

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 15 Mission

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Reflections and Resources

1) Pastor – Theologian – Missionary

I sat across from a retired pastor at a funeral lunch who was touting his alma mater Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa to a young person sitting at the same table contemplating studying at a seminary. He knew that I graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He asserted, "Wartburg trains pastors, while Luther trains theologians." Perhaps it could be said that theological education in the future will train missionaries.

Resources

Mission and Vision - Luther Seminary

Luther Seminary adopted its mission statement in 1995 and its vision statement in 2017.

Both statements represent major markers on the path of our journey. They serve as a primary points of reference for all of the seminary's strategic decisions. They are dynamic in character – living statements that continue to breath life into the seminary's work.

Mission Statement

Luther Seminary educates leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

Vision Statement

The Holy Spirit calls Luther Seminary to lead faithful innovation for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ in a rapidly changing world.

https://www.luthersem.edu/about/our_mission.aspx?m=5956

[Images for Mission and Vision - Luther Seminary](#)

Mission & Vision - Wartburg Seminary

Mission

Wartburg Theological Seminary serves Christ's church through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by being a **worship-centered community of critical theological reflection where learning leads to mission and mission informs learning.**

The community embodies God's mission by stewarding resources for engaging, equipping, and sending collaborative leaders who interpret, proclaim and live the gospel of Jesus Christ for a world created for communion with God and in need of personal and social healing.

Vision

Wartburg Theological Seminary will be recognized in the ELCA and beyond for excellence in its capacity (a) to prepare servant leaders for churchly ministries that sustain faithful traditions and pursue unfulfilled possibilities; (b) to steward wisely the church's theological heritage, its institutions, and its human and financial resources; and (c) to produce graduates who are valued by those they serve and by those who oversee their ministries because of their faithfulness, effectiveness, churchliness, collegiality, and innovation.

Wartburg Theological Seminary will be recognized by potential and current students, faculty, staff, graduates, the church, and a larger public for a distinctively fruitful culture of learning in community, a culture that engages residential, commuting, and distributed learning students, in degree and certificate programs, for Christ's mission to the world.

This culture builds on the Lutheran tradition exemplified in Wilhelm Loehe by being worship-centered, communal, diaconal, missional, and global committed both to the church's confessions and to a living faith, and allowing for open questions.

Wartburg's reputation attracts top-quality students who can benefit from and contribute to this community and culture through its Dubuque and Austin based programs.

Wartburg Theological Seminary's residential and distributed MDiv and MA and MA-Diaconal Ministry degree programs, its Dubuque and Austin-based TEEM and other certificate programs, its lifelong learning work, and its scholarly and ecclesial work are and will be widely recognized for excellent core and complementary faculty, adaptive curriculum, and innovative approaches that enable fruitful blending of critical theological thinking with reflective learning through the practice of pastoral and diaconal ministry.

Wartburg Theological Seminary will be recognized as exercising the highest level of responsibility, integrity, and good stewardship and as pioneering and unsurpassed in operating with a business plan that is realistic and effective in undergirding the seminary's mission.

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/mission-and-vision/>

[Images for Mission & Vision - Wartburg Seminary](#)

2) Hospitality Committee meets at a restaurant

A woman came to the service of worship on Mother's Day. I remembered her coming on Easter and Christmas. When she sat down, a member came up to me to explain that the Hospitality Committee met that Friday at a restaurant. The previously mentioned woman, who owned the establishment, asked the members of the committee what time the service of worship was. When told, she added, "I don't have an excuse for not coming." Sure enough, she came the next Sunday.

3) Sharing the faith

A retired pastor who had been ordained 60+ years and widowed within the last 2 years invited me to eat at a restaurant after the Saturday evening service of worship. He struck up a conversation with the young waiter who revealed a difficult life situation. The retired pastor matter-of-factly stated that he had faced difficult times in his life and that knowing Jesus made all the difference in the

world. He gave the young man a \$50 bill to help him out. Afterwards, he told me he wished he could do more. This gentle soul, who very easily could have said that he had done his part during his lifetime, witnessed personally not only to the young waiter but to me that the hope of the church is people like him who share the faith with others.

