

# Interim Ministry Resources

## Chapter 15 Mission

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## Reflections and Resources

### 1) “Follow me” and “Come and see.”

Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’<sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’<sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’<sup>51</sup> And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

oremus Bible Browser: John 1:43-51

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John+1:43-51>

[Images for Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael](#)

Jesus makes the first move in his call to “Follow me.”

#### THE SMALL CATECHISM

##### THE SECOND ARTICLE

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

[Images for SMALL CATECHISM THE SECOND ARTICLE](#)

Followers of Jesus make the second move in extending the invitation to “Come and see.”

Affirmation by the Assembly

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through Word and deed,  
to serve all people following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7583/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition> Page 237

[Images for proclaim the good news of God in Christ through Word and deed](#)

### 2) Of and from

In the motion picture The Blues Brothers, Jake Blues gets out of prison and puts together the band in an effort to save the Catholic orphanage where he and his brother Elwood were raised. He exclaims, “We’re on a mission *from* God.”

### We're On A Mission From God - YouTube

John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd are two brothers with a rockin' blues band and a vision from God to save the orphanage where they grew up in one of the greatest comedies of all time.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz9F\\_YmD6MU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz9F_YmD6MU)

[Images for We're On A Mission From God - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fctAdJ5ob50)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fctAdJ5ob50> We're on a mission from God. - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKZSq5Y8nA> On A Mission From God - YouTube

In the big picture, a follower is called to be a part of and to take part in the Mission *from* God, who creates, redeems, and sanctifies.

### THE SMALL CATECHISM

#### THE CREED

##### THE FIRST ARTICLE

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; that He richly and daily provides me with food and clothing, home and family, property and goods, and all that I need to support this body and life; that He protects me from all danger, guards and keeps me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am in duty bound to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

##### THE SECOND ARTICLE

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

##### THE THIRD ARTICLE

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

[Images for SMALL CATECHISM THE CREED](https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm)

### Resources

#### The Mission of God Study Bible by Ed Stetzer (Editor), Philip Nation (Editor)

*The Mission of God Study Bible* encourages followers of Jesus Christ to see their everyday life from God's perspective and have His heart for people. It's a reminder that we live around people in desperate need of redemption and reconciliation with God, which can only be found in Jesus. The mission of God has never been just for specialists; it is for all believers to live out through their daily lives and by sharing the good news of what God has done through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus. Wherever you are, you are on mission.

In *The Mission of God Study Bible*, readers will hear through more than 150 additional writings from today's top thinkers, theologians, and leading voices in the church about what it means to live in the mission of God. Essay contributors include Matt Chandler, Tullian Tchividjian, Ed Stetzer, Linda Bergquist, Dave Ferguson, Christopher J.H. Wright, Matthew Barnett, and many others.

<https://www.amazon.com/Mission-God-Study-Bible-Hardcover/dp/1433601567>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2010/january/ten-scripture-texts-on-gods-mission.html>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/march/individual-mission.html>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/january/modes-of-mission-applying-biblical-mission-practices-in-our.html>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2012/may/metanarrative-of-gods-mission-closer-look-from-mission-of.html>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/the-mission-of-god-in-the-scriptures/>

<https://www.newhopepublishers.com/download-chapter-1-of-compelled-by-ed-stetzer-and-philip-nation/>

<https://edstetzer.com/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed\\_Stetzer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed_Stetzer)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Ed-Stetzer/e/B001JP8EUI>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/25148.Ed\\_Stetzer](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/25148.Ed_Stetzer)  
 Images for Ed Stetzer, author  
<https://www.amazon.com/Philip-Nation/e/B008UTO4T6>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1012264.Philip\\_Nation](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1012264.Philip_Nation)  
 Images for Philip Nation, author  
 Images for The Mission of God Study Bible by Ed Stetzer (Editor), Philip Nation (Editor)

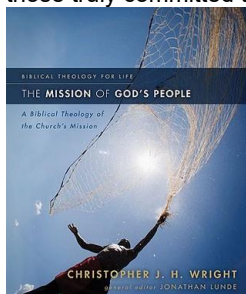
### The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative by Christopher J. H. Wright (Author)

Winner, 2007 *Christianity Today* Missions/Global Affairs Book Most Christians would agree that the Bible provides a basis for mission. But Christopher Wright boldly maintains that mission is bigger than that--there is in fact a missional basis for the Bible! The entire Bible is generated by and is all about God's mission. In order to understand the Bible, we need a missional hermeneutic of the Bible, an interpretive perspective that is in tune with this great missional theme. We need to see the "big picture" of God's mission and how the familiar bits and pieces fit into the grand narrative of Scripture. Beginning with the Old Testament and the groundwork it lays for understanding who God is, what he has called his people to be and do, and how the nations fit into God's mission, Wright gives us a new hermeneutical perspective on Scripture. This new perspective provides a solid and expansive basis for holistic mission. Wright emphasizes throughout a holistic mission as the proper shape of Christian mission. God's mission is to reclaim the world--and that includes the created order--and God's people have a designated role to play in that mission.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Mission-God-Unlocking-Narrative/dp/0830825711>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/788754.The\\_Mission\\_of\\_God](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/788754.The_Mission_of_God)  
<https://www.wtsbooks.com/products/mission-god-christopher-j-h-wright-9780830852130?variant=9800596717615>  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=iKZmH6KA4wsC>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Mission\\_of\\_God.html?id=zxtMPgAACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Mission_of_God.html?id=zxtMPgAACAAJ)  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/wright-the-mission-of-god.html>  
<https://scottszabo.wordpress.com/book-reviews/the-mission-of-god-unlocking-the-bible%E2%80%99s-grand-narrative/>  
[http://www.globalmissiology.org/english/docs\\_pdf/reviews/wright\\_mission\\_of\\_god\\_grand\\_narrative\\_2\\_2009.pdf](http://www.globalmissiology.org/english/docs_pdf/reviews/wright_mission_of_god_grand_narrative_2_2009.pdf)  
<https://missionexus.org/the-mission-of-god-unlocking-the-bibles-grand-narrative/>  
<https://chrisjhwright.wordpress.com/about/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher\\_J.\\_H.\\_Wright](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_J._H._Wright)  
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/christopher-jh-wright/228270/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Christopher-J.-H.-Wright/e/B001H6QNY8>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/95925.Christopher\\_J\\_H\\_Wright](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/95925.Christopher_J_H_Wright)  
 Images for Christopher J. H. Wright (Author)  
 Images for The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative by Christopher J. H. Wright (Author)

### The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission (Biblical Theology for Life) [Christopher J. H. Wright]

Chris Wright's pioneering 2006 book, *The Mission of God*, revealed that the typical Christian understanding of 'missions' encompasses only a small part of God's overarching mission for the world. God is relentlessly reclaiming the entire world for himself. In *The Mission of God's People*, Wright shows how God's big-picture plan directs the purpose of God's people, the church. Wright emphasizes what the Old Testament teaches Christians about being the people of God. He addresses questions of both ecclesiology and missiology with topics like 'called to care for creation,' 'called to bless the nations,' 'sending and being sent,' and 'rejecting false gods.' As part of the Biblical Theology for Life Series, this book provides pastors, teachers and lay learners with first-rate biblical study while at the same time addressing the practical concerns of contemporary ministry. *The Mission of God's People* promises to enliven and refocus the study, teaching, and ministry of those truly committed to joining God's work in the world.



<http://www.amazon.com/Mission-Gods-People-Biblical-Theology/dp/0310291127>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8772004-the-mission-of-god-s-people>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-mission-of-gods-people-christopher-j-h-wright/1117786717>  
<https://zondervanacademic.com/products/the-mission-of-gods-people>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/mission-gods-people-biblical-theology-churchs/christopher-wright/9780310291121/pd/291121>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310323037>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Mission\\_of\\_God\\_s\\_People.html?id=PQU4CggC5rAC](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Mission_of_God_s_People.html?id=PQU4CggC5rAC)  
 The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission  
<https://themelios.thegospelcoalition.org/review/the-mission-of-gods-people-a-biblical-theology-of-the-churchs-mission/>  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/wright-the-mission-of-gods-people.html>  
<http://www.denverseminary.edu/article/the-mission-of-gods-people-a-biblical-theology-of-the-churchs-mission/>  
<https://www.logos.com/product/26704/the-mission-of-gods-people-a-biblical-theology-of-the-churchs-mission>  
<https://9marks.org/review/mission-gods-people/>  
<https://lecturanarrativelabiblia.files.wordpress.com/.../the-mission-of-gods-church>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW9IULCWVgo> The Mission of God's People - Christopher J. H. Wright - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbrnXGhciL4> Interview with Christopher J. H. Wright – YouTube  
 Images for Christopher J. H. Wright – YouTube  
 Images for A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission (Biblical Theology for Life) [Christopher J. H. Wright]  
<https://www.logos.com/product/17203/biblical-theology-for-life>  
<https://www.overdrive.com/series/biblical-theology-for-life>  
 Images for Biblical Theology for Life

### 3) Evangelical fervor and theological rigor

The evangelist Billy Sunday was born near Ames, Iowa on 11/19/1862.

#### Resources

##### Best 25+ Billy sunday ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/billy-sunday/>  
 Images for billy sunday - pinterest  
<https://www.pinterest.com/barbi1954/billy-sunday-evangelist/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/gr8tcommission/billy-sunday/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/rickshaw109/billy-sunday/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/kenpincoski/billy-sunday/>

##### Billy Sunday: A Voice for God - YouTube

One of the most dynamic voices for God in America during the 20th century was William Ashley Sunday. For over 40 years he was used of God to stir Bible-believing Christianity to the paths of old time religion and to rekindle a passion for Christ and for reaching the lost. His life and testimony reflects what one man is capable of who is completely sold-out to be a voice for God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nc17cwGY0ho>  
 Images for Billy Sunday: A Voice for God - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ykn8Yclbmfo> Billy Sunday Warns America (1929) - YouTube  
 Images for Billy Sunday Warns America (1929) - YouTube  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/evangelistsandapologists/billy-sunday.html>  
 Images for evangelistsandapologists/billy-sunday  
<http://billysunday.org/>  
<http://billysunday.org/timeline.php3>  
<http://www.wheaton.edu/ISAE/Hall-of-Biography/Billy-Sunday>

##### Billy Sunday | Ames Historical Society

William Ashley (Billy) Sunday was born on his grandparents' farm just south of Ames, Iowa, on November 19, 1862. Martin and Mary Ann Cory settled there in 1852 on land now occupied by the Highway 30 and Duff Avenue interchange, and the old sewage treatment plant. The Cory family cemetery is still located on that site.

[www.ameshistory.org/content/billy-sunday](http://www.ameshistory.org/content/billy-sunday)  
 Images for Billy Sunday | Ames Historical Society

##### Billy Sunday Quotes - BrainyQuote

[https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/billy\\_sunday](https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/billy_sunday)  
 Images for billy sunday quotes  
<https://www.inspiringquotes.us/author/6174-billy-sunday>  
<https://www.christianquotes.info/images/category/billy-sunday-quotes/>  
[https://www.allchristianquotes.org/authors/42/Billy\\_Sunday/](https://www.allchristianquotes.org/authors/42/Billy_Sunday/)  
[www.azquotes.com/author/14309-Billy\\_Sunday](http://www.azquotes.com/author/14309-Billy_Sunday)  
<https://gracequotes.org/author-quote/billy-sunday/>  
[www.doublequotes.net/billy-sunday-quotes/about-mother](http://www.doublequotes.net/billy-sunday-quotes/about-mother)  
[www.hippoquotes.com/billy-sunday-quotes-images](http://www.hippoquotes.com/billy-sunday-quotes-images)  
<https://quotefancy.com/billy-sunday-quotes>

##### Billy Sunday - Wikipedia

William Ashley Sunday (November 19, 1862 – November 6, 1935) was an American athlete who, after being a popular [outfielder](#) in baseball's [National League](#) during the 1880s, became the most celebrated and influential American [evangelist](#) during the first two decades of the 20th century.<sup>[1]</sup>

Born into poverty in [Iowa](#), Sunday spent some years at the [Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home](#) before working at odd jobs and playing for local running and baseball teams. His speed and agility provided him the opportunity to play baseball in the [major leagues](#) for eight years, where he was an average hitter and a good fielder known for his base-running. Converting to [evangelical Christianity](#) in the 1880s, Sunday left baseball for the Christian ministry. He gradually developed his skills as a pulpit evangelist in the [Midwest](#) and then, during the early 20th century, he became the nation's most famous evangelist with his colloquial [sermons](#) and frenetic delivery. Sunday held widely reported campaigns in America's largest cities, and he attracted the largest crowds of any evangelist before the advent of electronic sound systems. He also made a great deal of money and was welcomed into the homes of the wealthy and influential. Sunday was a strong supporter of [Prohibition](#), and his preaching likely played a significant role in the adoption of the [Eighteenth Amendment](#) in 1919.

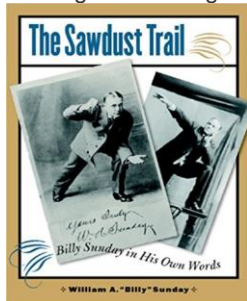
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy\\_Sunday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Sunday)

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy\\_Sunday](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Sunday)

[Images for billy sunday](#)

#### The Sawdust Trail: Billy Sunday in His Own Words (Bur Oak Book) by William A. Sunday (Author)

Billy Sunday (1862-1935) was the best-known evangelist in America in the first half of the 20th century. Impoverished midwestern farm kid, professional baseball player, showman extraordinaire, unabashed patriot, and foe of the demon rum, this self-styled muscular Christian brought his brand of manly gospel to millions of Americans nationwide. Sunday connected with his fans through a combination of theatrics, conservative theology, and fervent patriotism; the circumstances of his life and work were consistent with a Horatio Alger-like myth of success that resonated with the millions of Americans of his time who had been transplanted from the farm to the city. Published serially in the Ladies' Home Journal in 1932 and 1933 and now in book form for the first time, *The Sawdust Trail* is the only autobiography that this hugely popular and hugely controversial preacher ever wrote. From his childhood days in Iowa to the early days of his conversion in Illinois, from his baseball career with the National League teams in Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia to the challenges of preaching in New York City during his heyday, the sections of Sunday's autobiography roll out like so many exuberant sermons, yet the sympathetic reader can hear echoes of the loneliness and misery of his early years. In *The Sawdust Trail* the sometimes appalling but always appealing Billy Sunday creates a usable past for himself, notable for what he omits as well as for what he includes, which gives us insight not just into his own life and career but also into the peculiar history of evangelism in America.



