay members knew the basics and could recite from Martin Luther's Small Catechism. And people knew of and supported the agencies and institutions of the church.

Before you worry that I'm going to get all Ozzie and Harriet Nelson on you, I'm not advocating a return to the '50s. There were many things in our church and in our country in those years to which I would never retreat. My point: We have lost something that helped us understand God and the world and that connected us to each other.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12945

[Images for Time to get to know each other – The Lutheran Magazine BY ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

[Images for strong shared Lutheran theological identity in the 1950s](#)

[Rolf Jacobson](#), Professor of Old Testament and The Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology, and Ministry at Luther Seminary
Presentation: *More than Butts and Bucks: Word and Sacrament Ministry Reconsidered*

The ways we name and describe Christ's church can limit our imaginations for ministry and even distort how we see the Holy Spirit at work in the world. Drawing from the story of the stoning of Stephen and other passages in Acts, we will consider what it means to understand the church as those who are filled with the Spirit and are continually both sent and gathered by the Spirit.

Rolf Jacobson appears weekly on two preaching Working Preacher podcasts, "Sermon Brainwave" and "I Love to Tell the Story," a podcast for the Narrative Lectionary.

His latest book, on which he collaborated with Beth Tanner and Nancy deClausse-Walford, is the Psalms commentary in the New International Commentary on the Old Testament series (Eerdmans, 2014). His works also include Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms (Augsburg Fortress, 2008) and Invitation to the Psalms (Bake, 2013). He also leads an old-time band, "The Fleshpots of Egypt," who lead "beer and hymns" evenings where all songs are sung in the keys of G and D. [Full profile](#)
[Images for Rolf Jacobson, Professor of Old Testament and The Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology, and Ministry at Luther Seminary Presentation: More than Butts and Bucks: Word and Sacrament Ministry Reconsidered](#)

Rolf A. Jacobson - Faculty - Luther Seminary



http://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=rjacobson

[Images for Rolf A. Jacobson - Faculty - Luther Seminary](#)

<https://www.luthersem.edu/profile/default.aspx?uid=78332e64980e20180f077705c42123bf9ecc5ee5a95ffdc05af9bbc43ca43a2b>

https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=58&issue_id=9

<https://darkwoodbrew.org/rolf-jacobson/>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/rolf-jacobson>

https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/speakers.aspx?speaker_id=45

http://easter.org/wordpress/?page_id=11339 Easter Lutheran Church – Meet Pastor Rolf Jacobson

[Images for Easter Lutheran Church – Meet Pastor Rolf Jacobson](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Rolf-A.-Jacobson/e/B001HPBCRM>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/768575.Rolf_A_Jacobson

[Images for Rolf A. Jacobson \(author\)](#)

Brian Hughes has served in a variety of settings, from Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. to outside of Pittsburg, Pa., the Bay of California (congregation and assistant to the bishop), and now serves in Columbia, Md. With an earned doctorate in Family Systems he's keenly interested in how human communities function and thrive.

Presentation: *Resilient Church: When Robust Isn't Making it and Fragile Is Not an Option*

For years Lutherans have talked a good story about empowered laity, but the time may be upon us when they are the one thing that preserve the DNA of this movement. Can the ordained train and truly release, and will the laity fully engage the one true world as it really is? These are our questions. This has been our journey.

[Images for Resilient Church: When Robust Isn't Making it and Fragile Is Not an Option by Brian Hughes](#)

Brian Hughes | LinkedIn



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brian-hughes-72812312a?trk=seokp-title-professional-name>

<http://www.stjohnmd.org/>

<http://www.usachurches.org/church/st-john-evangelical-lutheran-church.htm>

Jodi Houge started Humble Walk Lutheran Church in a coffee shop during her last year of seminary and has been running to catch up with where this community leads her ever since. Humble Walk is filled with people on the last train out of Christianity who have decided to give it one more go. Being the pastor of this new church plant provides stories of hope every single day.

Presentation: *That Box Doesn't Fit*

Description: Like trying to wrestle an item back into the packaging it came in, once you experience church that doesn't fit into the typical idea of congregational life – it's hard to squish it back into the "box." Stories of hope from a new church plant that is unbound and unleashed. She spends a good deal of time drinking coffee and observing life in the West End of St. Paul, Minn., where she lives with her husband and two offspring. Her friends would describe her as a good eater.

[Images for Jodi Houge started Humble Walk Lutheran Church in a coffee shop](#)

Pastor Jodi Houge — Humble Walk



<http://www.humblewalkchurch.org/pastor-jodi-houge/>
<http://www.humblewalkchurch.org/>
<http://www.humblewalkchurch.org/blog/>
<http://www.humblewalkchurch.org/it-began-like-this-we-think/>
<https://humblewalk.bandcamp.com/>
<http://www.siebertfoundation.org/Conferences/JodiHouge>
<https://www.luthersem.edu/stories/default.aspx?m=5951&post=4618>
<http://www.revjodihouge.com/media/>
<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/08/lady-clergy-beer/497489/>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0827214898>
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2013/08/make-neighborhood-cathedral-pilgrimage-humble-walk/>
<http://www.startribune.com/twin-cities-religious-organizations-are-pairing-religion-with-alcohol/363650401/>
<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/january-2017--church-planter--good-eater-to-preach-at-tenth-triennial-convention-news-503.php>
<http://pathwaysbiblecamps.org/event/pathways-village/>
<https://augustanacommunity.wordpress.com/humble-walk/>
<http://www.jkmontgomery.com/blog/2015/10/29/jodi-hoque>
<https://www.lstc.edu/assets/img/content/leadership/2016LC-workshops-bios.pdf>
[Images for Pastor Jodi Houge — Humble Walk](#)

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Faith Practices

Study

The regular study of the Bible and books that help to enliven its message (e.g. Luther's Catechism, commentaries and other study resources) is a key way the disciple practices loving and knowing God. Study happens privately through personal Bible study and a regular devotional time. Study also happens publicly as families and friends learn together, in small groups, and through larger gatherings of formal study and worship. The maturing disciple attends to "study" in both private and communal contexts. Through reading, meditating and the study of Scripture, the lively word of God becomes active in the lives of believers. For thousands of years, the words of Jesus, the teachings of the prophets and apostles, and the stories of God's people have revealed God's heart and hope for the world and each one of us. The Holy Spirit inspires us through Scripture to see ourselves as we are and as God would have us become. Through the Bible we come to understand how God works in the world, for the world and through people like us.

