

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 13 Identity

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Reflections and Resources

1) Meaning in names

My primary identity comes in knowing that my name has been joined through water and word in baptism with the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Commissioning of the Disciples

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:19–28:19 - oremus Bible Browser

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Matthew+28:19%E2%80%9328:19&version=nrsv>

[Images for baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit](#)

In addition, given and family names possess meanings. My full name is Harold Lowell Bolstad.

Harald - Wikipedia

Harald is the Old Norse form of the given name Harold (Proto-Germanic *harja-waldaz). It's made up the elements Har (army, host) and (v)aldr (leader, ruler, power).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harald>

<https://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Harold>

[Images for Harold - Nordic Names](#)

Lowell - Nordic Names Wiki - Name Origin, Meaning and Usage in the Nordic countries

Transferred use of the surname, which is derived from Old Norman French nickname

Anglo-French lovell/lovel = 'wolf-cub'

<https://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Lowell>

[Images for Lowell - Nordic Names](#)

Bolstad Name Meaning & Bolstad Family History at Ancestry.com

Bolstad Name Meaning

Norwegian: habitational name from any of 14 farmsteads in southern Norway named Bolstad, from Old Norse bólstaðr 'farmstead', 'dwelling'.

<https://www.ancestry.com/name-origin?surname=bolstad>

[Images for Bolstad Name Meaning & Bolstad Family History](#)

2) They'll know we are Christians...

When I served as a junior counselor at Riverside Bible Camp near my home town of Story City, Iowa in the summer of 1971, I remember singing They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love.

Jars of Clay - They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love - YouTube

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Songwriters: Peter Scholtes

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love lyrics © Music Services, Inc

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyHvO4xoEh4>

[Images for Jars of Clay - They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love - YouTube](#)

https://hymnary.org/text/we_are_one_in_the_spirit

Jesus instructed his disciples,

The New Commandment

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

oremus Bible Browser : John 13:31-35

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John+13:31-35>

[Images for Jesus' New Commandment](#)

It was said of the early followers of Jesus, "See how they love one another."
In this day of increasing polarization, may it also be said of Christians.
I am particularly struck by the phrase
"And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride."
and pray that Christians will work to do so.

3) A piece of red yarn

Some images have a way of staying with me. I attended a Styles of Outreach Seminar on 2/9/1981. Rev. Reuben Groehler, in a workshop called "Worship - A Celebration in Style", gave each participant a piece of red yarn to remember one's identity. He asked us to place it around our shoulders and proceeded to explain that each of the baptized have been given a stole to carry out the baptismal commission:

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Augsburg Fortress | Evangelical Lutheran Worship | Pew Edition

Holy Baptism

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/worship/evangelicallutheranworship/pewedition.jsp>

[Images for Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Baptism](#)

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I met him in the summers of 2016-17 when he came to a men's Bible study at a church I was serving. I thanked him for the insight.

St. Olaf College developing new strategic plan to strengthen church relations, campus pastorate

The planning will be led by St. Olaf Regent and 1955 alumnus **Rev. Reuben Groehler**, long-time pastor at several Twin Cities Lutheran churches.

<http://www.stolaf.edu/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=NewsDetails&id=43&archivePage=138>

<http://www.westwoodlutheran.org/history>

[Images for Rev. Reuben Groehler](#)

4) Content, connections, context

While driving after midnight on 9/1/2017, I heard a panel discussion on the effect of smartphone usage on young people on British Broadcasting Corporation BBC - Homepage. One panelist from London quoted a professor from the London School of Economics who said that it is important to focus on the content, connections, and context to understand any social phenomena.
[I tried the next afternoon but was unable to get the specific internet address for the program.]

Content, Connections, and Context - SlideShare

<https://www.slideshare.net/dtunkelang/content-connections-and-context>

[Images for content, context, and connections](#)

In checking what the internet had to offer, 2 articles added community, while other articles used 4 C's in other ways.

Resources

Meet the 4 Cs of Marketing | OPEN Forum - American Express

In fact, a new set of principles has shoved its way along side of product, price, place and promotion in the hierarchy marketing planning. In the age of the customer it is the consideration of what I call the 4Cs that is paramount to the strategic and tactical success of any business. The new marketing model suggests that it is the use of **Content, Context, Connection and Community, the 4Cs**, that dictates the success of business.

<https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/openforum/articles/meet-the-4-cs-of-marketing-1/>

[Images for 4 Cs of Marketing](#)

The new marketing mix: Content, Context, Connection, and Community

The new marketing mix: Content, Context, Connection and Community are replacing the old mix of product, price, place, and promotion in networked markets.

<http://catontech.com/blog/2011/04/14/the-new-marketing-mix/>

[Images for content, context, connection, and community](#)

www.aliennation.co.za/4cs-content-context-connection-community/

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/calvin-wayman/the-four-cs-of-social-med_b_9283708.html

<https://www.cleverism.com/understanding-4cs-marketing-mix/>

<https://standardbeagle.com/the-4-cs-of-social-media-content-conversations-community-and-connections/>

[Images for content, conversations, community, and connections](#)

<http://socialmediaexplorer.com/social-media-marketing/four-cs-for-community-cultivation/>

https://www.nesacenter.org/uploaded/conferences/FTI/2013/handouts/VT_4CsRoutine.pdf

<http://adage.com/article/digitalnext/community-require-commitment/132734/>

Another article along the same lines gave 5 Cs: consumer, context, content, commerce, convergence, while other articles used 5 Cs in other ways.

The 5 Cs of Digital Marketing | HuffPost

According to Gupta, digital marketers across all industries can achieve success if they focus on these 5 Cs of digital marketing in an era that can be best described as the 'convergence era'. Here are the 5 Cs:

1. CONSUMER
2. CONTEXT
3. CONTENT
4. COMMERCE
5. CONVERGENCE

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/vala-afshar/the-5-cs-of-digital-marke_b_8104090.html

Images for 5 C's: consumer, context, content, commerce, convergence

<https://bannbiz.com/the-five-cs-of-marketing-a-modern-approach/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/5cs-modern-marketing-era-consumer-convergence-mayur-gupta>

<https://www.visioncritical.com/5-cs-of-modern-marketing-digital-transformation/>

<https://www.slideshare.net/MozuCommerce/the-convergence-of-content-and-commerce-in-a-complex-world>

Images for convergence content commerce in complex world

<http://inspiremartech.com/blog/the-5-cs-of-modern-marketing-in-an-era-of-consumer-and-convergence/>

https://faculty.wharton.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/0107_The_Power_of_Convergence_The.pdf

5) The purpose of clarity

An email from the assistant to the bishop-administration announced the topic for the 10/18/2016 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Interim Ministry Gathering.

[Emily Swanson](#) from Holy Cow Consulting will be joining the group via conference call. Here's a link to some of the resources that Emily will be focusing on during your time together. <https://holycowconsulting.com/support/for-congregations-in-pastoral-transition/>

Swanson focused on the purpose of clarity in addressing three areas: ready church, right pastor, and running start. The PPT file can be obtained by request from info@nswsi.org. Assistant to the Bishop John Sutherland recommended the Church Assessment Tool as a helpful instrument for use in the transition process in general and for completion of the Ministry Site Profile. Interim Pastor Kurt Jacobson kurtjacobson131@gmail.com used this tool twice in the installed pastorate, became trained in its use, and offered his services as a consultant to other congregations.

6) Names and places

The two congregations I served during the first 10 2/3 years in the installed pastorate possessed names which reflected places. One congregation was named after a district of the city of Oslo, Norway, while the other congregation included the name of the township. As for the interim settings, I have served 17 congregations, which incorporated the name of the place. Two congregations used the word "Central" to indicate its location in the municipality. Two congregations included the name of a Scandinavian country [West Sweden and West Denmark]. I thought it would be special to complete the trifecta by serving Little Norway, but when a long-term pastor retired, a nearby pastor served during the transition period, and now (2017) it looks like the present installed pastor will be there for a while.

Resources

Contemporary Trends in Church Names - ThomRainer.com

I went to social media and Church Answers to learn from my community about church names.

<https://thomrainer.com/2018/06/contemporary-trends-church-names/>

Images for Contemporary Trends in Church Names - ThomRainer.com

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/12/six-reasons-churches-change-names/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/04/seven-trends-church-names/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2017/12/should-a-church-replant-change-its-name/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2019/08/should-we-change-the-name-of-our-church-revitalize-replant-105/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B0011GLMVG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom_S_Rainer

Images for thom rainer (author)

Names of Churches – Christian Timelines

So many churches and so many names of churches. I have noticed that church names fall into three categories: (1) linked to a person, such as Saint John the Baptist Church; (2) linked to a geographic area, such as Oak Hill Church; and (3) tied into to an identity which the church wants to portray. If you think about it, coming up with a name which identifies the character of your church is fairly difficult. But many have undertaken this task and have arrived at a number of different results.

<http://www.christiantimelines.com/namesofchurches.htm>

Images for Names of Churches

7) Shining Star

What is your shining star? I was introduced to this question by Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson, the Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, when I served on a Synod Review Team, as a part of a Comprehensive Ministry Review. It caused me to think back over the congregations I have served or have come into contact with to answer that question. For one congregation, the child care center was their shining star. For another congregation, it was a youth group that conducted services of worship for congregations in the synod for 3+ decades.

8) Broadened sense of identity

My hometown newspaper [Story City Herald](#) Serving the North Story County area in Central Iowa, including Story City and Roland, for over 130 years! published the following front-page article on Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Story City's Scandinavian Days to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

-by Todd Thorson

Hard to believe Story City is celebrating 50 years of Scandinavian Days this weekend! What began as a brainchild of the Story City Merchants Auxiliary group back in 1965, the annual "heritage" festival has evolved from the Norwegian Constitution Day of "Syttende Mai" (17th May) and a short "walking parade" of community members dressed in authentic Norwegian dress, to an expanded and ethnic "Scandinavian Days" as it is observed today.

Authentic crafts, food, costumes, and entertainment have been featured over the years, with many events becoming staples for many of those years, while others have come and gone, as various committee members tinkered with the formula of downtown versus the park system many times over.

Scandinavian Days Festival - Story City, IA - Jun 05, 2015

Theme: 50 Years of Scandinavian Days!

[Scandinavian Days | Story City Greater Chamber Connection](#)

<http://www.storycity.net/scandinavian-days/>

[Images for Scandinavian Days | Story City](#)

www.storycityherald.com/article/20150610/NEWS/306109897 50th Anniversary of Scandinavian Days deemed a success!

<http://amestrib.com/news/story-city-celebrates-50-years-scandinavian-days>

<http://www.storycity.net/scandinavian-days/>

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

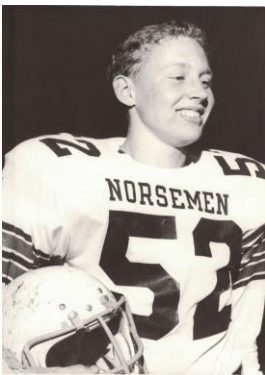
<http://www.storycity.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Scandi-Days-EDDM-Proof.pdf>

<http://www.amestrib.com/news/story-city-celebrates-scandinavian-days>

<https://festivalnet.com/49538/Story-City-Iowa/Ethnic-Festivals/Story-City-Scandinavian-Days>

[Images for Story-City-Iowa/Ethnic-Festivals/Story-City-Scandinavian-Days](#)

It was probably appropriate to change the event from **Syttende Mai** to Scandinavian Days. For instance, I come from a Scandinavian background in which my grandfather on my mother's side came from Denmark in 1910, my grandmother on my mother's side came from Norway in 1912, while the ancestors on my father's side came from Norway earlier. I still remember with fondness that we were known as the Story City Vikings until Story City merged with Roland in my junior year in high school so that we became known as the Roland-Story Norsemen.



The author as a tri-captain of the Roland-Story Norseman football team in 1970 and as center on the offensive line.

Following my graduation from Roland-Story High School in 1971 and moving away from home, I learned to broaden my appreciation of other national identities.

9) On the difference between Norwegians and Germans: ethnic background as a source of identity

A woman exclaimed to me, "What did you think pastor? I'm a Kraut!" She couldn't have said it better. In committees and in conversation, she wasn't afraid to speak up. In general, Germans tend to be more forward, while Norwegians tend to be more reserved.

Resources

Being German is no laughing matter | 1843 - 1843 Magazine

The most German of traits, he said, is this **need to correct people**, no matter how trivial the point.

<https://www.1843magazine.com/ideas/the-daily/being-german-is-no-laughing-matter>

[Images for Being German is no laughing matter](#)

[Images for German trait need to correct people](#)

Germans voted as the 'least funny nationality' in international poll

As Mark Twain observed, a German joke is no laughing matter.

Sadly, for the nation that brought us everything from Beethoven to lederhosen, it seems that everyone agrees.

Germany has been voted the least funny country in the world in an international poll.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1395052/Germans-voted-funny-nationality-international-poll.html>

[Images for Germans voted as the 'least funny nationality' in international poll](#)

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/8560815/Germany-officially-the-worlds-least-funny-country.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20170802-why-people-think-germans-arent-funny>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHaOIPwTVdo> Some people think German aren't funny - YouTube By The Angry German

<https://www.facebook.com/9gag/videos/10156680776221840/>

How the World Works by Douglas Hackney

Germans believe they are the best, and thus, obviously, deserve to rule the world.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0982171900>

<https://www.amazon.com/How-World-Works-Douglas-Hackney/dp/0982171919>

[Images for How the World Works by Douglas Hackney](#)

[Images for Germans believe they are the best, and thus, obviously, deserve to rule the world.](#)

"I need you to teach me how the world works."

That simple request from a daughter to her father initiated this collection of aphorisms, opinions, observations and thoughts. Including material on life principles, relationships, children, tribes, humans, cultures, governments, God, faith, religion, work, business and entrepreneurship, "How The World Works", is a distillation of a father's triumphs, tragedies, successes, failures, painful lessons, life experiences and inherited, multi-generational wisdom.

"How the World Works" has been described as "an owner's manual for life."

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/431637.Douglas_Hackney

[Images for Douglas Hackney, author how the world works](#)

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The Seven Personality Traits of a German - Schnitzel Republic

Fourth, **argumentative**. This one... some folks might argue about (get it?). Germans can find a thousand things to argue about. It could be one guy planting shrubs of a dislike nature that the neighbor can't stand. It could be the act of cranking your car for two minutes in winter to warm it up. One minute of such a cranking would be tolerated, but not two, and thus inviting an argument sooner or later. Pointing out how you screwed up... would go hand-in-hand with this personality trait. They'd like to let you know something... and hopefully you agree... otherwise, it's an argument.

<http://schnitzelrepublic.blogspot.com/2010/07/seven-personality-traits-of-german.html>

[Images for The Seven Personality Traits of a German - Schnitzel Republic Fourth, argumentative](#)

<http://blog.mygermancity.com/german-personality-traits>

[Images for german-personality-traits](#)

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/german/german-stereotypes/>

<https://www.justlanded.com/english/Germany/Germany-Guide/Culture/The-German-personality>

<https://www.dammann.com.au/blog/seven-clear-personality-traits-germans/>

[Images for seven-clear-personality-traits-germans](#)

#1, 2, 6

#1

On a lighter note:

Q: What do you call a Grouchy German?

A: A Sour Kraut.

German Coffee Cup: "Grouchy German Is a Sour Kraut!": Mugs

This unique European coffee mug combines the popular theme of a German beer stein with a coffee cup into one. The volume of this German coffee mug is equal to that of a standard coffee cup (height is 3.5"). A great themed German gift for Opa or a great German gift for Oma! Featuring the popular saying: "A Grouchy German Is A Sour Kraut!"



<http://www.amazon.com/German-Coffee-Cup-Grouchy-Kraut/dp/B009ZXEQRG>

http://www.zazzle.com/a_grouchy_german_is_a_sour_kraut_t_shirt-235002898872443325

[Images for German Coffee Cup: "Grouchy German Is a Sour Kraut!"](#)

I have sought to tap the Norwegian-American dry sense of humor through the years and invariably receive a wry smile or chuckle and the accompanying expression, "Isn't that something?" I have learned not to bother with many Germans as I invariably receive a condescending look and the accompanying expression, "Well, that's stupid!"

A piece of free advice:

You can tell a Norwegian, but you can't tell 'em much!

Scandinavian Humor and Other Myths: John Louis Anderson

Scandinavian Humor & Other Myths is America's best-selling book of Scandinavian Humor. A sophisticated, loving look at a stoic crowd that actually prefers cold weather, almost always wears suits (Pants, Leisure, or Snowmobile), and doesn't like Food that Hurts.

"So funny that you almost laugh out loud."

- An Old Swede

<http://www.amazon.com/Scandinavian-Humor-Other-Myths-Anderson/dp/0961696702>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Scandinavian_Humor_Other_Myths.html?id=NUglAQAAMAAJ

[Images for Scandinavian Humor and Other Myths: John Louis Anderson](#)

Resources

Being Norwegian in a shrinking world: Reflections on Norwegian identity – Thomas Hylland Eriksen

If we look at Norwegian **identity** - the current self-definitions - we will therefore find a picture of a highly distinctive people, notwithstanding "objective" cultural changes. Indeed, it could be argued that modern ethnicity, seen as cultural self-consciousness, is a result of an ongoing process of cultural homogenization. As a general rule, it is when the carriers of an identity feel that it is threatened from the outside that it becomes most important to them. So, for the Norwegian farmer of the 1840s, there was no reason to stress his social identity. He could take it for granted; probably, he did not even reflect about who he was. To people living in modern, complex societies, the situation is quite different. Their way of life is different from that of their forebears, and that it resembles that of the neighboring peoples, but the feeling of a continuity with the past may still remain important. They are now constantly brought into contact with people whom they define as different (foreigners, immigrants, etc.), and are thus brought to reflect on their identity. They must be able to explain why they describe themselves as Norwegians and not as Swedes, Pakistanis, etc. Furthermore, the shrinking of the world entailed by globalization seems to lay pressure on their identity as distinctive: the old and familiar is replaced by the new and foreign and threatens to erase one's uniqueness. In this way, the pressure from cultural complexity and globalization is at the root of the modern identity crisis, where ethnic identities are often seen as a solution in the face of the disappearance of boundaries. As Anglicisms enter the language, new shopping malls with enormous car parks replace the old family-run groceries, and the video machine replaces the storytelling grandmother, the individual may react by reaching towards that which seems constant and secure in a sea of accelerating change. The outcome is often the resurgence of ethnic or national identities which may have lain dormant for a period, and which now assert themselves with newly found vitality as a form of defense against perceived cultural change originating from the outside.

<http://hyllanderiksen.net/Norwegian.html>

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

<http://www.sv.uio.no/sai/english/people/aca/geirthe/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hylland-Eriksen/e/B001IR3FLK>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/121271.Thomas_Hylland_Eriksen

<https://www.cmi.no/staff/t-h-eriksen>

<http://hyllanderiksen.net/Articles.html>

<http://www.mmg.mpg.de/diversity-interviews/hylland-eriksen/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thomashylland.eriksen>

<http://www.focaalblog.com/2017/03/27/norway-and-the-transformation-of-the-eu/>

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/author/thomas-hylland-eriksen>

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigration-and-national-identity-norway>

[Images for thomas hylland eriksen](#)

[Images for Being Norwegian in a shrinking world: Reflections on Norwegian identity – Thomas Hylland Eriksen](#)

Norway ranked happiest country in the world; U.S. falls to 14th

Authors of the report stressed that the northern European countries were tops in the world not solely because of strong economics, but because their residents responded positively to questions about trusting others and believing that friends and relatives would help them in times of need.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/norway-ranked-happiest-country-world-u-s-falls-14th-article-1.3003355>

[Images for Norway happiest country in the world](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/20/world/worlds-happiest-countries.html>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-life-happiness-scandinavia-idUSKBN16R27B>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/03/20/520859626/global-ranking-of-happiness-has-happy-news-for-norway-and-nicaragua>

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/20/travel/worlds-happiest-countries-united-nations-2017/>

<https://www.quora.com/Why-has-Norway-been-ranked-the-worlds-happiest-country-3-years-in-a-row>

[Images for Why-has-Norway-been-ranked-the-worlds-happiest-country-3-years-in-a-row](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-39325206)
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-39325206>
<http://www.denverpost.com/2017/03/20/norway-happiest-country-united-states-drops/>
[Images for norway-happiest-country-united-states-drops](#)

Norway saves cash for citizens, while U.S. runs up debt - Houston Chronicle

The Scandinavian nation's sovereign wealth fund topped \$1 trillion this week, or about \$191,000 per citizen. The U.S. Congress, meanwhile, has authorized the government to incur more than \$19 trillion in debt, putting every American taxpayer in hock for \$165,000.

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/columnists/tomlinson/article/Norway-saves-cash-for-citizens-while-US-runs-up-12194739.php>

[Images for Norway saves cash for citizens, while U.S. runs up debt](#)

Svalbard Global Seed Vault - Wikipedia

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Norwegian: *Svalbard globale frøhvelv*) is a secure seed bank on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen near Longyearbyen in the remote Arctic Svalbard archipelago, about 1,300 kilometres (810 mi) from the North Pole.^[5] Conservationist Cary Fowler, in association with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR),^[6] started the vault to preserve a wide variety of plant seeds that are duplicate samples, or "spare" copies, of seeds held in gene banks worldwide. The seed vault is an attempt to ensure against the loss of seeds in other genebanks during large-scale regional or global crises. The seed vault is managed under terms spelled out in a tripartite agreement between the Norwegian government, the Crop Trust and the Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen).^[7]

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

[Images for Svalbard Global Seed Vault](#)

Sons of Norway

Sons of Norway has something for you.

Sons of Norway is a fraternal life insurance company devoted to supporting you through every stage of life, while providing opportunities for a vibrant social experience around Norwegian culture.

As a Sons of Norway member, you can reconnect with your heritage, learn about modern Norway, build a strong financial foundation and participate in philanthropic endeavors that make a positive impact in your community.

<https://www.sofn.com/>

[Images for Sons of Norway](#)



Staff photo by Dan Reiland
Lowell Bolstad of Eau Claire looked at books Tuesday at Scandinavian Imports, 16 S. Barstow St. Store owners are confident they'll have a strong Christmas shopping season despite the war and the slumping economy.

Being aware of ethnic backgrounds helps me to understand people and their actions.

Ethnic group - Wikipedia

Ethnic groups differ from other social groups, such as subcultures, interest groups or social classes, because they emerge and change over historical periods (centuries) in a process known as ethno-genesis, a period of several generations

of **endogamy** resulting in common ancestry (which is then sometimes cast in terms of a **mythological** narrative of a **founding figure**); ethnic **identity** is reinforced by reference to "boundary markers" - characteristics said to be unique to the group which set it apart from other groups.^{[36][37][38][39][40]}

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_group

[Images for Ethnic group](#)

10) On the difference between Norwegians and Swedes: ethnic background as a source of identity

One Sunday while using allotted vacation I attended **Mindekirken** The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mindekirken

Velkommen til Mindekirken

Whether you are returning to Mindekirken or visiting for the first time, you are heartily welcome! The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, or Mindekiren, is an ELCA church with services in both Norwegian and English. Services are held every Sunday at 9:00am (English) and 11:00am (Norwegian, translations provided).

Mindekirken is located 1 block south of E. Franklin and 10th Ave. S.

In addition to weekly church services, Mindekirken serves its members and the Norwegian-American community with a variety of faith-based and cultural programs. We invite you to explore our website for all that is happening at Mindekirken!