<https://www.amazon.com/Sawdust-Trail-Billy-Sunday-Words/dp/0877459495>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2386668.The\\_Sawdust\\_Trail](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2386668.The_Sawdust_Trail)

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-sawdust-trail-billy-sunday/1111013347>

<https://www.uipress.uiowa.edu/books/2005-fall/sunsawtra.htm>

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/3558>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1587296462>

[http://moses.law.umn.edu/darrow/documents/Billy\\_Sunday\\_Tabernacles\\_and\\_Sawdust\\_trails.pdf](http://moses.law.umn.edu/darrow/documents/Billy_Sunday_Tabernacles_and_Sawdust_trails.pdf)

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/2319780.Billy\\_Sunday](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/2319780.Billy_Sunday)

[Images for The Sawdust Trail: Billy Sunday in His Own Words \(Bur Oak Book\) by William A. Sunday \(Author\)](#)

During my time of growing up in neighboring Story City in the 1960s, a century after his birth, traveling evangelists preached at tent meetings in nearby Radcliffe. I can still smell the musty tent, green grass, and sawdust aisle to the altar. The evangelists wanted to make sure those in attendance knew Jesus and that those in attendance shared Jesus with others.

#### Ames Daily Tribune from Ames, Iowa - Newspapers.com

Jun 7, 1974 - Ames Daily Tribune (Ames, Iowa), Friday, June 7, 1974, Page 5. ... guest speaker at the Annual Crusade for Christ **Tent Meetings** in Radcliffe.

<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/54616404/>

[Images for Annual Crusade for Christ Tent Meetings](#)

#### Roland Record from Roland, Iowa - Newspapers.com

Jun 15, 1972 - Roland Record (Roland, Iowa), Thursday, June 15, 1972, Page 2. **Tent Meetings** in Radcliffe begin Tuesday evening, June 20th, at 7:45 p. m.

<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/3218876/>

[Images for Tent Meetings in Radcliffe, Iowa](#)



## Resources

### Revival without tents by Craig Barnes | The Christian Century

I can still smell the wet canvas and sawdust of my father's revivals. Like many old-school country preachers, he believed that any self-respecting revival was held in a tent. The fact that he'd been sent by his denomination from Texas to serve as a "home missionary" in Long Island, New York, didn't dissuade him.

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2015-07/revival-without-tents>

[Images for Revival without tents by Craig Barnes | The Christian Century](#)

<https://www.christiancentury.org/magazine>

<http://www.ptsem.edu/people/m-craig-barnes>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M.\\_Craig\\_Barnes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M._Craig_Barnes)

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

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

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/150743.M\\_Craig\\_Barnes](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/150743.M_Craig_Barnes)

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/150743.M\\_Craig\\_Barnes](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/150743.M_Craig_Barnes)

[http://day1.org/262-the\\_rev\\_dr\\_m\\_craig\\_barnes](http://day1.org/262-the_rev_dr_m_craig_barnes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj1v2AyCE8> Craig Barnes Sermon - YouTube

[Images for Craig Barnes Sermon - YouTube](#)

### The Smell of Sawdust: What Evangelicals Can Learn from Their Fundamentalist Heritage by Richard J. Mouw

Finding Home

I have long assumed that the main reason for the sawdust in the **revival tents** was to keep things from getting too muddy – and it sure did serve this function.

But recently I discovered that the image of a sawdust trail also had an important metaphorical meaning, derived from the nineteenth-century lumber camps. When lumberjacks got lost in the woods, they would walk in various directions until they found sawdust on the ground. Then, they would follow the sawdust trail back to a place of safety. The evangelist Billy Sunday knew of this practice and he used the image in calling sinners to **follow the sawdust trail to a place of spiritual safety**.

Finding the way home has long been an important evangelical theme. It's also an image that speaks to my soul.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310231965>

Page 9

[Images for follow the sawdust trail to a place of spiritual safety](#)

[Images for Finding the way home has long been an important evangelical theme.](#)

<http://mincingword.blogspot.com/2010/12/sawdust-trail.html>

Many evangelicals paint fundamentalism with the same broad, negative brush. But we owe more to our pietist-revivalist roots than we realize. Richard Mouw's awareness of fundamentalism's problems hasn't robbed his appreciation for its strengths. *The Smell of Sawdust* sheds thoughtful and revealing light on the colorful parentage of contemporary evangelicalism. If you detect fondness, even a hint of nostalgia, you're right. From its history, to its ethos, to its mores and methods, Mouw takes you on a fascinating journey through the pros and cons of the "sawdust trail." Whatever your outlook on the revivalist tradition, whether favorable or not so favorable, these candid, thought-provoking insights will inspire your respect for fundamentalism's strong points, help you learn from its weaknesses, and above all, enrich your life as a Christian. Like the author, you'll find yourself singing the old gospel hymns with new understanding and depth. Filled with anecdotes from the amusing to the poignant, this book takes you back to the sawdust-covered earth of the early tent meetings . . . earlier, to the spiritual hunger that sparked the pietist movement . . . and later, into today, where we strive to effectively communicate the non-negotiables of our faith to a needy world. *The Smell of Sawdust* is gentle and deeply personal. It is also wise--neither judgmental nor naive, but healing, furnishing redemptive insights into the character of our fundamentalist heritage. This book will broaden the perspective of thinking Christians who want to engage both their hearts and their intellects to reach the soul of our culture with the gospel.

<https://www.amazon.com/Smell-Sawdust-Richard-J-Mouw/dp/0310231965>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1479727.The\\_Smell\\_of\\_Sawdust](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1479727.The_Smell_of_Sawdust)

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/smell-of-sawdust-richard-j-mouw/1102169822>

[https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/smell-of-sawdust-the\\_richard-j-mouw/1102884/#isbn=0310231965&idq=4247217](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/smell-of-sawdust-the_richard-j-mouw/1102884/#isbn=0310231965&idq=4247217)

[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Smell\\_of\\_Sawdust.html?id=cUjUHb-OjT4C](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Smell_of_Sawdust.html?id=cUjUHb-OjT4C)

[The Smell of Sawdust: What Evangelicals Can Learn from Their Fundamentalist Heritage](#)

[Encyclopedia of Evangelicalism - Page 602 - Google Books Result](#)

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/35492409?q&versionId=44151514>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/2000/10/wolfe-mouw.htm>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/novemberweb-only/12.0b.html> Fundamentalism Revisited | Christianity Today

<http://fuller.edu/faculty/rmouw/>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/people-news/writers/richard-j-mouw>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Mouw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Mouw)

<https://www.amazon.com/Richard-J.-Mouw/e/B001HD17QU>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/47453.Richard\\_J\\_Mouw](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/47453.Richard_J_Mouw)

[Images for Richard J. Mouw, author](#)

[Images for The Smell of Sawdust: What Evangelicals Can Learn from Their Fundamentalist Heritage by Richard J. Mouw](#)

#### Sawdust trail - Wikipedia

Sunday repeatedly used the metaphor throughout his career. He told his audiences to "hit the sawdust trail" and give their lives to Jesus. At his **revival meetings**, "trail hitters" would walk up the center aisle strewn with sawdust and shake Sunday's hand as a public manifestation of their conversion experience.<sup>[4]</sup>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawdust\\_trail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawdust_trail)

[Images for Sawdust trail](#)

The tent meetings eventually folded up and faded away, but the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement continued to hold special meetings in churches and gymnasiums.

#### Lutheran Evangelistic Movement

"The Lutheran Evangelistic Movement has as its purpose by God's grace to revive and deepen the spiritual life and fellowship of believers, to save the lost, and to encourage the use of spiritual gifts for the extension of Christ's kingdom" (from the 1951 LEM constitution).

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

[Images for Lutheran Evangelistic Movement](#)

#### 4) Goals Committee

As a co-editor of the *The Lobbyist* school newspaper while I was a sophomore at Waldorf Junior College in Forest City, Iowa, I wrote an editorial raising questions about the direction of the institution. The other co-editor went on to serve as a professor at the college to create a bachelor's program in Communications - Waldorf College. Subsequently, I was asked to serve as the student representative on the Waldorf College Goals Committee. The following piece by President Paul Mork outlined the directive to the committee:

Waldorf College Goals Committee

March 23, 1973

Basic purpose of the committee: To examine the philosophy, purpose, and aims of Waldorf in light of the present published Waldorf statement regarding the philosophy, purpose, and aims of the college and suggest any changes in these statements which the committee might deem necessary.

In working out this purpose I am suggesting that a "banner" or "flag" statement be developed which can serve as a kind of core statement concerning the mission and purpose of Waldorf College.

Mode of Operation for the Committee:

1. This committee will serve as the facilitating agency through which the ideas and input of the entire Waldorf community will be made. The Goals Committee will evaluate, condense, and put into acceptable form the material gathered.
2. The committee shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary. Three complete sets of minutes and all other materials related to the committee shall be kept.
3. Such sub-committee as may be needed will be formed. The Goals Committee shall have this power to form needed sub-committees.
4. A sincere effort must be made to gather the ideas and opinions of all in the Waldorf family (students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, parents, community, church), whether these ideas are in or out of harmony with our position.
5. Continual reporting of the activities of this committee will be made through the Scroll and other college publications as the work proceeds.
6. At least a rough draft should be finished before the faculty-staff workshop prior to the opening of school next fall so that all faculty and staff can study and discuss the document.
7. When finished, the report of the committee will be presented to the Board of Regents for their evaluation.

Some of the questions which I think the committee should wrestle with are these:

1. What is our particular identity?
2. Do we function now in accord with our stated philosophy, purpose, and aims?
3. How can we have aims and objectives that are so clear that they are understood by all? And how do we make a goals statement really worth something in the life of the college?

As sub-committees are formed, their reports should be in and evaluated by the Goals Committee before the end of the present school term. This means that the bulk of the work of this committee must be done in the next two months.

I was presented the Deans Award on May 7, 1973:

In recognition of outstanding contributions to the life and work of Waldorf College, the 1973 Deans Award is presented to Lowell Bolstad this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 1973.

This experience became a defining moment for me in deliberating mission, purpose, and goals for an institution, which, in looking back, helped to prepare me for pastoral ministry and interim ministry.

#### 5) Christian Base Communities

I first became exposed to Christian Base Communities when I traveled to Mexico, Nicaragua, and El Salvador in February 1985 on a travel seminar with the Center for Global Education – Augsburg College.



### Center for Global Education - Augsburg College

Augsburg College program offering study abroad, short term travel and customized travel programs.

<http://www.augsburg.edu/global/>

[Images for Center for Global Education – Augsburg College](#)

I wrote about Christian Base Communities

### Resources

#### Christian base communities - Wikipedia

Christian Base communities are autonomous [religious](#) groups often associated with [Liberation Theology](#). The 1968 [Medellín, Colombia](#) meeting of Latin American Council of Bishops played a major role in popularizing them. Created in both rural and urban areas, the [Christian](#) Base Community, organized often illiterate [peasants](#) and proletarians into self-reliant worshipping communities through the tutelage of a priest or local lay member. Because established Christian parishes with active priests were often miles away and because high level church officials rarely visited even their own parishes these “base communities” were often the only direct exposure to the church for people in rural areas or those for whom a “local” church may be miles away. Thus, the base community was significant in changing popular interpretations of [Roman Catholicism](#) for multiple reasons. Initially, their very structure encouraged discussion and solidarity within the community over submission to church authority and, as their very name suggests, made power seem to flow from the bottom or base upward. The influence of liberation theology meant that discussions within the church were oriented toward material conditions and issues of class interests. Through this process of consciousness raising, evangelization turned into class consciousness.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_base\\_communities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_base_communities)

[Images for Christian base communities](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basic\\_ecclesial\\_community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basic_ecclesial_community)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Base\\_community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Base_community)

#### Christian Base Communities | emerging communities

For many of us Christians in North America, formed in a fragmented culture, habituated to an illusion of self-sufficiency, taught a gospel of individual and more often than not unearthly salvation, the habits of communal living don't necessarily come easily. Hence, lessons gleaned from people on the margins, who are inescapably sensitive to their dependence on God and one another, can be indispensable to our own growth in community.

<http://emerging-communities.com/tag/christian-base-communities/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzLp\\_zYurDY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzLp_zYurDY) Christian base communities - YouTube

[Images for Christian Base Communities | emerging communities](#)

briefly in Who Will Stand Up for the Family Farm? page 20 included in this website under Rural Ministry Resources. I wrote more extensively in Rural Communities: Dying or Being Reborn? Chapter 4 A Church in Solidarity with the Poor based on a travel seminar to Peru and Bolivia with Lutheran World Relief in April and May of 1989 also included in this website under Rural Ministry Resources. In 2015, 30 years after that travel seminar to Central America - when I now read about the Early Christian Church, Emerging Church, House Churches, Cell-Based Congregations, and Small Group Ministry - I am reminded of the Christian Base Communities of Latin America. Today, the church is growing fastest in the Southern Hemisphere.

### Resources

#### Global Gospel: Christianity is Alive and Well in the Southern Hemisphere

A capsule of his findings would include the following facts: Over the past century, Christian populations in the West have either been holding steady or declining, while in Africa, Asia and Latin America – the “global South” in current geopolitical coinage – the numbers have been rising significantly and, in some cases, dramatically. Today there are more Christians living in the global South than in Europe, North America, Russia, and Japan. Roughly two-thirds of all Protestants live outside Europe and North America.

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=2656>

<https://www.religion-online.org/article/global-gospel-christianity-is-alive-and-well-in-the-southern-hemisphere/>

[Images for Christianity is Alive and Well in the Southern Hemisphere](#)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2015/05/20/think-christianity-is-dying-no-christianity-is-shifting-dramatically/?utm\\_term=.0e58b7770be5](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2015/05/20/think-christianity-is-dying-no-christianity-is-shifting-dramatically/?utm_term=.0e58b7770be5) The center of Christianity has shifted from Europe to the global South.