Part of a disciple's job description is to study Scripture diligently.

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Christian-Education/Discipleship/7-Faith-Practices/Study.aspx>
[Images for study Scripture diligently](#)

Encourage

Disciples are not born mature; in reality, many disciples never grow beyond the infancy stage of their relationship with Christ. Inherent to the journey of discipleship is the ongoing call to mature in faith. Growth in faith happens as we are mentored and as we mentor and encourage others. Christian education is the more formal way children of God are disciplined in their faith. Mentoring relationships are a less "institutional" way the building of faith happens as more mature disciples become "stewards of the mysteries of faith" with seekers. Encouragement happens between more seasoned disciples and those growing, between friends at similar points in their journey encouraging each other to growth, between key teachers such as pastors and congregational leaders and students of the faith. In this process of exchange, it is not only the learner who grows, but the one who mentors and teaches. The maturing disciple knows she is never finished; that the path of maturity continues to the day we exchange this life for the next. A biblical model for this process can be Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8).

Part of the disciples' job description is to pass on the faith.

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Christian-Education/Discipleship/7-Faith-Practices/Encourage.aspx>
[Images for disciples pass on the faith](#)

E-dentity (Summer 2010) - Word and World

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1532 What Hath God Wrought? Frederick J. Gaiser
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=219 E-vangelism: At All Times and in All Places? Mary Sue Dehmlow Dreier
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1044 Identity in a Digital Age Andrew Root
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1408 Social Networking and Church Systems Dwight Zscheile
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1264 The Pastor on Facebook: Boldly Going Where Everyone Else Goes Amy C. Thoren
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=275 Waking Up in Anaheim Robert S. Fortner
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=462 What Difference Does It Make? E-Learning and Faith Community Mary E. Hess
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=239 Face to Face Pastor on Facebook? Not for Me Kae Evensen
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1368 Pastor on Facebook? We Might Learn Something Adam P. White
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1197 Texts in Context Everything You Know Is Wrong: Shame, E-dentity, Identity, and the Samaritan Savior of Luke 10:25-37 Mark E. Stenberg
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=721 Perspectives Preaching 2.0 David J. Lose
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=5 The Theology of... Video Games?! Using Games to Build Relationships in Your Congregation and Community Paul C. Adams
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=119
Images for E-dentity - Word and World - Summer 2010 – Luther Seminary

Identity and Community (Spring 2014) - Word and World

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3769 Identity versus Community? Frederick J. Gaiser
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3778 Article. Disagreements over Homosexuality Divide African Churches and the ELCA Sarah K. Dreier
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3772 Eat, Drink, and Be Merry: A Theology of Hospitality in Luke-Acts Martin William Mittelstadt
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3774 Lessons on Vocation and Location: The Saga of Augsburg College as Urban Settlement Paul C. Pribbenow
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3773 Religion and Ethnicity in the United States Mark A. Granquist
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3776 The Story We Find Ourselves In: Nurturing Christian Identity in a Consumer Culture Terri Martinson Elton
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3775 Transforming Trauma: The Power of Touch and the Practice of Anointing Mindy Makant
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3771 We Are Our Stories: Narrative Dimension of Human Identity and Its Implications for Christian Faith Formation Rolf A. Jacobson
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3777 What Intentional Christian Communities Can Teach the Church Jason Mahn, Grace Koleczek
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3779 Face to Face The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the ELCA in Dispute: A Time for Humble Listening
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3780 Face to Face The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the ELCA in Dispute: A Time for Elevated Discourse Kathryn Schifferdecker
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3781 Texts in Context Preaching to Shape Congregational Identity Richard Rehfeldt
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3770 Lecture Series Reformation and Enculturation: Toward the Five Hundredth Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation Martin Junge
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=134
Images for Identity and Community (Spring 2014) Word and World – Luther Seminary

Luther Seminary – Office of the President

February 3, 2020

Allow me to share just a handful of our discoveries with you.,

In my last update letter, I defined the core challenge facing the church in North America like this:

The congregations we serve struggle to help members form deep Christian **identity**, practice and faith.

This past December, the Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded Luther Seminary a \$1 million grant designed to build on our previous grant award and address the heart of this challenge.

In today's secular culture, many are seeking to forge unique **identities** and discover meaning in their lives. Often, and unfortunately, people don't make these journeys inside a local congregation because they don't see churchy as a place of discernment or decision-making. This grant will allow us to accompany church members in eight partner congregations as they learn how to tell personal stories of encounters with the living Christ. In the process, they'll be more equipped to notice where God is showing up in their lives, deepen their sense of **identity** in Christ, and grow more comfortable and confident sharing their faith with others.

Faithfully yours, Robin J. Steinke
President

People of the Way

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,* in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

oremus Bible Browser: 1 Peter 2:1-10

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=1+Peter+2:1-10>

[Images for Living Stone and a Chosen People](#)

Jesus the Way to the Father

⁶ Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

oremus Bible Browser: John 14:1-14

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John+14%3A1-14>

[Images for Jesus the Way to the Father](#)

Life comes down to one ultimate choice – to accept or reject the invitation to live with God here on earth and in heaven forever. To accept the invitation is to align oneself with the identity of the early church as people of the way. To know one's destination is to give perspective to the journey.

Resources

Learning the Way: Reclaiming Wisdom from the Earliest Christian Communities [Cassandra Carkuff Williams]

How should the church respond to the changing cultural and societal changes going on around it? Should it reject the historical traditions that served the early Christian church, or should it turn a blind eye to the changes happening in modern society?