<https://www.mindekirken.net/>

<https://www.mindekirken.net/index.php/news-media/gallery>

[Images for Velkommen til Mindekirken](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_Lutheran_Memorial_Church_\(Minneapolis\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_Lutheran_Memorial_Church_(Minneapolis))

[Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church \(Minneapolis\)](#)

I came for the 9am English service and ate lunch afterwards, stayed for the 11am Norwegian service and ate lunch afterwards. I headed back at 1:30pm. One man who came regularly asked me, "Do you know why the Swedes are blond, while the Norwegians have blond, black, and red hair?" He answered his own question by saying, "The Norwegians got around, while the Swedes stayed home." He also told me about the man who happened upon an otherwise deserted island to find 2 Danes, 2 Norwegians, and 2 Swedes. The happy Danes were laughing it up and slapping each other on the back. The Norwegians were fighting it out. The Swedes were standing silently next to each other waiting for somebody to come along and introduce them to each other.

It used to be that, if a Norwegian decided to marry a Swede, the neighbors said, "Well, that'll never work!"

Before the Evangelical Lutheran Church came into being in 1988, the predecessor Lutheran Church in America was comprised of many Swedes, while the predecessor American Lutheran Church was comprised of many Norwegians. After these many years, the differences are not as pronounced, but one colleague who had served congregations from both predecessor church bodies, related that when a pastor walks into a group of Norwegians, they turn around and ask, "What are you doing here?", while the Swedes ask, "What would you like us to do?"

Getting back to the Mindekirken, the story is told of how one Norwegian couple got married there and settled in South Minneapolis. One Sunday afternoon after church and dinner, the wife cajoled her husband into going north for a drive in the countryside. When they had gotten out of the city and into the countryside, he took his right hand off the steering wheel and put it on her left knee. She said, "You can go a little further." He put his hand back on the steering wheel and drove all the way to Duluth.

Resources

Scandinavian stereotypes - Thomas Hylland Eriksen's

As a matter of fact, jokes featuring "the Swede, the Dane and the Norwegian" are ubiquitous among children in the three countries: the Swede is always depicted as a rich and arrogant child of the Enlightenment, the Dane as a slightly decadent hedonist, and the Norwegian as an uneducated, often stupid country bumpkin. These jokes illustrate how mutual stereotypes not only contribute to the definition of the other, but also function recursively in the definition of the self.

http://hyllanderiksen.net/Scandinavian_images.html

[Images for Scandinavian stereotypes - Thomas Hylland Eriksen's](#)

What are cultural tradition differences between Norway and Sweden?

Many Swedes actually say they feel like Norway is their semi-retarded little brother who won the lottery, in my opinion a large number of Swedes feel the same, however it is not very politically correct to say so, so they don't.

<https://www.quora.com/What-are-cultural-tradition-differences-between-Norway-and-Sweden>

[Images for cultural tradition differences between Norway and Sweden](#)

11) Assets and deficits

A large sign on a 4ft X 8ft sheet of plywood hangs above the exit at Bargain Bills in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. At the bottom is a drawing of a donut. The saying states:

As you go through
the journey of life,
make this your goal -
to focus on the donut
and not on the hole.

I translate that to mean, “Concentrate on what you have (assets) rather than what you don’t have (deficits).”

Welcome - Bargain Bills Inc

We feel truly blessed to have grown to such extent over our past 30 years of being in business, and have only you, our wonderful customer, to thank! We continue to travel the country to find good deals and unique items to bring back to you. Please stop in and say hello when you are near. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

<https://bargainbillsinc.com/history/>

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

[Images for bargain bills inc of rice lake wi](#)

Resources

Asset-Based Thinking versus Deficit-Based Thinking

The book explains the great personal gains to be made by focusing our thinking on our assets rather than our deficits and goes on to explain how this might be achieved.

<http://www.stuttering.com.au/blog/index.php/assetbased-thinking-deficitbased-thinking/>

[Images for Asset-Based Thinking versus Deficit-Based Thinking](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Change-Way-You-See-Everything/dp/B000MKYKIG>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/685454.Change_the_Way_You_See_Everything_through_Asset_Based_Thinking

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/change-the-way-you-see-everything-through-asset-based-thinking-kathryn-d-cramer/1103524860>

[Images for change-the-way-you-see-everything-through-asset-based-thinking-kathryn-d-cramer](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMR49Q4ZRk> Change the Way You See Everything! – YouTube

[Images for Deficit-Based Thinking](#)

Deficit and Asset Based Thinking | Maté Tea for the Mind

Opportunities or problems? Strengths or weakness? Can or can't? Polar opposites of what can make a huge difference in the performance of a team. Deficit thinking vs. Asset thinking, comes down to how you view what you think about and how that influences how you see the world and your ability to work with it. The two are very similar, the words used in both are very similar and very small changes from one to the other can make a world of difference in team performance.

<https://echenard.wordpress.com/2007/03/12/deficit-and-asset-based-thinking/>

[Images for Deficit and Asset Based Thinking | Maté Tea for the Mind](#)

The big picture: Assets vs. deficits: What do we see?

I talked briefly in class this past week about the difference between an “asset” vs. a “deficit” perspective seeing what’s good in a child, family or community versus only seeing what they supposedly lack, don’t have, or aren’t doing.

In what ways do you notice deficit or asset perspectives among the adults at your school? How do teachers and administrators “see” their students, the students’ parents, and the school’s community – through a lens of negativity or a more positive one?

Does the way we “see” our students matter?

<http://bpt3.blogspot.com/2009/06/assets-vs-deficits-what-do-we-see.html>

[Images for The big picture: Assets vs. deficits: What do we see?](#)

12) More than butts in the pews and bucks in the plate

Laurie Skow-Anderson, Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) and assistant to the bishop in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, presenting at the 1/16/2018 interim ministry gathering at the synod office asserted that there is another way of measuring the vitality of a congregation than “butts in the pews and bucks in the plate.”

10 Metrics Instead of Butts and Bucks - Faith+Lead – Luther Seminary

The church is changing. We hear that a lot these days, and usually the story is one of decline: fewer participants in worship services, fewer dollars in the offering plate.

<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/10-metrics-instead-of-butts-and-bucks/>

[Images for 10 Metrics Instead of Butts and Bucks - Faith+Lead – Luther Seminary](#)

She offered a Congregational Vitality Survey.

Congregational Vitality Survey

The Congregational Vitality Project was created to deepen the ELCA’s understanding of congregational vitality: what it means, how vital the ELCA is now, how vitality can be cultivated, and how the ELCA can foster cultivation.

Vital congregations exude a certain kind of vibrancy, a friendly welcoming manner, and a tangible sense of God’s presence. Those who attend regularly have a sense of purpose. They support each other by nurturing one another’s faith and helping each other identify their spiritual gifts. They use those gifts in the congregation and the world. They intentionally connect with the wider Christian community and within their local context to share the good news in word and deed by striving to be God’s hands in the world.

While connections with God, each other and the world are key to what it means to be church, it isn’t usually isn’t how we measure vitality. We usually turn to statistics like growth in members, financial stability, how many programs there are, etc. At the same time, in our guts we know that equating numeric growth with vitality falls short.

The Congregational Vitality Survey is a simple, statistically reliable tool developed by ELCA Research and Evaluation Department. The answers to survey questions are used to compute an index or report which is made up of different scales. Each scale describes a different aspect of a congregation's vitality in three areas:

www.congregationalvitalitysurvey.com/

[Images for Congregational Vitality Survey](#)

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

<https://www.elca.org/Future-Directions/CongVitality>

<https://surveys.elca.org/scripts/rws5.pl?FORM=cvtlogin>

<http://wndsynod.org/mission-planning/congregational-vitality-survey/>

<http://www.lacrosseareasynd.org/congregationalvitality>

<http://upstatenysynod.org/download/general/congregational-vitality-survey-flyer.pdf>

Resources

[PDF] Best Practices List - Virginia United Methodist Conference

Below are best practices we have gathered to help your church become a **Vital Congregation**.

<https://www.vaumc.org/ncfilerpository/Discipleship/BODBestPractices.pdf>

[Images for Vital Congregation](#)

Christianity for the Rest of Us Small Group: Study Guide

Trinity of **vitality**: Three interrelated characteristics of thriving churches: tradition, practice and wisdom.

<http://aprilmallgroup.blogspot.com/2008/04/study-guide-for-session-1.html>

[Images for thriving churches: tradition, practice and wisdom](#)

Leadership for Vital Congregations (Congregational Vitality) by Anthony B. Robinson (Author)

An essential leadership tool for clergy and lay leaders who wish to revitalize their leadership style and approach in order to become more effective leaders. It offers functional strategies to lead; information on developing as a spiritual leader; ways in which the congregation can understand the importance of leadership; and more.

<https://www.amazon.com/Leadership-Vital-Congregations-Congregational-Vitality/dp/0829817123>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1478954.Leadership_for_Vital_Congregations

<https://www.uccresources.com/products/leadership-for-vital-congregations-robinson>

<https://covchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2011/02/Congregational-Vitality-Book-List.pdf>

<https://covchurch.org/vitality/downloads/>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/anthony-b-robinson/224033/>

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

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/70337.Anthony_B_Robinson

[Images for Anthony B. Robinson \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Leadership for Vital Congregations \(Congregational Vitality\) by Anthony B. Robinson \(Author\)](#)

[Images for \(Congregational Vitality\) books](#)

69 Bible verses about Spiritual Vitality - Knowing Jesus

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Spiritual-vitality>

[Images for Bible and Spiritual Vitality](#)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/dictionary-of-bible-themes/8162-spiritual-vitality>

<http://unlockingthebible.org/sermon/the-urgency-of-spiritual-vitality/>

[Images for urgency-of-spiritual-vitality](#)

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/maintaining-spiritual-vitality/>

[Images for maintaining-spiritual-vitality](#)

<https://baptistnews.com/article/recovering-spiritual-vitality/>

[Images for recovering-spiritual-vitality](#)

Survival or Revival: Ten Keys to Church Vitality [Carnegie Samuel Calian]

Carnegie Calian challenges churches and their members to become committed to their own success and to take ownership of their future. He identifies ten keys to congregational vitality, including biblical literacy, prayer, knowledge, and forgiveness, and suggests that these become the cornerstone of a holistic approach to congregational vitality.

<http://www.amazon.com/Survival-Revival-Keys-Church-Vitality/dp/0664257348>

<https://www.mightyape.co.nz/product/survival-or-revival/5278671>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664257348>

https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/fc2ud0shpboev1/Survival_or_Revival_Ten_Keys_to_Church_Vitality.pdf

<http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2006/01/30/Calian-brought-change-money-to-Pittsburgh-Theological-Seminary/stories/200601300140?pgpageversion=pgevoke>

http://www.pts.edu/Faculty_Emeriti

<http://www.intrust.org/Authors/Carnegie-Samuel-Calian>

<https://www.amazon.com/Carnegie-Samuel-Calian/e/B001H9R5NS>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/432251.Carnegie_Samuel_Calian

[Images for Carnegie Samuel Calian](#)

Images for Survival or Revival: Ten Keys to Church Vitality [Carnegie Samuel Calian]

Vital Congregations as Intentional Communities of Practice – Alban Institute

In my experience, vital congregations are more than a collection of individuals drawn together by similar personal experiences and needs that in turn are expressed through common beliefs or by similar styles of religious life. Vital congregations are communities of practice, where we immerse ourselves in those "patterns of communal action," that in Craig Dykstra's words "create openings in our lives where the grace, mercy and presence of God may be made known to us."¹

<https://alban.org/archive/vital-congregations-as-intentional-communities-of-practice/>

Images for Vital Congregations as Intentional Communities of Practice – Alban Institute

<https://alban.org/archive/vital-worship-healthy-congregations/>

Images for alban/vital-worship-healthy-congregations

<https://alban.org/category/renewal-vitality/>

Images for alban/renewal-vitality

<https://alban.org/archive/what-does-our-congregation-need/>

<https://alban.org/archive/who-owns-a-congregation/>

Vital Signs: A Pathway to Congregational Wholeness by Dan R. Dick (Author)

Like many mainline denominations, The United Methodist Church is ailing. Declining membership, worship and Sunday school attendance, outreach and giving - all troubling signs. In an age of megachurches, "Ten Steps to ..." congregational self-help programs point to models that might not be in the church's best interest. Following the suggestions of this new conventional wisdom may reverse the trends and attract thousands to highly entertaining services (bolstered by a strong budget and marketing plan) led a charismatic pastor, but is that the true picture of a vital church? Could it be that our measure of success is wrong? Could it be we're diluting the real mission of the church? Advocating Christianity "Lite?" For more than six years, Dick has visited, studied, surveyed, consulted with and analyzed 700+ congregations across North America to better understand effective structures, processes, leadership and systems for spiritual formation and development. The critically acclaimed result is Vital Signs. "Where the formation of faith is concerned, and spiritual development and Christian community is the point, qualitative measures are most important," he says. "Bigger says nothing about faithful, and active says nothing about effective. The value of our ministry is judged by the impact it makes on people's lives." From Dick's research emerged clear identifiers of four church types: decaying, dystrophic, retrogressive and vital. With candor Dick describes each, including examples of communities within the types. While reading about these types may be painful, the intent is to provide tools to move toward vitality. "Making church easy is the opposite of making the church faithful," Dick writes. "Vital churches challenge us to remember that the church is God's, not ours, and being Christian disciples is more involved than simply believing in Jesus as the Son of God. ...To be the church for the world requires that we become vital." Though this study is based on United Methodist churches, its lessons are relevant for all congregations. Help yours become transformed into a community that works - hard - together to engage in courageous ministries of witness!

<https://www.amazon.com/Vital-Signs-Pathway-Congregational-Wholeness/dp/0881774952>

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https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/83197.Dan_R_Dick

Images for Dan R. Dick (Author)

Images for Vital Signs: A Pathway to Congregational Wholeness by Dan R. Dick (Author)

Vital Signs - Diana Butler Bass | Sojourners Magazine

Congregations find passion and purpose by blending ancient traditions and contemporary action.

<http://sojo.net/magazine/2005/12/vital-signs>

Images for Vital Signs - Diana Butler Bass | Sojourners Magazine

13) Empathizer or systemizer?

Hearing a story on National Public Radio about the musical tastes of people who are either empathizers or systemizers got me thinking about the subject.

In A Metal Mood? You Might Just Be More Analytical Than Easier Listeners

A study finds links between emotional styles and musical taste. People who are **empathetic** like more mellow songs, but "**systemizers**" who try to understand behavioral rules enjoy more intense music.

<http://www.npr.org/2015/08/07/430221647/in-a-metal-mood-you-might-just-be-more-analytical-than-easier-listeners>

<https://www.wnyc.org/story/in-a-metal-mood-you-might-just-be-more-analytical-than-easier-listeners/>
 Images for People who are empathetic like more mellow songs
 Images for "systemizers" who try to understand behavioral rules enjoy more intense music.
 Images for empathizing-systemizing theory music playlist
<http://www.metro.us/news/are-you-an-empathizer-or-a-systemizer-check-your-music-playlist/zsJogv---YFiwSP4vmK3Go/>
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0131151> Musical Preferences are Linked to Cognitive Styles
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283490806_Can_Music_Increase_Empathy_Interpreting_Musical_Experience_Through_The_Empathizing-Systemizing_E-S_Theory_Implications_For_Autism
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/07/150722144648.htm> Musical tastes offer a window into how you think
<https://techcrunch.com/2015/07/23/your-future-music-playlist-could-know-how-you-feel/>
<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/31/health/what-music-reveals-about-personality/>
<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/248712> Are You an Empathetic or Analytical Thinker? Your Music Playlist May Hold the Answer

Resources

A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix by Edwin H. Friedman (Author)

Ten years after his death, Edwin Friedman's insights into leadership are more urgently needed than ever. He was the first to tell us that all organizations have personalities, like families, and to apply the insights of family therapy to churches and synagogues, rectors and rabbis, politicians and teachers.
Failure of Nerve is essential reading for all leaders, be they parents or presidents, corporate executives or educators, religious superiors or coaches, healers or generals, managers or clergy. Friedman's insights about our regressed, seatbelt society, oriented toward safety rather than adventure, help explain the sabotage that leaders constantly face today. Suspicious of the quick fixes and instant solutions that sweep through our culture only to give way to the next fad, he argues for strength and self-differentiation as the marks of true leadership. His formula for success is more maturity, not more data; stamina, not technique; and personal responsibility, not empathy.
 This book was unfinished at the time of Friedman's death, and originally published in a limited edition. This new edition makes his life-changing insights and challenges available to a new generation of readers.

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 Images for summary-of-edwin-friedman-a-failure-of-nerve

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<http://www.bobthune.com/2016/06/summary-edwin-friedmans-a-failure-of-nerve-in-500-words/>
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<http://www.leadershipnow.com/leadership/9781596270428.html>
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<http://www.nytimes.com/1996/11/17/us/edwin-friedman-64-led-workshops-on-leadership.html>
<http://www.guilford.com/author/Edwin-H-Friedman>
<https://www.amazon.com/Edwin-H.-Friedman/e/B001JP7VT8>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/12448.Edwin_H_Friedman
[Images for Edwin H. Friedman \(Author\)](#)
[Images for A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix by Edwin H. Friedman \(Author\)](#)

Edwin H. Friedman Quotes (Author of A Failure of Nerve)

“It has been my impression that at any gathering, whether it be public or private, those who are quickest to inject words like sensitivity, **empathy**, consensus, trust, confidentiality, and togetherness into their arguments have perverted these humanitarian words into power tools to get others to adapt to them.”

— Edwin H. Friedman, *A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix*

http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/12448.Edwin_H_Friedman

[Images for Edwin H. Friedman Quotes \(Author of A Failure of Nerve\)](#)

Summary of Edwin Friedman's 'A Failure of Nerve': Part 4

Empathy is a concept that seems laudable and desirable. However, Friedman believes that it commonly serves as ‘a disguise for anxiety, a rationalization for the failure to define a position, and a power tool in the hands of the “sensitive”.’ Those who are most inclined to use the concept of empathy are people who feel powerless and want to ‘use the togetherness force of a regressed society to get those whom they perceive to have power to adapt to them.’ Much of the power of this approach results from the failure of nerve among leaders. However, the focus on ‘understanding’ or feeling with other people can be no less invasive than more coercive approaches. We should rather be focusing upon responsibility over empathy.

<https://alastairadversaria.wordpress.com/2012/01/14/summary-of-edwin-friedmans-a-failure-of-nerve-part-4/>

[Images for Summary of Edwin Friedman's 'A Failure of Nerve' We should rather be focusing upon responsibility over empathy.](#)

Why leaders are a pain. Truth telling in the parish. Feb 08, 2016 by William H. Willimon. | The Christian Century

Rabbi Edwin Friedman, author of *A Failure of Nerve*, contends that **empathy** is the great enemy of pastoral leadership. Empathy can be a form of pastoral self-protection, disguised as the desire to shield others from pain.

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2016-01/why-leaders-are-pain>

[Images for Rabbi Edwin Friedman, author of A Failure of Nerve, contends that empathy is the great enemy of pastoral leadership.](#)

Empathizing-Systemizing Test - Personality Tests

Free on-line personality test measuring Simon Baron-Cohen's Empathizing and Systemizing Quotients.

<http://personality-testing.info/tests/EQSQ.php>

[Images for Empathizing-Systemizing Test - Personality Tests](#)

<https://openpsychometrics.org/tests/EQSQ.php> Empathizing-Systemizing Test

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1509169/Are-you-a-systemizer-or-an-empathizer.html>

Empathizing-systemizing theory - Wikipedia

The empathizing-systemizing (E–S) theory suggests that people may be classified on the basis of their scores along two dimensions: empathizing (E) and systemizing (S). It measures a person's strength of interest in empathy (the ability to identify and understand the thoughts and feelings of others and to respond to these with appropriate emotions); and a person's strength of interest in systems (in terms of the drive to analyze or construct them).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empathizing%E2%80%93systemizing_theory

[Images for Empathizing-systemizing theory](#)

Empathy Doesn't Cut It | Resilience

Empathy may very well be a component of a leader's response repertoire. But it is self-, not other-, definition and emotional self-regulation that allows one to respond helpfully and lovingly toward others in a way that leads to their growth and future

well-being. Empathy, i.e. feeling with or sharing the feelings of another, is natural and appropriate, but it is not a component for helping others. It does not nurture healing and growth in others. It may very well encourage others to stay stuck right where they are. Health and growth and resiliency in the face of difficult circumstances and continuing stress require our thoughtful challenge to others to do their own work and their positive response.

<http://systems-coaching.com/2012/01/04/empathy-doesnt-cut-it/>

[Images for Empathy Doesn't Cut It | Resilience](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/debcz/resilience/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/essexspecialist/resilience/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/wecounselling/resilience/>

I don't feel your pain Jul 16, 2014 by M. Craig Barnes – Christian Century

Empathy made it big in an era some call the “me generation.” By discovering my feelings inside you, even you are about me.



<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2014-07/i-don-t-feel-your-pain>

[Images for I don't feel your pain Jul 16, 2014 by M. Craig Barnes – Christian Century](#)

<http://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/m-craig-barnes>

<https://www.amazon.com/M.-Craig-Barnes/e/B001HP78QG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/150743.M_Craig_Barnes

[Images for M. Craig Barnes](#)

Systematize | Definition of Systematize by Merriam-Webster

Definition of systematize. systematized; systematizing. transitive verb. : to arrange in accord with a definite plan or scheme : order systematically.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/systematize>

[Images for Systematize | Definition](#)

The Limits of Empathy - The New York Times

Empathy orients you toward moral action, but it doesn't seem to help much when that action comes at a personal cost. You may feel a pang for the homeless guy on the other side of the street, but the odds are that you are not going to cross the street to give him a dollar.



David Brooks

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/30/opinion/brooks-the-limits-of-empathy.html?_r=0

[Images for Limits of Empathy by David Brooks](#)

<http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/29/finding-the-limits-of-empathy/>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/anthony-b-robinson-david-brooks-public-theologian>

<https://www.amazon.com/David-Brooks/e/B001ITTRLU>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3136576.David_Brooks

[Images for David Brooks](#)

Urban Dictionary: empathizer

one who empathizes.

Person 1: Man, I'm feelin them. I know what they're talkin about.

Person 2: Damn, you must be an empathizer!

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=empathizer>

[Images for Dictionary: empathizer](#)

14) Family size

The local newspaper carried a feature each week entitled “Meet Your Neighbor.” I got to know more about some of the members of the congregation when they were featured. A few weeks before I was to move to a new assignment, the paper carried an article about a woman who with her husband raised 12 children, which helped me to learn more about the dynamics of family size. The youngest was 6, and the oldest 29. The mother looked much younger than her age. They lived modestly, and, in fact, during one financially difficult time, she rode her bicycle to town for groceries.

Meet Your Neighbor: Renee Hecker, Town of Sand Lake | | apg-wi.com

With 12 children, Hecker is often asked about giving them individual attention.

"You are one of a crowd," she said of a large family, "but I think the children go through a season when they need special attention going through their predicaments and what not. Otherwise, they all feel very loved and cared for. They seem to be. They seem to adore us, and they value us so highly and I'm so thankful."

Hecker believes some families with one or two kids have a tendency to manage too much of the children's life and become the proverbial "helicopter parents."

"It's not the real world," she said. "You don't go out there and everyone hovers over you and make sure you're OK. Our situation has demanded our kids grow up a little more. When they take off, when they get ready for college, they have done the footwork for it. They have figured out the financing. They have bought their own cars."

http://www.apg-wi.com/meet-your-neighbor-renee-hecker-town-of-sand-lake/article_1eb09331-c427-5f87-a500-b69f77471072.html

[Images for Renee Hecker, Town of Sand Lake | | apg-wi.com](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/rhecker/>

<https://picpanzee.com/wingitmom>

15) Think of a novel, not an essay

I wrote my share of term papers in seminary some of which I included in this website, but I think at this point in pastoral ministry it is instructive to understand congregation life as more like a novel and less like an essay.

The Difference between an Essay and a Novel - EssayJob.com

Essays are very focused pieces of writing that do not stray from the original main point into other subjects. Novels vary widely in length. ... While novels generally focus on an overarching story theme, writers can explore many different ideas and topics within one novel.