[Images for The center of Christianity has shifted from Europe to the global South.](#)

<http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/> *The Global South*

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/sep/20/end-of-white-christian-america>

#### The Next Christianity - The Atlantic

This sort of alternative social system, which played an enormous role in the earliest days of Christianity, has been a potent means of winning mass support for the most committed religious groups and is likely to grow in importance as the gap between people's needs and government's capacities to fill them becomes wider. Looking at the success of Christianity in the Roman Empire, the historian Peter Brown has written, “The Christian community suddenly came to appeal to men who felt

deserted ... Plainly, to be a Christian in 250 brought more protection from one's fellows than to be a *civis Romanus*." Being a member of an active Christian church today may well bring more tangible benefits than being a mere citizen of Nigeria or Peru.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/10/the-next-christianity/302591/>

[Images for Next Christianity - The Atlantic](#)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/09/christianitys-new-center/303077/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/02/billy-graham-globalized-evangelicalism/553886/>

[Images for theatlantic/billy-graham-globalized-evangelicalism](#)

## 6) Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is a companion synod to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM). The ELCM is unique in that it was started by indigenous lay people, and even today much of the leadership is done by lay evangelists. Where the church in the United States used to pride itself on being a missionary sending church, now the ELCM serves as an inspiration with their passion for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Resources

#### Companion Ministry - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Malawi

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi is one of the fastest growing churches in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The ELCM was established November 21, 1982. The establishment was done by indigenous lay people who became Lutherans as they worked in the neighboring countries of Zimbabwe, South Africa and Tanzania where Lutheranism had already existed and rooted. In 1999, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA covenanted together in a [companion synod relationship](#).

[http://www.nwswi.org/our\\_faith\\_in\\_action/companion\\_ministries.phtml](http://www.nwswi.org/our_faith_in_action/companion_ministries.phtml)

[Images for Companion Ministry - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Malawi](#)

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

[http://synodresourcecenter.org/evang/global\\_missions/companion\\_synods/relationships/0001/mutual\\_ministry.html](http://synodresourcecenter.org/evang/global_missions/companion_synods/relationships/0001/mutual_ministry.html)

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1115931473905.html> [Global Relationships](#)

<https://elcm.weebly.com/partners.html>

<http://elcm.weebly.com/about-us.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical\\_Lutheran\\_Church\\_in\\_Malawi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_in_Malawi)

[Images for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi \(ELCM\)](#)

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Church/Global-Mission/Companion-Synod-Relationships>

[Images for Companion Synod Relationships – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

#### Ministry Activities Reports | The LHM—Malawi Blog



<https://lhmmalawi.wordpress.com/category/ministry-activities-reports/>

[Images for Ministry Activities Reports | The LHM—Malawi Blog](#)

#### Malawi - Wikipedia

Malawi (/məˈlɔːwi/, /məˈlɑːwi/ or /ˈmæləwi/; **Chichewa**: [malaʒi]<sup>[*need tone*]</sup>), officially the Republic of Malawi, is a [landlocked country](#) in southeast Africa that was formerly known as [Nyasaland](#). It is bordered by [Zambia](#) to the northwest, [Tanzania](#) to the northeast, and [Mozambique](#) on the east, south and west. The country is separated from Tanzania and Mozambique by [Lake Malawi](#). Malawi is over 118,000 km<sup>2</sup> (45,560 sq. mi) with an estimated population of 16,777,547 (July 2013 est.). Its capital is [Lilongwe](#), which is also Malawi's largest city; the second largest is [Blantyre](#) and the third is [Mzuzu](#). The name Malawi comes from the [Maravi](#), an old name of the [Nyanja people](#) that inhabit the area. The country is also nicknamed "The Warm Heart of Africa".<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

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

[Images for Malawi](#)

## 7) The “Nones”

From the Bishop

Are you up for a challenge?

“Nomads, Prodigals, and Exiles: A Panel of [Nones](#)” will be the evening program for Working Together/Synod Assembly, a unique opportunity for us to hear stories from a few folks that - for whatever reason - are not drawn to our “bricks and mortar” churches and

yet may still be seeking God.

Why wait until then to engage someone in conversation? Therefore, we invite all assembly delegates and visitors prior to June 7th to invite a “none” from your own community (essentially someone who doesn’t go to church) to coffee or for a meal. Perhaps it’s your neighbor, co-worker, friend, or family member... a chance for you to hear stories and journeys of faith and/or doubt from someone in your own backyard.

Assure them in advance that you’re not going to try to invite them to church (or convert them)! Assure them that you’re not going to ask them what your congregation can do differently to “attract” them. (If you need to, you can tell them your bishop asked you to do this in the first place!). Assure them that you have a lot to learn from them. And then, if they agree to meet with you (don’t feel bad if they don’t), be sure to mostly listen, and see where the Holy Spirit leads.

We will be praying that God will surprise you along the way!

Rev. Rick Hoyme

Bishop

NW Synod of Wisconsin

#### Panel of “Nones”

Assembly participants of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin had the privilege of hearing from a panel of “nones;” persons who would describe themselves as spiritual, but not religious. The June 7 evening discussion was led by a moderator asking questions received from audience members. The exchange was meaningful and spirit-filled as panel members offered their observations and thoughts on the Christian Church. It was a great opportunity that modeled for assembly participants how they might start conversations with their friends and neighbors that might be “nones” and also offered insight on how Christians are often perceived.



2014 Synod Assembly

Walking & Working Together

Saturday-Sunday, June 7-8, 2014

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

[View assembly summary.](#)

[http://www.nswwi.org/webfiles/fnitoools/documents/2014\\_synod\\_assembly\\_summaryrev.pdf](http://www.nswwi.org/webfiles/fnitoools/documents/2014_synod_assembly_summaryrev.pdf)  
[info@nswwi.org](mailto:info@nswwi.org)

#### Resources

**Choosing Our Religion: The Spiritual Lives of America's Nones by Elizabeth Drescher (Author)**

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

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

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

<http://www.amazon.com/Choosing-Our-Religion-Spiritual-Americas/dp/0199341222>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/26700530-choosing-our-religion>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/choosing-our-religion-elizabeth-drescher/1122624080>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Choosing\\_Our\\_Religion.html?id=tGHWcWAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Choosing_Our_Religion.html?id=tGHWcWAAQBAJ)

[Choosing Our Religion: The Spiritual Lives of America's Nones](#)

<https://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199341221.001.0001/acprof-9780199341221>

<http://confirmnotconform.com/blog/listening-nones-interview-elizabeth-drescher>  
<http://religiondispatches.org/author/elizabeth-drescher/>  
<http://americamagazine.org/issue/gospel-according-nones>  
<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/choosing-our-religion-9780199341221?cc=us&lang=en&>  
<https://sacredmattersmagazine.com/7-questions-for-elizabeth-drescher/>  
<https://rlp.hds.harvard.edu/news/american-nones-rise>  
<https://www.onfaith.co/onfaith/author/elizabeth-drescher>  
<http://elizabethdrescher.com/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Elizabeth-Drescher/e/B004L8H01Y>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4508380.Elizabeth\\_Drescher](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4508380.Elizabeth_Drescher)  
 Images for Elizabeth Drescher (Author)  
 Images for Choosing Our Religion: The Spiritual Lives of America's Nones by Elizabeth Drescher (Author)

### Losing Our Religion: The Growth Of The 'Nones'

This week, *Morning Edition* explores the “nones” — Americans who say they don’t identify with any religion. Demographers have given them this name because when asked to identify their religion, that’s their answer: “none.”  
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2013/01/14/169164840/losing-our-religion-the-growth-of-the-nones>  
 Images for Losing Our Religion: The Growth Of The 'Nones'  
<http://religionnews.com/2015/05/12/christians-lose-ground-nones-soar-new-portrait-u-s-religion/>  
 Images for christians lose ground to none  
<http://sojo.net/blogs/series/meet-the-nones>  
 Images for meet the none  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/meet-the-nones-the-democratic-partys-biggest-faith-constituency/2016/02/28/85e5b68e-d588-11e5-b195-2e29a4e13425\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/meet-the-nones-the-democratic-partys-biggest-faith-constituency/2016/02/28/85e5b68e-d588-11e5-b195-2e29a4e13425_story.html)  
 Images for none the democratic party's biggest constituency

### [PDF]New Trends in Belonging | The Parish Paper

What Is a **None**? A person who answers the question “What is your religion, if any?” with “None” joins the ranks of the unaffiliated—which is currently about 15 percent of American adults.”  
 People who answer “None” are the fastest growing group in the religious landscape, growing by 138 percent since 1990. In contrast, people affiliating with Catholic congregations and Protestant groups failed to keep pace with the population growth of the past two decades.  
 Who Are the Nones? Most Christian groups have a female bias (approximately 60 percent of worshipers are women; 40 percent of worshipers are men). But the ratio of women to men among the Nones is reversed: 60 percent of Nones are men; 40 percent are women.  
[https://www.wisconsinumc.org/Resources/Documents/ParishPaper/ParishPaper\\_Mar10.pdf](https://www.wisconsinumc.org/Resources/Documents/ParishPaper/ParishPaper_Mar10.pdf)  
<http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/church-management/parish-paper/> New Trends in Belonging – March 2010  
 Images for New Trends in Belonging | The Parish Paper What Is a None?  
<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources>  
<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper>  
<http://www.hcucc.org/the-parish-paper>  
<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue-index> Back Issue Index | The Parish Paper

### “Nones” on the Rise | Pew Research Center’s Religion & Public Life Project

The number of Americans who do not identify with any religion continues to grow at a rapid pace. One-fifth of the U.S. public and a third of adults under 30 – are religiously unaffiliated today, the highest percentages ever in Pew Research Center polling. In the last five years alone, the unaffiliated have increased from just over 15% to just under 20% of all U.S. adults. Their ranks now include more than 13 million self-described atheists and agnostics (nearly 6% of the U.S. public), as well as nearly 33 million people who say they have no particular religious affiliation (14%).<sup>3</sup>  
<http://www.pewforum.org/2012/10/09/nones-on-the-rise/>  
 Images for “Nones” on the Rise | Pew Research Center’s Religion & Public Life Project  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/unreasonablefaith/2013/08/rise-of-the-nones-re-examined/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZZqahr4Mv0> Religion in America: The Rise of the "Nones" - YouTube  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-secular-life/201412/the-rise-the-nones>  
<http://prospect.org/article/rise-%E2%80%9Cnones%E2%80%9D>  
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/religious-nones/> Religious Nones | HuffPost - Huffington Post  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/phil-zuckerman/religion-declining-secula\\_b\\_9889398.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/phil-zuckerman/religion-declining-secula_b_9889398.html)

### Reflections on the church’s talking points

What ought to claim our attention now is **“The Nones,”** those living in this post-Christian culture who claim no religious affiliation. Most of us were born when the culture agreed that church membership was part of the American way of life. That’s less and less a given, particularly among younger generations, a trend we shouldn’t view as a threat, but as an opportunity. Biblically and historically, the church is at its best as a missionary presence in a secular society, not as the dominant secular power. This is a good time to be the church.



But if that's true, we need to be clear on our talking points for this new time. When we gather, do we focus on questions of church membership and budgets? I think we center on these two talking points:

First of all, let's be clear and bold about why we believe people's lives are enriched and made full and abundant by being part of our congregations. And the reason is that we center our lives around the presence of the God of the universe whom we come to know in the person of Jesus Christ, a living spiritual presence in our lives, not an abstract idea or set of rules.

A God of love lives here, and this community exists to share the presence of that love. This God draws close to people, and they'll hear that again and again in this place. They'll be grounded in a relationship with a loving God here.

And second, if we live this way, in relationship with that God-in-Christ, we love the world as Christ loves the world, and we do it so passionately that the world takes note. This church will not be a building on a corner with occasional club activities for its members: this is a church that matters, that has an impact, that cares about this community, and that gathers people who care about the whole world, particularly the world's pain.

I'm willing to stake the health of the church of the future on those two talking points. I'm willing to say that the life of the whole church—synod and churchwide organization included—is based on supporting our congregations to be those kind of healthy, focused communities and extending their impact into the world beyond themselves.

I'm willing to claim this growing era of post-Christendom as a gift and invitation. And I'm willing to bet that if we get these two talking points right, the future will take care of itself. The Lord of the Church has always seen to that—and invites us to be part of it.

<http://www.spas-elca.org/mutual-conversation/reflections-church%E2%80%99s-talking-points>  
[Images for post-Christian culture](#)

#### Religious Preference: Ask Alban

Q: It seems that a growing number of people indicate that their religious preference is “none”—or say, “I’m spiritual, but not religious.” Is there anything that congregations can do differently? Are we becoming irrelevant?

A. Loyalty to religious congregations may seem to be waning among some people and some people express this as a suspicion of the “organizational” aspects of religious communities or their leaders. This might get expressed in a variety of ways, including the statement “I am spiritual, not religious” or checking “none” on a religious affiliation survey.

Rather than bemoan this apparent trend, I believe we can listen more deeply and learn from this. The fact of the matter is that not all of those who say they are “spiritual but not religious” are *outside* of our congregations. Some of them are sitting in our pews. I like to think that those who say they are “spiritual, but not religious” at least have one oar still in the water. I also like to think that those who don’t have a current religious affiliation may find pathways to a religious community at some point in their lives. In fact, research shows that many do.

[Alban at Duke Divinity School » Ask Alban: Religious Preference](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/ask-alban-religious-preference/>

[Images for growing number of people religious preference “none”](#)

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

But if the interim minister model is to continue to have value it will need more than tweaking. This is the case because the entire mainline Protestant church is caught in a huge cultural shift, an awkward intermediate stage or interim time between Christianity’s cultural establishment and its disestablishment, or between mainline Protestantism’s status as the default religious option in North American culture to a time of far greater religious choice and competition. Arguably, the interim model was conceived in a time of greater stability for historic or mainline Protestant denominations and congregations. Such congregations were an established feature of their cities, town and communities. Denominations themselves remained a significant and plausible brand. But in the thirty years since interim ministry was birthed, much has changed. Growing numbers of Americans switch denominations, even faiths. **More Americans are electing for “none of the above”** and opting out of religious affiliation altogether, while others are inhabiting the new world of “the spiritual but not religious.” Fewer congregations experience themselves as moving from one stable-longer-term pastorate to another. More are struggling to discover their role and identity in a rapidly changing culture. I can imagine that interim ministry can continue to be helpful in such times and situations. But the work needs to be rethought or reformulated.

[Alban at Duke Divinity School » Rethinking Interim Ministry](#)

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[Images for more Americans “none of the above” and opting out of religious affiliation](#)

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#### The Rise of the Nones: Understanding and Reaching the Religiously Unaffiliated [James Emery White]

The single fastest growing religious group of our time is those who check the box next to the word *none* on national surveys. In America, this is 20 percent of the population. Exactly who are the unaffiliated? What caused this seismic shift in our culture?

Are our churches poised to reach these people?

James Emery White lends his prophetic voice to one of the most important conversations the church needs to be having today. He calls churches to examine their current methods of evangelism, which often result only in transfer growth--Christians

moving from one church to another--rather than in reaching the "nones." The pastor of a megachurch that is currently experiencing 70 percent of its growth from the unchurched, White knows how to reach this growing demographic, and here he shares his ministry strategies with concerned pastors and church leaders.