Neither, as Cassandra D. Carkuff Williams advocates--it should, and it must recover and reclaim our foundations and reinterpret them in light of present-day realities. In *Learning the Way: Reclaiming Wisdom from the Earliest Christian Communities*, Williams suggests that the biggest problems facing the church today are the victim mentality created out of its own presumptions and that we have allowed our cultures and societies to dictate the way in which we lead our churches. Williams explores early Christian communities and their practices in order to create principles for discipleship formation. She then offers expert advice on how to approach modern-day issues of Christian education and the nurturing of disciples based on the examples set forth by our earliest forebears in the faith. As Williams states, "Discipleship is a way of being grounded in vocation, nurtured within community, and guided by tradition." This book provides an overview of the past in order that we might take the proven example and apply it toward our present and our future.

<http://www.amazon.com/Learning-Way-Reclaiming-Christian-Communities/dp/1566993857>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8576345-learning-the-way>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993852/Learning-the-Way-Reclaiming-Wisdom-from-the-Earliest-Christian-Communities>

<https://www.remnantbooks.org/product/50194/Learning-the-Way-Reclaiming-Wisdom-from-the-Earliest-Christian-Communities-Cassandra-D-Carkuff-Williams->

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995728>

<https://alban.org/archive/moments-of-authentic-discipleship/>

<https://alban.org/archive/pastor-as-teacher-congregation-as-learning-community/>

<http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/userfiles/file/Newcastle%20Website/Mission%20and%20Ministry/Local%20Ministry%20and%20Readers%20Training/Alban%20Weekly%2023%20March09.pdf>

<http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org/Resource%20Center%20ON%20THE%20WEB/Alban%20Institute%20Resources%202012.pdf>

<https://www.igrc.org/files/tables/content/8269264/fields/files/94a92d79d03147eca949836e5d9bef8e/spiritual+formation+discipleship+sm+groups.pdf>

Page 10

<https://medium.com/christian-citizen/abhms-resource-supports-communities-that-form-christian-disciples-dea4a27124ac>

www.nationalministries.org/docs/bios/CassandraWilliams.doc

http://www.judsonpress.com/author.cfm?author_id=743

<https://www.amazon.com/Cassandra-Carkuff-Williams/e/B001JSBYCU>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4117287.Cassandra_Carkuff_Williams

[Images for Cassandra Carkuff Williams](#)

[Images for Learning the Way: Reclaiming Wisdom from the Earliest Christian Communities \[Cassandra Carkuff Williams\]](#)

People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity: Dwight J. Zscheile

There is a renewed conversation about identity and mission in American Anglicanism today, based on the recognition that the church's context in the U.S. has dramatically changed. The legacies of establishment, benefactor approaches to mission, and the 'national church' ideal are no longer adequate for the challenges and opportunities facing the 21st century church.

But if the Episcopal Church is no longer the Church of the Establishment and the benefactor model of church is dead, what is the heart of Episcopal mission and identity?

Scholar and Episcopal priest Dwight Zscheile draws on multiple streams of Anglican thought and practice, plus contemporary experience to craft a vision for mission that addresses the church's post-establishment, post-colonial context. With stories, practices and concrete illustrations, Zscheile engages readers in re-envisioning what it means to be Anglican in America today and sends readers out to build new relationships within their local contexts.

<http://www.amazon.com/People-Way-Renewing-Episcopal-Identity/dp/0819220906>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13795901-people-of-the-way>

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/peopleoftheway>

<https://www.christianbook.com/people-the-way-renewing-episcopal-identity/dwight-zscheile/9780819220905/pd/220905>
https://www.eighthdaybooks.com/?page=shop/flypage&product_id=53190
http://books.google.com/books/about/People_of_the_Way.html?id=Nw9L7c2ErCAC
<http://vimeo.com/46552198> People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0PvOd7TuXg> The Rev. Dwight J. Zscheile, Ph. D. Delivers Keynote Address at 230th Diocesan Convention - YouTube
<http://www.ecwww.org/sites/default/files/People%20of%20the%20Way.pdf>
<https://www.ecbf.org/church-building-fund-resources> THE EMERGING, 21ST CENTURY CHURCH
<http://www.themissionalnetwork.com/index.php/our-blog/book-reviews/178-people-of-the-way-renewing-episcopal-identity>
<http://laughingwater.org/2012/06/24/people-of-the-way-renewing-episcopal-identity-1/>
<https://www.discerningmission.org/default.aspx?tag=Dwight+Zscheile>
<https://www.librarything.com/author/zscheiledwightj>
https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=dzscheile001
<https://www.amazon.com/Dwight-J-Zscheile/e/B005ZVLWB0>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5861539.Dwight_J_Zscheile
[Images for Dwight J. Zscheile, author](#)
[Images for People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity: Dwight J. Zscheile](#)

Tourists and travelers along the way | The Christian Century

According to John's Gospel, Jesus told his followers, "I am the way." This expression contrasts sharply with "I am the answer," something many Christians assume he must have said but didn't. The difference between the two self-descriptions is huge.

The former invites grand adventure and openness to all of the ambiguities and doubts that go with a journey along uncertain paths. The latter suggests a packaged arrangement—a relationship involving little risk.

In his book *Hidden History: Exploring Our Secret Past*, Daniel J. Boorstin explains the historical difference between a traveler and a tourist. In previous centuries, travelers were those interested in unfamiliar settings and wild encounters that enlarged perspective. "The traveler was active; he went strenuously in search of people, of adventure, of experience," writes Boorstin. In contrast, "The tourist is passive; he expects interesting things to happen to him. He goes sightseeing." Tourism, in this historian's assessment, is a spectator sport full of contrived, prefabricated experiences.

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2016-04/tourist-and-traveler>

[Images for tourists and travelers along the way](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Hidden-History-Exploring-Secret-Past/dp/0679722238>

[Images for Hidden-History-Exploring-Secret-Past](#)

[Images for Daniel J. Boorstin \(Author\)](#)



We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

We do God's work in the world--restoring and reconciling communities--not because God needs us to do so, but because our neighbor does. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm.