<https://essayjob.com/novel>

[Images for The Difference between an Essay and a Novel - EssayJob.com](#)

16) What makes for a good hunting camp?

I attended an Evening with Two Authors as a fundraiser for the local library on 4/25/2016. One of the authors wrote *Hunting Camp 52: Memories and Menus*.

[PDF] Spend an Evening with Two Local Authors - the Sherman Weiss Community Library

John M. Hanson. Hunting Camp 52. Evening includes appetizers, cash bar, door prizes! \$25 per ticket/. \$30 at the door. Tickets available at the Library.

<http://www.weisscommunitylibrary.com/Authors'%20Night%20Poster%204-4-2016%20Current.pdf>

[Images for Spend an Evening with Two Local Authors - the Sherman Weiss Community Library](#)

http://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/arts_and_entertainment/community_events/spend-an-evening-with-local-authors/article_4c8cfa94-0735-11e6-82d2-67ad309cd873.html

He said he did not want to write still another book about hunting exploits but rather a book about camp life. One of the things that makes for a good hunting camp is good food, he suggested, and so he included numerous menus. Another thing that makes for a good hunting camp is a common adherence to certain rules, he asserted, and so he listed the rules of the camp. An implicit question is: "Why do some hunting camps thrive for generations and others implode because of bad behavior?" Rules are not so much restrictive as they are conducive.

Hunting Camp 52: Tales from a North Woods Deer Camp by John Marvin Hanson

Meet the Jolly Boys—five men from northern Wisconsin who built a deer hunting shack in 1955 and established a tradition that has now lasted over six decades. Hunting Camp 52, affectionately known as Blue Heaven, is a place where every trail, rock, and ravine has its own nickname; every kill is recorded by hand on a window shade; every hunter happily croons along during evening songfests; and every rowdy poker game lasts late into the night. The outhouse is always cold, the porcupines are always a problem, and the vehicles are always getting stuck in the mud, but there's nowhere else these men would rather be.

In *Hunting Camp 52: Tales from a North Woods Deer Camp*, John Marvin Hanson—the son of one of the original Jolly Boys—recounts the sidesplitting antics, the memorable hunts, and the profound camaraderie that has developed over almost sixty seasons at Blue Heaven. Hanson also includes more than twenty recipes for gourmet comfort foods prepared each year at camp, from pickled venison hearts to Norwegian meatballs to the treasured recipe for Reali Spaghetti. As the Jolly Boys age and younger generations take up the mantle of Blue Heaven, Hanson comes to appreciate that hunting camp is not about bagging a trophy buck as much as it is about spending time with the friends and family members who matter most.

<https://www.amazon.com/Hunting-Camp-52-Tales-North/dp/0870207733>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30227558-hunting-camp-52>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/hunting-camp-52-john-marvin-hanson/1123885410>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Hunting_Camp_52.html?id=cxjMDAAAQBAJ

<http://www.redberrybooks.com/hunting-camp-52>

<http://www.weau.com/home/headlines/Hunting-Camp-Book-282582071.html>

<http://www.weau.com/hellowisconsin/headlines/Hunting-Camp-52-Memories--Menus-283479621.html>
<http://www.leadertelegram.com/News/Front-Page/2015/11/07/Jolly-Boys-and-Blue-Heaven.html>
<https://www.lakesuperior.com/lifestyle/reviews/395-reviews-black-otter-bay-hunting-camp-52-%26-world-war-II-shipbuilding-in-duluth-and-superior/>
<http://www.wpr.org/people/john-marvin-hanson>
<https://www.wpr.org/shows/tell-joy-where-go-hunting-edition>
[Images for Hunting Camp 52: Tales from a North Woods Deer Camp by John Marvin Hanson](#)

17) On serving two or more congregations

I served 2 congregations in an installed pastorate 1980-90. I have served 2 congregations in interim ministry since 1990 on 11 assignments, 3 congregations on 4 assignments, and 4 congregations on 1 assignment (as of 4/15/2020). One of the obvious challenges is the distance and travel. How often have I come to one site only to realize I left something behind in the pastor's study at the other site. Another is the duplication of worship, administration, education, and other matters. Sometimes, attending to the parish relationship can be challenging. At the same time, I have appreciated those times where one congregation tended to balance out the other. In addition, no one congregation could feel like they owned me, and I did not need to feel beholden to them as if I only served one congregation. As more congregations are entering into shared ministry agreements or letter of agreements, pastors will find themselves serving 2 or more congregations more often.

Resources

Modern-day circuit riders serve multiple churches - The Leaf Chronicle

Today both denominations still use circuit riders in the greater Clarksville region, but now pastors travel by car rather than by horse. And they still serve more than one congregation.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/news/2015/08/21/modern-day-circuit-riders-serve-multiple-churches/32111409/>
[Images for modern-day circuit riders serve multiple churches](#)

One pastor, many churches - Ministry Magazine

The multi-church district presents the most common challenge for today's pastor.

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2006/08/one-pastor-many-churches.html>
[Images for one pastor, many churches](#)

One pastor, two churches - The Sun Chronicle: Features

The Rev. James Blair is a pastor with two churches, two congregations, and one mission: to help both congregations serve Christ in their own way.

http://www.thesunchronicle.com/features/one-pastor-two-churches/article_00d484e6-97f5-53b7-add9-aa5e91eca86b.html
[Images for one pastor, two churches](#)

[PDF]Smaller Congregation: Pathways in Challenging Times

This special report defines the "smaller congregation," explains how small congregations can be vital, and examines the challenges and options facing small congregations—including the options of shifting to part-time clergy, **merging two or more congregations**, clustering, securing lay pastors or local clergy, growing, or "ending well."

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/SmallerCongregationChallengingTimes.pdf>
[Images for merging two or more congregations](#)

18) I do not want television to shape my identity

One of the infrequent times I watch TV is when the **Gas Station TV (GSTV)** comes on the screen while I pump my gas at **Kwik Trip, Inc.**

Don't touch that dial: Watch TV while you're pumping gas

Coming soon to a gas pump near you: TV screens that show news clips, the weather, features and — of course — commercials while you're filling 'er up.

http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/don-t-touch-that-dial-watch-tv-while-you-re/article_935c2714-84be-5184-bf7a-a45786fe7e9d.html

<http://gstv.com/> Gas Station TV and Verifone Announce Joint Venture Creating High-Impact Video Network Reaching One-in-Three Adults Monthly

<http://www.npr.org/2014/10/15/356451263/gas-station-tv-capitalizes-on-a-captive-audience>

[Images for gas station tv-capitalizes-on-a-captive-audience](#)

https://twitter.com/GasStationTV?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9udzyMVbfSM> gas station tv - YouTube

[Images for gas station tv - YouTube](#)

<https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/gas-station-tv>

<https://www.benzinga.com/news/17/04/9295155/keeping-you-informed-and-entertained-at-the-pump-gas-station-tv-verifone-join-for>

I grew up without television and possess no burning desire to consume television programming, though, sometimes in the fall, I go to a local establishment to watch my favorite sports team from across the border. I own VHSs and DVDs and watch them occasionally. I also watch YouTube and Vimeo on the computer. Other than that, I don't consume commercial or public television programming. I'm part of the one percenters. No, not the one percenters at the top of the financial ladder. Yes, the one percent that doesn't consume television programming.

When on the rare occasion I consume television programming, I become offended that 20+ minutes out of every hour somebody is trying to convince me my life is incomplete without a certain product so that I will experience the need to purchase and consume. I spend enough screen time working at the computer that I want to get away from the screen afterwards rather than view more. Television consumption, I am told, is becoming increasingly expensive. Cell phone and high-speed internet is expensive enough. I tell confirmands and parents in orientation that I will be with the class for approximately 24 hours a year. By comparison, Americans watch an average of 5 hours of TV per day.

I'm not quite sure how I would set aside 5 hours a day to watch TV.

The list of reasons could go on and on...

At one assignment, I rented a room that came with satellite television at the (name) Bar and Hotel where the bar had been made into an apartment in a village with a population of 212. I tried to figure out how to get the TV to work and kept coming up with information boxes that said there was complete or partial loss of reception. I asked the 30something boarder living next door if she knew how to work it. She tried for about 15 minutes and then finally suggested that I call the 1-800 # and be prepared to give them the 11digit receiver number and the 11digit smart card number at the bottom of the screen. I thanked her for her time and concluded that, if it was that much bother, it wasn't worth it. She was later evicted and ended up in prison. I ended up with bed bugs and moved down the hall.

Resources

Advertising - Adults Spend 8 Hours a Day in Front of a Screen, Study Says - The NY Times

In a world with grocery store television screens, digitally delivered movie libraries and cellphone video clips, the average American is exposed to 61 minutes of TV ads and promotions a day.

Some people may think that amount seems excessive. But "people don't seem to be getting up and running away," said Jack Wakshlag, chief research officer at Turner Broadcasting.

In fact, adults are exposed to screens — TVs, cellphones, even G.P.S. devices — for about 8.5 hours on any given day, according to a study released by the Council for Research Excellence on Thursday. TV remains the dominant medium for media consumption and advertising, the study found. The data suggests that computer usage has supplanted radio as the second most common media activity. (Print ranks fourth.)

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/27/business/media/27adco.html?_r=0

[Images for Advertising - Adults Spend 8 Hours a Day in Front of a Screen, Study Says - The NY Times](#)

<http://www.cleancutmedia.com/advertising/average-adult-watches-an-hour-of-tv-ads-a-day>

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/118/6/2563> Children, Adolescents, and Advertising | FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

www.redcrowmarketing.com/2015/09/10/many-ads-see-one-day/

www.adweek.com/digital/look-kids-exposure-ads-156191/

[Images for digital/look-kids-exposure-ads](#)

Average American watches 5 hours of TV per day - NY Daily News

Time spent watching live TV increases steadily as we get older, according to a new report from Nielsen. African-Americans, followed by whites, watch more TV than other ethnic groups.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/average-american-watches-5-hours-tv-day-article-1.1711954>

[Images for Average American watches 5 hours of TV per day - NY Daily News](#)

Chris Tomasson@christomasson

Mike Zimmer on last night's game by Aaron Rodgers: "I don't have a TV, so I didn't watch it."

[3:16 PM - Sep 10, 2018](#)



[Andrew Brandt](#)

✓ @AndrewBrandt

Coaches are cavemen.

11 Reasons You Should Stop Watching Television Now – Lifehack

Are You Losing Your Life to Television?

Few people realize the number of issues that television causes in our life.

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/11-reasons-you-should-stop-watching-television-now.html>

[Images for 11 Reasons You Should Stop Watching Television Now](#)

<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/ten-reasons-to-turn-off-your-tv.html>

<http://personalexcellence.co/blog/top-10-reasons-you-should-stop-watching-tv/>

[Images for top-10-reasons-you-should-stop-watching-tv](#)

<https://wealthygorilla.com/reasons-to-stop-watching-television/>

[Images for reasons-to-stop-watching-television](#)

<https://www.thesimpledollar.com/ten-financial-reasons-to-turn-off-your-television-and-ten-things-to-replace-it-with/> Why You Should Stop Watching T.V. and What to Replace It With – The Simple Dollar

[Images for ten-financial-reasons-to-turn-off-your-television](#)

<https://personalexcellence.co/blog/stop-watching-tv/>

www.businessinsider.com/what-happened-when-i-stopped-watching-tv-2016-7

<https://www.dawnofchange.com/stop-watching-television>

<https://www.prevention.com/health/5-things-that-happened-when-i-stopped-watching-tv>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Quit-Watching-TV> #6

[Images for Quit Watching TV](#)

Negative Effects of Television You Can't Afford to Ignore - Buzzle

While merrily watching television, we seldom think that it may affect us negatively. We rarely think about the damaging effects it can have on our mind and body. Here is a look at the negative effects of television.

<https://www.buzzle.com/articles/negative-effects-of-television.html>

[Images for Negative Effects of Television You Can't Afford to Ignore](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6_3xzcJX4 Negative Effects of Television You Can't Afford to Ignore - YouTube

Newton Minnow's "Vast Wasteland" speech

But when television is bad, nothing is worse. I invite you to sit down in front of your television set when your station goes on the air and stay there without a book, magazine, newspaper, profit and-loss sheet or rating book to distract you--and keep your eyes glued to that set until the station signs off. I can assure you that you will observe a vast wasteland.

<http://www.janda.org/b20/News%20articles/vastwastland.htm>

[Images for Newton Minnow's "Vast Wasteland" speech](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dGRqLfGwo> Television "A Vast Wasteland" (1961) - YouTube

[Images for Television "A Vast Wasteland" \(1961\) - YouTube](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Television_and_the_Public_Interest

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newton_N._Minow

<http://adage.com/article/rance-crain/minow-tv-a-vast-wasteland/227002/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/04/a-vaster-wasteland/308418/>

www.pbs.org/program/newton-minow-american-story/

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/newtonminow.htm>

[Images for Newton Minnow](#)

Quotes about Television (269 quotes) - Goodreads

"If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there'd be peace."

— John Lennon

"What the mass media offers is not popular art, but entertainment which is intended to be consumed like food, forgotten, and replaced by a new dish."

— W.H. Auden, *The Dyer's Hand*

"Television's perfect. You turn a few knobs, a few of those mechanical adjustments at which the higher apes are so proficient, and lean back and drain your mind of all thought. And there you are watching the bubbles in the primeval ooze. You don't have to concentrate. You don't have to react. You don't have to remember. You don't miss your brain because you don't need it. Your heart and liver and lungs continue to function normally. Apart from that, all is peace and quiet. You are in the man's nirvana. And if some poor nasty minded person comes along and says you look like a fly on a can of garbage, pay him no mind. He probably hasn't got the price of a television set."

— Raymond Chandler

"A democratic civilization will save itself only if it makes the language of the image into a stimulus for critical reflection — not an invitation for hypnosis."

— Umberto Eco, *The Screen Education Reader: Cinema, Television, Culture*

"Shall I spend much of your time pointing out the degree to which televisual values influence the contemporary mood of jaded weltanschmerz, self-mocking materialism, blank indifference, and the delusion that cynicism and naïveté are mutually exclusive?"

— David Foster Wallace, *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again: Essays and Arguments*

"Television screens saturated with commercials promote the utopian and childish idea that all problems have fast, simple, and technological solutions. You must banish from your mind the naive but commonplace notion that commercials are about products. They are about products in the same sense that the story of Jonah is about the anatomy of whales."

— Neil Postman

"The moral nihilism of celebrity culture is played out on reality television shows, most of which encourage a dark voyeurism into other people's humiliation, pain, weakness, and betrayal."

— Chris Hedges, *Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle*

"Usually I spare myself from the news, because if it's not propaganda, then it's one threat or another exaggerated to the point of absurdity, or it's the tragedy of storm-quake-tsunami, of bigotry and oppression misnamed justice, of hatred passed off as righteousness and honor called dishonorable, all jammed in around advertisements in which a gecko sells insurance, a bear sells toilet tissue, a dog sells cars, a gorilla sells investment advisers, a tiger sells cereal, and an elephant sells a drug that will improve your lung capacity, as if no human being in America any longer believes any other human being, but trusts only the recommendations of animals."

— Dean Koontz, *Deeply Odd*

"If you are mesmerized by televised stupidity, and don't get to hear or read stories about your world, you can be fooled into thinking that the world isn't miraculous--and it is."

— Anne Lamott

<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/television>

[Images for Quotes about Television](#)

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/television>

www.quoteagarden.com/television.html

www.funny-jokes-quotes-sayings.com/quotes-about-television.html

<http://www.famousquotes123.com/television-quotes.html>

www.notable-quotes.com/t/television_quotes.html

www.powerfulwords.info/quotes-about-life/quotes-about-tv.htm

<https://www.michaeldpollock.com/quotes-tv-addiction/>

[Images for quotes-tv-addiction](#)

Reasons I Don't Own a TV - The Minimalists

So, if you get rid of your TV (or drastically reduce your viewing), what are you going to do with all your reclaimed time?

The short answer is: you can do whatever you want. You can create something. You can exercise. You can focus on your relationships. You can contribute to other people in meaningful ways.

<http://www.theminimalists.com/tv/>

[Images for Reasons I Don't Own a TV - The Minimalists](#)

<http://www.becomingminimalist.com/ten-reasons-to-watch-less-television/>

[Images for becomingminimalist/ten-reasons-to-watch-less-television](#)

<https://medium.com/@crisjeschke/why-i-dont-own-a-tv-maybe-you-shouldn-t-either-750fc1ab37f>

<https://wellovehomeblog.com/2017/06/i-dont-own-a-tv-am-i-crazy/>

[Images for i-dont-own-a-tv-am-i-crazy](#)

<https://www.theawl.com/2011/07/what-kind-of-i-dont-own-a-tv-people-do-you-have-in-your-life/>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/9056188/Keira-Knightley-Why-I-dont-own-a-TV.html>

<https://roadtoepic.com/6-excellent-reasons-why-we-dont-own-a-tv/>

[Images for reasons-why-we-dont-own-a-tv](#)

<https://www.theonion.com/area-man-constantly-mentioning-he-doesnt-own-a-televi-1819565469>

<https://gizmodo.com/5917028/a-list-of-celebrities-who-dont-own-a-tv>

[Images for celebrities-who-dont-own-a-tv](#)

6 Ways to Make a Bigger Impact with Your Life – Carey Nieuwhof

2. Cut Out Trivial Pursuits

Any idea how much TV you watch?

The [average American watches 5 hours](#)...a day. That's. Per. Day.

And yet I have never heard anyone say "TV changed my life. Watching TV is why my life is filled with passion and significance."

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2014/09/6-ways-make-bigger-impact-life/>

[Images for 6 Ways to Make a Bigger Impact with Your Life – Carey Nieuwhof 2. Cut Out Trivial Pursuits Any idea how much TV you watch?](#)

<http://theparentcue.org/is-technology-killing-your-family/comment-page-1/>

[Images for is-technology-killing-your-family](#)

Teens spend 9 hours a day using media, report says - CNN

(CNN) You probably won't be surprised to hear that a new report found that teens and tweens spend a lot of time watching TV, videos and movies, playing video games, reading, listening to music and checking social media, but you might be somewhat shocked (I was!) by just how much time. On any given day, teens in the United States spend about nine hours using media for their enjoyment, [according to the report by Common Sense Media](#), a nonprofit focused on helping children, parents and educators navigate the world of media and technology.

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/03/health/teens-tweens-media-screen-use-report/>

[Images for Teens spend 9 hours a day using media, report says - CNN](#)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2015/11/03/teens-spend-nearly-nine-hours-every-day-consuming-media/?utm_term=.6d65ef56f2c8
<https://www.medicaldaily.com/its-no-surprise-teens-spend-9-hours-day-using-media-heres-how-we-can-turn-positive-359992>
<https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/teenagers-spend-9-hours-per-day-consuming-media/>
[Images for teenagers-spend-9-hours-per-day-consuming-media/](#)

Television: Decreasing Level of Competency | The Trust Edge

Why is there a lack of trust in businesses, organizations and relationships? There is a lack of competency. To be successful there should be an increased level of learning and expanding of the brain. How do you do this? Read. Read everything.

Americans today spend more time watching television than they do reading a book. Next time you go to pick up the remote, take a second and think about a book that may help improve your level of competency.

<https://davidhorsager.com/television-decreasing-level-of-competency-the-trust-edge/>

[Images for Television: Decreasing Level of Competency | The Trust Edge](#)

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4396221.David_Horsager

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4396221.David_Horsager

<https://www.amazon.com/David-Horsager/e/B004F1GYBO>

[Images for author David Horsager](#)

The Screen -Summer, 2012 - Word & World - Luther Seminary

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3639 [Keeping It Real](#) Frederick J. Gaiser

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3642 [A Screen-Based World: Finding the Real in the Hyper-Real](#)

Andrew Root

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3641 [Critical Vision: Word and Image in the Postmodern Age](#) Sara

R. Danger

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3645 [Engaging Our Imagination, Empathy, and Angst: How TV](#)

[Shapes Community](#) Theresa F. Latini

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/32-3_The_Screen/32-3_Hess.pdf

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3644 [Life on Screen and Other Musings on Faith, Food, and Media](#)

Mary Hess

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3646 [Mobile Learning for Congregations](#) Ryan Torma

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3640 [The Ten Commandments 2.0](#) Adam J. Copeland

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3643 [Virtual Church](#) Clint A. Schnekloth

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3650 [Sanctuary as Cinema? Ignore Learning Styles at Your Own](#)

[Risk](#) Amber Marten Bergeson

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3651 [Sanctuary as Cinema? Screens Should Not Block the Story](#)

Kevin D. Bergeson

Issues - Word & World

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=127 THE SCREEN. Vol. 32, No 3, Summer, 2012. Publication

Date:7/1/2012

[Images for The Screen -Summer, 2012 – Word & World - Luther Seminary](#)

What? You Don't Have a TV! | Adam J. Copeland

Megan and I are part of the 1% — we don't have a television. In fact, we haven't for over five years (well, ten years, if roommates' TVs don't count). The decision to eschew a television was not one we pondered for long. It was not a measured countercultural stand against multinational corporations' braincell-destroying dross called "entertainment" these days. Rather, we just figured, "Nah, guess we don't really want a TV."

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2011/11/01/what-you-don%E2%80%99t-have-a-tv-part-1/>

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2011/11/03/what-you-dont-have-a-tv-part-2/>

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2011/11/16/what-you-dont-have-a-tv-part-3/>

[Images for What? You Don't Have a TV! | Adam J. Copeland](#)

https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=acopeland001

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/about/>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/adam-j-copeland>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/rev-adam-j-copeland>

<https://twitter.com/ajc123?lang=en>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/adam-j-copeland/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Adam-J.-Copeland/e/B00M32Q8OU>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/9556789.Adam_J_Copeland

[Images for Adam J. Copeland, author and sem professor](#)

Why My Kids Don't Watch TV: We are the 1% - LauraGT

The research is clear: TV watching, especially in excess, contributes to obesity, poorer academic performance, and increased aggression and fearfulness. So, why do so many parents ignore American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations to limit TV viewing among children?

<http://lauragt.hubpages.com/hub/Why-My-Kids-Dont-Watch-TV-We-are-the-1-percent>

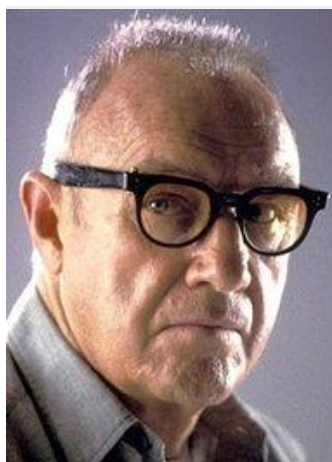
[Images for Why My Kids Don't Watch TV: We are the 1% - LauraGT](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/abi-cotler-oroarty/kids-tv_b_848864.html)
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/abi-cotler-oroarty/kids-tv_b_848864.html
<https://www.munkymind.com/blog/2016/01/29/this-is-what-happens-when-kids-dont-watch-television-i-guess/>
<https://www.parenting.com/article/tv-news-too-violent-for-children>
http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/technology/2011/10/how_much_tv_should_kids_watch_why_doctors_prohibitions_on_screen.html
<https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/family-living/kids-media-safety/television/babies-television/#.Wui7HljwaUk>
<http://nemorin.com/news/kids-dont-watch-tv-anymore/>

19) Being reminded of...

One winter Saturday afternoon on a lakefront where I was attending a community fundraiser, a member of the Call Committee came up to me and told me that he had a dream about me the previous night. I was supposed to have appeared in his dream as an imposing linebacker on an opposing high school football team that he went up against when he was younger. Among other things, the football player in his dream wore black athletic glasses. The next afternoon at a carnival event in the church put on by the youth, a father came up to me and told me that when he first met me (7 months earlier), I reminded him of Gene Hackman in the movie *Enemy of the State*. Again, the black glasses. Usually, on other occasions, when people ask me about the glasses, I reply with the quip, "If this style was good enough for *Buddy Holly*, the style is good enough for me." What I realized, though, is that for better or worse people form impressions based on being reminded of...