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### The Rise of the Religious "Nones" - ThomRainer.com

Church leaders must understand the trend of the nones and its implication on church life in America.

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### They Like Jesus but Not the Church: Insights from Emerging Generations [Dan Kimball]

Many people today, especially among emerging generations, don't resonate with the church and organized Christianity. Some are leaving the church and others were never part of the church in the first place. Sometimes it's because of misperceptions about the church. Yet often they are still spiritually open and fascinated with Jesus. This is a ministry resource book exploring six of the most common objects and misunderstandings emerging generations have about the church and Christianity. The



objections come from conversations and interviews the church has had with unchurched twenty and thirty-somethings at coffee houses. Each chapter raises the objection using a conversational approach, provides the biblical answers to that objection, gives examples of how churches are addressing this objection, and concludes with follow-through projection suggestions, discussion questions, and resource listings.

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

One of the more fascinating phenomena of **shifting beliefs is the rise of those researchers call “Nones.”** In 1960 this group barely registered on the polls. By 2008, those self-identified as “nones” or “unaffiliated” rose to 16 percent. 16

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#### unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity...and Why It Matters [David Kinnaman, Gabe Lyons]

Christianity has an image problem. Christians are supposed to represent Christ to the world. But according to the latest report card, something has gone terribly wrong. Using descriptions like “hypocritical”, “insensitive,” and “judgmental,” young Americans share an impression of Christians that’s nothing short of . . . *unChristian*.

Groundbreaking research into the perceptions of people aged 16-29 reveals that Christians have taken several giant steps backward in one of their most important assignments. The surprising details of the study, commissioned by the Fermi Project and conducted by The Barna Group, are presented with uncompromising honesty in *unChristian*. Find out why these negative perceptions exist, learn how to reverse them in a Christ-like manner, and discover practical examples of how Christians can positively contribute to culture.

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### You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church...and Rethinking Faith [David Kinnaman, Aly Hawkins]

Close to 60 percent of young people who went to church as teens drop out after high school. Now the bestselling author of *unChristian* trains his researcher's eye on these young believers. Where Kinnaman's first book *unChristian* showed the world what outsiders aged 16-29 think of Christianity, *You Lost Me* shows why younger Christians aged 16-29 are leaving the church and rethinking their faith.

Based on new research, *You Lost Me* shows pastors, church leaders, and parents how we have failed to equip young people to live "in but not of" the world and how this has serious long-term consequences. More importantly, Kinnaman offers ideas on how to help young people develop and maintain a vibrant faith that they embrace over a lifetime.

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 Images for Aly Hawkins, author  
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## 8) Reason for being

### PART II: OUR VISION FOR MISSION

#### 7. Purpose, Giftedness and Mission

Purpose      How does this congregation or organization understand its **reason for being** in the light of God's call to mission and service? Who are you? Why are you here?

[PDF]Ministry Site Profile - ELCA Resource Repository

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Sample\\_Ministry%20Site%20Profile.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Sample_Ministry%20Site%20Profile.pdf)

Images for images Purpose, Giftedness and Mission

Images for reason for being in the light of God's call

#### Raison d'être - Wikipedia

Raison d'être /ˌreɪzəˈdɛtʁə/ is a French expression commonly used in English, meaning "reason for being" or "reason to be".

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raison\\_d%27%C3%AAtre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raison_d%27%C3%AAtre)

Reason for being. The claimed reason for the existence of something or someone; the sole or ultimate **purpose** of something or someone. (literally "reason to be")

[https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/raison\\_d%27%C3%AAtre](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/raison_d%27%C3%AAtre)

On the one hand, if a congregation's reason for being is to stay open long enough so that the older members can be buried from the church, then such a notion becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

On the other hand, if the congregation wants faith to have children and for children to have faith, then there is a sustaining reason for being in the light of God's call to mission and service.

#### Will Our Children Have Faith? Revised Edition by John H. Westerhoff (Author)

The revised edition of a classic in Christian education

Originally written in 1976, this classic critique of Christian education is back in a revised edition. Christian education, according to Westerhoff, has modeled itself on the schooling-instructional paradigm of our secular schools. Instead of expecting faith formation to happen within a variety of contexts -- the family, church, school, and the church school -- religious education has been relegated entirely to Sunday morning classes. There children learn the facts about religion, but will they learn or experience faith? How can we be communities that nourish and nurture the faith of children, instead of only teaching them facts?

This revised edition includes a new foreword that summarizes Westerhoff's own faith journey that led him to write this book, and even to rethink portions of it today. Each of the original chapters concludes with notes that reveal some of Westerhoff's rethinking of the material since 1976. A new Afterword explores the context in which we live currently, and its implications for catechetical ministry.

<https://www.amazon.com/Will-Children-Have-Faith-Revised/dp/0819218367>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2123689.Will\\_Our\\_Children\\_Have\\_Faith](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2123689.Will_Our_Children_Have_Faith)

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

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/will-our-children-have-faith-revised-edition-9780819218360/>

<https://www.christianbook.com/children-faith-third-revised-edition-ebook/john-westerhoff/9780819228017/pd/41741EB>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/will-our-children-have-faith-third-revised-edition-iii-john-h-westerhoff/1124457808?ean=9780819228017>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Will\\_Our\\_Children\\_Have\\_Faith.html?id=uo\\_NU9KH43EC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Will_Our_Children_Have_Faith.html?id=uo_NU9KH43EC)

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3327/will-our-children-have-faith>

<https://livingchurch.org/covenant/2016/09/20/will-our-children-have-faith-john-westerhoffs-question-after-forty-years/>

<https://www.librarything.com/author/westerhoffjohnh>

[http://www.talbot.edu/ce20/educators/protestant/john\\_westerhoff/](http://www.talbot.edu/ce20/educators/protestant/john_westerhoff/)

[http://day1.org/4360-the\\_rev\\_dr\\_john\\_h\\_westerhoff\\_iii](http://day1.org/4360-the_rev_dr_john_h_westerhoff_iii)

<https://www.waterstones.com/author/john-h-westerhoff/386589>

<https://www.amazon.com/John-H.-Westerhoff/e/B000AP9AXI>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2020922.John\\_H\\_Westerhoff\\_III](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2020922.John_H_Westerhoff_III)

## 9) Purpose and Vision

One congregation joined 2 others operating as a two-point parish to form a tri-parish only to request to be released from the parish agreement after 2 ½ years. I met with the Congregation Councils of the original 2 congregations to go through the transition dynamics and discern the call process. I wrote the following column for the newsletter based on what I deliberated with leadership I asked leadership where they considered themselves to be on the spectrum outlined below and where they believed God was leading them.

From the Pastor

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 28:19a

This transition period is a time to look at purpose and vision. There are two contrasting ways at looking at purpose and vision.

Chapel	Outreach Center
Personal preference	God worthy of worship
Time permitting	Remember the Sabbath
Cosmic Therapist	Great Commission
Divine Butler	Great Commandment
Keep the lights on	Let your light shine
Keep doors open	Open doors to others
Hatch – match – dispatch	Faithful participant
Confirmation as end point	Affirmation of Baptism as take off
Grow older	Grow younger
Sunday School drop-off	Home and congregation
Upstairs/Downstairs	Cross-Gen
Inward focus	Outward focus
Lethargy	Vitality
Milk	Meat
Chaplain	Challenge

Newly elected and installed Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Bishop Lori Skow-Anderson shared her purpose and vision for the synod as well as resources with the rostered ministers gathering of the Dairyland Conference at Central Lutheran in Mondovi on October 18.

### Purpose & Vision

The purpose of the synod is to help the congregations of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin be increasingly strong witnesses to the triune God so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus.

1. Strengthen Congregational Vitality: Connection to God, each other, neighbors
2. New vitality matrix: #Forourneighbor: Number of people actively engaged in their neighborhood explicitly representing their Christian faith and congregation
3. Equip and resource congregations for Cross-Gen and First Third of Life Faith Formation
4. Deepen Connection with Malawi companion congregations: Sponsor 7 youth from Malawi to attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN 2021
5. Grow our synod stewardship and endowment funds
6. Increase volume of the synod's voice on justice issues. Increase the size of our communication footprint.
7. Create a cohesive staff with synod ministers who are present at conference and congregational gatherings building mutual trust and meaningful relationships.

### Winter Theological Event – Innovation in Ministry

January 20-21, 2019 at 29 Pines – Eau Claire, WI

E.P.I.C. Effective Practices for Innovative Congregation Councils

February 2, 2019 at Bethany Lutheran – Rice Lake, WI

Walking Together + Christ Jam – "Holy Experiments"

March 9, 2019 – Davies Center – UWEC

Synod Assembly – "May the Fourth Be With You: A New Hope"

May 4, 2019 – Trinity Lutheran – Eau Claire, WI

I encourage you to embrace a mission perspective as a faithful follower of Jesus and as vital congregations in this synod.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

Come to worship!

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go up to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

In the call process section of my presentation, I outlined some possible scenarios for moving forward. The original 2 congregations previously gathered for services of worship at 9am and 11am on a weekly rotating basis.

1. Pay as you go – supply preacher  
\*C20.04. Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with the pastor as provided in †S14.18.d. of the synodical constitution of the synod named in \*C6.01. **In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.**
2. Stay with 9-11 – part-time pastor  
[PDF] [Part-Time Ministry Guidelines for Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/d4/d4da0816-c57d-4910-84d6-accca527a9a8/documents/part-time_ministry_salary_guidelines-feb_14_2014.pdf)  
[https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/d4/d4da0816-c57d-4910-84d6-accca527a9a8/documents/part-time\\_ministry\\_salary\\_guidelines-feb\\_14\\_2014.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/d4/d4da0816-c57d-4910-84d6-accca527a9a8/documents/part-time_ministry_salary_guidelines-feb_14_2014.pdf)  
[Images for Part-Time Ministry Guidelines for Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)
3. Look for partner(s) – full-time pastor  
Area Ministry Strategy Meeting of the Dairyland Conference on Thursday, January 24, 6-8pm at Osseo Lutheran - Join the congregations of the Dairyland Conference for an Area Ministry Strategy Meeting. This is an opportunity for the congregations in our area to talk about our shared ministry and our hopes for the future. What are the bright spots in your ministry? What are the areas you could collaborate with other congregations? How could you partner together to further God's ministry?  
We encourage every congregation to send rostered leaders and 3-5 lay leaders. This is a great opportunity to engage in conversation with others. All congregations of every size and situation are invited! Please RSVP to Pastor Erin Nelson by January 16th. [enelson@nswsi.org](mailto:enelson@nswsi.org). Pastor Bolstad is registered to attend and invites others to do so also.
4. End well – legacy  
[PDF] [leaving a legacy of mission and ministry - ELCA Resource Repository](#)  
A resource for the closing of a congregation  
Some congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are going through challenging times. It is possible that your congregation is in this category and you are struggling with the reality that the congregation you love has been slowly losing its capacity to engage the community and sustain effective ministry. Your congregation may be in the final stages of its life cycle. When you reach this time of discernment, contact your synod bishop who will provide oversight to your congregation throughout the process. This workbook is designed to provide basic guidance to the congregation in both its administrative responsibilities as well as in legacy planning, to provide dignity and hope as you seek to carry forward your faith in Jesus Christ and continue to fulfill God's mission to change and save lives.  
[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Close\\_of\\_Congregations\\_2016.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Close_of_Congregations_2016.pdf)  
[Images for leaving a legacy of mission and ministry - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

## 10) Evangelism challenge in a rapidly changing context

The featured speaker at the 2014 synod assembly for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin was Kenneth Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation, ELCA who shared some of his research in helping the assembly better understand the evangelism challenge in a rapidly changing context.

### Expecting the Unexpected: A Lutheran Evangelism Strategy

Kenneth Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation, ELCA

The workshop will set out a brief theological case for Lutheran evangelism. It will describe the key changes in American culture over the past decade which impact congregations. It will suggest how congregations can develop mission-based strategies for addressing these changes by embracing change itself.

2014 Walking Together, page 2

June 7, 2014 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

[View program descriptions. - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

[http://www.nswsi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/workshop\\_descriptions\\_4.30.2014.pdf](http://www.nswsi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/workshop_descriptions_4.30.2014.pdf) Page 2

[info@nswsi.org](mailto:info@nswsi.org)

[Images for Lutheran Evangelism Strategy](#)

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.582.1738&rep=rep1&type=pdf> [PDF] A Short Review of Research on Growing Congregations Kenneth W. Inskeep Research and Evaluation Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<http://www.iksynod.org/Resources/Missional%20Leadership%20Books%20from%20AF.pdf>

## Resources

[Mainline decline - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

*Understanding membership drop*

Mainline denominations matter. America needs them. Our country is polarized: Conservative religious groups are synonymous with political conservatism, while more liberal groups seem out-of-touch. But mainline denominations—if they hold true to their heritage—provide a place where all kinds of people can live together and learn from each other as Christians. Black and white,



rich and poor, biblical literalists and modernists, political conservatives and liberals—all come together in one body to worship each week. This is critical to the well-being of society. It's time that mainline denominations celebrate this gift. Instead there is worry about declining numbers. We are well aware of the numbers.

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

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

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=5806](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5806)

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

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

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

#### Report on the 2006 ELCA congregational survey | The Lutheran

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



[Download the entire report](#)

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=6791](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=6791)

[Images for ELCA congregational survey | The Lutheran](#)

#### Ten Reasons You Should Be a Lutheran Kenneth W. Inskeep

[http://www.southernhiosynod.org/aws/SOS/asset\\_manager/get\\_file/49462](http://www.southernhiosynod.org/aws/SOS/asset_manager/get_file/49462)

[Images for Ten Reasons You Should Be a Lutheran Kenneth W. Inskeep](#)

[http://synodresourcecenter.org/theo/faith\\_issues/0001/ten\\_reasons\\_to\\_be\\_a\\_luther.html](http://synodresourcecenter.org/theo/faith_issues/0001/ten_reasons_to_be_a_luther.html)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/10/why-lutheran/>

<http://metrolutheran.org/2007/11/what-does-it-mean-to-be-lutheran-and-why-should-we-care/>

<https://higherthings.org/articles/catechesis/why-im-a-lutheran/>

[Images for why-im-a-lutheran](#)

<https://immanuelchicago.org/why-you-should-join-the-lutheran/>

#### 10 trends to watch - The Lutheran Magazine

##### 1. Declining church participation.

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

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

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

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

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

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=9970](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=9970)

[Images for 10 trends to watch - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

#### The One Percent Principle

##### The Church We Want to Be

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Inskeep Session 2hot!**

<https://ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Inskeep-Session-2-Slides.pdf> Page 12

[Images for The One Percent Principle The Church We Want to Be](#)

[Images for We want to be a church that belongs to Christ with a place for everyone.](#)

[Images for We want to be a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder.](#)

[Images for We want to be a church that is deeply rooted and always being made new.](#)

### 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](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/04/church-rural-america/>

[Images for living lutheran/church-rural-america](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/01/small-congregations-share-strengths-struggles/>

[Images for livinglutheran/small-congregations-share-strengths-struggles](#)

### Trends in congregation size by worship attendance in the ELCA | The Lutheran

During the Cabinet presentation by Mark Chaves on September 18, 2007, we were shown evidence of an increasing concentration of attenders in large congregations. This trend is also apparent in the ELCA. In 1988, for example, 4.4 percent of all those attending worship in the ELCA were in congregations with 801 or more in worship. In 2006, 7.6 percent of those in worship were in congregations with 801 or more in worship.