News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of March 23, 2014

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/News-from-NW-Synod-of-WI.html?soid=1101126434512&aid=LLYrxXnwwF0>

[Images for This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

Resources for Interim Ministry

A Backdrop of Loss - Alban Institute

Loss of Identity

Many a congregation that has endured a string of losses hears members lamenting, "We're not the church we used to be." The congregation has lost members and leaders. It has lost the central place it once held in the lives of its members and the community. It has lost traditions and the support structures crafted to reinforce such traditions. It has lost power and influence. And in the destabilization of congregational systems, members have lost confidence in themselves and others, energy and purpose as a people of faith, passion for the ministries to which they feel called and for which they feel responsible and hope for a better future.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » A Backdrop of Loss - Alban Institute

<https://alban.org/archive/a-backdrop-of-loss/>

[Images for A Backdrop of Loss - Alban Institute Loss of Identity](https://alban.org/archive/imagining-congregational-identity/)

<https://alban.org/archive/imagining-congregational-identity/>

<https://alban.org/archive/a-time-for-lasts/>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/alban-weekly/>

<https://alban.org/books/>

<https://alban.org/author/nekduke-edu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/albaninstitute/>

<http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org/Resource%20Center%20ON%20THE%20WEB/Alban%20Institute%20Resources%202012.pdf>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/congregations-magazine/>

[PDF]A Typology for Congregational Health - The Parish Paper

Healthy Congregations...

I. Teaching/Modeling Congregations

- A. Description: Distant congregation with cutting edge ministries
- B. Need: Opportunities to broaden their health and share learnings
- C. Intervention: Helping the congregation to leverage their strengths

II. Leadership Congregations

- A. Description: Engaged congregation with spiritually mature members
- B. Need: Opportunities for members to be involved in wider family
- C. Intervention: Mission trips, volunteer opportunities, task force recruitment

III. Networking Congregations

- A. Description: Involved congregation capitalizing on multiple networks
- B. Need: Opportunities for the leaders to learn from other competent leaders
- C. Intervention: Opportunities to build lasting relationships with leaders

Intentional Congregations...

IV. Transforming Congregations

- A. Description: Changing congregation implementing a strategic plan
- B. Need: Encouragement to take the steps toward renewal
- C. Intervention: Coaching assistance for pastors and leaders

V. Learning Congregations

- A. Description: Growing congregation seeking to understand environment
- B. Need: Education about postmodernism, generations, renewal, change
- C. Intervention: Continuing education, seminars, group training events

VI. Stalled Congregations

- A. Description: Established congregation on the verge of decline
- B. Need: A new vision for their current day
- C. Intervention: Envisioning retreat

Fragile Congregations...

VII. Technical Congregations

- A. Description: Congregation aware of decline and focused on quick fixes
- B. Need: Quick fix, program, solutions to well-defined problems
- C. Intervention: Solutions to their technical problems until they desire more

VIII. Isolated Congregations

- A. Description: Congregations separated from the current environment
- B. Need: To better understand their history and the context around them
- C. Intervention: Intentional interim or pastor focused on pastoral care

IX. Distracted Congregations

- A. Description: Abused congregations often in conflict
- B. Need: Mediation or someone to listen to their stories of hurt and pain
- C. Intervention: Mediation or facilitation as requested and appropriate.

X. New Congregations

- A. Description: Planted less than five years ago
- B. Need: Linkages to congregations less than twenty years old.

<http://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/A%20Typology%20of%20Congregational%20Health.pdf>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> A Typology for Congregational Health
 Images for Typology for Congregational Health - The Parish Paper
<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/Resources/.../ParishPaper/ParishPaper-Apr12.pdf> [PDF]The Parish Paper--How Is Your Congregations Health? (April 2012)
<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper>
<http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/church-management/parish-paper/>
<http://www.hcucc.org/the-parish-paper>
<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue-index> Back Issue Index | The Parish Paper

An Intentional Interim Concept

5. Focus on Spiritual Needs of Membership

Congregations today have taken on much of the milieu and structure of secular institutions. There is a hunger for recapturing the spiritual power that comes from Bible study and prayer engaged in to discern God's will for the congregation and for individual members. Such a developmental task can easily dovetail with the search for understanding the congregation's **identity**, vision, and mission.

<http://www.interiministry.org/resources/an-intentional-interim-concept/>
 Images for An Intentional Interim Concept 5. Focus on Spiritual Needs of Membership
 Images for understanding the congregation's identity

Analyzing the System

How do you analyze the congregational system after you arrive?

Gil Rendle and Alice Mann argue that there are three questions every congregation in transition: Who are we? (**identity**) Who is our neighbor? (hurts and hopes of the community) What is God calling us to be and to do? (mission and vision)? How do you help congregations answer these questions?

What practices help you to discern a congregation's style, **identity**, context, process, and program?

2018 Annual Conference | IMN – Interim Ministry Network

Effective Transitional Ministry: Connecting Theory and Practice – Part One. Workshop Leader: Norman Bendroth. Handout.

<https://imnedu.org/2018-annual-conference/conference-registration/workshops-thursday-june-21-2018-830-to-1000-am/>
 Images for Analyzing the System How do you analyze the congregational system after you arrive?
 Images for What practices help you to discern a congregation's style, identity, context, process, and program?

[PDF] Claimed, Gathered, Sent: A Guide for Conversation

Claimed, Gathered, Sent: A Guide for Conversation includes this leader guide and five handouts, each outlining a process for conversation. The first four handouts focus on one of the emphases Presiding Bishop Eaton has **identified** for the ELCA:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.

The fifth session turns to the ELCA's relationship with its global and ecumenical partners, particularly The Lutheran World Federation. The goals of this guide are:

To invite reflection, conversation and discernment about what being the church means today.