Lowell Bolstad



Gene Hackman



Buddy Holly

Resources

[INTP] [People which remind you of someone - Personality Cafe](#)

This is a discussion on *People which remind you of someone* within the INTP Forum - The Thinkers forums, part of the NT's Temperament Forum- The Intellectuals category; Have you ever encountered these people who remind you of someone? Who resemble a person who you know, or once ...

<https://www.personalitycafe.com/intp-forum-thinkers/165693-people-remind-you-someone.html>

[Images for \[INTP\] People which remind you of someone - Personality Cafe](#)

[What does it mean when someone says you remind me of someone I know?](#)

<https://www.quora.com/What-does-it-mean-when-someone-says-you-remind-me-of-someone-I-know>

[Images for What does it mean when someone says you remind me of someone I know?](#)

<https://www.quora.com/What-does-it-mean-when-someone-says-you-look-like-someone-else>

[Images for What does it mean when someone says you look like someone else](#)

20) Learning from a financial planner

When my father turned 80, he started to decline physically and mentally. When he made an uncharacteristic financial misstep, the brothers suggested that a financial planner be enlisted to give advice. Two reputable firms in West Des Moines, Iowa were recommended. Dad, my brothers, and I went to the first place: a shiny building with a recognizable name and a big parking lot. An administrative assistant in high heels took us to a conference room with leather chairs and projection. Two young men born after 1980 walked in together with their files. One wore a pink tie. The other talked about how he had just bought a big boat and was planning on going up north that weekend. It seemed like they were best suited for young upwardly mobile urban professionals. We went to the second place in a modest office on a side street. We could quickly tell he had done his homework with the previously submitted information. He listened patiently to my father even as my father demonstrated difficulty recounting all the figures. He thanked my father for his service to the country in armed combat in the Korean War. He showed respect when my father haltingly told him about his war injury, which bothered him his whole life. He commended him for buying a farm in Northeastern Montana upon returning from the war. "Best financial decision you ever made, Harold!" We decided to go with the second financial planner.

Resources

Choosing a Financial Adviser by Center for Stewardship Leaders - Luther Seminary

In today's world, most of us would benefit from a financial adviser. That doesn't mean we ignore or remove ourselves from our own financial responsibilities, but life and finances have become far more complicated, and having someone guide us along makes sense. This may very well be part of what it means to be a good steward.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4476>

[Images for Choosing a Financial Adviser by Center for Stewardship Leaders - Luther Seminary](#)

Choosing The Right Financial Adviser - Forbes

Creating, executing and managing a robust financial plan with an IFA is arguably the most effective method to attain sustainable financial freedom.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesfinancecouncil/2018/03/14/choosing-the-right-financial-advisor/#1440f554169c>

[Images for Choosing The Right Financial Adviser - Forbes](#)

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/laurashin/2013/05/09/10-questions-to-ask-when-choosing-a-financial-advisor/#6ae7fca7d9d>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lizfrazierpeck/2017/04/26/4-easy-steps-to-choosing-a-financial-advisor/#30701fd72785>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesfinancecouncil/2017/02/16/advice-for-choosing-a-financial-advisor-you-can-trust/#2822bd5a2ffe>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/deborahljacobs/2013/01/03/how-to-choose-a-financial-advisor/#10734c734774>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/financialfinesse/2015/03/11/how-to-choose-a-financial-advisor/#1c13e9803f9c>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/financialfinesse/2016/09/08/how-to-choose-a-financial-planner-in-the-top-2/#7414a9443c0e>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/christopheryoung/2017/12/20/shopping-for-a-financial-advisor-consider-the->

[intangibles/#186447512c34](#)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rogerma/2017/01/04/5-things-to-look-for-when-picking-a-financial-advisor/#1aa24f891fc4>

21) Deer Hunting and Thanksgiving

When I was studying at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN (1975-79), a recent grad wrote back to tell about life in her first call in the Northern District of Wisconsin of the American Lutheran Church. She said the people in Wisconsin have their own way of defining the seasons. She was used to the nature seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter as well as the seasons of the church year of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, but she discovered that people in Northwest Wisconsin divided the year into the following seasons: before deer hunting season, during deer hunting season, and after deer hunting season. When I accepted my first call in the Northern District of Wisconsin of the American Lutheran Church, I discovered this to be the case. Deer hunting is 10 days either side of Thanksgiving. To begin with, I offered a Thanksgiving Day service of worship. Then, more congregations went to a Thanksgiving Eve service of worship. Now, many congregations do not offer a service of worship on either Thanksgiving Day or Thanksgiving Eve. One year, I offered a Thanksgiving Service and a Blessing of Hunters on the Sunday 11 days before Thanksgiving Day. I don't hunt deer, but a deer hit my 2005 Ford Focus on 4/2/2017, and it was considered a total loss. Another deer hit my 2015 Ford Fiesta on 4/17/2017. Fortunately, the vehicle could be repaired.

Listen | Wisconsin Public Radio

Wisconsin's cultural phenomenon known as the **gun deer hunt** is less than three weeks away! Joy Cardin's guest previews this year's season with regard to new herd research, the role citizens will play in deer management, recruiting new hunters and what makes hunting in the state so enjoyable.

<http://www.wpr.org/listen/283401>

[Images for Wisconsin's cultural phenomenon known as the gun deer hunt](#)

22) On tribal loyalties, spirits, and conflict resolution

The following article gave me occasion to reflect on the larger context of society and how preaching can speak to people.

Man uses stun gun on his wife to settle bet on Monday Night Football

Bears fan John Grant made an appearance in Dodge County Circuit Court Tuesday, one day after using an electric stun gun on his wife Nicole, a Packers fan — to settle what he said was a bet on the result of Monday Night Football. John and Nicole Grant, from Illinois, were in a Mayville, Wisconsin, bar Monday night to watch the game between the Packers and Bears. John said that his wife agreed to a bet that would allow him to use a stun gun on her should the Packers lose, according to [fdlreporter.com](#). Following the Bears' victory, Nicole Grant called police from a nearby bowling alley, after John Grant had shocked her with the taser three times. Via [fdlreporter.com](#):

During questioning, the Illinois man told police that his wife consented to being shocked by the stun gun as part of a bet. Grant said his wife sent a text message to her sons saying that, if the Packers lost to the Bears, she would allow Grant to use the stun gun on her. The man showed police the woman's cell phone containing the text as well as a video in which she appears to be laughing as the stun gun is being used on her, according to the complaint.

Nicole Grant told police she didn't think her husband would actually use the Taser on her.

The Grants work for an out-of-state trucking firm, and John Grant told police that he purchased the stun guns in Virginia and was unaware they are illegal to possess in Wisconsin. Both of the Grants registered a blood alcohol level above .1 percent, according to [fdlreporter.com](#).

John Grant was charged with [possession of an electric weapon](#), and could face a fine of \$10,000 and up to six years in prison if convicted.

<http://ftw.usatoday.com/2013/11/bears-packers-man-uses-stun-gun-on-wife/>

[Images for Man uses stun gun on his wife to settle bet on Monday Night Football](#)

A follow-up article to the first article telling how the charges were reduced and the case eventually settled became the setting for preaching on 2EpiphanyC John 1:29-42a in which Jesus asks the existential question of the human condition, "What are you looking for?" and extends the good news invitation, "Come and see."

Man fined after Bears-Packers bet leads to stunning wife

MAYVILLE, Wis., Jan. 20 (UPI) - The Wisconsin man who used a stun gun on his wife outside a bar as the culmination of a bet on a Bears-Packers game has been fined \$250. John Grant, who was arrested Nov. 4 after using a Taser on his wife, Nicole, outside a Mayville bar, accepted a plea deal Jan. 9 and was fined \$250 for disorderly conduct, WISN-TV, Milwaukee, reported Monday.

http://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2014/01/20/Man-fined-after-Bears-Packers-bet-leads-to-stunning-wife/UPI-88211390247787/
[Images for Man fined after Bears-Packers bet leads to stunning wife](#)

People gain a sense of identity in various ways. In this story, a husband gained a sense of identity from one professional football team, while his wife gained a sense of identity from another professional football team.



File: Bears v Packers 02.jpg - Wikimedia Commons

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bears_v_Packers_02.jpg
[Images for Bears v Packers](#)

Jesus with his invitation, "Come and see," offers an ultimate identity that transcends all tribal loyalties.

Alcohol emerged as a big factor as how this couple related to each other in this incident. Once, when giving a bible study at the Trempealeau County Jail, I matter-of-factly asked the inmates the reason for their ending up in confinement. Over 80% spoke of factors related to or resulting from the misuse and abuse of alcohol and drugs. I responded that everyone needs some sort of **spirit** as a motivating influence in their lives. Some look for it in alcohol and drugs, while others look to the Spirit of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. I encouraged them to look to Jesus.

Renounce Pagan Ways

¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph. 5:18-20 - oremus Bible Browser

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Eph.+5%3A18-20&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>

[Images for Renounce Pagan Ways 18Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit](#)

Differences are a given in life. The secret to life is how to deal with differences. In the above story, the husband and wife agreed to settle a bet with a weapon. The life of faith offers more positive ways to settle differences.

Hearing and Doing the Word

¹⁹Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

James 1:19-20 ESV - Hearing and Doing the Word

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A19-20&version=ESV>

[Images for Hearing and Doing the Word 19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger](#)

23) Anchor or propeller?

An installed pastor related to me that he accepted a call to a congregation because the leadership seemed committed to engage youth and young adults. He used the metaphor of a boat to say, "Some are anchors, other propellers," which I took to mean that he considered some congregations are content to sit still, while others want to move forward.

Propeller vs Anchor - What's the difference? | WikiDiff

As nouns the difference between **propeller** and **anchor**

Is that **propeller** is one who, or that which, propels while **anchor** is (nautical) a tool used to moor a vessel to the bottom of a sea or river to resist movement.

As a verb **anchor** is to hold an object, especially a ship or a boat to a fixed point.

<http://wikidiff.com/propeller/anchor>

[Images for Propeller vs Anchor - What's the difference? | WikiDiff](#)

24) If they don't even want to show up for a job, will they ever want to come to services of worship?

The man sat in the front of the church on the pulpit side with his wife at the 10:15am worship service along with 20+ other attendees on my first Sunday. After the service of worship, I headed to the parade for the community fair in a city of 1,852 (2016) 9 miles away. As I was walking along the parade route, I ran into him, and he started talking. His family and relatives were gathered in the front lawn as had been the tradition for years. After learning about his personal and family history, I inquired about his work setting. He replied that he served in the military for 20 years and now worked as a supervisor at a local factory. Then, unprompted, he went on to explain, "We can't find workers. Many who apply can't pass the drug test. Others who come don't stay. It's not like the work is that hard. I think many of the young simply want to get paid but not have to work. They don't want to be employees. I don't know what's going to happen in the next generation."

Resources

Exhortation to be diligent

¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat.

[oremus Bible Browser: 2 Thess. 3:10](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=2+Thess+3%3A10&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>

[Images for exhortation to be diligent](#)

How to Manage (and Avoid) Entitled Employees - NYTimes

Ms. Haines said entitlement manifested itself in the following workplace traits: a resistance to feedback, an inclination to overestimate talents and accomplishments, a tendency to be demanding and overbearing and to blame others for mistakes, and little sense of team loyalty. Sound familiar?

People who exhibit this behavior have difficulty adapting to new situations and are not agreeable because they see themselves as being the benchmark against which the behavior of others should be judged. Some researchers have described entitled people as having arrested emotional development, functioning as if they are about 6 years old with needs that must be met first. This is especially hard for business owners — most of whom come from a discipline of delayed gratification — to grapple with.

<http://boss.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/23/managing-and-avoiding-entitled-employees/>

[Images for How to Manage \(and Avoid\) Entitled Employees - NYTimes](#)

Narcissistic and Entitled to Everything! Does Gen Y Have Too Much Self-Esteem?

The result of these child-rearing practices has been a measurable increase in narcissism and a generation that has a deeply embedded sense of entitlement, according to authorities like Dr. Jean Twenge, author of *Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled and More Miserable Than Ever*. Dr. Twenge of San Diego State University studied more than 16,400 students who took the Narcissistic Personality Inventory between 1982 and 2006. In 1982, only a third of the students scored above average on the test. Today that number is over 65%.

<http://aspeneducation.crchealth.com/articles/article-entitlement/>

[Images for Narcissistic and Entitled to Everything! Does Gen Y Have Too Much Self-Esteem?](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Generation-Americans-Confident-Assertive-Entitled/dp/1476755566>

[Images for Generation-Americans-Confident-Assertive-Entitled](#)

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

[Images for generationme](#)

25) Is the church just another venue?

A part-time parish office secretary who also served as a church secretary at a neighboring church related how a caterer for the funeral lunch at the other church gave unsolicited advice to her in which the caterer referred to the church as a venue. This same parish office secretary told how another time at the other church a non-member family wanted to use the church for a funeral. They acted in a rude manner, objected to the fee, decorated the fellowship hall to their liking, and then left it for the custodian to clean up. The parish office secretary reflected, "The church is not just another venue."

26) Times, they are changing

I ran across the history of one congregation that included this description of Vacation Bible School:

In March 1906, Pastor W. H. Lahr came to serve the congregation...

Summer Vacation Bible School was also begun, with the pastor teaching all the classes. School lasted six weeks with regular school hours. They studied not only the Bible, but also the German language. At the end of the summer there was a "Kinderfest," a picnic in the woods at the corner of E and 29.

By way of contrast, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes put on a one-day multi-sport camp with (4) 5-minute devotionals throughout the day for the Vacation Bible School in the parish 110 years later:

Activities will include: Soccer, Kickball, Football, Running, Wiffle Ball, Volleyball, Gymnastics
Instruction – Inspiration – Competition

27) How do you expect the new pastor to come on the scene and magically attract people to church?

This story comes under the rubric: "If you raised your sons and daughters in the faith, and they don't come to church anymore, how do you expect the new pastor to come on the scene and magically attract them to church?" I included the following in my monthly report:

I found out pretty early on that the church secretary stated her opinions. At the 2nd meeting with her 8 days after I started, she volunteered, "I liked (the previous pastor). She tried to help everybody get along with each other. But I liked (the pastor before) even more because he challenged people to come to church and inquired why they weren't coming."

I then asked her, "How about your children?"

She was proud of one daughter who attended a large non-denominational church in a large city in the deep south but admitted that her son wanted nothing to do with church, and the other daughter only attended on special occasions. I asked about other parents active in the church. One by one, she reluctantly admitted that their children no longer came to church?

I then asked her, "Where do you think this congregation will be in 10 years." She replied, "I hope that we will still have worship services, but I don't see people involved in activities beyond that."

Why Dying Churches Die - ThomRainer.com

2. They are still waiting on the "magic bullet" pastor.

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/08/dying-churches-die/>

Images for Why Dying Churches Die - ThomRainer.com 2. They are still waiting on the "magic bullet" pastor.

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/07/ten-roadblocks-church-revitalization/>

#5

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/09/10-reasons-church-revitalizations-often-fail-rainer-leadership-360/>

#5

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/06/six-stages-dying-church/>

#2

Images for thom rainer (author)

28) Left behind

A woman in her 70s told how her 21-year-old grandson graduated on a Saturday in mid-December with a degree in mechanical engineering from UW-Stout in Menomonie, WI and began a new job for \$65,000 a year the following Wednesday. The grandson came back to the village with a population of 660 in the second poorest county of the state to visit his grandparents when he could. This woman led the practices for the Christmas program each year. "I just love kids," she said. When I was sitting at a table with some of the kids having lunch for the Wednesday after school educational ministry, I overheard one of them say, "In ten years this place is going to be a ghost town."

Resources

Census Bureau Report Shows Rural America is Being Left Behind

Rural America is struggling. As blue-collar jobs move overseas and people flock to major cities in an increasingly knowledge-based economy, rural America is being left behind in the next wave of economic growth.

<https://policyinterns.com/2017/09/15/census-bureau-report-shows-rural-america-is-being-left-behind/>

Images for Rural America is Being Left Behind

<https://reason.com/blog/2018/01/09/if-rural-americans-are-being-left-behind>

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2016/12/a-complex-portrait-of-rural-america/509828/>

Images for complex-portrait-of-rural-america

Fifty Years of Demographic Change in Rural America – Population Reference Bureau

Today, thanks to the mechanization of agriculture, years of out-migration by young people, and reduced fertility among those left behind, just 3 million people...

www.prb.org/Publications/.../FiftyYearsofDemographicChangeinRuralAmerica.aspx

Images for Fifty Years of Demographic Change in Rural America – out-migration by young people

<https://publicpolicy.wharton.upenn.edu/live/news/2393-rural-america-is-losing-young-people->

<https://publicpolicy.wharton.upenn.edu/live/news/2393-rural-america-is-losing-young-people->

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/84d8/994062b47181418a6e2064fe261904ff7ead.pdf> [PDF] Rural Youth Outmigration

Images for Rural Youth Outmigration

<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-06-20/rural-america-is-aging-and-shrinking>

Images for rural-america-is-aging-and-shrinking

The Left Behind: Decline and Rage in Rural America: Robert Wuthnow

How a fraying social fabric is fueling the outrage of rural Americans

What is fueling rural America's outrage toward the federal government? Why did rural Americans vote overwhelmingly for Donald Trump? And, beyond economic and demographic decline, is there a more nuanced explanation for the growing rural-urban divide? Drawing on more than a decade of research and hundreds of interviews, Robert Wuthnow brings us into America's small towns, farms, and rural communities to paint a rich portrait of the moral order--the interactions, loyalties, obligations, and identities—underpinning this critical segment of the nation. Wuthnow demonstrates that to truly understand rural Americans' anger, their culture must be explored more fully.

We hear from farmers who want government out of their business, factory workers who believe in working hard to support their families, town managers who find the federal government unresponsive to their communities' needs, and clergy who say the moral climate is being undermined. Wuthnow argues that rural America's fury stems less from specific economic concerns than from the perception that Washington is distant from and yet threatening to the social fabric of small towns. Rural dwellers are especially troubled by Washington's seeming lack of empathy for such small-town norms as personal responsibility, frugality, cooperation, and common sense. Wuthnow also shows that while these communities may not be as discriminatory as critics claim, racism and misogyny remain embedded in rural patterns of life.

Moving beyond simplistic depictions of the residents of America's heartland, *The Left Behind* offers a clearer picture of how this important population will influence the nation's political future.

<https://www.amazon.com/Left-Behind-Divide-Rural-America/dp/069117766X>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/36854825-the-left-behind>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-left-behind-robert-wuthnow/1127137993#/>

<https://press.princeton.edu/titles/11239.html>

<https://www.princeton.edu/news/2018/02/22/wuthnow-discusses-left-behind-divide-and-rage-rural-america>

<https://www.vox.com/2018/3/13/17053886/trump-rural-america-populism-racial-resentment>

<https://www.motherjones.com/kevin-drum/2018/03/which-party-has-been-better-for-the-white-working-class/>

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-691-17766-3> Nonfiction Book Review

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/robert-wuthnow/the-left-behind/>

www.patheos.com/blogs/leithart/2018/01/left-behind-2/

<https://maximinlaw.wordpress.com/2018/03/16/new-book-the-left-behind-divide-and-rage-in-rural-america/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/books/reviews/article-review-robert-wuthnows-the-left-behind-asks-whats-really-fuelling/>

<https://www.aetherial.net/blog/book-review-left-behind/book-review-the-left-behind-divide-and-rage-in-rural-america>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBv2XhBp3is> Is Rural America Being Left Behind? - YouTube

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Wuthnow/e/B000APPC3K>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/170297.Robert_Wuthnow

Images for Robert Wuthnow

Images for *The Left Behind: Divide and Rage in Rural America*: Robert Wuthnow

29) Dominant culture to countercultural

I was 12 years old in 1965, the same age as The Boy Jesus in the Temple as told in Luke 2:41-52. 1965 was "The numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States occurred in the year 1965."¹

Being the Church Today - Alban Institute

The numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States occurred in the year 1965.¹ That was the year that the largest percentages of American people affiliated with and attended church. More Americans were going to church than at any other time in U.S. history.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » Being the Church Today - Alban Institute

<https://alban.org/archive/being-the-church-today/>

<http://www.amazon.com/Healthy-Esteem-Ministry-Membership-Church/dp/0881773727>

Page 10

http://www.ewaldsynod.org/images/E_Apr_16_CC_HiRes.pdf • The peak year for ELCA (and predecessor church bodies) membership and financial support was 1965.

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

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

At that time, the church was considered to be part of the dominant culture. At the same time, powerful forces for change were stirring, which were generally considered to be counter cultural. Now, 50+ years later, the church is being disestablished. Could it be that at some point the church will be considered counter cultural?

The Church: Dominant, Sub-, or Countercultural? - Faith Beyond Belief

I want to say that there is another way: a third way between being a major player in the dominant culture (a role no longer available to us anyways) and being an inwardly focused subculture only concerned with the issues that the greater society allows us. This third way is being a counterculture. In the role of counterculture, the Church actually begins to revert to its original model provided by the pages of Scripture.

<http://www.faithbeyondbelief.ca/2016/01/21/the-church-dominant-sub-or-countercultural/>

Images for *The Church: Dominant, Sub-, or Countercultural? - Faith Beyond Belief*

30) Faithful Remnant

I talked with a 97-year-old farmer by telephone on the second day of my assignment at one setting. He lamented that without a driver's license he felt like a "calf confined to a pen." He told me that his wife had recently been admitted to the nursing home. I went to see her the next day. When I related what he had said, she replied, "He's threatened to drive his tractor to church, but the daughters told him, 'Dad, don't you dare do that!'". I got a chuckle out of the story at the time, and, afterwards, I gained an even greater appreciation for the faithful remnant who attend regularly and give generously.

Remnant (Bible) - Wikipedia

The remnant is a recurring theme throughout the [Hebrew](#) and [Christian Bible](#). The [Anchor Bible Dictionary](#) describes it as "What is left of a community after it undergoes a catastrophe".^[1]

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remnant_\(Bible\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remnant_(Bible))

[Images for Remnant \(Bible\)](#)

The next visit, I mentioned his desire to come to church again. She related that another older man in the congregation, who didn't own a car but got around on a bicycle and a tractor offered to drive out to the farm to pick him up and give him a ride on the tractor. Understandably, the daughters did not allow that course of action either. I realized that, once those born prior to 1945 pass from the scene, for the most part, duty will have been replaced by discretion, and attendance at services of worship for many will simply be one option among many from which to choose depending on whether they think it meets their needs and fits their schedule.

Resources

Churches Adjust Schedule to Fit into Today's Lifestyle

Heather Adams admits she had become a little selfish and a little busy when trying to find time to attend Sunday services at her Lutheran church in Manchester. Between working, a husband and a new baby, Adams uses Sundays to catch up on chores, spend time with her [family](#) and get ready for the new workweek.

"I just can't get to church on Sundays," said Adams.

But she still goes to church -- twice-a-month Saturday evening [services](#) at Concordia Lutheran Church. "Things are a lot different for people now than they were when my parents or grandparents were growing up."

http://articles.courant.com/1997-02-15/features/9702150014_1_worship-sundays-family-and-church

[Images for Churches Adjust Schedule to Fit into Today's Lifestyle](#)

Millennials leaving church in droves, study says - CNN.com

Looking at the long view, the generational spans are striking. Whereas 85% of the silent generation (born 1928-1945) call themselves Christians, just 56% of today's younger millennials (born 1990-1996) do the same, even though the vast majority -- about eight in 10 -- were raised in religious homes. Each successive generation of Americans includes fewer Christians, Pew has found.