[Download the entire report.](#)

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=6790](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=6790)

[Images for Trends in congregation size by worship attendance in the ELCA | The Lutheran](#)

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Research-and-Evaluation>

[Images for Congregations-and-Synods/Research-and-Evaluation](#)

<http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/evangelical-lutheran-church-in-america-elca/>

[Images for pewforum/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/evangelical-lutheran-church-in-america-elca](#)

<http://toddrhoades.com/elca-trends-attendance-down/>

[Images for elca-trends-attendance-down](#)

### What about the ELCA? | The Lutheran

There is little debate that times are challenging for Lutherans throughout North America when it comes to reaching out and engaging people with the gospel. From 2002 to 2007, for example, about 6 percent of **ELCA** congregations grew 5 percent or more in worship attendance. At the same time, 60 percent of **ELCA** congregations lost 5 percent or more in worship attendance.

In the past, smaller and medium-sized congregations were most likely to decline. But from 2002 to 2007, as a group, the 90 congregations in the **ELCA** with 801 or more in worship saw their attendance decline by 6.5 percent. Nearly all of these large churches have contemporary worship services, a moderate to conservative theological perspective and a host of programs designed to appeal to those who expect congregations to meet their needs.

Living with these trends can be daunting. But those of us who believe Lutherans have so much to offer continue to be hopeful.

Perhaps one day many more **ELCA** members will shake loose their inhibitions and give voice to the gospel.

Martin Luther was clear about this: "See, this is what it means to have a proper grasp of the gospel, that is, of the overwhelming goodness of God, which neither prophet, nor apostle, nor angel was ever able fully to express, and which no heart could adequately fathom or marvel at. This is the great fire of the love of God for us, whereby the heart and conscience become happy, secure, and content. This is what preaching the Christian faith means."

This gospel is exactly what North America needs and now is the time for Lutherans to speak up loudly and clearly.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=7526](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7526)

[Images for What about the ELCA? | The Lutheran](#)

### Who are these people? | The Lutheran

Who are these people?" Or, put a different way: "Who are *these people*?"

It's a question fixed in the mind of any pastor about to craft Sunday's sermon or who is sitting across the table from a call committee. It's also *the* question asked by a prospective member who's made it past the overly enthusiastic greeter and has settled into a pew.

We look for clues as parishioners or pastors as we search for and serve with *our* people.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=1366](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=1366)

[Images for Who are these people? | The 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 in worship on an average Sunday by 2041. **That's right: according to current trends, the church will basically cease to exist within the next generation.**

<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/decline/>

## 11) Comprehensive Ministry Review

I served on a Synod Review Team as a part of a Comprehensive Ministry Review. Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission, led the review. Following is a cover letter she wrote explaining the process.



## Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

July 16, 2015

Dear Pastors and Congregational Presidents,

I'm writing to invite you to be part of a major effort to renew congregations in our synod. Twenty-five congregations in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin are invited to participate in a Comprehensive Ministry Review in 2015-2016. A ministry review is an attempt to revitalize and renew congregations. If your congregation is in need of renewal, believes that God has a purpose for its future, and if it realizes that change is necessary, then you might consider a Comprehensive Ministry Review.

A team of four to five pastors and lay people from the synod will come to your congregation for the three-day ministry review. A ministry review process has four steps.

1. Renewal Profile completed by pastor and lay leaders. Email profile and last two annual reports to synod review team one week before the event.
2. Conversations with synod review team and pastor, community leaders, congregational leaders
3. Presentation of affirmations and recommendations to Congregation Council or congregation after worship on Sunday morning
4. Create an Action Team that will implement recommendations selected by the Congregation Council

Ideally this process will take place over a weekend. The schedule will look something like this:

Friday

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 2:30pm      | Orientate Synod Review Team  |
| 3:00pm      | Meet with pastor for tour of the ministry context by car, tour building and property |
| 4:00pm      | Meet with community leaders  |
| 5:00pm      | Meet with paid staff   |
| 5:30pm      | Meet with paid staff   |
| 6:00-7:30pm | Meet with pastor over dinner   |

Saturday

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 10:00-2:30pm | Meet with congregational leaders, 9-10 members including the council officers and representatives of the major groups – youth, choir, women, men, education; representing all ages – young, old, and middle-aged |
| 2:30-3:30pm  | Lay leadership works on homework assignments - Grade, Life Cycle, SWOT.<br>Synod Review Team begins working on Affirmations  |
| 3:30pm       | Report affirmations and on the SWOT, Grade and Life Cycle work   |
| 4:00pm       | Lay leaders depart   |
| 4:00-6:00pm  | Synod Review Team begins writing the recommendations   |

Sunday

- Temple Talk during worship to describe the process  
Open Forum conversation with the congregation

I will return at a later day to present the final report to the Congregation Council and meet with the Action Team to help write and implement goals based on the recommendations your Congregation Council chooses.

Hospitality, meals, (and housing if necessary) for the synod review team are the responsibility of the congregation. Mileage and an honorarium for the volunteer members of the Synod Review Team is appreciated.

This process can be condensed to an all-day Saturday and Sunday a.m. event or on a Wednesday with a return visit on Sunday.

If you have questions about this process or are interested in scheduling a ministry review, please contact me at 715-651-1658 or [lskow-anderson@nswsi.org](mailto:lskow-anderson@nswsi.org). We will begin scheduling the reviews for October 2015 to May 2016 now.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel,

Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson,

Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

<sup>1</sup> 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

<sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Costs for the Comprehensive Ministry Review

1. Supper on Friday for Synod Review Team and pastor (6 people)
2. Saturday lunch, coffee, and snacks for the congregational leaders meeting (15 people) and light supper for Synod Review Team (5 people).

The Synod Review Team is made up of two pastors and two lay people from area congregations. A new team is created for each ministry review. I do not know exactly how many miles the review team members will need to drive.

3. Mileage at .55 a mile. (50 miles = \$27. 100 miles = \$55.)

4. Honorarium range is \$50-100. You may give whatever you like for that honorarium.

There are generally four people on the review team besides me, the leader. I do not get paid. This is part of my call as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission.

5. Excluding food and housing, the cost for the Comprehensive Ministry Review is mileage and honorarium, which would range from \$104 to \$210 per person.

6. Housing might be needed if the distance is over 100 miles from Synod Review Teams' homes.

Contact [lskow-anderson@nswsi.org](mailto:lskow-anderson@nswsi.org) for a word document on Information about Ministry Review Process and the Role of the Ministry Review Team.

## 12) A time for discernment

I wrote the following piece for the newsletter at one interim assignment in a large downtown congregation.

A "time for discernment" is being proposed for the time between the annual meeting and the Day of Pentecost. This three-month period will allow time for prayerful conversation around the three areas outlined below (unity, vision, and mission). [Only mission will be included in this chapter. Unity and vision will be included in respective chapters.] This exercise is intended to be used in the many and various groups and individuals in the congregation. Participants are invited to respond in writing to the questions offered around these three areas. Please give your signed comments to Pastor Lowell Bolstad. These will then be used by the Congregation Council for envisioning and leading this congregation into greater unity, clearer vision, and expanded mission. Mission – What opportunities is God laying before us to expand our life and mission as the people of God here in this place? Read and discuss the appointed texts for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany: Micah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12. What do these passages say about the life and mission of the people of God? Healthy groups build on strengths and address areas needing improvement. What are the strengths of this congregation? What are areas needing improvement? Reflect on the statement: "One does not come to church simply to get something out of church but also what one can give to others by one's participation. This congregation has engaged in two extensive self-studies. Take time to revisit the initiatives called for in these two studies. Reflect on the effectiveness in carrying out these initiatives. In what ways have those initiatives been addressed? What more needs to be done? What other areas can be addressed as opportunities for life and mission? Why is it important to have a sense of unity, vision, and mission to be the people of God? Pray that God will give a sense of unity, vision, and mission!

## 13) Slowly declining congregation or bustling center for outreach?

At the above congregation, I made the contrast between A Slowly Declining Congregation and A Bustling Center for Outreach.

<u>Slowly Declining Congregation</u>	<u>Bustling Center for Outreach</u>
caretaking	equipping
hospital	outpost
ingrown	outgrowth
resist change	embrace change
maintain the church	grow the church
preoccupation with past	orientation to the future
entrenched	evolving
competitive	collaborative
resting on laurels	living on the edge
anxiety driven	faith driven
apathetic	energetic
<u><a href="#">Images for Slowly declining congregation or bustling center for outreach?</a></u>	

## 14) Opening the front door and closing the back door

Pastor Nate Aaseng served St. John's Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin for 10 years, and in his last newsletter column upon his upcoming retirement he wrote, "I congratulate and thank all the disciples of St. John's who have opened their hearts and have worked hard to make this the kind of mission-driven church that allows God's work to be joyfully done through us so that this has become the healthy, strong congregation that the CAT seems to indicate." He went on to say that the people have done a good job opening the front door and closing the back door.

### A Note from Pastor Aaseng

The recent Congregational Assessment Tool provided a very positive report on the vitality of St. John's in many areas. As I studied it, one question that I could not help but ask was, "What would the CAT have said 10 years ago?" A snapshot of a congregation in a particular point in time provides a great deal of information, but even more information would be

provided by knowing how St. John's has changed over a decade. Were there areas that improved significantly, declined significantly, or did it basically stay the same?

My only reference in this regard is a church newsletter article that I wrote when I first arrived, that analyzed a few trends. The statistics showed this congregation faced a serious challenge, as did virtually all of the other ELCA congregations in Eau Claire. After presenting the data regarding church membership, worship attendance, etc., my conclusions were, that as of 2008, unless significant changes were made, St. John's was one of four congregations that were in greatest jeopardy regarding survival past 2028.

What has happened since then? Among the five congregations that did not appear to be in immediate jeopardy, three experienced serious declines. Two of them merged into one congregation.

Meanwhile, as indicated by the CAT report, St. John's prospects have improved significantly. I congratulate and thank all the disciples of St. John's who have opened their hearts and have worked hard to make this the kind of mission-driven church that allows God's work to be joyfully done through us so that this has become the healthy, strong congregation that the CAT seems to indicate.

I think that it is significant that St. John's has done a great job in "closing the back door." That means that because people here find meaning and acceptance that we have not experienced a great exodus of those leaving for other congregations. I believe that St. John's has also done a good job in "opening the front door," making this a welcoming place for all those who seek a Christian faith community.

What I would urge this congregation to improve on is guiding people to that open door. Our faith community has been enriched whenever our disciples here have encouraged others to come and be a part of this experience. I know what it is like to be a part of a church in such a state of disarray that you don't feel comfortable bringing anyone into the mess. The CAT gives objective evidence that St. John's is not such a place, and that those who walk through our doors will find acceptance, meaning, and purpose. Let's do them a favor and make a point of ensuring that they find us!

St. Johns Lutheran Church - Eau Claire

<http://stjohns-ec.org/>

<http://stjohns-ec.org/about/news> Newsletters Archive June & July 2018 "Reaching Out" newsletter

<http://stjohns-ec.org/documents/newsletters/june-and-july-newsletter-2018.pdf>

<https://stjohns-ec.org/about/news/29th-July-2018/790-Pr-Nate-Linda-Aaseng-Retirement-Party>

<Images for St. Johns Lutheran Church - Eau Claire - Pastor Nate Aaseng>

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2-aaseng>

<http://www.salemluth.net/Pastor%20Aaseng.htm>

<Images for Pastor Nate Aaseng>

## 15) Recruit or relate?

An article on the front page of a newspaper on the newsstand at a convenience store caught my attention: "Extremist recruiters online and relentless: U.S. Muslim leaders have swung into action against them." It described how ISIS is using social media to recruit young people in this country to their cause and how Muslim leaders are trying to counteract this offensive.

### U.S. Muslims Take on ISIS' Recruiting Machine – The New York Times

STERLING, Va. — Imam Mohamed Magid tries to stay in regular contact with the teenager who came to him a few months ago, at his family's urging, to discuss how he was being wooed by online recruiters working for the Islamic State, the extremist group in Syria and Iraq.

But the imam, a scholar bursting with charm and authority, has struggled to compete. Though he has successfully intervened in the cases of five other young men, persuading them to abandon plans to fight overseas, the Islamic State's recruiting efforts have become even more disturbing, he said, and nonstop.

"The recruiters wouldn't leave him alone," Imam Magid said of the young man he met with recently. "They were on social media with him at all hours, they tweet him at night, first thing in the morning. If I talk to him for an hour, they undo him in two hours."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/20/us/muslim-leaders-in-us-seek-to-counteract-extremist-recruiters.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/20/us/muslim-leaders-in-us-seek-to-counteract-extremist-recruiters.html?_r=0)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/09/us/isis-threatens-muslim-preachers-who-are-waging-theological-battle-online.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/04/04/world/middleeast/isis-documents-mosul-iraq.html>

<Images for ISIS' Recruiting Machine>

The next day, I talked with congregation leaders where a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis was being used. When it came to threats, the leaders identified the "recruiting" by members of two large conservative non-denominational congregations in a nearby city of the youth in their smaller congregation located in a village. They talked about how they can continue to keep their young people involved in the life and mission of the congregation.

Earlier that month, Bishop James Hazelwood Synod Leaders - New England Synod speaking at the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Mid-Winter Theological Retreat led the attendees in a Bible study on Luke 10:1-12 "The Mission of the Seventy." He stated that he believes this text is especially appropriate for the present post-Christendom context and emphasized the insight gained from the text on the importance of building relationships.

My observation is that congregation members in mainline denominations, such as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, tend to feel uncomfortable with recruitment outreach but more comfortable with relational evangelism.