To strengthen the mission and ministry of congregations and the ELCA as a whole by going back to our spiritual roots.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ClaimedGatheredSent_AGuideForConversation.pdf
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Tr96wOutTg> Claimed, Gathered, Sent: A Guide for Conversation – YouTube
 Images for Claimed, Gathered, Sent: A Guide for Conversation

Discovering a New Identity

This is a time for taking a fresh look at reality and working at making adjustments in self-image. It is a time for members of the congregation to think about what they actually are and not what they think they are or what they used to be. It is a time to discover what others in the community think they are. This new sense of identity should shape the congregation's search for new, ordained leadership.

Call Process Resources - Gulf Coast Synod

<https://gulfcoastsynod.org/leaders/callprocessresources/> Interim Ministry Handbook
 [PDF]Interim Ministry Handbook - Gulf Coast Synod
<https://gulfcoastsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2013/01/InterimMinistryHandbook.pdf> Page 3
 Images for Discovering a New Identity Congregation
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664500021> The Interim Pastor's Manual Page 43
http://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/3203806/5-The_5_Tasks_of_Interim_Ministry.pdf #2
https://www.pbymofnewcovenant.org/files/forms/filecabinet/Five_tasks_of_Interim_Pastors.pdf #2
https://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/C10F917B0BCC4644AC69DF0E6D472288_A%20MANUAL%20FOR%20INTERIM%20MINISTRY.pdf Page 2
<https://www.suncoastcathedrallmcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/FIVE-Ministry-Tasks.pdf> #2
<https://westchurchpeabody.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Purpose-of-Interim-Period.pdf> #2
<https://mvpjourney.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/InterimCovenant.pdf> 9. B.
<https://demsynod.org/interim-pastors-network/> #2

<http://www.firstcongrmadison.org/news/2012/jul/interim-ministry-helping-congregations-make-successful-transitions>
http://gloriadeikc.org/home/180012780/180012780/docs/Five%20Developmental%20Tasks.pdf?sec_id=180012780
<http://www.presbyteryofli.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Interim-Ministry-Resources-Revised-September-2014.pdf>

Faces beyond Sacred Walls by Dr. B.R. Mims (Author) - Google Books Result

Congregational **identity** is important, yet it is often overlooked, even more so than its context. Transformation has as much to do with the congregation's identity as it does its context. This point of identification is important as we seek to make sense of congregations going through transformation. As important as congregational identity is, Dudley Jackson and his colleagues suggest the church's identity rarely enters into constructive conversation, as it should.

We are not accustomed to thinking about the identity of a congregation [often overlooking its identity]. By identity we mean that persistent set of beliefs, values, patterns, symbols, stories, and style that make a congregation distinctively itself. Like context, identity is also a powerful shaping of congregational life. But it is more often a hidden face of the congregation, publicly articulated and advertised only infrequently. Lodged in gossip, components of identity are more often stumbled upon than codified.²²

A church going through transformation begins with identifying its identity. Who are the people that come to the church? What is important to them and why? What is their heritage? What are their great stories? What were their most significant events of the past? Who were their significant heroes? What are their most dominant feelings? What are their core values? These questions help us to understand the identity of the church and therefore provide a starting place for transformational education and training.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1937520609>
<http://www.amazon.com/Faces-Beyond-Sacred-Walls-B-R/dp/1936989352>
<http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/Congstudieshandbook/congstdhdbk-ch1.pdf>
[Images for Faces beyond Sacred Walls by Dr. B.R. Mims \(Author\) - Congregational identity](#)

Handbook for Congregational Studies [Jackson Carroll, Carl Dudley, William McKinney]

Preface
 Table of Contents
 Chapter 1 Introduction: An Invitation to Congregational Studies
 Chapter 2 **Identity**
 Chapter 3 Context
 Chapter 4 Process
 Chapter 5 Program
 Chapter 6 Methods for Congregational Studies
 Chapter 7 Afterword: The Double Challenge
 General Appendix
 Index

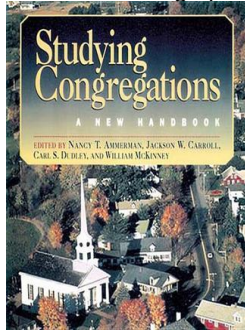
<http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Congregational-Studies-Jackson-Carroll/dp/0687165628>
http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/out_of_print_congstudhndbk.html
<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/grant-project/handbook-for-congregational-studies-revision>
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/church-history/article/handbook-for-congregational-studies-edited-by-carrolljackson-w-dudleycarl-s-and-mckinneywilliam-nashville-abingdon-press-1986-192-pp-1695/035D362DBA63E39E98268D7B397965EF>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664500021> Page 148
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997518> Page 208
<https://divinity.duke.edu/faculty/jackson-w-carroll>
http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/sites/default/files/transcripts/interview/NancyAmmerman_American_Congregations_Interview.pdf
http://www.abingdonpress.com/jackson_w_carroll
<https://www.amazon.com/Jackson-W.-Carroll/e/B0011ZRERS>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/176284.Jackson_W_Carroll
[Images for Jackson Carroll, author Handbook for Congregational Studies](#)
http://hrr.hartsem.edu/about/dudley_vitae.htm
<http://presbyterian.typepad.com/vitalsigns/2009/04/carl-dudley-lover-of-justice-urban-and-small-churches.html>
<https://www.amazon.com/Carl-S.-Dudley/e/B0011QWIDW>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/399006.Carl_S_Dudley
[Images for Carl Dudley, author Handbook for Congregational Studies](#)
<http://studyingcongregations.org/congregational-studies-team>
http://www.abingdonpress.com/william_mckinney
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/176283.William_McKinney
[Images for William McKinney, author Handbook for Congregational Studies](#)
[Images for Handbook for Congregational Studies \[Jackson Carroll, Carl Dudley, William McKinney\]](#)

Studying Congregations: A New Handbook Paperback by Nancy Ammerman (Editor), Jackson Carroll (Editor), Carl Dudley (Editor), William McKinney (Editor)

Studying Congregations: A New Handbook, produced by the Project Team for Congregational Studies, is "an invitation to engage in a systematic look at congregational life" as a contribution to the growing field of American congregational studies. Building upon the book's predecessor, the *Handbook for Congregational Studies* (Abingdon, 1987), the authors suggest gathering and interpreting congregational information through four "frames" or "lenses": the ecological frame, the culture frame,

the resources frame and the process frame. They maintain that studying congregations is a way of discovering and expanding a local church's practical theology. Congregational studies also elevate the importance of clergy and lay leadership in "helping to shape a congregation's unfolding story" for on-going ministry and mission.