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/12/living/pew-religion-study/>

[Images for Millennials leaving church in droves, study says](#)

Worship at the Next Level: Insight from Contemporary Voices

Unwilling to follow their parents' lead, they grew up distrusting established ... not out of loyalty, duty, obligation, or gratitude, but [only if it meets their needs](#). ... kind of music a church offers increasingly defines the kind of person who will attend, ...

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1498222978>

[Images for Worship at the Next Level: Insight from Contemporary Voices](#)

31) Dismissive or appreciative?

Many of the 54 congregations I have served as of 4/15/2020 have been small in number. I have had to make a choice in my approach -- be dismissive or appreciative.

APPRECIATIVE | definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary

[showing](#) that you [understand](#) how good something is, or are [grateful](#) for something:

It's [nice](#) to have an appreciative [audience](#).

I'm very appreciative of all the [support](#) you've given me.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/appreciative>

[Images for APPRECIATIVE | definition](#)

Dismissive | Definition of Dismissive by Merriam-Webster

: serving to [dismiss](#) or reject someone or something : having or showing a disdainful attitude toward someone or something regarded as unworthy of serious attention

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dismissive>

[Images for Dismissive | Definition of Dismissive](#)

Very few pastors lead congregations the size of North Point Community Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Big churches are better, megachurch pastor says; attending small church is 'selfish'

Stanley, the senior pastor of North Point Community Church in the Atlanta metro area, said he's tired of people complaining that they don't want to attend a big church.

"If you don't go to a large church, you are so stinking selfish," Stanley said in his Feb. 28 sermon.

Stanley said children who attend big churches have a better chance to make friends, while children who attend small churches grow up hating church.

"When I hear adults say, 'Well I don't like a big church, I like about 200, I want to be able to know everybody,' I say,

'You are so stinking selfish. You care nothing about the next generation. All you care about is you and your five

friends. You don't care about your kids...anybody else's kids.' You're like, 'What's up?' I'm saying if you don't go to a

church large enough where you can have enough Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers to separate them so they can have small groups and grow up in the local church, you are a selfish adult. Get over it. Find yourself a big old church where your kids can connect with a bunch of people and grow up and love the local church."

https://www.al.com/living/2016/03/big_churches_are_better_megach.html

[Images for Big churches are better, megachurch pastor says: attending small church is 'selfish'](#)

Pastors serving in small or large congregations can serve and lead effectively when showing appreciation for the gifts God gives.

5 Reasons for You to Appreciate Your Church — Charisma Leader

5. [We should appreciate our churches because we are the bride of Christ](#). Jesus bled, suffered and died for His church, His bride. Jesus loves His church more than we could possibly imagine.

<https://ministrytodaymag.com/life/relationships/23261-5-reasons-for-you-to-appreciate-your-church>

[Images for We should appreciate our churches because we are the bride of Christ.](#)

32) Civil Religion – Moralistic Therapeutic Deism – Christianity prior to Constantine

Some observers of American religious life during the period of 1945 to 1965 contend that it was not as strong as it might have seemed because of an American civil religion.

Resources

Being the Church Today - Alban Institute

The numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States occurred in the year 1965.¹ That was the year that the largest percentages of American people affiliated with and attended church. More Americans were going to church than at any other time in U.S. history.

[Alban at Duke Divinity School » Being the Church Today - Alban Institute](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/being-the-church-today/>

<http://www.amazon.com/Healthy-Esteem-Ministry-Membership-Church/dp/0881773727>

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http://www.ewaldsynod.org/images/E_Apr_16_CC_HiRes.pdf • The peak year for ELCA (and predecessor church bodies) membership and financial support was 1965.

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

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

[Transitional Ministry Today: Successful Strategies for Churches and Pastors edited by Norman B. Bendroth](#)

[American Civil Religion](#)

What happened? The postwar boom of mainline churches was actually an anomaly. The end of the war, a flourishing economy and rising middle class, the threat of godless communism, and a set of shared values that weren't necessarily Christian fueled the ascendancy of church. Social theorists call the melding of Christian and American values "American civil religion."

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

Page 7

[Images for Transitional Ministry Today: Successful Strategies for Churches and Pastors edited by Norman B. Bendroth](#)

[Images for Social theorists call the melding of Christian and American values "American civil religion."](#)

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

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23811442-transitional-ministry-today>

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

https://books.google.com/books/about/Transitional_Ministry_Today.html?id=Oy7VBQAAQBAJ

http://www.pts.edu/Transitional_Ministry1

<http://www.pts.edu/UserFiles/File/continuing/2016%20Pittsburgh%20Week%20II%20letterIIa.pdf>

<http://imnedu.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2015-IMN-Conference-programpdf.pdf>

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Now in 2015 when this post was written, 50 years after "The numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States (which occurred in the year 1965,"¹ certain observers of American religious life contend that some of what passes for the Christian faith is actually Moralistic Therapeutic Deism.

[Moralistic therapeutic deism - Wikipedia](#)

Author's analysis

The authors say the system is "moralistic" because it "is about inculcating a moralistic approach to life. It teaches that central to living a good and happy life is being a good, moral person."^[5] The authors describe the system as being "about providing therapeutic benefits to its adherent" as opposed to being about things like "repentance from sin, of keeping the Sabbath, of living as a servant of a sovereign divine, of steadfastly saying one's prayers, of faithfully observing high holy days, of building character through suffering..."^[6] and further as "belief in a particular kind of God: one who exists, created the world, and defines our general moral order, but not one who is particularly personally involved in one's affairs—especially affairs in which one would prefer not to have God involved."^[7]

The remoteness of God in this kind of theism explains the choice of the term "Deism", even though "the Deism here is revised from its classical eighteenth-century version by the therapeutic qualifier, making the distant God selectively available for taking care of needs." It views God as "something like a combination Divine Butler and Cosmic Therapist: he's always on call, takes care of any problems that arise, professionally helps his people to feel better about themselves, and does not become too personally involved in the process."^[8]

The authors believe that “a significant part of [Christianity in the United States](#) is actually only tenuously Christian in any sense that is seriously connected to the actual historical Christian tradition, but has rather substantially morphed into Christianity’s misbegotten step-cousin, Christian Moralistic Therapeutic Deism.”^[9] CNN online featured an article, “More Teens Becoming Fake Christians” on Kenda Creasy Dean’s 2010 book *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church*. (Oxford University Press, 2010). She writes, “The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe, namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people...” She goes on to say that “if churches practice MTD in the name of Christianity, then getting teenagers to church more often is not the solution (conceivably it could make things worse). A more faithful church is the solution.... Maybe the issue is simply that the emperor has no clothes.”^[10]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moralistic_therapeutic_deism
[Images for Moralistic therapeutic deism](#)

Perhaps, this is the time to re-discover what made the Christian faith so important prior to Constantine the Great

Constantine the Great - Wikipedia

In February 313, Constantine met with Licinius in Milan, where they developed the Edict of Milan. The edict stated that Christians should be allowed to follow the faith without oppression.^[212] This removed penalties for professing Christianity, under which many had been martyred previously, and returned confiscated Church property. The edict protected from religious persecution not only Christians but all religions, allowing anyone to worship whichever deity they chose. A similar edict had been issued in 311 by Galerius, then senior emperor of the Tetrarchy; Galerius’ edict granted Christians the right to practice their religion but did not restore any property to them.^[213] The Edict of Milan included several clauses which stated that all confiscated churches would be returned as well as other provisions for previously persecuted Christians.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_the_Great
[Images for Constantine the Great](#)

that adherents were willing to die for their faith.

Tertullian - Wikiquote

Plures effimur, quoties metumur a vobis; semen est sanguis christianorum.

We multiply whenever we are mown down by you; the blood of Christians is seed.

Apologeticus, 50, s. 13.

Often quoted as ‘**The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.**’

Variant translation: As often as we are mown down by you, the more we grow in numbers; the blood of the Christians is the seed.

<https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Tertullian>
[Images for quote/Tertullian](#)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apologeticus>
[Images for Apologeticus by Tertullian](#)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertullian>
[Images for Tertullian](#)

33) Costly grace and cheap grace

When I was a freshman at Waldorf Junior College in 1971-72, I was introduced to *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

The Cost of Discipleship: Dietrich Bonhoeffer

One of the most important theologians of the twentieth century illuminates the relationship between ourselves and the teachings of Jesus

What can the call to discipleship, the adherence to the word of Jesus, mean today to the businessman, the soldier, the laborer, or the aristocrat? What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is his will for us today? Drawing on the Sermon on the Mount, Dietrich Bonhoeffer answers these timeless questions by providing a seminal reading of the dichotomy between “cheap grace” and “costly grace.” “Cheap grace,” Bonhoeffer wrote, “is the grace we bestow on ourselves...grace without discipleship.... Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must know.... It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life.”

The Cost of Discipleship is a compelling statement of the demands of sacrifice and ethical consistency from a man whose life and thought were exemplary articulations of a new type of leadership inspired by the Gospel and imbued with the spirit of Christian humanism and a creative sense of civic duty.

<https://www.amazon.com/Cost-Discipleship-Dietrich-Bonhoeffer/dp/0684815001>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/174834.The_Cost_of_Discipleship
<http://www.christianbook.com/dietrich-bonhoeffer-a-biography-revised/eberhard-bethge/9780800628444/pd/28446?event=AFF&p=1155287&>
<http://www.christianbook.com/letters-papers-from-prison/dietrich-bonhoeffer/9780684838274/pd/3>

https://www.cycledoctoralfactec.com/uploads/7/9/0/7/7907144/%5Bdietrich_bonhoeffer%5D_the_cost_of_discipleship_bokos-z1_.pdf
<https://books.google.com/books?id=ANfH1fmvBKIC>
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-cost-of-his-discipleship>
<https://www.growchristians.org/2019/04/09/dietrich-bonhoeffer-and-the-cost-of-discipleship-today/>
http://www.prayerfoundation.org/books/book_review_cost%20of_discipleship_bonhoeffer.htm
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cost_of_Discipleship
<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2723088-nachfolge>
<http://www.crossroad.to/Persecution/Bonhoeffer.html>
<http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Cost-of-Discipleship/Dietrich-Bonhoeffer/9780684815008>
<http://www.epm.org/blog/2007/Dec/4/dietrich-bonhoeffer-and-the-cost-of-discipleship>
<https://www.pinterest.com/checklist61/the-cost-of-discipleship/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Dietrich-Bonhoeffer/e/B001H6WDKQ>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/29333.Dietrich_Bonhoeffer
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/29333.Dietrich_Bonhoeffer
[Images for Dietrich Bonhoeffer, author](#)
[Images for Cost of Discipleship: Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#)

During my first quarter at Luther Seminary in 1975, I took a course on Dietrich Bonhoeffer from Dr. James Burtneiss. I learned that Bonhoeffer distinguished between costly grace and cheap grace.

In Memory – Story Magazine – Luther Seminary

James H. Burtneiss 1928-2006

Burtneiss' primary work was in Christian ethics, but he was best known for his scholarship of the life and works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=212

https://www.luthersem.edu/memorybook/default.aspx?memory_person_id=9

[Images for James H. Burtneiss 1928-2006](#)

Some who stay away from the church today practice a pseudo sophisticated form of works righteousness in Spiritual but not Religious (SBNR),

Spiritual but not religious - Wikipedia

"Spiritual but not religious" (SBNR), also known as "Spiritual but not affiliated" (SBNA), is a popular phrase and initialism used to self-identify a **life stance** of **spirituality** that takes issue with **organized religion** as the sole or most valuable means of furthering **spiritual growth**. Historically, the words *religious* and *spiritual* have been used synonymously to describe all the various aspects of the concept of religion,^[1] but in contemporary usage spirituality has often become associated with the interior **life** of the individual,^{[2][1]} placing an emphasis upon the **well-being** of the "**mind-body-spirit**",^{[3]:63} while religion refers to **organizational** or **communal** dimensions.^[1]

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

[Images for Spiritual but not religious](#)

while others who occasion the church today practice another kind of pseudo sophisticated form of works righteousness in Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD).

Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church by Kenda Creasy Dean (Author)

Based on the National Study of Youth and Religion--the same invaluable data as its predecessor, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*--Kenda Creasy Dean's compelling new book, *Almost Christian*, investigates why American teenagers are at once so positive about Christianity and at the same time so apathetic about genuine religious practice.

In *Soul Searching*, Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton found that American teenagers have embraced a "**Moralistic Therapeutic Deism**"--a hodgepodge of banal, self-serving, feel-good beliefs that bears little resemblance to traditional Christianity. But far from faulting teens, Dean places the blame for this theological watering down squarely on the churches themselves. Instead of proclaiming a God who calls believers to lives of love, service and sacrifice, churches offer instead a bargain religion, easy to use, easy to forget, offering little and demanding less. But what is to be done? In order to produce ardent young Christians, Dean argues, churches must rediscover their sense of mission and model an understanding of being Christian as not something you do for yourself, but something that calls you to share God's love, in

word and deed, with others. Dean found that the most committed young Christians shared four important traits: they could tell a personal and powerful story about God; they belonged to a significant faith community; they exhibited a sense of vocation; and they possessed a profound sense of hope. Based on these findings, Dean proposes an approach to Christian education that places the idea of mission at its core and offers a wealth of concrete suggestions for inspiring teens to live more authentically engaged Christian lives. Persuasively and accessibly written, *Almost Christian* is a wake-up call no one concerned about the future of Christianity in America can afford to ignore.



<https://www.amazon.com/Almost-Christian-Teenagers-Telling-American/dp/0195314840>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7592534-almost-christian>
<http://www.christianbook.com/almost-christian-teenagers-telling-american-church/kenda-dean/9780195314847/pd/314847>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/almost-christian-kenda-creasy-dean/1102261471>
<https://books.google.com/books?id=qlpnwK5S7FgC>
<http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/08/27/almost.christian/>
<http://nwmsynod.org/resources/almost-christian/>
http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/sites/default/files/transcripts/interview/KendaCreasyDean_on_Young_Peoples_Faith_Interview
<http://www.churchleaders.com/youth/youth-leaders-articles/145646-almost-christian-q-a-with-kenda-creasy-dean.html>
<http://www.thedivineconspiracy.org/Z5247A.pdf>
<https://byustudies.byu.edu/content/almost-christian-what-faith-our-teenagers-telling-american-church>
<http://www.dts.edu/reviews/kendra-creasy-dean-almost-christian>
www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/children--youth-research.html
http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0042/5177/NationalStudyYouth_Religion.pdf
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/29/how-to-reach-children-with-faith/>
<https://www.youthandchildrens.work/Past-Issues/2018/January-2018/Q-A-Kenda-Creasy-Dean>
<https://www.buffalolib.org/vufind/Record/1801987/Reviews>
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-19-531484-7> Nonfiction Book Review
<https://www.csmonitor.com/The-Culture/Religion/2010/1219/How-parents-keep-the-faith-The-rock-of-belief-is-at-home>
<http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Almost-Christian-Kenda-Creasy-Dean>
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/takeandread/2010/06/almost-christian-an-interview-with-kenda-creasy-dean/>
<http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0042/5174/AlmostChristianinaNutshell.pdf>
<http://kendadean.com/almost-christian/>
<http://youthandreligion.nd.edu/research-findings/books/almost-christian-what-the-faith-of-our-teenagers-is-telling-the-american-church/>
<https://albertmohler.com/2005/04/11/moralistic-therapeutic-deism-the-new-american-religion-2/>
<http://www.readthespirit.com/explore/almost-christian-3-kenda-creasy-dean-interview/>
<https://blog.emergingscholars.org/2016/02/book-response-almost-christian-by-kenda-creasy-dean/>
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2010-08/faith-nice-and-easy>
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-briggs/the-no-1-reason-teens-keep-their-faith-is-at-home_b_6067838.html
http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/201402/201402_100_Roots_and_Wings.cfm
<https://blog.oup.com/2010/09/teen-christian-faith/>
<http://churchleaders.com/youth/youth-leaders-articles/145646-almost-christian-q-a-with-kenda-creasy-dean.html>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcrvvGxeus> Lesson #11 - Kenda Creasy Dean (Almost Christian) - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WonTFMp0omo> MORALISTIC THERAPEUTIC DEISM - KENDA CREAMY DEAN EXPLAINS - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ6Kfvo4jc> Almost Christian: Whatever It Takes - YouTube
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moralistic_therapeutic_deism
<http://www.ptsem.edu/people/kenda-creasy-dean>
<http://books.upperroom.org/book-author/kenda-creasy-dean/>
<https://ministryincubators.com/about/who-are-we/kenda-dean/>
<https://www.ivpress.com/kenda-creasy-dean>
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/kenda-creasy-dean>
<https://www.facebook.com/Kenda-Creasy-Dean-146023605423872/>
<http://s3.amazonaws.com/ptsem/pdfs/kenda-creasy-dean-CV.pdf>
<http://aftesite.org/kenda-creasy-dean/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/episcoforma/youth-ministry-books-forma/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Kenda-Creasy-Dean/e/B001IOF5BG>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/48993.Kenda_Creasy_Dean

[Images for Kenda Creasy Dean \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church by Kenda Creasy Dean \(Author\)](#)

When the church in its efforts to get people inside the church doors transacts with the practitioners of SBNR and MTD on their terms, the church then, in my opinion, placates to cheap grace.

Quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks."

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/423945-cheap-grace-means-grace-sold-on-the-market-like-cheapjacks>

[Images for Dietrich Bonhoeffer: cheap grace](#)

<https://caffeinatedthoughts.com/2010/06/dietrich-bonhoeffer-cheap-grace-vs-costly-grace/>

<https://www.compellingtruth.org/cheap-grace.html>

<https://www.tvcreources.net/resource-library/articles/cheap-grace-and-the-costly-grace-of-lent>

https://www.archden.org/archbishops_writing/the-cost-of-discipleship-today/#.Xjq7uGhKiUk

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<https://www.facebook.com/TabernacleCommunity/posts/dietrich-bonhoeffer-cheap-grace-is-the-grace-we-bestow-upon-ourselves-cheap-grac/1566833823331278/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAOusd8jFfc> Cheap grace vs costly grace by Dietrich Bonhoeffer - YouTube

<https://www.sermonsearch.com/sermon-illustrations/2878/cheap-grace/>

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

<http://www.7habitsOfJesus.com/blog/preaching-law-gospel>

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer on "cheap grace" - Pinterest](#)

Marvin R. Jonasen (Author) points to "privatization of faith" as a reason why people have left the church and "the failure to embrace the true cost of discipleship" as a consequence.

Why Have All the People Gone: The State of the Christian Church in America by Rev. Marvin R. Jonasen (Author)

As church involvement declines across America, church-goers are asking where the people have gone. But the real question is not where, but why. Beginning with what is identified as the **privatization of faith**, Rev. Marvin Jonasen highlights ten consequences of such a privatized faith and what impact they are having on how the church is defined by church-goers and non-church-goers alike. Things such as idolatry of the building and traditions, denominational arrogance, worship wars, failure to engage in lifelong learning, lukewarm outreach, checkbook vs. Good Book battles, poor social ministry emphasis, unrealistic demands, the desire for warm fuzzies, and **the failure to embrace the true cost of discipleship**. These concerns each represent a significant problem, which is often denied and most certainly undermines the church's ability to answer its true calling. In his book, Rev. Jonasen exposes these problems and invites us into a conversation that seeks to discover solutions.

<https://www.amazon.com/Why-Have-All-People-Gone/dp/1448991811>

<http://www.revwriter.com/revwriter-resource/missional-leadership/#.XjrRj2hKiUk> 4 – Resources on Missional Leadership

<https://www.lutheransnw.org/content.cfm?id=440> Published From Our Synod

[Images for Why Have All the People Gone: The State of the Christian Church in America by Rev. Marvin R. Jonasen \(Author\)](#)

Lillian Daniel (Author) contends against SBNR and for the church.

When "Spiritual but Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church by Lillian Daniel (Author)

The phrase "I'm spiritual but not religious" has become a cliché. It's easy to find God amid the convenience of self-styled spirituality--but is it possible (and more worthwhile) to search for God through religion?

Minister and celebrated author Lillian Daniel gives a new spin on church with stories of what a life of faith can really be: weird, wondrous, and well worth trying. From a rock-and-roller sexton to a BB gun-toting grandma, a church service attended by animals to a group of unlikely theologians at Sing Sing, Daniel shows us a portrait of church that is flawed, fallible--and deeply faithful. With poignant reflections and sly wit, Daniel invites all of us to step out of ourselves, dare to become a community, and encounter a God greater than we could ever invent.

Humorous and sincere, this is a book about people finding God in the most unexpected of places: prisons, airports, yoga classes, committee meetings, and, strangest of all, right there in church.

<http://www.amazon.com/When-Spiritual-but-Religious-Enough/dp/1455523097>

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<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/when-spiritual-but-not-religious-is-not-enough-lillian-daniel/1111741695>

<https://www.christianbook.com/spiritual-not-religious-not-enough-surprising/lillian-daniel/9781455523108/pd/28345EB>

<https://episcopalshoppe.com/when-spiritual-but-not-religious-is-not-enough-seeing-god-in-surprising-places-even-the-church/>

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<http://jerichobooks.com/portfolio/when-spiritual-but-not-religious-is-not-enough-lillian-daniel/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2013/01/25/january-25-2013-rev-lillian-daniel-on-spiritual-but-not-religious/14570/>

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Books/Book-Reviews/2013/0114/When-Spiritual-But-Not-Religious-Is-Not-Enough>

<http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/When-Spiritual-But-Not-Religious-Is-Not-Enough-Interview.aspx>
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/19/us/examining-the-growth-of-the-spiritual-but-not-religious.html?_r=0
<http://www.lilliandaniel.com/>
<http://jonathanmeritt.religionnews.com/2013/08/13/answering-the-spiritual-but-religious-an-interview-with-lillian-daniel/>
<http://mcsletstalk.org/18.3/williamson/>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/march-web-only/spirituality-starts-in-pews.html>
<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2013/06/10/review-lillian-daniels-when-spiritual-but-not-religious-is-not-enough/>
<http://www.iwj.org/about/board/rev-dr-lillian-daniel>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWUz7IrTDDA> When Spiritual but Not Religious is Not Enough - Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Va9BFkX3LEU> Creative Ways to Engage Youth - Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel - YouTube
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2013/01/25/january-25-2013-rev-lillian-daniel-on-spiritual-but-not-religious/14570/>
<http://collegevilleinstitute.org/author/lilliandaniel/>
http://day1.org/1182-rev_dr_lillian_daniel
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/people-news/writers/lillian-daniel>
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2013/01/25/january-25-2013-rev-lillian-daniel-on-spiritual-but-not-religious/14570/>
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2013/01/25/january-25-2013-rev-lillian-daniel-on-spiritual-but-not-religious/14570/#spiritualnotreligious_excerpt
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/lillianfdaniel-219>
<https://www.questia.com/magazine/1G1-203896552/the-pastor-s-husband>
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/lillian-daniel>
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlgregg/2013/06/spiritual-and-religious-highlights-from-lillian-daniel-among-the-uus/>
<http://religionnews.com/2013/08/13/answering-the-spiritual-but-religious-an-interview-with-lillian-daniel/>
<https://www.uccresources.com/products/when-spiritual-but-not-religious-is-not-enough-seeing-god-in-surprising-places-even-the-church>
http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit_daily-devotional_spiritual-but-not-religious
<https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/pastor-and-author-lillian-daniel-falls-in-love-with-dubuque-12965533>
<https://www.amazon.com/Lillian-Daniel/e/B001JS2Z3M>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/794945.Lillian_Daniel
 Images for Lillian Daniel (Author)
 Images for When "Spiritual but Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church by Lillian Daniel (Author)

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton suggests it is possible to be both spiritual and religious.