## Resources

### Becoming a Contagious Christian: Bill Hybels, Mark Mittelberg

Evangelism doesn't have to be frustrating or intimidating. Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg believe that effectively communicating our faith in Christ should be the most natural thing in the world. We just need encouragement and direction. In *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, Hybels and Mittelberg articulate the central principles that have helped the believers at Willow Creek Community Church become a church known around the world for its outstanding outreach to unchurched people. Based on the words of Jesus and flowing from the firsthand experiences of the authors, *Becoming a Contagious Christian* is a groundbreaking, personalized approach to **relational evangelism**. You will discover your own natural evangelism style, how to develop a contagious Christian character, to build spiritually strategic relationships, to direct conversations toward matters of faith, and to share biblical truths in everyday language. This landmark book presents a blueprint for starting a spiritual epidemic of hope and enthusiasm for spreading the Gospel. This proven action plan will show you how to impact the spiritual lives of friends, family members, co-workers, others.

<http://www.amazon.com/Becoming-Contagious-Christian-Bill-Hybels/dp/0310210089>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/44408.Becoming\\_a\\_Contagious\\_Christian](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/44408.Becoming_a_Contagious_Christian)

<http://www.zondervan.com/becoming-a-contagious-christian>

<https://www.christianbook.com/becoming-a-contagious-christian-participants-guide/mark-mittelberg/9780310257875/pd/257875>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/becoming-a-contagious-christian-bill-hybels/1100621080#/>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Becoming-Contagious-Christian-Participants-Guide-Mark-Mittelberg/9780310257875>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Becoming\\_a\\_Contagious\\_Christian.html?id=NZUcGCXD0BIC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Becoming_a_Contagious_Christian.html?id=NZUcGCXD0BIC)

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Becoming\\_a\\_Contagious\\_Christian.html?id=pOjP-nCIA4C](https://books.google.com/books/about/Becoming_a_Contagious_Christian.html?id=pOjP-nCIA4C)

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Becoming\\_a\\_Contagious\\_Christian.html?id=jU8ZwhkJXbYC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Becoming_a_Contagious_Christian.html?id=jU8ZwhkJXbYC)

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Becoming\\_a\\_Contagious\\_Christian\\_Particip.html?id=PpD0SovvAsC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Becoming_a_Contagious_Christian_Particip.html?id=PpD0SovvAsC)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7eGLo7OEoA> Becoming a Contagious Christian Group Bible Study by Bill Hybels, Lee

Strobel, and Mark Mittelberg - YouTube

<http://www.outreach.com/campaign/contagiouschristian.aspx>

<https://www.disciplekit.org/resource/becoming-a-contagious-christian/>

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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill\\_Hybels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Hybels)

<https://www.amazon.com/Bill-Hybels/e/B000AQ4QPO>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/24922.Bill\\_Hybels](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/24922.Bill_Hybels)

Images for bill hybels, author

<https://www.tyndale.com/authors/mark-mittelberg/1018>

<https://www.facebook.com/Mark-Mittelberg-128317187220870/>

[http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/hybels\\_resources.asp](http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/hybels_resources.asp)

<http://www.outreach.com/events/christian-speakers/Mark-Mittelberg.aspx>

<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-Mittelberg/e/B001IGNQJE>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/24941.Mark\\_Mittelberg](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/24941.Mark_Mittelberg)

Images for Mark Mittelberg, author

Images for Becoming a Contagious Christian: Bill Hybels, Mark Mittelberg

### Living Faith in Daily Life Bible Study: Invite

A four-session small group study for growing **relational** evangelism skills.

[http://resources.elca.org/Congregational\\_Life-Living\\_Faith\\_in\\_Daily\\_Life\\_Small\\_Group\\_Bible\\_Study\\_Invite.html](http://resources.elca.org/Congregational_Life-Living_Faith_in_Daily_Life_Small_Group_Bible_Study_Invite.html)

Images for Living Faith in Daily Life

Images for relational evangelism skills

### Making Friends for Christ: A Practical Approach to Relational Evangelism by Wayne McDill (Author)

*Making Friends for Christ: A Practical Approach to Relational Evangelism*, Second Edition This is not a gimmick. It is not the next modern evangelism strategy for you or your church to use for a while and then discard when the next one comes along. It is not about pretending to be friends with people to fulfill a hidden conversion agenda. Making Friends for Christ is an exploration of loving others the way that Jesus loved us, intentionally, relationally, and sacrificially. The people all around us want to be loved. They need a friend who will listen to them and care for them. And that is just what Jesus wants us to do. As we live in love and truth, his light shines into people's lives so that they may know Love Himself. *Making Friends for Christ* is a guide for learning how to be a real friend. It offers practical, everyday ideas for touching the people God has already put into your life. You will learn how to be a good listener, overcome common barriers, and invest in relationships. You can turn your home into a place of ministry and effectively tell how Christ has changed your life. You can learn to pray in faith for your friends and family and join with other believers for support and encouragement. This second edition of *Making Friends for Christ* is revised and enlarged for the challenges of the twenty-first century evangelism.

<http://www.amazon.com/Making-Friends-Christ-Relational-Evangelism/dp/160957057X>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8702091-making-friends-for-christ>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/making-friends-for-christ-wayne-mcdill/1115689021>

<http://betweenthetimes.com/index.php/2010/06/11/making-friends-for-christ-a-practical-approach-to-relational-evangelism/>

<http://www.waynemcdill.net/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Wayne-McDill/e/B001KHSGMQ>



[http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/685033.Wayne\\_McDill](http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/685033.Wayne_McDill)

[Images for Wayne McDill \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Making Friends for Christ: A Practical Approach to Relational Evangelism by Wayne McDill \(Author\)](#)

### Nine Principles of Relational Evangelism | Small Groups

The concept of relationship evangelism is easily understood, along with the principles listed below – but they are not always easy to practice. Some of the principles found below do not come naturally to those who have grown up in the church or are immersed in a church's subculture.

<http://www.smallgroups.com/articles/2011/nine-principles-of-relational-evangelism.html>

[Images for Principles of Relational Evangelism](#)

<http://www.evangelismcoach.org/2013/is-relational-evangelism-biblical/>

[Images for relational evangelism biblical](#)

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/outreach-strategies/evangelism-resources-strategies.html> EQUIPPING FOR CONVERSATIONAL EVANGELISM

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/evangelism-principles/relational-evangelism.html>

[Images for building common-ground relationships](#)

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/relational-evangelism-joel-preston-sermon-on-evangelism-how-to-165556.asp>

[Images for sermon relational evangelism](#)

### Relational Evangelism with Young Adults - Alban Institute

Lastly, relational evangelism is crucial in an age of religious pluralism. Rather than deny religious difference, relational evangelism equips young adults to be secure enough in talking about their own faith to engage actively and authentically in interreligious dialogue and community action for the common good. "Evangelism is about proclaiming God's love for the 'other,'" says Lisa Kimball, professor of Christian formation and congregational leadership at Virginia Theological Seminary, "It is not about keeping score of who is saved and who isn't." In fact, the spirit of mutuality and intentional listening characteristic of relational evangelism opens up the follower of Jesus to God's love in a way that seeks deeper relationship with all of creation and responds to the suffering of the world. In a religiously pluralistic world, relational evangelism contributes to the creation of healthy environments in which young adults listen to God at work in their lives and discern ways their gifts can contribute to the reign of God for all humankind.

### Resurrected Lives: Relational Evangelism with Young Adults - Alban Institute

<https://alban.org/archive/resurrected-lives-relational-evangelism-with-young-adults/>

[Images for Relational Evangelism with Young Adults - Alban Institute](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/evangelism-and-the-under-thirty-crowd/>

[Images for alban/evangelism-and-the-under-thirty-crowd](#)

[http://www.diomass.org/webfm\\_send/1363](http://www.diomass.org/webfm_send/1363) St. Stephen's Young Adults Show Leadership, Diversity

[http://www.diomass.org/webfm\\_send/1248](http://www.diomass.org/webfm_send/1248) Diocese Launches Relational Evangelism Pilot Project

[Images for Relational Evangelism with Young Adults](#)

<https://alban.org/category/missions-evangelism/>

<https://alban.org/category/youth-children/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

### The power of relationships in evangelism - Ministry Magazine

Paul's desire for an active church in faith sharing continues as a perennial concern. Each generation needs to review its commitment level in witnessing and sharing their faith to the community, thus maintaining a continuous link with the Great Commission entrusted to the church.

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2008/07/the-power-of-relationships-in-evangelism.html>

[Images for power of relationships in evangelism - Ministry Magazine](#)

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1954/06/evangelism>

[Images for ministrymagazine/evangelism](#)

### What is Friendship Evangelism? | Lifestyle Evangelism | Relationship

"Friendship Evangelism," also known as "lifestyle evangelism," "servant evangelism," or "relational evangelism," is a form of evangelism commonly practiced in present-day American evangelicalism. The overarching principle in "friendship evangelism," regardless of the methods employed, is to befriend an unsaved person with the hope of one day having the opportunity to share the [gospel](#) with him or her.

<https://carm.org/what-is-friendship-evangelism>

[Images for Friendship Evangelism | Lifestyle Evangelism | Relationship](#)



### What is relational evangelism? - EvangelismCoach.org

I look at relational evangelism this way: Living in such a way that your faith is obvious AND Being intentional in talking about the gospel in the context of intentional relationships

The gospel spreads through credible witnesses in the context of personal relationships over the course of time, with intentionality on the part of the Christian believer.

<http://www.evangelismcoach.org/2013/what-is-relational-evangelism/>

Images for What is relational evangelism? - EvangelismCoach.org

<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/is-relational-evangelism-biblical/>

<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/do-you-have-any-non-christian-friendships/>

<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/10-books-on-relational-evangelism/>

<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/personal-evangelism-collection/>

<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/an-example-of-lifestyle-evangelism/>

<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/evangelism-live-review-part-1/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/Evangelismcoach101/personal-evangelism/>

Images for [pinterest.com/Evangelismcoach101/personal-evangelism](https://www.pinterest.com/Evangelismcoach101/personal-evangelism/)

### [PDF] When You Cannot Preach: A Case for Relational Evangelism

Conclusion

Relationship evangelism cannot replace the proclamation of the truth of Christ's love. However, it can function as another wonderful resource for evangelizing in places where preaching is not possible, or among people who struggle to relate to the propositions of the Christian faith.

[http://www.wheaton.edu/~media/Files/Centers-and-](http://www.wheaton.edu/~media/Files/Centers-and-Institutes/BGC/Personal%20Evangelism%20Tools/When%20You%20Cannot%20Preach%20Forester.pdf)

[Institutes/BGC/Personal%20Evangelism%20Tools/When%20You%20Cannot%20Preach%20Forester.pdf](http://www.wheaton.edu/~media/Files/Centers-and-Institutes/BGC/Personal%20Evangelism%20Tools/When%20You%20Cannot%20Preach%20Forester.pdf)

Images for Case for Relational Evangelism

<http://www.amazon.com/Transform-Your-Work-Life-Extraordinary/dp/0982930070>

## 16) Reach Out/Attract/Engage

Some self-described missional writers speak in a dismissive manner of the attraction model. Why does it have to be an either/or? The biblical witness speaks of both "come" and "go."

### The Testimony of John the Baptist

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

<sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup>He said to them, "**Come and see.**" They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "**Come and see.**" <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

oremus Bible Browser: Jn 1:35-51

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=255416677>

Images for Testimony of John the Baptist

### The mission of the Seventy

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and **sent** them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. **Go on your way.** See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near." I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

oremus Bible Browser: Luke 10:1-12  
<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=88575495>  
[Images for Mission of the Seventy](#)

The service for Affirmation of Baptism in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship speaks of what it means to live in the covenant of baptism.

#### Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue to live in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?  
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/.../Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition>

[Images for Affirmation of Faith in the Presence of the Assembly](#)

Page 227

The rhythm for the services of worship in the liturgical tradition is Gathering – Word – Meal – Sending.

#### Resources

AND: The Gathered and Scattered Church (Exponential Series) [Hugh Halter, Matt Smay]

AND by Hugh Halter and Matt Smay, asks and provides an answer for one of the most important questions for church leaders today: What is happening to the church in America? By all appearances, it looks like we are 'doing' church better than we ever have. In the past thirty years, the number of mega-churches has increased from under 100 to over 7,500. In the past ten years, the number of multi-site churches has increased from under 100 to over 2,000. By the numbers, these church movements enjoy the national platform, the national voice, and the resources to profoundly impact the Kingdom. In spite of the rapid growth of these prevailing church movements, why is the Western church still in massive decline? Numerous books have been written documenting the flight of members from the institutional church. This is not another book about how to do church better or how to just get people back into the pews. AND helps you - whether you are a mega-church, traditional, contemporary, or organic church leader - focus on the vast majority of unchurched Christians and non-believers who are not moving toward any form of church. You will learn how to value existing church forms - attracting people to a physical church and releasing people into hands-on ministry... bringing together the very best of the attractional and missional models for church ministry. AND will equip you and all church leaders to value existing church forms while catalyzing a missional movement of incarnational people into the world for Jesus Christ. AND is the second book in the Exponential Series - a partnership between Exponential Network, Leadership Network, and Zondervan featuring several signature books each year to tell the reproducing church story, celebrate the diversity of models and approaches God is using to reproduce healthy congregations, and highlight the innovative practices of healthy reproducing churches.