Seven chapters, together with an Introduction and two Appendices, comprise the content of the book. Discussions on Theology ("Theology in the Congregation: Discovering and Doing," ch. 1) and Methodology ("Methods for Congregational Study," ch. 7) frame five chapters devoted to the four interpretative frames ("Ecology: Seeing the Congregation in Context," ch. 2; "Culture and Identity in the Congregation," ch. 3; "Process: Dynamics of Congregational Life," ch. 4; "Resources," ch. 5) and congregational leadership ("Leadership and the Study of the Congregation," ch. 6). The two appendices contain the Parish Profile Inventory (Appendix A), developed by the Hartford Seminary Center for Social and Religious Research, and the Standard Demographic and Religious Involvement Variables (Appendix B).



<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/grant-product/studying-congregations-a-new-handbook>

<http://www.amazon.com/Studying-Congregations-A-New-Handbook/dp/0687006511>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/968941.Studying_Congregations

<http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9780687006519#.WeH6TWhSyUk>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2012-02/studying-congregations-edited-nancy-t-ammerman-jackson-w-carroll-carl-s-dudley-and-w>

<https://www.bu.edu/sth/profile/nancy-t-ammerman/>

<http://www.bu.edu/sociology/faculty-staff/faculty/nancy-t-ammerman/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy_Ammerman

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/192289.Nancy_Tatom_Ammerman

[Images for Nancy Ammerman \(Editor\)](#)

[Images for Studying Congregations: A New Handbook Paperback by Nancy Ammerman \(Editor\), Jackson Carroll \(Editor\), Carl Dudley \(Editor\), William McKinney \(Editor\)](#)

Congregational Assessment Inventories - Church Survey

Over the past thirty years many hundreds of churches have used Hartford Institute's congregational inventories to assist in their pastoral search and church planning efforts.

Our three basic surveys and reporting forms are user-friendly and reflect the insights from the most recent up-to-date social science research on congregations. Recently we instituted an online version that also allows for some customization, is less expensive and has a more rapid turnaround time.

We hope you agree with us that these surveys are the best assessment instruments currently available to churches.

Consult our index below for more information about our church inventories:

http://hrr.hartsem.edu/leadership/church_inventory.html

[Images for Congregational Assessment Inventories - Church Survey](#)

Identifying the Congregation's Personality by Michael C. Rehak

Identifying the Congregation's Personality: Leadership Development for Members

Each congregation has its own unique personality. This personality shapes communication patterns, styles of engagement in ministry, and gives the congregation its core spiritual posture.



http://www.cong-id.org/Institute_for_Congregational_Identity/Home.html

[Images for Identifying the Congregation's Personality by Michael C. Rehak](#)

[Images for Each congregation has its own unique personality.](#)

<http://congregationalidentity.org/meet.html>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-rehak-aa596821>

http://congregationalidentity.org/weblinks/7_Research-Article.pdf

<http://congregationalidentity.org/synopsis.html>
http://congregationalidentity.org/Institute_for_Congregational_Identity/Instruction.html
<http://www.eastkoshkonong.org/Newsletters/May%202014.pdf>
<http://oslcwhitehall.org/docs/November%202016%20Messenger.pdf>
<https://www.scsw-elca.org/Communications/WhatMatters/What%20Matters%20May%2017%202016.pdf>

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Identity

Tell the story of this congregation. Talk about the ups and downs.
 What is God up to now? What are you currently working on?
 What is the future? – vision, goals, next steps?

Comprehensive Ministry Review. Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson. Assistant to the Bishop. Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Director for Evangelical Mission. lskow-anderson@nswsi.org

Images for Identity Tell the story of this congregation. Talk about the ups and downs. What is God up to now?

Identity Quotes - BrainyQuote

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/identity.html>

Images for Identity Quotes

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/identity>

www.wiseoldsayings.com/identity-quotes/

www.notable-quotes.com/i/identity_quotes.html

[PDF]Interim Ministry: A Primer for Congregational Staff

What does an interim minister do?

In addition to carrying out customary ministerial duties, an interim minister assists a congregation in:

- claiming and honoring its past and engaging and honoring its griefs and conflicts
- recognizing its unique **identity** and its strengths, needs, and challenges
- clarifying the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition
- making appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources
- proudly coming into possession of a renewed vision and strong stewardship, prepared for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest.

https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/interim_ministry_primer.pdf

Images for congregation recognizing its unique identity and its strengths, needs, and challenges

Ministry Site Profile - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PART I WHO WE ARE

1. Name and Location

CONGREGATION/ MULTIPLE POINT PARISH/ ORGANIZATION NAME CONG ID
 CITY, STATE, ZIP COUNTRY
 SYNOD TYPE OF MINISTRY SITE YEAR ORGANIZED
 SIZE OF COMMUNITY
 Date Completed:

2. Contact Information

ADDRESS LINE I ADDRESS LINE II CITY, STATE, ZIP COUNTRY
 E-MAIL WEB SITE PHONE FAX
Chairperson of Congregation or Head of the Organization
 NAME
 ADDRESS LINE I ADDRESS LINE II CITY, STATE, ZIP COUNTRY
 DAY PHONE EVENING PHONE CELL PHONE FAX E-MAIL
Chairperson of Call or Search Committee
 NAME
 ADDRESS LINE I ADDRESS LINE II CITY, STATE, ZIP COUNTRY
 DAY PHONE EVENING PHONE CELL PHONE FAX

3. Demographics

Language Spoken
 In the congregation/ organization
 PRIMARY LANGUAGE SECOND LANGUAGE THIRD LANGUAGE
 In the surrounding community
 PRIMARY LANGUAGE SECOND LANGUAGE THIRD LANGUAGE
Race/ Ethnicity (In the Congregation)
 LARGEST (%) SECOND (%) THIRD (%) FOURTH (%)
Race/ Ethnicity (Surrounding Community)
 LARGEST (%) SECOND (%) THIRD (%) FOURTH (%)