Spiritual and religious - Living Lutheran

Is "Lutheran spirituality" an oxymoron? When we consider [Martin Luther](#) and the early reformers, we think of great theologians, prolific writers and musicians. We are well aware of Luther's earthy language and direct communication. But spirituality? Luther as mystic? Not so much. And yet, Luther was a deeply spiritual person who also cared for the spiritual well-being of his parishioners.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/03/spiritual-and-religious/>
 Images for Spiritual and religious - Living Lutheran STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON

34) Core Lutheran identity is theological and not cultural

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton insists that the core Lutheran identity is theological and not cultural.

Resources

Big look at Small Catechism - The Lutheran Magazine

STORY BY

ELIZABETH A. EATON

The Small Catechism became an important part of faith formation in families. Millions of us throughout the centuries and world have studied and memorized it. Catechism has been a rite of passage in the Lutheran movement. It could be argued that no other experience is more universally Lutheran than studying this little book — not language, not hymnody, not cuisine, not worship style. "What does this mean?" and "This is most certainly true" are two of the most recognizable phrases in Lutheranism.

Some argue that emphasizing our Lutheran identity is an impediment to dialogue and evangelism. I would argue that if we aren't clear about who we are and what we believe it's not possible to have deep and authentic encounters with others. It's hard to have meaningful give-and-take with mush.

There was a time in the 1980s when church growth experts urged us to shed denominational identity in favor of more generic, and so appealing, names for congregations. St. Paul Lutheran Church became the Church at Pheasant Run. It's like selling our inheritance for a mess of marketing pottage. Of course, we are baptized into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. Of course, our **identity** is in Christ and not in a 16th-century Augustinian monk. But there is something distinctive about our Lutheran voice that needs to be heard in ecumenical and interreligious conversations and in the public square. If we aren't clear about this, we run the risk of sliding into relativism.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12058
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/09/19047/>

[Images for Big look at Small Catechism - The Lutheran Magazine STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON](https://www.elca.org/About/Leadership/Churchwide-Officers/Presiding-Bishop)
<https://www.elca.org/About/Leadership/Churchwide-Officers/Presiding-Bishop>
<http://swampland.time.com/2013/08/18/meet-the-woman-who-will-lead-evangelical-lutherans-religious-but-not-spiritual/>
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

ELCA presiding bishop offers four emphases in understanding church

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), introduced four emphases that she has invited leaders to consider in their work as an understanding of this church. During her Feb. 28 report to the ELCA Conference of Bishops, an advisory body of the church that includes 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop and secretary, Eaton defined these understandings: "We are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and we are church for the sake of the world."

As she expounded on each of the four emphases, Eaton said that at the center "of our life together is worship, and at the center of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. We are in the faith formation business; not to get more members, not to get more market share, but to know Christ and Christ crucified."

<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7649>

[Images for ELCA presiding bishop offers four emphases in understanding church](#)

[Images for Eaton defined these understandings: "We are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and we are church for the sake of the world."](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zEi8p1ZwNI> We Are Church Together -ELCA Synod Assembly 2014 – YouTube

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/PB_Eaton_4_Emphases_Bible_Study_Leaders_Guide.pdf

<https://www.facebook.com/ELCABishopEaton/photos/do-you-know-bishop-eaton-s-four-emphases-in-understanding-the-ministry-and-work-o/1596728673753052/>

Time to get to know each other: And get ready to consider priorities, future directions of ELCA | The Lutheran

STORY BY

ELIZABETH A. EATON

Sometimes I just don't get us. We are the least likely of all people to speak enthusiastically about our church. I don't know if it is some cross-cultural Lutheran modesty that compels us to hide our light under a bushel, but the effect is that the ELCA is one of the best kept secrets — from ourselves.

Other people in this country and around the world value who we are as a church and the work we do in Jesus' name. Recently I was in the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan observing the work of the Lutheran World Federation. The Syrian refugees knew what is Lutheran. Our colleges and universities affirmed the value of a Lutheran education — our tradition of free inquiry, vocation and service to the neighbor. Chris Kimball, president of California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, proudly states that "Lutheran" is the school's middle name. Non-Lutheran students attending the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia refer to the school simply as "Lutheran." Lutheran Services in America is the largest social service-providing entity in the country, serving 1 in 50 Americans. I bet most of you reading this column didn't know that.

Of course, I understand that our primary identity is Christian, and that baptism doesn't make us Lutheran, it makes us part of the body of Christ. But the Lutheran witness to the gospel has something important and distinctive about it that is valued by other Christian and religious traditions, and by the secular world as well.

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

[Images for Time to get to know each other: And get ready to consider priorities, future directions of ELCA | The Lutheran STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Future_Directions_Paper_Called_Forward_Together_in_Christ.pdf

<https://elca.org/Resources/Future-Directions>

<https://www.elca.org/future>

What is 'Lutheran'? We have a particular way of understanding the Jesus story - The Lutheran Magazine

STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON

If culture and cuisine don't define us, our theology must. Lutherans have a very particular way of understanding the Jesus story. It's not a movement from unbridled freedom to submission. Rather, it's the story of God redeeming us from sin, death and the devil, setting us free from our bondage to sin so that, liberated and alive, we may serve God by serving the neighbor.

And it's not about our effort or goodness or hard work. It's about God's gracious will to be merciful.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12786

[Images for What is 'Lutheran'? We have a particular way of understanding the Jesus story - The Lutheran Magazine STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

What it means to be Lutheran - Living Lutheran

Neither culture nor behavior define what is distinctive about the Lutheran movement. It's our understanding of the gospel. The gospel word creates faith. The gospel word is judgment and promise. Faith created by this gospel word sets people free to serve the neighbor. The church's proper work is to proclaim the gospel word. You know, in the end, it's all about God's fierce and tender love that drives us to the cross, and there, at the very point of death, gives us life. The world deserves to hear the gospel—when the spotlight is on us, and when it is not.

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: bishop@elca.org.

35) A rostered minister Lutheran in name only

His name was listed on the clergy roster, the name Lutheran was included in the name of the congregation on the sign board, and the congregation he served remained affiliated organizationally to the extent it was beneficial to the congregation, but he gradually led them away theologically from the Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith. What he had learned growing up in home and congregation and studying at a church college and seminary as to Lutheran identity he no longer believed worked in relating to youth and young adults. He considered The Small Catechism by Martin Luther to be a relic of 500 years ago and used curriculum from non-denominational publishing houses for faith formation. He figured self-help preaching brought more people in the doors than law/gospel. He read church growth books, followed their bloggers, and attended their workshops. He regarded the primary criterion for pastoral ministry to be whatever works for those not connected to the faith. He paid particular attention to his appearance and mannerisms and spoke in a deprecatory manner of those rostered ministers who by comparison seemed uncouth.

36) Both witness and service, evangelism and justice

When I was growing up in the America Lutheran Church (ALC), which consisted largely of Scandinavian and German Lutherans in the Upper Midwest, during the time of "The numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States (which) occurred in the year 1965,"¹

Being the Church Today - Alban Institute

The numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States occurred in the year 1965.¹ That was the year that the largest percentages of American people affiliated with and attended church. More Americans were going to church than at any other time in U.S. history.

[Alban at Duke Divinity School » Being the Church Today - Alban Institute](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/being-the-church-today/>

<http://www.amazon.com/Healthy-Esteem-Ministry-Membership-Church/dp/0881773727>

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http://www.ewaldsynod.org/images/E_Apr_16_CC_HiRes.pdf • The peak year for ELCA (and predecessor church bodies) membership and financial support was 1965.

the ALC was sometimes referred to as the Republican Party at Prayer.

Resources

[Al Smith and the Republican Party at Prayer: The Lutheran Vote. 1928](#)

The 21 Lutheran bodies in America contained in their nearly four million members,² a massive cross section of the Northern European migrants to the United States: Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Icelanders and Finns. All of them, it was commonly said, unitedly held allegiance to the conservative party in America – so much so that they became popularly known as the "Republican Party at Prayer."³

http://www.jstor.org/stable/1405916?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

[Images for Al Smith and the Republican Party at Prayer: The Lutheran Vote. 1928](#)

[American Lutheran Church - Wikipedia](#)

The American Lutheran Church (ALC or sometimes TALC) was a [Christian Protestant denomination](#) in the United States and Canada that existed from 1960 to 1987. Its headquarters were in [Minneapolis, Minnesota](#). Upon its formation in 1960, the ALC designated [Augsburg Publishing House](#), also located in Minneapolis, as the church publisher. The *Lutheran Standard* was the official magazine of the ALC. The ALC's immigrant heritage came mostly from [Germany](#), [Norway](#), [Finland](#), [Sweden](#), and [Denmark](#), and its demographic center was in the [Upper Midwest](#) (with especially large numbers in [Minnesota](#)).

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

[An Interview with George Forell: September 6, 2001 - ELCA](#)

[9] I moved to Minnesota in 1946, after being a pastor in New Jersey and New York in a bilingual congregation. In Minnesota, I started as an assistant professor of Philosophy at Gustavus Adolphus College. And there I ran into a church that was really the [Republican party at prayer](#), partly because the political leaders of the Republican party in Minnesota were very wonderful Lutherans, like Luther Youngdahl.

<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/987>

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/15-1_Children/15-1_Forell.pdf

[Images for George Forell \(author\)](#)

[Because of Christ: Memoirs of a Lutheran Pastor-Theologian by Carl E. Braaten](#)

The saying was going around, "The [Lutheran church is the Republican Party at prayer](#)."

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<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802864716>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802864716>

<https://www.amazon.com/Because-Christ-Memoirs-Lutheran-Pastor-Theologian/dp/0802864716>

<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/199> Carl E. Braaten's Because of Christ: Memoirs of a Lutheran Theologian

<http://www.booksandculture.com/articles/webexclusives/2010/july/becausechrist.html>

http://www.layman.org/news529f/?upm_export=pdf [PDF] Leading Lutheran scholar: ELCA's liberal drift causing 'brain drain' from denomination
<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/8039/>
<http://themelios.thegospelcoalition.org/review/because-of-christ-memoirs-of-a-lutheran-theologian>
<http://metrolutheran.org/2010/12/lutheran-theologian-considers-aelcs-disproportionate-influence-on-the-elca/>
<http://worldcat.org/identities/lccn-n50043169/> Braaten, Carl E. 1929- [WorldCat Identities]
<https://www.amazon.com/Carl-E.-Braaten/e/B001HPBIVM>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/423559.Carl_E_Braaten
[Images for Carl E. Braaten, author](#)
[Images for Because of Christ: Memoirs of a Lutheran Theologian](#)

Now, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which is precipitously declining in membership (5.2 million in 1987 down to 3.4 million in 2019) and church participation

ELCA Churchwide Assembly declares ELCA sanctuary church - ELCA

Boerger also gave updates on actions that were taken during the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, including that the denomination has made "little progress" in moving toward the commitment of authentic diversity. He reported that at the end of 2015, the ELCA was 92% white and at the end of 2018, it was 94% white.

"Until it really is a commitment for the congregations of this church, the prospects of this change are very dim," he said. "As a white church we say the right words. We, the majority population of this church, need to do more than talk."

Boerger's report also included statistics on baptized membership, which continues to decline. There was a 2.8% decrease from 2017, which he said is consistent with the trend the church has seen since its formation.

"We still have 3.4 million members," he said. "We are not an insignificant church."

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8000>

[Images for ELCA decline in membership](#)

Category D10: Merging or Consolidating Synods

1. Western Iowa Synod (5F) [2019]

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in 2018 and WHEREAS, the ELCA continues to function under the original structure of sixty-five synods in nine regions; and WHEREAS, the number of congregations, rostered leaders, and congregational members constituting the ELCA has declined significantly throughout those years: 5.2 million members in 1988 to 3.5 million today; 11,138 congregations in 1988 to 9,062 in 2018; 9,105 clergy with active calls to 6,868 between the years of 2005 to 2014; and

WHEREAS, contributions to synods and to the churchwide organization continue to decline at a rate that is raising serious concerns and questions about the fiscal sustainability of these structures of the church; and

[PDF]Report of the Memorials Committee - ELCA Resource Repository

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Section_VII-Report_of_Memorials_Committee.pdf Page 89

[Images for ELCA has declined significantly throughout those years](#)

Membership decline in the ELCA - Living Lutheran

Yes, numbers don't tell the whole story. Yes, "membership" is not the best or only indicator of congregational vitality, much less faithfulness. Yes, for some people this is old, old news. Yet I continue to find people are generally unaware of the decline we are experiencing in my tribe, and those that have a sense of it don't readily have a sense of scale to go with it. So, let me provide the visual (at left) that has haunted and energized me since I first began to attend to it about 10 years ago.

As a percentage of the U.S. population (which has continued to grow year after year) this shows a trend of decline, unbroken for half a century.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2013/09/membership-decline-elca/>

[Images for Membership decline in the ELCA - Living Lutheran](#)

10 trends to watch: Churchgoers will want to note and keep up | The Lutheran

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 10 trends to watch: Churchgoers will want to note and keep up | The Lutheran 1. Declining church participation.](#)

The shrinking church - Living Lutheran

Congregations look for solutions as they face declines in membership, attendance.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2013/01/shrinking-church/>

[Images for shrinking church - Living Lutheran](#)

Will the ELCA Be Gone in 30 years? - Faith+Lead

According to projections from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Office of Research and Evaluation, the whole denomination will have fewer than 67,000 members in 2050, with fewer than 16,000 worshippers on an average Sunday by 2041.

<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/decline/>

[Images for Will the ELCA Be Gone in 30 years? - Faith+Lead](#)

is sometimes referred to as Every Liberal Cause Available. Judging from the memorials and the march at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the ELCA is no longer the Republican Party at Prayer, but more like the Democratic Party at Prayer.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly declares ELCA sanctuary church - ELCA

MILWAUKEE — In a key action this afternoon, the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to approve a **memorial** that declares the ELCA a sanctuary church. The ELCA is the first North American denomination to declare itself a sanctuary church body. As a sanctuary church the ELCA is committed to serving and supporting migrant children and families in communities across the country.

Earlier in the day, the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, joined more than 700 assembly members and others in a **march** and prayer vigil to the Milwaukee Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office. The march addressed concerns about the human rights of migrant children and families entering the U.S. along the southern border. Through the ELCA's initiative, Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO), this church is committed to work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.

<https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8000>

[Images for ELCA Churchwide Assembly declares ELCA sanctuary church](#)

The assembly approved 26 en bloc **memorials** on topics including gun violence, engagement in the Holy Land and income inequality. A Declaration to People of African Descent was presented to representatives of the African Descent Lutheran Association. The declaration was offered by members of the working group established by the ELCA Church Council to develop a document that expresses a confession of this church's bondage to the sins of slavery, racism, discrimination, white supremacy and quietism, and begins the work of repentance, which this church confesses to be "the chief topic of Christian teaching."

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7999> Key moments for day two of 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly – ELCA

[Images for Declaration to People of African Descent - ELCA](#)

Whether these memorials and march reflect the membership of the ELCA is open for debate, but research seems to indicate that membership is leaning in the direction of that political party, especially after the disaffiliations following the 2009 Churchwide Assembly's adoption of A Social Statement on Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust.

Party affiliation among members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

43%	10%	47%
Republican/lean Rep.	No lean	Democrat/lean Dem.

<https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/evangelical-lutheran-church-in-america-elca/party-affiliation/>

[Images for Party affiliation among members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

As it turns out, the Democratic National Convention was scheduled for the same city the following year.

Milwaukee picked to host 2020 Democratic National Convention

This will mark the first major-party convention in Milwaukee's history, and it will be the first Midwestern convention for Democrats since 1996 in Chicago.

"Where you hold a convention is a statement of your values," Perez said, calling Milwaukee a diverse and "proud union town."

Perez's connections to Milwaukee have always been part of the backdrop to the competition. His wife is from Wauwatosa, they were married in Milwaukee and one of their daughters attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

But his decision wasn't personal — it was political. Winning Wisconsin and other Midwestern states is critical if the party is to unseat President Donald Trump.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2019/03/11/dnc-milwaukee-picked-host-2020-democratic-national-convention/2836684002/>
[Images for Milwaukee picked to host 2020 Democratic National Convention](#)

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin belongs to the Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC). The WCC sent a Call to Action [Demand Action by State Lawmakers on Police Reform Bills](#) on 8/31. I sent a response that day to the Coordinator for Public Policy (ELCA), Executive Director (UCC), Treasurer of the Board of Directors (ELCA), and the Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.

The [Contact your legislators now in support of the statewide mask mandate](#) and [Demand Action by State Lawmakers on Police Reform Bills](#) from the Coordinator for Public Policy at the Wisconsin Council of Churches reveal that this agency serves as an unabashed apologist for a Democratic governor and acts as a dismissive critic of Republican legislators. In addition, [the July 7, 2020 The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald, Senate Majority Leader The Honorable Robin Vos, Assembly Speaker Wisconsin State Capitol Madison, WI 53708 WCC-COVID-Letter-to-legislative-leaders](#) from the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches asserted, "This should include the possibility of a "Stay at Home" order, should conditions warrant." This assertion mirrored the later statement of the candidate - who was nominated by the [Anchored in Milwaukee, 2020 Democratic National Convention will be a "Convention Across America"](#) to be the Democratic presidential nominee - that he would be willing to shut down the country again if scientists recommend. As a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who has served in 54 congregations since 1980 in installed and interim ministry, I can relate that the members of these congregations are not of one mind. Members of these congregations represent the breadth of the political spectrum. Members of Christian churches and faith-based organizations who do not share this partisan bias should not be compelled to fund this agency. If this agency is going to behave more like a political action committee than "The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) is a network of Christian churches and faith-based organizations committed to [working together across our many differences.](#)" [About – Wisconsin Council of Churches](#), perhaps it is time for the sponsoring Christian church bodies and faith-based organizations to defund this agency and for this agency to change its name, description, and funding, as well as to forfeit its tax-exempt status. The new agency could then appeal to church executives, executives of faith-based organizations, church members, and members of faith-based organizations of a similar partisan bias for their funding.

Rev. Lowell Bolstad
Rice Lake, Wisconsin

The treasurer defended the agency by stating in part, "Obviously you see things differently than the majority of our clergy and colleagues of the WCC who advocate for justice for all of God's children."

Resources

[ELCA presiding bishop leads delegation to London, Geneva and Rome](#)

"Through each encounter, we can [strive] to a deeper understanding of how we as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are part of a global communion that [witnesses](#) to the gospel and [serves](#) our neighbors," said Lohre.

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7724>

[Images for witnesses to the gospel and serves our neighbors](#)

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly begins - ELCA

Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director for [ELCA Mission Advancement](#), reported to the assembly, "Six years ago, at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, this church set the bold and daring goal of raising \$198 million for existing and new ministry initiatives.

"Since the campaign's launch, ELCA ministries have witnessed amazing generosity and support from synods, congregations, members and volunteers. Thank you for what you have done to contribute to such an incredible impact across this church."

Campaign steering committee co-chairs Loren and MaryAnn Anderson announced to the assembly that the campaign has raised \$250 million in cash, multiyear commitments and planned gift commitments.

Jackson-Skelton and Rev. Ron Gluskamp, director for the campaign, provided the assembly with an overview of its impact:

- Since 2014, the campaign contributed towards the approval of 281 new start congregation. There are currently 365 new ELCA ministries under development in the United States and the Caribbean.
- Through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, 450 young adults were encouraged to serve in more than ten country programs around the world.
- Through the ELCA's International Women Leaders program, 189 women leaders from our global companions were awarded academic training opportunities, from weeklong seminars to full-tuition scholarships at ELCA colleges and universities.
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission in South Sudan was established, and in Juba, the capital city, the Reconciliation Lutheran Church Community Center and Primary Health Care Clinic opened its doors in November 2017.
- Through ELCA Fund for Leaders, more than 1,300 students were provided with seminary scholarships.
- Income for ELCA World Hunger in 2018 exceeded its income in 2013, the year preceding the campaign, by more than 20%.

"There is no doubt that we have been changed by this campaign," said Gluskamp. "The generosity of this church and the ability to be about deepening our mission impact brings to life our campaign theme, which was inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:17: 'So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!'"

<https://elca.org/News-and-Events/7997>

37) The congregation is more than Kiwanis with Communion

If Martin Luther's teaching on election simply morphs into universalism and his teaching on faith active in love simply becomes an exercise in doing good deeds, then what differentiates the local congregation from other service organizations?

Resources

[Faith Active in Love: An Investigation of the Principles Underlying Social Ethics by George Forell \(Author\)](#)

Endorsements & Reviews

"In the extensiveness of the resources consulted and in the depth of insight into Luther's own thought which is here revealed, Dr. Forell's work compares very favorably with anything that has been produced on the subject by European scholarship. It is the most solid and genuine piece of Luther research that has come out in this country to my knowledge."

- Edgar M. Carlson, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn.

"The book is especially notable for its balanced judgment and objectivity. Prof. Forell attempts no whitewash but notes Luther's personal and historical limitations at the same time as he indicates the enduringly valid principles of his ethical thought."

- Warren A. Quanbeck, Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

"This is a significant contribution toward a classification of Luther's social ethics. It convincingly refutes both of the divergent tendencies which assert 'that Luther had no social ethics at all, since he placed society outside of the Christian Gospel, or that his social ethics was purely pragmatic, accepting the social order of his day and thus helping to bring about the growth of capitalism and nationalism.'"

- Martin Heineken, The Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA

<https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Active-Love-George-Forell/dp/1579102824>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1579102824>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0199912513>

Chapter 4 Footnote 44

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=145148772X>

Page 231

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451404956>

Page 165

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/15-1_Children/15-1_Forell.pdf

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/484829> CRITICAL REVIEWS

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

<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/987> An Interview with George Forell: September 6, 2001 - ELCA

<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/8017/>

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

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/190746.George_W_Forell

[Images for George Forell \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Faith Active in Love: An Investigation of the Principles Underlying Social Ethics by George Forell \(Author\)](#)

[The Bondage of the Will by Martin Luther \(Author\), J. I. Packer \(Translator\), O. R. Johnston \(Translator\)](#)

A classic reference, fundamental to an understanding of the original doctrines of the Reformation.

<https://www.amazon.com/Bondage-Will-Martin-Luther/dp/0800753429>

https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/820966.The_Bondage_of_the_Will

<http://www.chapellibrary.org/files/4913/7643/2893/botw.pdf>

http://www.truecovenant.com/truelutheran/luther_bow.html

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

<http://fortresspress.com/product/captivation-will-luther-vs-erasmus-freedom-and-bondage>

<https://www.monergism.com/blog/key-quotes-luthers-bondage-will>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-bondage-of-the-will-the-sovereignty-of-grace-and-the-glory-of-god>

<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/luther/bondage.html>

<http://www.reformedreader.org/bow.htm>

<https://www.amazon.com/Martin-Luther/e/B001H9VY2Q>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/29874.Martin_Luther

[Images for Martin Luther \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The Bondage of the Will by Martin Luther \(Author\), J. I. Packer \(Translator\), O. R. Johnston \(Translator\)](#)

38) The congregation: family or community?

I served as an interim senior pastor in a congregation with an average worship attendance of 198 where the installed female associate pastor - whose previous call was an open-country two-point parish - insisted on using the "family" metaphor for the congregation. In addition, the female president of the Congregation Council also served as chair of the Executive Committee, Worship and Music Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Evangelism Committee; ex officio member of the Call Committee with voice but not vote; co-chair of the Altar Guild; and chair of the Property and Management Committee, which otherwise consisted of all men. At a Worship and Music Committee meeting, I stated that I thought power more decentralized is more beneficial to the whole than power more centralized and suggested that perhaps someone else could be the chair. The members of the committee took offense at the suggestion. I argued with both the associate pastor and the president that a "community of faith" metaphor was more appropriate than a "family" metaphor.

Resources

[Anthony B. Robinson: Quit thinking of the church as a family](#)

The church is in the business of changing lives. The family is not.