<http://www.amazon.com/Gathered-Scattered-Church-Exponential/dp/0310325854>

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/7048468-and>

<https://www.christianbook.com/and-the-gathered-and-scattered-church/hugh-halter/9780310325857/pd/325857>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5AMKwi73kY> AND: The Gathered and Scattered Church – YouTube

<https://books.google.com/books/about/AND.html?id=aOaHwEb2tUsC>

<http://www.evangelismcoach.org/2012/book-review-and-the-gathered-and-scattered-church/>

<http://joshuareich.org/2010/10/26/the-gathered-and-scattered%C2%A0church/>

<http://andreaeschultz.blogspot.com/2010/07/and-gathered-and-scattered-church-by.html>

[http://sites.silasparkers.com/cc/article/0,,PTID314526\\_CHID598026\\_CIID1562278,00.html](http://sites.silasparkers.com/cc/article/0,,PTID314526_CHID598026_CIID1562278,00.html)

<http://www.liveintentionally.org/2010/07/13/get-a-free-copy-of-and-the-gathered-and-scattered-church/>

<http://www.markhowelllive.com/review-and-the-gathered-and-scattered-church/>

<http://www.dogoodproject.com/blog/?p=572>

<http://pastormattblog.com/2011/03/01/pastor-matt-reviews-and-the-gathered-and-scattered-church/>

<http://gzmproductions.com/dlwebster/index.php?page=post&post=2551>

<http://www.journeyguy.com/gathered-and-scattered/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3fWBwChzdg> Hugh Halter - Creating Incarnational Community – YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8G\\_Q9z673RA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8G_Q9z673RA) Future Church - Hugh Halter – YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyCu\\_lj4t40](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyCu_lj4t40) Summit - Hugh Halter – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRSYIY0xCXg> Why is discipleship important? - Hugh Halter – YouTube

<http://hughhalter.com/>

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

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

<http://www.outreachmagazine.com/interviews/3433-hugh-halter-adullam-denver-colorado.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Hugh-Halter/e/B001JSF9D0>

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<https://www.facebook.com/matt.smay>  
<https://www.vergenetwork.org/tag/matt-smay/>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mattsmay>  
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Images for Matt Smay, author  
Images for AND: The Gathered and Scattered Church (Exponential Series) [Hugh Halter, Matt Smay]

## BEST PRACTICES FOR GROWING CONGREGATIONS

Rev. Aaron Sturgis, Central Lutheran, Chippewa Falls

It seems that for many of us, the mission that we share has turned into something that we do. In fact, even the word **Missional**, many would argue, has become the new **attractional** model of ministry that we 'do.' In most cases, the church seems to have gotten it all mixed up with the do. And quite frankly, do-or-don't-do will be the undoing of the Church. What would it look like, instead, if our churches stopped worshipping our models and started living into their mission? Central Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls has been trying (unsuccessfully a lot of the times) to do just that over the past decade. Join Rev. Aaron Sturgis and talk about models, mission, and how our churches need to stay focused on the mission and be exceptionally innovative in our model.

[PDF] Workshop Descriptions for WalkingTogether 10:15 - 11:00

[http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/program\\_descriptions\\_time.pdf](http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/program_descriptions_time.pdf)

Images for BEST PRACTICES FOR GROWING CONGREGATIONS Rev. Aaron Sturgis, Central Lutheran, Chippewa Falls

<https://myspace.com/sturgie19>

<https://www.central-lutheran.org/meet-the-staff>

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Telegram

<http://www.weau.com/home/headlines/Chippewa-Falls-Polices-chaplain-program-helpful-378172751.html>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rev-aaron-sturgis-163b7661>

Jerry Gillis on Attractional or Missional Church? How One MegaChurch is Doing Both - CareyNieuwhof.com

Jerry was doing something rare: leading a growing megachurch in Buffalo NY, when he got tired of running 'a machine.' After a year of prayer and study, he decided being an attractional church wasn't enough, and The Chapel started becoming far more missional. The interview outlines how that happened, and what happened next.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/11/episode62/>

Images for Jerry Gillis on Attractional or Missional Church? How One MegaChurch is Doing Both - CareyNieuwhof.com

<http://podbay.fm/show/912753163/e/1447736476?autostart=1>

<https://play.acast.com/s/thecareynieuwhofleadershippodcast/cnlp-062-jerry-gillis-on-attractional-or-missional-church-how-one-megachurch-is-doing-both>

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1i0CtF3PmGFSWvQ2tXkvnp>

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

<https://careynieuwhof.com/mypodcast/>

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Missional or Attractional? The Value of Embracing a Both/And Mentality

Every Christian should be missional, and every church should be attractional. / EDDIE COLE

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2017/august/missional-or-attractional-value-of-embracing-bothand-mental.html>

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<http://www.amazon.com/On-Verge-Journey-Apostolic-Exponential/dp/0310331005>

Images for On-Verge-Journey-Apostolic-Exponential

<http://austinstone.org/>

<http://wearesoma.com/>

### Missional vs Attractional - must we choose? — JeremyAdelman.net

When I read the Scriptures, I see both attractional and missional elements coexisting. I see them coexist in the nation of Israel, in the life of Jesus and also in the early church.

<http://www.jeremyadelman.net/home-1/2015/6/15/missional-vs-attractional-must-we-choose>

Images for Missional vs Attractional - must we choose? — JeremyAdelman.net

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2008/december-online-only/missional-vs-attractional-debating-data.html>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/displayImage.aspx?pcid=1307891> [PDF]missional vs. attractional - Cokesbury

<https://thinktheology.org/2015/02/17/the-missional-model-vs-the-attractional-model-for-church/>

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[https://geoffsurratt.typepad.com/inner\\_revolution/2008/06/attractional-vs.html](https://geoffsurratt.typepad.com/inner_revolution/2008/06/attractional-vs.html) Attractional vs Missional Smackdown - Inner Revolution - Geoff Surratt

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### New Questions for a New Day » Alban

One question that has been asked consistently through the years, and even more so in these days of declining church membership is, "How do we **bring them in**?" It would be better for us to ask, "How do we **send them out**?"

Alban at Duke Divinity School » Jeffrey D. Jones: New Questions for a New Day

<https://alban.org/2015/01/30/jeffrey-d-jones-new-questions-for-a-new-day/>

Images for New Questions for a New Day: Jeffrey D. Jones » Alban

<http://www.stewardshipoflife.org/2015/02/new-questions-for-a-new-day/>

<https://centerforcongregations.org/blog/asking-new-questions>

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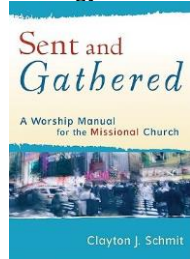
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<https://alban.org/author/nekduke-edu/>

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

### Sent and Gathered: A Worship Manual for the Missional Church (Engaging Worship) [Clayton J. Schmit]

Clayton Schmit examines worship in church settings around the globe and provides a practical manual for shaping liturgies that are informed by and relevant to contemporary missional contexts. The book broadens current ecumenical worship conversations, reveals insights drawn from the church at worship in the world, and argues for a common understanding of a theology of worship.



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[http://books.google.com/books/about/Sent\\_and\\_Gathered\\_Engaging\\_Worship.html?id=vdlb4NRYx\\_oC](http://books.google.com/books/about/Sent_and_Gathered_Engaging_Worship.html?id=vdlb4NRYx_oC)

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Images for Clayton J. Schmit, author

Images for Sent and Gathered: A Worship Manual for the Missional Church (Engaging Worship) [Clayton J. Schmit]

Images for Engaging Worship

### Seven Ways Church Outreach Has Changed in 15 Years - Thom Rainer

6. **From attractional to going.** Many churches have invested significant resources in attracting people to their worship services or to some big event. More resources are now being expended on members going into the community. Hands-on ministry and small group connections are becoming a more normative approach to reaching people today.

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/05/seven-ways-church-outreach-has-changed-in-15-years/>

[Images for Seven Ways Church Outreach Has Changed in 15 Years - Thom Rainer](http://thomrainer.com/2014/04/worship-style-attracts-millennials/) 6. [From attractional to going.](http://thomrainer.com/2014/04/worship-style-attracts-millennials/)  
<http://thomrainer.com/2016/10/seven-key-reasons-people-choose-church/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/08/ten-ways-millennials-shaping-local-congregations-today/> #1, 6  
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[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

#### Shift Four: Becoming Missional And Attractional | ECO

How might a congregation begin to develop a missional approach? The best way I have witnessed multiple churches actively approaching missional ministry is they started with the small, 5-10% of their congregation who had an impulse to move in this direction.

<http://eco-pres.org/blog/shift-four-becoming-missional-and-attractional/>  
[Images for Shift Four: Becoming Missional And Attractional | ECO](#)  
<http://www.missionpublishing.com/the-tangible-kingdom-primer/>  
<http://www.amazon.com/Exiles-Living-Missionally-Post-Christian-Culture/dp/0801046270>  
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<https://mikebreen.wordpress.com/2010/12/09/can-a-church-be-missional-and-attractional/>  
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<http://gospeldrivenchurch.blogspot.com/2008/07/attractional-and-missional.html>  
<https://redeeminggod.com/the-missional-attractional-church/>  
<http://catalystconference.com/read/missional-and-attractional/>  
[Images for Missional AND Attractional – Catalyst Conference](#)

#### Small Catechism of Martin Luther

The Lord's Prayer

Introduction

Our Father in heaven.

*What does this mean?*

With these words God wants to **attract** us, so that we come to believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father.

#### Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7583/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition>

Page 1163

[Images for With these words God wants to attract us](#)

#### The Attractional Church: Growth Through a Refreshing, Relational, and Relevant Church Experience by Billy Hornsby (Author)

Every church leader and church member want their church to grow. The promise of *THE ATTRACTIONAL CHURCH* is that if a church experience is positive, the lost, absent, and unfilled will come and complacent people in the pew will have their faith renewed. Author Billy Hornsby says that what keeps most churches from growing are the "methods" they choose for their outreach efforts. The local church must ensure visitors and members alike a good and lasting impression of their experience in church, especially the worship service.

"You must get the first impression right!" Hornsby insists. From the website, Facebook page, Twitter accounts, leadership blogs, and parking lot to the worship facility and worship service: the total church experience must speak to people's emotions and be relational and relevant.

*THE ATTRACTIONAL CHURCH* is both motivational and practical with guidance on how to accomplish this transformation, and also presents case studies of some of the fastest-growing and most innovative churches in America. Here is a fresh vision for what the church can be.

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<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-attractional-church-billy-hornsby/1111304600>  
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[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Attractional\\_Church.html?id=TRMz4gJMJoC](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Attractional_Church.html?id=TRMz4gJMJoC)  
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<http://ministrytodaymag.com/index.php/features/19072-the-attractional-church>  
<https://www.facebook.com/ARCfounder/>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/26503.Billy\\_Hornsby](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/26503.Billy_Hornsby)  
[Images for Billy Hornsby \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for The Attractional Church: Growth Through a Refreshing, Relational, and Relevant Church Experience by Billy Hornsby](#)

Engagement can be a third way



## Deep Church: A Third Way Beyond Emerging and Traditional by Jim Belcher (Author), Richard J. Mouw (Foreword)

2010 *Christianity Today* Book Award winner! 2010 Golden Canon *Leadership* Book Award winner! Feeling caught between the traditional church and the emerging church? Discover a third way: deep church. C. S. Lewis used the phrase “deep church” to describe the body of believers committed to mere Christianity. Unfortunately, church in our postmodern era has been marked by a certain shallowness. Emerging authors, fed up with contemporary pragmatism, have offered alternative visions for twenty-first-century Christianity. Traditionalist churches have reacted negatively, at times defensively. Jim Belcher knows what it's like to be part of both of these worlds. In the 1990s, he was among the pioneers of what was then called Gen X ministry, hanging out with creative innovators like Rob Bell, Mark Oestreicher, and Mark Driscoll. But he also has maintained ties to traditionalist circles, planting a church in the Presbyterian Church of America. In *Deep Church*, Belcher brings the best insights of all sides to forge a third way between emerging and traditional. In a fair and evenhanded way, Belcher explores the proposals of such emerging church leaders as Tony Jones, Brian McLaren, and Doug Pagitt. He offers measured appreciation and affirmation as well as balanced critique. Moving beyond reaction, Belcher provides constructive models from his own church planting experience and paints a picture of what this alternate, deep church looks like--a missional church committed to both tradition and culture, valuing innovation in worship, arts and community but also creeds and confessions. If you've felt stuck between two extremes, you can find a home here. Plumb the depths of Christianity in a way that neither rejects our postmodern context nor capitulates to it. Instead of veering to the left or the right, go between the extremes--and go deep.

<http://www.amazon.com/Deep-Church-Beyond-Emerging-Traditional/dp/0830837167>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimini06-20/detail/0830837167>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6637395-deep-church>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/deep-church-jim-belcher/1016093721>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Deep-Church-Jim-Belcher/9780830837168>

<https://www.betterworldbooks.com/product/detail/Deep-Church--A-Third-Way-Beyond-Emerging-and-Traditional-9780830837168>

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<https://www.logos.com/product/24303/deep-church-a-third-way-beyond-emerging-and-traditional>

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<http://www.pcacdm.org/deep-church-a-third-way-beyond-emerging-and-traditional/>

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-8308-3716-8> Nonfiction Book Review

<https://www.amazon.com/Jim-Belcher/e/B002D1B04Y>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2993632.Jim\\_Belcher](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2993632.Jim_Belcher)

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<http://www.providencecc.edu/academics/faculty/jim-belcher/>

[http://cms.fuller.edu/RJMouw/About\\_Richard\\_J\\_Mouw/](http://cms.fuller.edu/RJMouw/About_Richard_J_Mouw/)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Mouw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Mouw)

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Images for Richard J. Mouw, author

Images for *Deep Church: A Third Way Beyond Emerging and Traditional* by Jim Belcher (Author), Richard J. Mouw (Foreword)

in the debate over missional/attractational.

## 5 Reasons Engagement Will Drive Almost All Future Church Growth – Carey Nieuwhof

Simple. If you want to see your church grow, stop trying to *attract* people and start trying to *engage* people.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/02/5-reasons-engagement-will-drive-almost-future-church-growth/>

Images for 5 Reasons Engagement Will Drive Almost All Future Church Growth – Carey Nieuwhof

<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/how-to-engage-with-people-outside-of-your-church/>

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<https://careynieuwhof.com/how-to-craft-your-sunday-service-to-engage-unchurched-people/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode60/> Sue Miller On The Key To Attracting And Engaging Amazing Volunteers

<https://careynieuwhof.com/9-signs-your-church-is-ready-to-reach-unchurched-people/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/cniewwhof/posts/650014375186994> Carey Nieuwhof - So how do you engage older church...  
<https://www.facebook.com/cniewwhof/posts/581887695332996> Carey Nieuwhof - I try not to engage the trolls and the...  
<https://twitter.com/cniewwhof/status/873329140824502273> "Leaders who thrive see life for what it really is but keep their hearts fully engaged."  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7e6o8u3bWE> Engaging Young People in the Local Church - YouTube  
<http://orangeblogs.org/orangeleaders/2017/10/26/engaging-your-community-online/>  
<https://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/carey-nieuwhof-5-key-principles-every-leader-should-master-2863>  
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<https://blog.capterra.com/how-to-build-your-church-social-media-strategy-to-boost-engagement/> 3. Twitter [Carey Nieuwhof](#)  
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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey\\_Nieuwhof](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey_Nieuwhof)  
<http://connexuschurch.com/about-us/carey-nieuwhof/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/cniewwhof/>  
 Images for carey nieuwhof (author)

## Resources

### Engage - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Engage, a new evangelism approach helps churches become relevant again. As Congregations using Engage learn how to share their faith they attract people to join them in following Jesus—in God's mission of transformation in neighborhoods and communities.