Gender comparison Age distribution

MALE (%) FEMALE (%)

19 YEARS OR YOUNGER (%) 20 - 34 (%) 35 - 49 (%) 50 - 65 (%) OVER 65 (%)

Number of Paid Staff

CLERGY

LAY ROSTERED

OTHER LAY PROFESSIONALS

SECRETARIAL SUPPORT

CUSTODIAL SUPPORT

OTHER

Congregational Information

AVE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AVE ATTENDANCE IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PARISH TYPE

Distance members live from church facilities:

1/2 MILE OR LESS (%) 1/2 - 1 MILE (%) 1 - 3 MILES (%) MORE THAN 3 MILES (%)

Community Type

o Bedroom community

o Inner City

o Industrial

o College or University

o Mining/logging

o Resort

o Farming

o Ranching

o Retirement

4. Budget of the Congregation/ Organization

LAST FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE LAST FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL DEBT OF THE CONGREGATION/ ORGANIZATION AT THE END OF THE LAST FISCAL YEAR

MISSION SUPPORT TO THE ELCA/ SYNOD FOR THE LAST FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL SAVINGS, RESERVES, ENDOWMENT AT THE END OF THE LAST FISCAL YEAR

5. Trends in the community Context of the Congregation or Organization

Characteristics

Write a description of your community in terms of socio-economic status, demographics, primary areas of employment and lifestyle. The Demographic ZIP Code report for your primary ZIP codes may be helpful.

Context

List three ways that the community in which you are located has been challenged by change and transition in the last three to five years.

Trends

List three changes or trends within the congregation or organization which have occurred in the last three to five years.

Programs

Describe your congregation's or organization's current programs for mission and ministry.

Goals

If there is a Strategic Plan in place for the congregation or organization; what are the primary goals to which you are committed?

Energy

What is your congregation or organization really excited about right now?

Partnership

How does this congregation or organization see itself as a member and active participant in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the synod?

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Sample_Ministry%20Site%20Profile.pdf

[Images for Ministry Site Profile - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America PART I WHO WE ARE](#)

DISCERNMENT PROCESS

What is God's hope and dream for you? **Identity** & Purpose

In what ways are you strong and unique? Gifts & Resources

Would your neighborhood miss you if you were gone? Context & Needs

One of the final questions on the Ministry Site Profile asks about your Discernment Process. Before starting to work on your MSP, the leaders of the ministry site and call committee should spend time in discernment. Think and pray about your sense of Mission at this time in your history and consider these three things:

- Why do you exist, and for whom? What would someone who observes you from the outside conclude about your sense of purpose and mission?

- What are you clearly good at? What ministry activities bring out the best in you and seem to be valued by others?

- What does your neighborhood really need right now, and how are you helping to meet those needs?

An experience of Mission that feels powerful, Spirit-inspired and authentic often happens where these three things converge.

That is, Mission is what happens when we are true to our purpose, using our best gifts and responding to the needs that are before us in our community and world. Ministry that only touches on one or two of these things may not be at the core of what your mission is. Thus, your prayerful discernment is important, and much of the MSP will give you the opportunity to share what you have discerned.

[DOC] Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

Chapter 3.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- *C3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- *C3.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.
- *C3.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.
- *C3.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.
- *C3.05. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or "this church") as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations

<https://download.elca.org> > ELCA Resource Repository > Model Constitution

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

[Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository Chapter 3. NATURE OF THE CHURCH](#)

Seeking a New Identity

Issues

- determining whether the congregation's image is realistic
- seeing the interim time as an opportunity for renewal and growth
- the congregation sees itself as an entity without a pastor, separating the church's identity from the former pastor's personality and style

Toolbox

- affirm and push for ongoing reality testing
- conduct congregational analysis
- conduct analysis of neighborhood ministry needs
- do a self-study, encourage and affirm accurate data gathering
- encourage program and resource assessments
- engage in the cooperative building of expectations about the future
- develop broad vision of congregation's future
- hold cottage meetings to talk about what we are like and what we want to become
- envision what we want to be like in the future, specifically in 20_
- hold leadership training retreats

Symptoms of Non-Resolution

- focus is on the past
- resistance to self-assessment
- unrealistic myths are still operative
- emphasis is on blaming, what's wrong
- low trust level, lack of authentic sharing
- identity confusion: who are we?
- leaders and others continue to consult the previous pastor
- maintain same old programs, even when they don't fit present needs
- rush through the interim

Signs of Resolution

- focus on present or future
- willingness to do self-assessment

- congregation faces reality
- affirm who we really are
- growing excitement and energy for the congregation's envisioned future
- process questions: where are we going?
- inclusiveness
- rising trust level, humor, and patience with the search process
- vision and goals fit present reality

[PDF]Interim Ministry Handbook - Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Mission Area

<https://www.ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Interim-Ministry-Handbook-Interim-Pastor.pdf> Section IV A Toolbox for

Developmental Tasks by R. Neil Chafin

Page 17

[PDF]The Call Process - Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Synod

<http://www.ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/InterimMinHandbookPartII.pdf> Interim Ministry Handbook Part II Information for Interim

Ministers

Page 17

[Images for Seeking a New Identity interim ministry developmental task](#)

Rethinking Interim Ministry by Anthony B. Robinson » Alban at Duke Divinity School

A third task for an interim is to actually do a congregational assessment. Before change can or should be undertaken it is important to know, as accurately as possible, what's going on—what a congregation's **current reality** is. One tried and true method for doing such an assessment is to interview a broad sample of a congregation's members. Get their confidential perspective on what's working and what isn't. Study the trend lines regarding membership, attendance, and member giving. Talk, as well, to people in the wider community about their perception of the congregation and the role it plays. Review the history of the congregation, including its beginnings and key decision points. And take a close look at the demographics of the area and region. An interim who puts all this together in a 15 to 20-page portrait of a congregation's current reality will have provided an important service.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » Rethinking Interim Ministry