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/anthony-b-robinson-quit-thinking-church-family>

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

Images for Anthony B. Robinson: Quit thinking of the church as a family

5 Things Every Small to Mid-Sized Church Struggles With - Carey Nieuwhof

1. The Desire to Keep the Church One Big Family

<https://careynieuwhof.com/5-things-every-small-to-mid-sized-church-struggles-with/>

Images for 5 Things Every Small to Mid-Sized Church Struggles With - Carey Nieuwhof 1. The Desire to Keep the Church One Big Family

Peter L. Steinke > Quotes

"The purpose of the local church is not primarily to be one's church home or extended family, though it can be at times. And it is not to survive by obtaining more people for its support base. Its purpose is to invite people to be part of the true mission of the church. Reception into the church is only a threshold to involvement in its mission. The task of the church is not to accumulate attendees. The church is a school for developing agents of the new creation from among those who are the beneficiaries of God's grace."

— Peter L. Steinke

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/27521.Peter_L_Steinke

Images for Peter L. Steinke > Quotes "The purpose of the local church

[PDF] Rethinking Transitional Ministry by Norman Bendroth - Amazon Web Services

Nor are all practitioners enamored with the "family systems" approach of interim ministry training. Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle, director of the Transitional Ministry Network and an Episcopal priest and psychotherapist, argues that the Bowen/Friedman model is a medical model that diagnoses disease instead of discovering pockets of health and nurturing those. "The largest extended family anyone can imagine is 50," Voyle explains, "The family systems model breaks down because most of our congregations are larger than that. The benefit of Bowen is enabling pastors to understand their own family history and how those dynamics impact their ministry. It's best to see congregations as communities of faith rather than as families."

http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/71BBE2C7B9B049B0883D51809D9A1E82_Rethinking%20Transitional%20Ministry.pdf Page 8

Images for Rethinking Transitional Ministry by Norman Bendroth

Images for It's best to see congregations as communities of faith rather than as families.

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

<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>

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

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

The Congregation as Community – Congregational Consulting Group

But the "family" metaphor that served us well for centuries is increasingly being supplanted by an alternative vision of the congregation as a community.

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/the-congregation-as-community/>

Images for Congregation as Community – Congregational Consulting Group

The congregation is not a family but an outpost for mission

Close your eyes, think about your congregation and finish this sentence: "My congregation is like"

Countless metaphors are used to describe congregations. One of the most common I've heard — and used — is *family*. But is this the best metaphor for understanding our congregations?

A larger vision - The Lutheran Magazine

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=572

Images for A larger vision - The Lutheran Magazine - The congregation is not a family but an outpost for mission

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

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

39) Decline in north, incline in south

I have traveled within the United States and outside the United States to Canada, Norway, Denmark, and Germany in the Northern Hemisphere and to the following countries in the Southern Hemisphere: Latin America – Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Peru, Bolivia, Columbia; West Africa – Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Senegal; Southeast Asia – Philippines. I have witnessed the decline of the church in the Northern Hemisphere and the incline of the church in the Southern Hemisphere.

Global Christianity – A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Christian Population

In 1910, about two-thirds of the world's Christians lived in Europe, where the bulk of Christians had been for a millennium, according to historical estimates by the Center for the Study of Global Christianity.² Today, only about a quarter of all Christians live in Europe (26%). A plurality – more than a third – now are in the Americas (37%). About one in every four Christians lives in sub-Saharan Africa (24%), and about one-in-eight is found in Asia and the Pacific (13%).

<https://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/>

Resources for decline in north

Rethinking Christianity in the 21st Century | Reflections

What has changed is Christianity's global geographical distribution. The basic shifts have been from the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern and from the West to the East. In 1910, 66 percent of the world's Christians resided in Europe; in 2010, this percentage had fallen to 26 percent.² This is not due simply to the growth of Christianity elsewhere but to the secularization of Europe. Today churches there are being converted into other types of establishments at an alarming rate. In England, there have been debates over the nature of the businesses that may take over church property – e.g., a pub is acceptable but a sex shop is not.

World War and Bingo Nights

There are numerous reasons for the decline of Christianity in Europe. Two world wars have scarred the minds of many Europeans: People wondered where God was. Other factors are at work. One of the most interesting observations I have heard came from a Lutheran bishop in Sweden. At a dinner in Lund, I asked her how things were in her diocese. She said people attended bingo nights during the week in far greater numbers than worship services on Sunday. I asked why. She suggested that the socialism of the Swedish government was a significant reason. The government had taken over the role that used to belong to the church. Instead of the church bringing meals to the ill or cleaning their house or providing a ride to the doctor, the government provided all of these services. The church had lost its role in society. Whatever the causes for the decline of Christianity in Europe, the reality of its decline is undeniable.

<http://reflections.yale.edu/article/new-voyages-church-today-and-tomorrow/rethinking-christianity-21st-century>

[Images for Rethinking Christianity in the 21st Century](#)

[Images for Christianity's global geographical distribution basic shifts from the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern and from the West to the East](#)

The Next Christianity - The Atlantic

European and Euro-American Catholics will within a few decades be a smaller and smaller fragment of a worldwide Church.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/10/the-next-christianity/302591/>

[Images for Next Christianity](#)

[Images for European and Euro-American Catholics will within a few decades be a smaller and smaller fragment of a worldwide Church.](#)

Resources for incline in south

Rethinking Christianity in the 21st Century | Reflections

The African Century?

By contrast, Christianity has been exploding in Africa. In 1910, only 1 percent of the world's Christians lived in sub-Saharan Africa; in 2010, this percentage had risen to 24 percent.³ The growth has not only come in Pentecostal or charismatic movements but in mainline Christian traditions. In 1900, more than 80 percent of Anglicans lived in Britain; in 2008, that number had fallen to 33 percent. By 2008, the number of Anglicans in sub-Saharan Africa had reached 55 percent.⁴

Similarly, the Roman Catholic Church has grown exponentially in Africa over the last 100 years – from less than 1 percent of the world's Catholic population in 1900 to 16 percent of the global Catholic population in 2010.⁵ One overlooked factor is that many in Africa associate Christianity with democracy and economic prosperity. People gravitate to it as a means of upward mobility.

Christianity has increased in Latin America. Looking at Catholicism, we can see this growth: In 1910, 24 percent of the world's Catholics lived in South America or the Caribbean; by 2010, this had risen to 39 percent.⁶ All these numbers tell the story of the southern migration of Christianity.

<http://reflections.yale.edu/article/new-voyages-church-today-and-tomorrow/rethinking-christianity-21st-century>

[Images for Christianity has been exploding in Africa](#)

The Next Christianity - The Atlantic

In the global South (the areas that we often think of primarily as the Third World) huge and growing Christian populations—currently 480 million in Latin America, 360 million in Africa, and 313 million in Asia, compared with 260 million in North America—now make up what the Catholic scholar Walbert Buhlmann has called the Third Church, a form of Christianity as distinct as Protestantism or Orthodoxy, and one that is likely to become dominant in the faith. The revolution taking place in Africa, Asia, and Latin America is far more sweeping in its implications than any current shifts in North American religion, whether Catholic or Protestant. There is increasing tension between what one might call a liberal Northern Reformation and the surging Southern religious revolution, which one might equate with the Counter-Reformation, the internal Catholic reforms that took place at the same time as the Reformation—although in references to the past and the present the term "Counter-Reformation" misleadingly implies a simple reaction instead of a social and spiritual explosion. No matter what the terminology, however, an enormous rift seems inevitable.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/10/the-next-christianity/302591/>

[Images for global South \(the areas that we often think of primarily as the Third World\) huge and growing Christian populations](#)

40) Every 500 years

I took in the Martin Luther exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of 1/5/2017 as part of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation — Minneapolis Institute of Art

Exhibition Overview

Five hundred years ago, one man took a stand that shook Europe and changed the world. Now you can see the story of Martin Luther and the Reformation brought to life through astonishing artworks and historical objects, traveling outside Germany for the first time ever. Luther used art and the newly invented printing press to challenge Europe's leaders and spread a revolution of religious, cultural, and societal change. This exhibition includes paintings, sculpture, gold, textiles, and works on paper—as well as Luther's personal possessions and recent archaeological finds—that shed new light on an explosive era and the man who ignited it.

<http://new.artsimia.org/luther/>

Images for Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation

<http://www.twincities.com/2016/10/28/see-martin-luthers-pulpit-yep-the-whole-thing-at-new-mia-exhibit/>

<http://www.startribune.com/life-of-martin-luther-on-display-in-rare-mia-exhibit/399168641/#1>

<http://www.startribune.com/review-martin-luther-comes-alive-in-a-powerful-show-at-minneapolis-institute-of-art/399483961/#1>

<http://www.elca500.org/events/2016/10/30/exhibition-martin-luther-art-and-the-reformation>

<http://www.visit-luther.com/explore-luthercountry/lutherexhibition-usa/minneapolis/>

<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/10/27/martin-luther-mia-artifacts-exhibit>

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/entertainment/arts/2016/12/09/minneapolis-hosts-remarkable-exhibit-martin-luther-artifacts/94227104/>

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865671316/5-things-i-learned-at-the-Martin-Luther-Art-and-the-Reformation-exhibit.html>

<http://www.here-i-stand.com/en/places>

<http://www.citypages.com/arts/mias-martin-luther-exhibit-explores-a-revolutionary-moment-in-time/399027151>

<http://www.classicalmpr.org/story/2016/10/30/martin-luther-mia-exhibit>

<http://www.minneapolisnorthwest.com/events/martin-luther-art-and-the-reformation/>

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/30/arts/design/long-before-twitter-martin-luther-was-a-media-pioneer.html?_r=0

[http://magazine.thrivent.com/publication/index.php?i=329485&m=&l=&p=16&pre=&ver=html5#{"page":16,"issue_id":329485}](http://magazine.thrivent.com/publication/index.php?i=329485&m=&l=&p=16&pre=&ver=html5#{)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoWmur8WLRQ> Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation - YouTube

On 1/18/2017, I took part in a meeting of the Congregation Council and Transition Task Force at an open country congregation. The leadership was interested in exploring its options with the assistant to the bishop, as the partner congregation in a shared ministry agreement for several decades was preparing to enter into a letter of agreement with another congregation. The assistant to the bishop talked about the larger context. He stated that the synod office estimated that 30+ pastors were due to retire in the next 3 years, and seminary enrollment had declined so that there will not be new pastors to replace them even if congregations could afford full-time pastors. To make a long story short, the assistant to the bishop suggested that in the not too distant future some congregations may see the return of circuit preachers, and each congregation would not necessarily be offered a service of worship each Sunday at their site of worship.

Seminary status check - Living Lutheran

In 2008, ELCA seminaries graduated 271 students with the Master of Divinity degree that usually leads to ordination. In 2016 there were 173 such graduates, down nearly 100 from eight years ago.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/study-guide/seminary-status-check/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/02/study-guide-seminary-status-check/>

Images for Seminary status check - Living Lutheran

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

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

I checked my emails after the meeting and opened one from a first call pastor in her new call for 1 ½ years who was looking for advice on how to handle the Model Constitution for Congregation 2016 updates. This group of events became the demarcation point for me in the 500-year change that Phyllis Trickle speaks about in *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*.

Resources

The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why [Phyllis Tickle]

Rooted in the observation that massive transitions in the church happen about every 500 years, Phyllis Tickle shows readers that we live in such a time right now. She compares the Great Emergence to other "Greats" in the **history** of Christianity, including the Great Transformation (when God walked among us), the time of Gregory the Great, the Great Schism, and the Great Reformation.

Combining history, a look at the causes of social upheaval, and current events, *The Great Emergence* shows readers what the Great Emergence in church and culture is, how it came to be, and where it is going. Anyone who is interested in the future of the church in America, no matter what their personal affiliation, will find this book a fascinating exploration.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Great-Emergence-Christianity-Changing/dp/080107102X>

<http://www.amazon.com/Embracing-Emergence-Christianity-Participants-Workbook/dp/1606740717>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/1434.Phyllis_A_Tickle

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Great_Emergence.html?id=gbDHIGwx4n4C

<https://books.google.mv/books?id=gbDHIGwx4n4C&sitesec=reviews&rf=st:ed>
<http://christianaudio.com/the-great-emergence-how-christianity-is-changing-and-why-phyllis-tickle-audiobook-download>
<https://www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=product&productID=9131>
<http://sojo.net/magazine/2008/08/great-emergence>
http://thecsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Embracing-Emergence-Christianity_Session-1.pdf
<https://www.logos.com/product/30982/phyllis-tickle-collection>
<http://www.poopedpastors.com/podcast/the-great-emergence-phyllis-tickle-on-sbe/>
<http://www.denisonforum.org/reviews/887-the-great-emergence-how-christianity-is-changing-and-why>
<http://michaelkrahm.com/writing/2013/04/delusions-of-emergent-utopia-a-review-of-phyllis-tickles-the-great-emergence/>
<http://theotherjournal.com/2009/01/30/emerging-re-form-a-review-of-phyllis-tickle%E2%80%99s-the-great-emergence/>
<http://books.google.com/books?id=LDPQRuxM-MgC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>
http://www.journeywithjesus.net/BookNotes/Phyllis_Tickle_The_Great_Emergence.shtml
<http://www.directionjournal.org/39/1/great-emergence-how-christianity-is.html>
<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>
<http://anabaptistredux.com/the-great-emergence-how-christianity-is-changing-and-why-by-phyllis-tickle/>
<https://www.churchhistory.org/blogs/blog/churchs-giant-rummage-sale/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCbHevwH5dU> The Great Emergence - Phyllis Tickle – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG-GNvDeFV8> Phyllis Tickle - "Emergence Christianity" - Session 1 – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2O0qyzU8Dn0> Phyllis Tickle - "Emergence Christianity" - Session 2 – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUn2sBiJZH0> Phyllis Tickle - "Emergence Christianity" - Session 3 - YouTube
<http://www.phyllistickle.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/phyllis.a.tickle/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyllis_Tickle
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/religion/article/60881-a-tribute-to-phyllis-tickle.html>
<https://www.ncronline.org/news/people/poet-prophet-portable-pastor-remembering-phyllis-tickle>
<https://www.amazon.com/Phyllis-Tickle/e/B0011GLRSY>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1434.Phyllis_A_Tickle
 Images for Phyllis Tickle, author
 Images for The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why [Phyllis Tickle]

discern some instructive patterns and enable us to live more faithfully in our own day. Note the pattern:

- c. 2000 BC: The Patriarchal Era begins when God calls Abram.
 - c. 1500 BC: The Exodus of Israel out of Egypt
 - c. 1000 BC: King David rules over Israel
 - c. 500 BC: Israel resettled in the Land after the Babylonian Exile
 - c. 0 AD: The life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the beginnings of the apostolic Church
 - c. 500 AD: Schism splitting Oriental Christianity from the eastern and western Church, the Fall of Rome, the "Dark Ages," the rule of Pope Gregory I
 - c. 1000 AD: The Great Schism between eastern and western Churches
 - c. 1500 AD: The Protestant Reformation
- Key to understanding the contemporary significance of this observation is to note that we are at such a five-hundred-year mark at the beginning of the 21st century. Thus, the subtitle of Tickle's book: "How Christianity is Changing and Why."

IM Book Review: The Great Emergence | internetmonk.com

<http://www.internetmonk.com/archive/im-book-review-the-great-emergence>

My memory circled back to when I started in the installed pastorate in an open-country two-point parish in 1980 where some of the members said, "We're just getting used to going to church every Sunday." When I asked them what they meant, they recounted being part of a circuit. A pastor in the neighboring village retired shortly after I came. He never made more than \$10,000 in salary, and afterwards the compensation package needed to be increased to meet seminary graduate guidelines. I appreciate the compensation and benefits I have received through the years but realize now with declining attendance and receipts that there will be changes.

41) The church: dying or being reborn?

In 1990, I self-published a booklet entitled *Rural Communities: Dying or Being Reborn?* [See Rural Ministry Resources on this website.] Some 25 years later I find myself asking the same question of the church.

Resources

A church reborn - Faith and Leadership | A learning resource for Christian leaders and their institutions from Leadership Education at Duke Divinity

Six years after being given a dying church's building, Shepherd's House UMC, an African immigrant congregation in Durham, NC, is a beacon of renewal.

<http://www.faithandleadership.com/church-reborn>

Images for A church reborn - Faith and Leadership | A learning resource for Christian leaders and their institutions from Leadership Education at Duke Divinity

<http://shepherdshouseumc.org/>

Images for shepherd's house umc durham nc

Church vitality: From 'dying' to 'reborn' - The United Methodist Church

Editor's Note: As The United Methodist Church focuses on vital congregations and responding to membership trends around the globe, [United Methodist News Service is taking a close look at church vitality](#). This is one of a series of reports.

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/church-vitality-from-dying-to-reborn>

[Images for Church vitality: From 'dying' to 'reborn' - The United Methodist Church](#)

Dying Church/Living Church

Dying Church

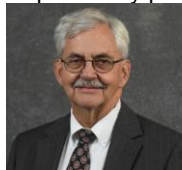
Pastor is chaplain
Pastor tends insiders
Pastor holds hands
Church is family
Personal need/self-focus
Comfort
Me
Religion in moderation
Church life when convenient
God fills one's perceived needs
Experience the good life
Maximize personal opportunities
Chapel
Token financial giving
Anxious about decline
Declining resources
Increasing fights over resources
Blames leaders for decline
Museum
Institutional preservation
Inward focus
Enticing the world into the church
Stiff
Protect status quo
Tradition means clinging to the past
Says nothing new
Faith/church about being good
Structures
Provides services
Religious pros talk about outreach
Decreasingly reflects local demographics
Go to church
Come to church
Cultural traditions are key to identity
Worries about controllers
Appease the few disgruntled people
Keep peace at any price
Kingdom of the church
An institution

Living Church

Pastor is mission leader
Pastor and people reach outsiders
Pastor equips ministers
Church is team
God focus
Challenge
Mission
Faith always in action
Ministry a priority
True self found in God
Good life is following where God leads
Offer self to God
Mission outpost
Fully funds ministry
Excited about Great Commission work
Instead discussion about Great Commission work
Figuring how to do Great Commission
Together we go on to God's future
Workshop
Change as God leads
Outward focus
Going out to the world
Flexible
Destabilize to force growth
Tradition is a guide to the future
Says nothing new in ever new ways
Wholistic lifestyle
Organic
Changes lives
Everyone does outreach
Reflects local demographics
Be the church
Sent from church
Bible is key to identity
Worries about unbelievers
Sheds some people
Use conflict as yeast to grow
Church of the kingdom
A movement

Pastor Will Mowchan – Pilgrim Lutheran Church – Superior, Wisconsin

Reprinted by permission



Will Mowchan

[Staff Directory - Pilgrim Lutheran Church](#)

<http://www.plcsuperior.org/staff.htm>

[Images for Will Mowchan Staff Directory - Pilgrim Lutheran Church](#)

In Dying We Are Born: The Challenges and the Hope for Congregations by Peter Bush (Author)

Deeply ingrained in Western culture, and in the minds of most church leaders, is the belief that there is a solution to every problem. Peter bush offers a powerful challenge to this approach, arguing that for new life, energy, and passion to arise in congregations, they must die - die to one way of being the church in order that a new way may rise.

Bush identifies two types of dying congregations. Some congregations need to close their doors, bringing to an end years of ministry. Other congregations need to dramatically change their culture and ways of doing ministry. Such change may not entail literally closing the congregation's doors, but it will require people giving up deeply held understandings of the life and purpose of the congregation. All congregations, Bush contends, even ones that see themselves as healthy, need to be prepared to die, to take up their cross, so God can make them alive.

A skillful storyteller, Bush shows readers why churches must confront their mortality. He examines the role of the prophetic leader, who proclaims both the congregation's death and its resurrection. He explores spiritual practices and the habits of wonder, remember, and risk taking for congregations that know they are dying--or need to die. Only by dying, Bush says, will a congregation find resurrection life, given by God who raises the dead to life.

<http://www.amazon.com/Dying-Are-Born-Challenge-Congregations/dp/1566993571>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2922735-in-dying-we-are-born>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995566>
<https://alban.org/archive/dying-as-the-way-to-life/>
<https://alban.org/archive/the-impossible-task-of-ministry/>
<https://pres-outlook.org/2011/12/in-dying-we-are-born-the-challenge-and-the-hope-for-congregations/>
<http://baptistnews.com/article/atimetobebornatimetodieholdstrueforchurchessomeexpertsinsist/#.WKWFrTsrKUK>
<https://www.amazon.com/Peter-Bush/e/B004AO0GYW>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1264314.Peter_George_Bush
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1625642318>
[Images for In Dying We Are Born: The Challenges and the Hope for Congregations by Peter Bush \(Author\)](#)

Page 172

Mission Trends: 4 Trends for Churches to Consider by Ed Stetzer - Christianity Today

Despite what many think, the **church in America is not dying** (and no serious researcher thinks that). However, there are some challenges and changes to be considered.

When we consider missiology, part of the discipline includes considering how churches relate to their culture. Since we live in changing times, it's worth thinking through what current cultural changes mean for future church engagement of that culture.

Here are four trends that are already evident but will become even more important in days to come.

4 Trends for Churches to Consider - Christianity Today

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/may/look-back-and-look-ahead-for-church-in-america-4-trends-chr.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/september/state-of-american-church-when-numbers-point-to-new-reality.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2013/october/state-of-american-church.html>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/05/13/nones-americans-christians-evangelicals-column/27198423/>
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/16/living/christianity-american-dead/index.html>
<http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/christian-trends/the-church-in-america-isn-t-dying-it-s-changing.html>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-mcswain/why-nobody-wants-to-go-to_b_4086016.html
<http://churchleaders.com/pastors/videos-for-pastors/246566-ed-stetzer-stop-saying-church-dying.html>
https://twitter.com/edstetzer?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor
<https://edstetzer.com/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed_Stetzer
<https://www.facebook.com/edstetzer/>
<https://vimeo.com/edstetzer>
<http://www.wheaton.edu/Academics/Faculty/S/Ed-Stetzer>
<https://www.amazon.com/Ed-Stetzer/e/B001JP8EUI>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/25148.Ed_Stetzer
[Images for Ed Stetzer, author](#)
[Images for Mission Trends: 4 Trends for Churches to Consider by Ed Stetzer - Christianity Today](#)

The Church Faces Death: Ecclesiology in a Post-Modern Context by Michael Jenkins (Author)

Ecclesiology (the theology of the church) is a neglected topic in contemporary theology. At a time when the institutional churches are experiencing dramatic decline, says Michael Jenkins, we need a new understanding of what the church is. In this work, Jenkins challenges the church to rediscover its vocation, to follow Jesus Christ even at the risk of its institutional survival. In the face of a variety of perceived threats to its future, he reminds us that the church is most alive and attractive when it forgets about itself and its safety. The ecclesiology Jenkins puts forward is born from a sense of "life in Christ" that can, he argues, face institutional death to recover a remarkable freedom. Without detailing the face of the future church, he asserts his faith that there is indeed life after death for the church as the worshipping body of Christ.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Church-Faces-Death-Ecclesiology/dp/0195128400>
<http://www.academicroom.com/bookreview/church-faces-death-ecclesiology-post-modern-context>
<http://www.lpts.edu/about/our-faculty/full-time-faculty/michael-jenkins>
<http://www.lpts.edu/about/our-leadership/president/thinking-out-loud>
<http://www.intrust.org/Authors/Michael-Jenkins>
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/presidentlistening-887>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/michael-jenkins>
<https://www.ivpress.com/michael-jenkins>
<https://www.amazon.com/Michael-Jenkins/e/B001H6S3PA>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/322307.Michael_Jenkins

[Images for Michael Jenkins \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The Church Faces Death: Ecclesiology in a Post-Modern Context by Michael Jenkins \(Author\)](#)

Where in God's Name Are We?

"The church is not dying, it is being reborn."