<https://www.pcusa.org/engage/>  
 Images for Engage - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/engage/>  
<https://www.pcusa.org/engage/welcome/>  
<https://www.pcusa.org/engage/engage-new-normal/>  
<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/3/4/engage-deepens-understanding-gospel/>

### Engaging Evangelism – Building Church Leaders

In this theme, you will find articles to challenge your church's approach to evangelism. An interview with Brian McLaren focuses on how to bring the gospel to a postmodern audience. Other articles give tips on how to make visitors feel welcome and involved ("Report from a Church Visitor"). An assessment helps your church evaluate its readiness for evangelism ("Marks of an Evangelistic Church").

<https://www.bclstore.com/products/engaging-evangelism>  
 Images for Engaging Evangelism – Building Church Leaders

### 50 Ways to Increase Active Engagement - Lewis Center for Church Leadership

Strong and growing congregations typically have a very high percentage of people who are actively involved in learning, serving, and leading. These 50 tips will help your congregation increase active engagement.

<https://www.churchleadership.com/50-ways/50-ways-to-increase-active-engagement/>  
 Images for 50 Ways to Increase Active Engagement - Lewis Center for Church Leadership  
<https://www.churchleadership.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/50WaystoIncreaseActiveEngagement.pdf>  
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 Images for church leadership/50-ways

### Four Steps to Community Engagement | The Exchange | A Blog by Ed Stetzer

How Churches Can Impact Their Community | Ed Stetzer

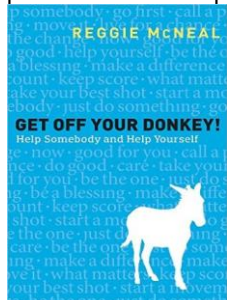
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2013/august/four-steps-to-community-engagement.html>  
 Images for Community Engagement | Ed Stetzer

### Get Off Your Donkey!: Help Somebody and Help Yourself [Reggie McNeal]

Jesus had little patience with institutional religion that cared for its own needs while neglecting the plight of ordinary people. In one of his most famous parables, he sets up as a model of Christian behavior a man who, unlike some religious folks, actually gets down off his donkey and helps a person in dire need.

With energy and enthusiasm, Reggie McNeal calls believers to dismount, get down and dirty, and live a life that makes a difference. He shows readers how to recalibrate their spiritual efforts to move from church-centric service to greater community **engagement** in order to do their essential part in creating a world worth living in. McNeal also shows readers that helping

others actually helps the one doing the service just as much as the one being served. In fact, serving is the very best way to learn about yourself and grow spiritually. Anyone who longs to have the impact on the world that Jesus did will love this provocative and inspirational message.



<http://www.amazon.com/Get-Off-Your-Donkey-Somebody/dp/0801014972>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15863560-get-off-your-donkey>  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/get-off-your-donkey-reggie-mcneal/1112224511>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/your-donkey-help-somebody-and-yourself/reggie-mcneal/9780801014970/pd/014971>  
<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/get-off-your-donkey/340310>  
[https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/get-off-your-donkey-help-somebody-and-help-yourself\\_reggie-mcneal/2486748/#isbn=0801014972](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/get-off-your-donkey-help-somebody-and-help-yourself_reggie-mcneal/2486748/#isbn=0801014972)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1441241086>  
[http://books.google.com/books/about/Get\\_Off\\_Your\\_Donkey.html?id=g8v\\_BAJbKY0C](http://books.google.com/books/about/Get_Off_Your_Donkey.html?id=g8v_BAJbKY0C)  
 Get Off Your Donkey!: Help Somebody and Help Yourself  
<http://getoffyourdonkey.net/>  
<http://www.stbrendansworkshop.com/2013/03/review-of-reggie-mcneals-get-off-your.html>  
<https://loving-community.net/get-off-your-donkey/>  
<http://www.outreachmagazine.com/resources/books/christian-living-books/5677-get-off-your-donkey-help-somebody-and-help-yourself.html>  
<http://robbiepruitt.blogspot.com/2014/07/a-review-of-get-off-your-donkey.html>  
<https://outreachmagazine.com/resources/books/christian-living-books/5677-get-off-your-donkey-help-somebody-and-help-yourself.html>  
<https://loganleadership.com/get-off-your-donkey/>  
<http://www.reggiemcneal.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/reggie.mcneal.7/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcBwkc-44HE> Redefining "Success" for the Local Church | Reggie McNeal Interview | Missional Church Network – YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KthgK8b5Pk&t=33s> "The Blessing People" - Get off Your Donkey – YouTube  
<https://www.amazon.com/Reggie-McNeal/e/B001JS0G5Q>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/147122.Reggie\\_McNeal](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/147122.Reggie_McNeal)  
 Images for Reggie McNeal, author  
 Images for Get Off Your Donkey!: Help Somebody and Help Yourself [Reggie McNeal]  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/564498134546231766/> Get Off Your Donkey!: Help Somebody And Help Yourself

### Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop "Doing Church" and Start Being the Church Again [Albert L. Winseman D.Min.]

What would a church look like if members of its congregation were 13 times more likely to have **invited** someone to participate in the church in the past month? Or if they were three times as satisfied with their lives, or spent two hours per week serving the community? Based on solid research by The Gallup Organization, *Growing an Engaged Church* appeals to both Protestant and Catholic clergy and lay leaders who are looking to create this kind of change — a way to *be* the church instead of just "doing church."

<http://www.amazon.com/Growing-Engaged-Church-Doing-Start/dp/1595620141>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/growing-an-engaged-church-albert-l-winseman/1110898626>  
<https://www.simonandschuster.net/books/Growing-an-Engaged-Church/Albert-L-Winseman/9781595620149>  
<http://www.gallup.com/strategicconsulting/157391/growing-engaged-church.aspx>  
[http://books.google.com/books/about/Growing\\_an\\_Engaged\\_Church.html?id=sZXiORFWIbgC](http://books.google.com/books/about/Growing_an_Engaged_Church.html?id=sZXiORFWIbgC)  
<http://appletoncatholics.com/Documents/John%20Aleksak%20PPT/Fri%20Session%202%20Handouts.PDF>  
<https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1040&context=dmin>  
[http://www.mqp.org/mqp\\_for\\_me/documents/myMQP\\_9\\_29\\_2011\\_ppt.pdf](http://www.mqp.org/mqp_for_me/documents/myMQP_9_29_2011_ppt.pdf)  
<https://speakerpedia.com/speakers/albert-l-winseman-d-min>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Albert-L.-Winseman/e/B001JP21ZC>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/191093.Albert\\_L\\_Winseman](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/191093.Albert_L_Winseman)  
 Images for Albert L. Winseman, author  
 Images for Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop "Doing Church" and Start Being the Church Again [Albert L. Winseman DMin.]

### 10 ways to increase value of and engagement in church participation

In recent experiences with my leadership class we have explored this trend by conducting interviews with others inside and outside the church. This article is another attempt to summarize our discoveries along with the insights, challenges and opportunities they provide.

<https://baptistnews.com/article/10-ways-to-increase-value-of-and-engagement-in-church-participation/#.WH-4yBsrKUK>

[Images for 10 ways to increase value of and engagement in church participation](#)

<https://baptistnews.com/article/10-ways-to-increase-value-of-and-engagement-in-church-participation-part-2/#.WH-5ehsrKUK>

### 17) Peter and Paul

I recall Herbert W. Chilstrom preaching in Aasgaard Hall (since taken down and replaced by the headquarters for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota)

#### Johan Arnd Aasgaard - Wikipedia

Johan Arnd Aasgaard was born in [Albert Lea, Minnesota](#). He was educated at [St. Olaf College](#) in [Northfield, Minnesota](#) (class of 1898). He graduated from the United Church Seminary in [Saint Paul, Minnesota](#) (now known as [Luther Seminary](#)). He was ordained a minister in the [Norwegian Lutheran Church of America](#), later known as the [Evangelical Lutheran Church](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

Aasgaard was pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in [De Forest, Wisconsin](#) from 1901–11. He taught at United Church Seminary from 1906–07. He served as president of [Concordia College](#) in [Moorhead, Minnesota](#) from 1911–25. Aasgaard was President of the [Norwegian Lutheran Church of America](#) from 1925–1954.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

Aasgaard subsequently helped lay groundwork for the merger that resulted in formation of [American Lutheran Church](#) in 1960. The American Lutheran Church resulted from the merger of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (United States) with the [United Evangelical Lutheran Church](#) and a predecessor church body known as the American Lutheran Church.<sup>[5]</sup>

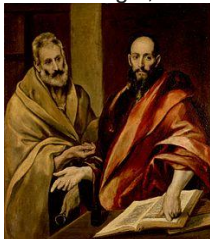
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johan\\_Arnd\\_Aasgaard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johan_Arnd_Aasgaard)

[Images for Johan Arnd Aasgaard](#)

at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota while I was studying there. Chilstrom, at that time, served as bishop of the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. He became the first presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 1987 and was re-elected to a four-year term in 1991. He asserted that the church needs both Peter and Paul.

#### Feast of Saints Peter and Paul - Wikipedia

The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul or Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul is a liturgical feast in honor of the [martyrdom](#) in [Rome](#) of the [apostles Saint Peter](#) and [Saint Paul](#), which is observed on 29 June. The celebration is of ancient origin, the date selected being the anniversary of either their death or the [translation](#) of their relics.<sup>[2]</sup>



Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Oil on canvas by El Greco.

Circa 16<sup>th</sup>-century. Hermitage Museum, Russia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast\\_of\\_Saints\\_Peter\\_and\\_Paul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_Saints_Peter_and_Paul)

[Images for Feast of Saints Peter and Paul](#)

I remember certain professors speaking disparagingly of "426 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St." the address of the headquarters of the American Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Later, certain professors spoke disparagingly of "Higgins Road" to refer to the churchwide headquarters of the ELCA in Chicago, Illinois

### Resources

#### Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of Mainline Denominations by Robert Bacher (Author)

Bacher and Inskeep believe that mainline denominations serve as caretakers of the important American expressions of Christianity, and if they are weak or lost, society and the universal church will be the worse for it. They argue that a fundamentally American form of mainline denominationalism can and will endure, despite the rumor of its decline. The authors examine six "rumors" of the decline. Using historical trends and current statistical information, they analyze the current situation and point to vital lessons, potential problems, and key challenges. They also offer helpful strategies and provide examples of what denominations are doing that show potential.

<https://www.amazon.com/Chasing-Down-Rumor-Mainline-Denominations/dp/0806651423>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16194143-chasing-down-a-rumor>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7253/Chasing-Down-a-Rumor?c=245074&infoID=17403>

<https://www.christianbook.com/chasing-down-rumor-death-mainline-denominations/kenneth-inskeep/9780806651422/pd/651423>

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/9494047?q&versionId=11013469>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451412495>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802863582>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Bacher/e/B001JSACYG>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115303.Robert\\_Bacher](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115303.Robert_Bacher)  
[Images for Robert Bacher \(Author\) mainline denominations](#)  
[Images for Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of Mainline Denominations by Robert Bacher \(Author\)](#)

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#### Phyllis Tickle: What's the future of denominations?

Get rid of real estate, focus on education and trim, trim, trim. That's the advice to denominational leaders from the author of "The Great Emergence."

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/phyllis-tickle-anthill>  
[Images for Phyllis Tickle on future of denominations](#)  
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/series-what%E2%80%99s-future-denominations> Phyllis Tickle: Like an anthill  
[Images for Series: What's the future of denominations? - Faith and Leadership](#)

#### [PDF] The Future of Denominations: Asking Uppercase Questions by Mark S. Hanson - Word & World – Luther Seminary

The future of denominations in general – and of the ELCA, in particular, depends on responding to the mission to which God calls us in the world rather than planning strategies for institutional survival.

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/25-1\\_Denominations/25-1\\_Hanson.pdf](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/25-1_Denominations/25-1_Hanson.pdf)  
[Images for Future of Denominations by Mark S. Hanson](#)

### 18) Is the congregation mission or clergy focused?

Peter Steinke helps church leaders to see the difference between a focus on mission

#### Mission vs Clergy Focused Congregations - Psyche and Spirit

Many ministers are already familiar with **Peter Steinke's clergy-focused vs. mission-focused distinction**. And, in the life of a congregation, various factors may appropriately shift members from one focus to the other. Congregations, however, may develop this leaning subtly over time; may lurch in one direction or the other in response to a specific event; or may shift due to current powers-that-be in Council memberships, pastoral teams, etc.

Think about an "issue" facing you or your congregation at the present time. How might any conflict within that issue be arising from tensions between positions reflecting one or the other focus? The following is a brief summary of these positions:

<http://www.psycheandspirit.com/Mission%20vs%20Clergy%20Focused%20Congregations.htm>  
[Images for Mission vs Clergy Focused Congregations](#)

#### The Marks of a Healthy Congregation - UUA

Steinke then outlined the characteristics of health congregations:

**Healthy congregations focus on mission.** This, he pointed out, does not mean merely that the congregation has a mission statement, but that it uses that mission statement to organize its activities. A good mission statement, Steinke noted, is no longer than a sentence, with no more than one comma, "can be understood by a 12-year-old and can be repeated at gunpoint." Mission helps mobilize the energy of the community; if the congregation isn't focused on mission, it will focus on its past, its budget, problems or something else.

<http://www.uua.org/governance/leadership/uuu/2006/13113.shtml>  
[Images for Marks of a Healthy Congregation](#)  
[Images for Healthy congregations focus on mission.](#)

and a focus on the clergy.

#### Healthy Congregations Make Healthy Choices

**Dr. Peter Steinke**, the guru of congregational systems now that Rabbi Edwin Friedman has passed, writes about focus in his book *Healthy Congregations*, an Alban Institute publication. He mentions two unhealthy patterns of congregations that become **over-focused on clergy**. "First," Steinke writes, "when over-focused on the pastor, people find it immensely difficult to see the rest of the system. As a result, they are blind to how other forces and people contribute to what is happening. Perspective is distorted. . . Second, when a congregation is over-focused on clergy, it cannot keep its focus on its mission. Instead of focusing on who they are and what they are about as a community, they peer intently at who the pastor is and what the pastor does. Again, perspective is skewed." (Peter L. Steinke, *Healthy Congregations*, The Alban Institute, Herndon, VA, 1996 and 2006; p. 45).

#### Christ the King Lutheran Church | Blogs!

[http://www.ctksnohomish.org/page\\_to\\_print.cfm?id=151&blog\\_id=8](http://www.ctksnohomish.org/page_to_print.cfm?id=151&blog_id=8)  
[Images for Healthy Congregations Make Healthy Choices Dr. Peter Steinke](#)