<https://alban.org/archive/rethinking-interim-ministry/>

[Images for Rethinking Interim Ministry by Anthony B. Robinson](#)

[Images for congregational assessment](#)

[Images for congregation's current reality](#)

<https://alban.org/category/leadership/>

<https://alban.org/books/>

<http://www.anthonbrobinson.com/>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/anthony-b-robinson>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/anthony-b-robinson>

<https://www.amazon.com/Anthony-B.-Robinson/e/B001JRTNII>

Rethinking Transitional Ministry by Norman Bendroth » Alban at Duke Divinity School

Robinson also focuses on helping congregations get a clear fix on their **identity**. "If people do not know who they are and what they value they will never discover what they are to do," he says.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » Rethinking Transitional Ministry

<https://alban.org/archive/rethinking-transitional-ministry/>

[Images for Rethinking Transitional Ministry by Norman Bendroth](#)

[Images for focus on helping congregations get a clear fix on their identity](#)

<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>

<https://alban.org/category/leadership/>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/alban-weekly/>

<https://alban.org/books/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies/dp/156699750X>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997518>

<https://louisville-institute.org/interviews/norman-bendroth/>

<http://imnedu.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Programs-2012.pdf>

<http://www.northumberlandpresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/1ab-MASTER-A-Manual-for-Interim-Ministry.pdf>

Page 10

[PDF]Story Matters - ELCA Resource Repository

Story Matters: Naming, Claiming and Living our Biblical **Identity**

Through *Story Matters*, congregations are invited to participate in a conversation that centers on the one biblical story that they identify for themselves as their defining story. Members of a congregation will discover and explore this story together over an extended period of time. Throughout the process of naming and exploring this story they will ask questions about their own stories as a congregation and a community. The hope is that extensive engagement with their chosen passage will help the congregation to form their identity as a missional community, to deepen their practice of faith, and to live out their specific vocation as a called and sent community of disciples.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Story_Matters_Final.pdf

[Images for Story Matters: Naming, Claiming and Living our Biblical Identity](#)

Temporary Shepherds: A Congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry [Roger S. Nicholson]

Chapter 2. Characteristics of the Interim Congregation

Page 14

Chapter 3.	The Church in Transition as a Human System	Page 26
Chapter 7.	Discovering a New Identity	Page 75
Tool 2	Bible Studies for the Journey	Page 163
Tool 3	Engaging the Developmental Tasks	Page 168

Effective interim ministry depends on strong partnership between the interim minister and congregation. Lay leaders of congregations preparing for such a transition will value the expert guidance provided by over a dozen experienced interim pastors. What is interim ministry all about? What needs to happen during the interim? What should leaders and members expect from the interim pastor and themselves during this transition? What other resources are available for congregations?

<http://www.amazon.com/Temporary-Shepherds-Congregational-Handbook-Ministry/dp/1566992087>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566996464/Temporary-Shepherds-A-Congregational-Handbook-for-Interim-Ministry>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996465>

[Images for Temporary Shepherds: A Congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry \[Roger S. Nicholson\] Discovering a New Identity](#)

The Church's one foundation | Hymnary.org

The church's one Foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word:
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

https://hymnary.org/text/the_churchs_one_foundation

[Images for The church's one Foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord](#)

THE FIVE PROCESS TASKS OF TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY | David Sawyer

Process Task 2—**Analyzing the System**

(Today I would call this "assessing the system.") After an interim pastor has begun to join the system, she or he must then commence a more systematic reflection on the nature of the system (it's health and potential). Analysis begins early in the interim's ministry in a particular church, but it actually never stops. The result of the early analysis becomes a hypothesis, and this hypothesis forms the basis for choice of focus and responsibility in the fourth task.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/five-process-tasks-transitional-ministry-david-sawyer>

[Images for THE FIVE PROCESS TASKS OF TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY | David Sawyer Process Task 2—Analyzing the System](#)

Transitional Ministry Today by Norman Bendroth - Alban Institute

Three Questions. The three most important questions that any congregation must answer, but especially those in transition, are: "Who are we?" (**Identity**); "Who is our neighbor?" (Mission); and, "What is God calling us to do and to be?" (Vision). Making ample time to mine this data will help a congregation to learn who they are and create a road map towards tomorrow.

Norman Bendroth: Transitional Ministry Today - Alban Institute

<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>

[Images for Transitional Ministry Today by Norman Bendroth](#)

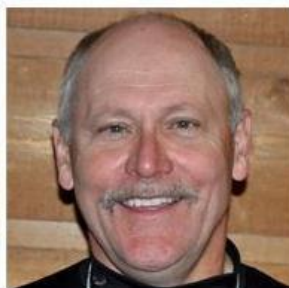
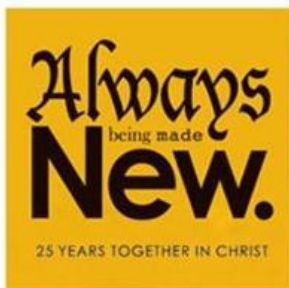
[Images for questions for congregation "Who are we?" \(Identity\); "Who is our neighbor?" \(Mission\); and, "What is God calling us to do and to be?" \(Vision\).](#)

http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/71BBE2C7B9B049B0883D51809D9A1E82_Rethinking%20Transitional%20Ministry.pdf

<http://www.church-consultants.org/services/church-growth-and-vitality/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies/dp/156699750X>

<https://rowman.com/isbn/9781566997669/transitional-ministry-today-successful-strategies-for-churches-and-pastors>



We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you here.

We believe God calls each of us by name. Christ's church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude.

Whenever we feel compelled to "draw the line" in our lives, we must acknowledge as Lutherans that Jesus always stands on both sides of that line.

News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA

Week of February 24, 2013

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/News-from-NW-Synod-of-WI.html?soid=1101126434512&aid=6100map7eS4>

[Images for This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

[Images for We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you here.](#)