[PDF] Hazelwood Part 1 - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://192.168.1.1:8181/http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/hazelwoodslides_pt1.pdf

[Images for "The church is not dying, it is being reborn."](#)

<http://www.bishoponabike.com/blog>

https://twitter.com/bishophazelwood?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

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

<https://www.youtube.com/user/bishoponabike> Jim Hazelwood - YouTube

Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore | Steve McSwain

Churches aren't dying?

No, of course not. Churches will always be here. But you can be sure, churches are going through more than a mere "transition." I study these things carefully. I counsel church leaders within every denomination in America, having crisscrossed this country for nearly two decades counseling congregations as small as two hundred in attendance to churches averaging nearly 20,000 in weekly attendance. As I see it, there are "7" changing trends impacting church-going in America. In this first of two articles, I'll address the "7" trends impacting church-going. In the second part, I'll offer several best practices that, as I see it, might reverse the trends contributing to the decline.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-mcswain/why-nobody-wants-to-go-to b_4086016.html

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-mcswain/why-nobody-wants-to-go-to 1_b_4170298.html

[Images for Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore](#)

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/steve-mcswain>

<https://inaspaciousplace.wordpress.com/2013/10/15/the-church-is-dying-1/>

<https://inaspaciousplace.wordpress.com/2013/11/30/the-church-is-dying-7-see-nov-16/>

<http://www.stevemcswain.com/biography-steve-mcswain/>

[Images for Steve McSwain, author](#)

[Images for Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore | Steve McSwain](#)

<http://overwhelmingjesus.blogspot.com/2014/06/why-nobody-wants-to-go-to-church.html> Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore: A Reponse

42) Utopia or dystopia?

If the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-42 is the answer

Pentecost - Wikipedia

The Christian holy day of Pentecost, which is celebrated fifty days after [Easter Sunday](#),^[2] commemorates the descent of the [Holy Spirit](#) upon the [Apostles](#) and other followers of [Jesus Christ](#) while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the [Feast of Weeks](#), as described in the [Acts of the Apostles](#) (Acts 2:1–31).



Pentecost by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecost>

[Images for Pentecost](#)

to the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11,

Tower of Babel - Wikipedia

The Tower of Babel ([Hebrew](#): מגדל בבל, *Migdal Bavel*) narrative in [Genesis](#) 11:1–9 is an [origin myth](#) meant to explain why the world's peoples speak different languages.^{[1][2][3][4]} According to the story, a united human race in the generations following the [Great Flood](#), speaking a single language and migrating westward, comes to the land of [Shinar](#) (שִׁנְעָר). There they agree to build a city and a tower tall enough to reach heaven. God, observing their city and tower, confounds their speech so that they can no longer understand each other, and scatters them around the world.



The Tower of Babel by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1563)

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

Images for The Tower of Babel by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1563)

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_of_Babel

and the Fellowship of Believers in Acts 2:43-47 is the answer to

Acts 2 - Wikipedia

A description of the first Church (2:44-47)

Acts 2:44–47 contains a description of the earliest church, giving a practical view of how the church members acted. The verse covers several aspects of life:

- The believers had everything in common
- They sold property and possessions so as to give to anyone who was in need
- They met together in the temple courts each day
- They ate together in each other's homes.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_2

Images for Acts 2 - A description of the first Church (2:44-47)

the Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19,

Sodom and Gomorrah - Wikipedia

Divine judgment by God was passed upon Sodom and Gomorrah and two neighboring cities, which were completely consumed by fire and brimstone.



The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, (John Martin, 1852)

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

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sodom_and_Gomorrah

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Martin_-_Sodom_and_Gomorrah.jpg

<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/sodom-and-gomorrah.html>

then what can the church offer to society today in the midst of competing cultural visions of utopia

Resources for utopia

Émile Coué - Wikipedia

The application of his mantra-like conscious autosuggestion, "Every day, in every way, I'm getting better and better"

(French: *Tous les jours à tous points de vue je vais de mieux en mieux*) is called Couéism or the Coué method.^[15]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89mile_Cou%C3%A9

Images for every day in every way i'm getting better and better

Utopia - Wikipedia

A utopia (/ˈjuːˈtoʊpiə/ *yoo-TOH-pee-ə*) is an imagined community or society that possesses highly desirable or nearly perfect qualities for its citizens.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopia>

Images for utopia

and dystopia?

Resources for dystopia

Best 25+ Dystopian future ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/dystopian-future/>

[Images for dystopia pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/aprildcounts/ah-dystopia/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/fortyfoxes/dystopia/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/hollyameliak/fiction-dystopia/>

Dystopia - Wikipedia

A dystopia (from the Greek δυσ- and τόπος, alternatively, cacotopia,^[1] kakotopia, or simply anti-utopia) is a community or society that is undesirable or frightening.^{[2][3]} It is translated as "not-good place", an **antonym** of **utopia**, a term that was coined by **Sir Thomas More** and figures as the title of his best known work, *Utopia* (the blueprint for an ideal society with minimal crime, violence and poverty). The novel *Utopia* was written in the Latin language and English versions are translations of the original piece. The term dystopia is an ironic modern offshoot because it often is used to describe futuristic societies which systematically suppress language and knowledge.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dystopia>

[Images for dystopia](#)

From Orwell to Atwood: 15 Visions of a Dystopian America

1984

Animal Farm

The Handmaid's Tale

Brave New World

The Road

Americana

Children of Men

The Maze Runner

The Crucible

The Lorax

The Iron Heel

The Plot Against America

It Can't Happen Here

Super Sad True Love Story

The Circle

All Our Wrong Today's

<http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/the-read-down/from-orwell-to-atwood-12-visions-of-a-dystopian-america/>

[Images for From Orwell to Atwood: 15 Visions of a Dystopian America](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/326018460511794864/> **From Orwell to Atwood: 16 Visions of a Dystopian America**

[Images for From Orwell to Atwood: 16 Visions of a Dystopian America on Pinterest](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/27/business/media/dystopian-classics-1984-animal-farm-the-handmaids-tale.html>

<http://www.heliweb.de/telic/atwoodorwell.htm>

<https://media.bookbub.com/blog/2017/04/25/dystopian-book-recommendations-margaret-atwood/>

The dystopian movie trend: An essay - Chicago Tribune

Thanks to the dystopian craze popularized by "*The Hunger Games*," the movies continually cough up another teenager or young adult protagonist facing some crazy physical challenge, leading a revolution, saving the planet from the ruinous impulses of the older generation. At times, it's as if the entire film industry were wired directly into the neurons of the average 15-year-old, for whom everything is a world-ender and an apocalyptically scaled tragedy.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/movies/ct-talking-pictures-dystopia-20140918-column.html>

[Images for dystopian movie trend](#)

The Future Is Almost Now by Elizabeth Alsop: In popular culture, science fiction stories look more like the real world than ever before - The Atlantic

Yet these films are hardly cautionary tales; if anything, they're dispassionate about humanity's demise, which they treat as a mostly foregone conclusion.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/05/the-future-is-almost-now/482718/>

[Images for The Future Is Almost Now by Elizabeth Alsop: In popular culture, science fiction stories look more like the real world than ever before - The Atlantic](#)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/author/elizabeth-alsop/>

<https://commons.gc.cuny.edu/members/ealsop/>

Why is dystopian fiction still so popular? | Children's books | The Guardian

As we draw ourselves one-dimensional-happy with a cheery Facebook status and Instagram photos that put everything in soft focus, do we find an increasing need to **satisfy the darker areas of the human condition** by what we read?

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2014/nov/18/hunger-games-dystopian-fiction-appeal-to-teenagers-alex-campbell>

43) Looking at the big picture

It is said that the one constant in life is change.

If Phyllis Tickle is right in her "observation that massive transitions in the church happen about every 500 years";

The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why [Phyllis Tickle]

Rooted in the observation that massive transitions in the church happen about every 500 years, Phyllis Tickle shows readers that we live in such a time right now. She compares the Great Emergence to other "Greats" in the history of Christianity, including the Great Transformation (when God walked among us), the time of Gregory the Great, the Great Schism, and the Great Reformation.

Combining history, a look at the causes of social upheaval, and current events, *The Great Emergence* shows readers what the Great Emergence in church and culture is, how it came to be, and where it is going. Anyone who is interested in the future of the church in America, no matter what their personal affiliation, will find this book a fascinating exploration.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Great-Emergence-Christianity-Changing/dp/080107102X>

<http://www.amazon.com/Embracing-Emergence-Christianity-Participants-Workbook/dp/1606740717>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4024780-the-great-emergence>

<http://christianaudio.com/the-great-emergence-how-christianity-is-changing-and-why-phyllis-tickle-audiobook-download>

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=product&productID=9131>

<http://sojo.net/magazine/2008/08/great-emergence>

http://thecsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Embracing-Emergence-Christianity_Session-1.pdf

<https://www.logos.com/product/30982/phyllis-tickle-collection>

<http://www.poopedpastors.com/podcast/the-great-emergence-phyllis-tickle-on-sbe/>

<http://www.denisonforum.org/reviews/887-the-great-emergence-how-christianity-is-changing-and-why>

<http://michaelkrahm.com/writing/2013/04/delusions-of-emergent-utopia-a-review-of-phyllis-tickles-the-great-emergence/>

<http://theotherjournal.com/2009/01/30/emerging-re-form-a-review-of-phyllis-tickle%E2%80%99s-the-great-emergence/>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=LDPQRuxM-MgC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

http://www.journeywithjesus.net/BookNotes/Phyllis_Tickle_The_Great_Emergence.shtml

<http://www.directionjournal.org/39/1/great-emergence-how-christianity-is.html>

<http://anabaptistredux.com/the-great-emergence-how-christianity-is-changing-and-why-by-phyllis-tickle/>

<https://www.churchhistory.org/blogs/blog/churchs-giant-rummage-sale/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY83MF2HZcU> "The Great Emergence" by Phyllis Tickle - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTmyJvod2PY> Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why Audiobook-YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgpKhLOC6g4> Phyllis Tickle on the Great Emergence, Convergence Christianity, and

Darkwood Brew - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phxAubdeeNA> Embracing Emergence Christianity - Phyllis Tickle on Church's Rummage Sale

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG-GNvDeFV8> Phyllis Tickle - "Emergence Christianity" - Session 1 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2O0qyzU8Dn0> Phyllis Tickle - "Emergence Christianity" - Session 2 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUn2sBiJZHo> Phyllis Tickle - "Emergence Christianity" - Session 3 - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNq_d5ObMg Phyllis Tickle - YouTube

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

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

https://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/30/books/phyllis-tickle-who-energized-a-market-for-books-on-religion-dies-at-81.html?_r=0

<https://www.facebook.com/phyllis.a.tickle/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Phyllis-Tickle/e/B001IGLRSY>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1434.Phyllis_A_Tickle

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/1434.Phyllis_A_Tickle

Images for Phyllis Tickle, author

[Images for The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why \[Phyllis Tickle\]](#)

discern some instructive patterns and enable us to live more faithfully in our own day. Note the pattern:

- c. 2000 BC: The Patriarchal Era begins when God calls Abram.
- c. 1500 BC: The Exodus of Israel out of Egypt
- c. 1000 BC: King David rules over Israel
- c. 500 BC: Israel resettled in the Land after the Babylonian Exile
- c. 0 AD: The life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the beginnings of the apostolic Church
- c. 500 AD: Schism splitting Oriental Christianity from the eastern and western Church, the Fall of Rome, the "Dark Ages," the rule of Pope Gregory I
- c. 1000 AD: The Great Schism between eastern and western Churches
- c. 1500 AD: The Protestant Reformation

Key to understanding the contemporary significance of this observation is to note that we are at such a five hundred year mark at the beginning of the 21st century. Thus, the subtitle of Tickle's book: "How Christianity is Changing and Why."

IM Book Review: The Great Emergence | internetmonk.com

<http://www.internetmonk.com/archive/im-book-review-the-great-emergence>

and if Straus and Howe - in their description of cycles, turnings, and wars - are right to "locate America in the middle of an unraveling period, on the brink of a crisis...";

Generations; The History of America's Future, 1584 to 2069 [William Strauss & Neil Howe]

Hailed by national leaders as politically diverse as former Vice President Al Gore and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, *Generations* has been heralded by reviewers as a brilliant, if somewhat unsettling, reassessment of where America is heading. William Strauss and Neil Howe posit the history of America as a succession of generational biographies, beginning in 1584 and encompassing every-one through the children of today. Their bold theory is that each generation belongs to one of four types, and that these types repeat sequentially in a fixed pattern. The vision of *Generations* allows us to plot a recurring cycle in American history - a cycle of spiritual awakenings and secular crises - from the founding colonists through the present day and well into this millenium. *Generations* is at once a refreshing historical narrative and a thrilling intuitive leap that reorders not only our history books but also our expectations for the twenty-first century.

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<http://www.amazon.com/Generations-History-Americas-Future-1584/dp/B00132YQZY>

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<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/17548-1> Generations: The History of America's Future

<http://www.fourthturning.com/> The Theory: Explore Howe & Strauss's methods and theories on the generations and the four turnings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HV92Hsk0l4Q> Neil Howe and William Strauss on Generations in 1998 CSpan – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHEXqmRrpnY> Neil Howe: The World Is on the Verge of Generational Crisis – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GS6pslxTTWg> Generations: The History of America's Future - Neil Howe & William Strauss

[Images for Generations: The History of America's Future - Neil Howe & William Strauss - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVfjswccpP8> Neil Howe & William Strauss discuss the book "Generations" on CSPAN | 1991

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strauss%E2%80%93Howe_generational_theory *Generations: The History of America's Future, 1584 to 2069*

http://depts.washington.edu/apac/roundtable/12-05-05_millennial_generation.pdf

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSviEVENlak&feature=youtu.be> Generations of Faith overview - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TandqclXVik&feature=youtu.be> Neil Howe on Millennials at Montgomery College (Part 1) | 2005

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvL2_YdwpLg&feature=youtu.be Neil Howe on Millennials at Montgomery College (Part 2) | 2005

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMxMY_OJ13Q&feature=youtu.be William Strauss discusses Millennials on CSPAN2's BookTV | 2001 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5R9sx3T7CIY&feature=youtu.be> Neil Howe discusses Gen Xers for National Council of Teacher Retirement (Part 1) | 2004 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FBfIDcvV7c&feature=youtu.be> Neil Howe discusses GI to Boomers Generation for OACOA/OASE (Part 2) | 2008 - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_owfM7CiCA&feature=youtu.be Neil Howe & William Strauss discuss the Silent Generation on Chuck Underwood's Generations | 2001 - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_36X3nzQ1c&feature=youtu.be leadership and generational theory overview – YouTube

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<https://www.amazon.com/William-Strauss/e/B000AP9K06>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/107130.William_Strauss

[Images for william strauss and neil howe](#)

[Images for Generations; The History of America's Future, 1584 to 2069 \[William Strauss & Neil Howe\]](#)

13th Gen: Abort, Retry, Ignore, Fail? by Neil Howe (Author), William Strauss (Author), R.J. Matson (Illustrator), Ian Williams (Illustrator)

In commentary and quotations, computer dumps and cartoons, 13TH GEN is a multimedia anthem to the American post-boomer generation, our country's thirteenth generation since the founding fathers.

<https://www.amazon.com/13th-Gen-Abort-Retry-Ignore/dp/0679743650>

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~CLASS/OBJECTS/III/reviews/13thgen.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strauss%E2%80%93Howe_generational_theory Timing of generations and turnings

[Images for 13th Gen: Abort, Retry, Ignore, Fail? by Neil Howe \(Author\), William Strauss \(Author\)](#)

The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy - What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America's Next Rendezvous with Destiny by William Strauss (Author), Neil Howe (Author)

First came the postwar High, then the Awakening of the '60s and '70s, and now the Unraveling. This audacious and provocative book tells us what to expect just beyond the start of the next century. Are you ready for the Fourth Turning? Strauss and Howe will change the way you see the world--and your place in it. In *The Fourth Turning*, they apply their generational theories to the cycles of history and locate America in the middle of an unraveling period, on the brink of a crisis. How you prepare for this crisis--the Fourth Turning--is intimately connected to the mood and attitude of your particular generation. Are you one of the can-do "GI generation," who triumphed in the last crisis? Do you belong to the mediating "Silent Majority," who enjoyed the 1950s High? Do you fall into the "awakened" Boomer category of the 1970s and 1980s, or are you a Gen-Xer struggling to adapt to our splintering world? Whatever your stage of life, *The Fourth Turning* offers bold predictions about how all of us can prepare, individually and collectively, for America's next rendezvous with destiny.

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXOcPQFsh_4 Neil Howe discusses the Fourth Turning with Don Krueger of The Motley Fool | 2011 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXEuc5T0yeM> Generational Cycles-Predicting the Future: Neil Howe – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSVitHc0xxk> Bill Strauss and Neil Howe Opening – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Yfb2zQjKWE> The Fourth Turning: Why American 'Crisis' May Last Until 2030 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nbVNHOBO0NU&t=19s> Neil Howe: What to Expect from The Fourth Turning We're Now In

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9nzQaRDjM0&t=55s> Neil Howe talks about 'The Millennial Generation' on CNN

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJ-97zBaBM4> Neil Howe: It's going to get worse; more financial crises coming – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3-8oJF88TQ> Neil Howe: Is Trump America's 'Gray Champion' Like Lincoln or FDR?

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<http://www.angelfire.com/or/truthfinder/fourthturning.html>

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2015-07-03/fourth-turning-%E2%80%93interview-neil-howe>

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<https://www.peakprosperity.com/podcast/92080/neil-howe-what-expect-fourth-turning-were-now>

Images for The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy - What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America's Next Rendezvous with Destiny by William Strauss (Author), Neil Howe (Author)

Generations of Faith: A Congregational Atlas [Carl G. Eeman]

In 1991, a pair of Ivy League-educated Californians, William Strauss and Neil Howe, published a landmark book, *Generations: The History of America's Future from 1584 to 2069*. In *Generations* and subsequent books, they develop a theory that generational cycles repeat through American history at about 90- to 95-year intervals. In this book, Carl Eeman accepts the invitation of Strauss and Howe in *Generations*: "We encourage specialists among our readers, whatever their backgrounds, to shed more light on the component pieces of the generational puzzle" (p. 16). Eeman explores the cycle of four generational types from a faith perspective and applies generational ideas to the practice of ministry and to congregational issues. This book makes use of the young field of generational theory and provides a valuable tool for understanding between generations. As congregational leaders minister among the people of God, these concepts will help them be more effective leaders, clearer communicators, and more nimble troubleshooters and problem solvers.

Foreword by William Strauss and Neil Howe.

<http://www.amazon.com/Generations-Faith-A-Congregational-Atlas/dp/1566992729>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1382008.Generations_Of_Faith

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566992725/Generations-of-Faith-A-Congregational-Atlas>

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http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/654836.Carl_G_Eeman

Images for Carl G. Eeman, author

Images for *Generations of Faith: A Congregational Atlas* [Carl G. Eeman]

and if Sir John Bagot Glubb is right in "Thus, a period of 250 years would represent about ten generations of people. A closer examination of the characteristics of the **rise and fall of great nations** may emphasize the possible significance of the sequence of generations";

[PDF] The Fate of Empires and Search for Survival by Sir John Bagot Glubb

One of the very few units of measurement which have not seriously changed since the Assyrians is the human 'generation', a period of about twenty-five years. Thus, a period of 250 years would represent about ten generations of people. A closer examination of the characteristics of the rise and fall of great nations may emphasize the possible significance of the sequence of generations. Let us then attempt to examine the stages in the lives of such powerful nations. Page 4

<http://people.uncw.edu/kozloffm/glubb.pdf>

<http://www.rexresearch.com/glubb/glubb-empire.pdf>

Images for Sir John Bagot Glubb fate of empires

then, both the church and the state can expect seismic change.

44) COVID-19 and the Death of Consumer Christianity

When I started in the pastoral ministry, the 2 congregations used **Bulletins | Augsburg Fortress** with a picture on the 1st page and a message on the 4th page. The 2nd page was used for the order of service and the 3rd page for announcements. When I started at a three-point parish the spring of 2019, I inherited a 12 to 16-page bulletin, which basically printed out the entire service of worship. I was told that through the years the intent was to make the service of worship more convenient for people. During my time there, I worked with the parish secretary to reduce the length to 8 pages. When the **15 Days to Slow the Spread | The White House** directive came out, the parish secretary was furloughed and recordings of my messages were made on a smartphone and placed on Facebook. My assignment ended 4/15, and I have not had to worry about producing bulletins while being on leave from call. **Coronavirus Could Kill Consumer Christianity** "**Coronavirus has rapidly taken away the excesses of church**, all the bells and whistles, all the nice-to-haves we've come to see as must-haves."

45) Holy Saturday

Jesus died on Friday and rose on Sunday. The former is called Good Friday, and the latter Easter Sunday. The day in-between is called Holy Saturday. Holy Saturday is the state between death and resurrection.

Resources

Holy Saturday | History & Observances | Britannica

Holy Saturday, also called Easter Vigil, Christian religious observance that ends the **Lenten season**, falling on the day before **Easter Sunday**. The observance commemorates the final day of **Christ's** death, which is traditionally associated with his triumphant descent into **hell**. The early church celebrated the end of **Lent** with large baptismal ceremonies, but for many centuries no services were held on Holy Saturday in the Western churches, recalling the suspended state of Christ's followers in the period between his **Crucifixion** and **Resurrection**. Beginning in 1955, the Roman Catholic and some other churches restored the evening Easter Vigil. The Eastern Orthodox churches had never abandoned the ceremony. The vigil celebration may include lighting fires and candles to symbolize Christ's passing from death to life and tolling bells to signify the joyous end of Lent. Many churches also celebrate the **baptism** of catechumens (unbaptized converts) and

the [confirmation](#) or [chrismation](#) and first [communion](#) of both catechumens and candidates (converts who were previously baptized in a different Christian faith tradition) during the Easter Vigil.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Holy-Saturday>
[Images for Holy Saturday | History & Observances](#)

Holy Saturday Quotes | Quotes Tree

www.quotestree.com/2013/03/holy-saturday-quotes.html

[Images for Holy Saturday Quotes](#)

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/holy-saturday>

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<http://healthyspirituality.org/holy-saturday-quote-week/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/231020655859011322/> holy saturday quotes photos | Days of the Week | Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/388013324115803651/> Holy Saturday | Quotes | Pinterest

Holy Saturday - Wikipedia

Holy Saturday (Latin: *Sabbatum Sanctum*), the Saturday of [Holy Week](#), also known as Holy and Great Saturday, the Great Sabbath, Black Saturday, Joyous Saturday, Hallelujah Saturday (in Portugal) or Easter Eve,^[1] and called "Joyous Saturday" or "the Saturday of Light" among [Coptic Christians](#), is the day after [Good Friday](#). It is the day before [Easter](#) and the last day of [Holy Week](#) in which Christians prepare for Easter. It commemorates the day that [Jesus'](#) body lay in the [tomb](#) and the Harrowing of Hell.



The icon of Holy and Great Saturday, portraying the Harrowing of Hades

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

[Images for Holy Saturday](#)

26 best Holy (Black) Saturday images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/yvonneburris/holy-black-saturday/>

[Images for Holy \(Black\) Saturday Pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/bettyde/holy-saturday/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/bettyde/holy-saturday/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/csaybe64/holy-saturday/>

What is Holy Saturday? | GotQuestions.org

After His crucifixion, Jesus was laid in a nearby tomb, and His body remained there the entirety of Holy Saturday ([Matthew 27:59-60](#); [Mark 15:46](#); [Luke 23:53-54](#); [John 19:39-42](#)). Churches that celebrate Holy Saturday traditionally do so by observing a day of somber reflection as they contemplate the world of darkness that would exist without the hope of Christ's resurrection.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Saturday.html>

[Images for What is Holy Saturday? | GotQuestions.org](#)

<https://www.biblicalfoundations.org/holy-saturday/>

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<https://religionnews.com/2012/04/02/what-did-jesus-do-on-holy-saturday/>

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