Resources

Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing by Invitation by H. Eddie Fox (Author), George E. Morris (Author)

After careful evaluation of the original Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing by Invitation with pastors and laypersons, Fox and Morris have revised and expanded this textbook on the why, what, who, and how of sharing the good news of Christ Jesus. Designed to help persons be competent and confident in witnessing for Christ Jesus, Faith-Sharing has been published in English, Portuguese, Estonian, and Russian and is a bestseller with over 150,000 copies sold. Use it in conjunction with The Faith-Sharing Congregation by Roger K. Swanson and Shirley F. Clement and Faith-Sharing New Testament with Psalms available through Cokesbury.

<https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Sharing-Dynamic-Christian-Witnessing-Invitation/dp/0881771589>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/faith-sharing-h-eddie-fox/1112143950>

<http://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR158/faithsharing.aspx>

<https://www.christianbook.com/christian-witnessing-invitation-revised-expanded-edition/h-fox/9780881771589/pd/771589>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Faith_sharing.html?id=VVMLAAACAAJ

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/183280.H_Eddie_Fox

Images for H. Eddie Fox (Author) faith sharing images

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/evangelist-traveling-the-world-to-spread-gospel>

<https://www.facebook.com/heddie.fox>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/183279.George_E_Morris

Images for George E. Morris (Author) faith sharing images

Images for Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing by Invitation by H. Eddie Fox (Author), George E. Morris (Author)

How to Easily Share Your Faith - iOutreach

Here it is! Every child of God wants to help make an impact for the Gospel. The hope it presents is truly life-changing. Here's an easy tool to use to experience the joy of sharing Jesus. It's a simple process involving a card and the internet with a tracking tool you can really use! We use a high quality, coated card the size of a business card. We call them 'mystery cards'.

<http://www.ioutreachinc.org/how-it-works/>

Images for How to Easily Share Your Faith - Outreach

<https://shareyourfaithproducts.com/>

www.cbn.com/spirituallife/shareyourfaith/

<https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>

<https://www.harvest.org/know-god/foundations/what-is-the-church/sharing-your-faith>

Images for know-god/foundations/what-is-the-church/sharing-your-faith

<https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-share-your-faith-701257>

<https://intervarsity.org/blog/sharing-your-faith>

<https://howtoshareyourfaith.com/>

<https://thelife.com/sharing-your-journey-of-faith>

Images for sharing-your-journey-of-faith

<https://blog.logos.com/2013/08/3-free-tools-for-sharing-your-faith/>

Images for tools-for-sharing-your-faith

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/8-practical-ways-every-Christian-can-share-their-faith>

Images for Christian-can-share-their-faith

How to Share Your Faith: Greg Laurie

This book is small because, like the gospel it describes, its message is so simple. Gifted evangelist Greg Laurie, author of *The New Believer's Bible*, has developed this short, easy-to-understand booklet on how to tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ. Also, an excellent resource for new believers.

<https://www.amazon.com/Share-Your-Faith-Greg-Laurie/dp/0842333452>

<http://www.harvest.org/store/how-to-share-your-faith-greg-laurie>

www.lifeway.com/Product/how-to-share-your-faith-P005526585

<http://www.lifeway.com/n/Product-Family/Tell-Someone>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/HarvestTV> Pastor Greg Laurie - YouTube

Images for Pastor Greg Laurie share your faith - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhJUTgG15zY> The What and How of Sharing our Faith - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGTdeoc3_e0 How to Share Your Faith Without Being a Bully – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vwr9LAbuRaA> Share Your Story - YouTube

<https://www.facebook.com/harvest.greglaurie/videos/10154305949586698/>

<https://www.epm.org/blog/2016/Oct/12/greg-laurie-share-gospel>

<https://www.onenewsnow.com/church/2017/06/10/greg-laurie-kicks-off-super-bowl-of-evangelism>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2019/august/one-on-one-with-greg-laurie-on-evangelism-culture-and-crusa.html>

<http://blog.greglaurie.com/?p=9810>

<http://greg.harvest.org/how-to-share-your-faith/>
<http://greg.harvest.org/how-you-can-share-the-gospel/>
<https://www.harvest.org/know-god/foundations/what-is-the-church/sharing-your-faith>
<http://www.harvest.org/store/catalogsearch/result/index/?cat=3&mode=list&q=%22Share+Your+Faith%22>
<https://www.oneplace.com/ministries/a-new-beginning/read/articles/the-harvest-is-ready-are-you-8570.html>
<https://www.oneplace.com/ministries/a-new-beginning/read/articles/lessons-from-a-fishing-boat-8557.html>
https://twitter.com/greglaurie?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor
<http://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/harvestdaily/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greg_Laurie
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/52865.Greg_Laurie
[Images for Greg Laurie \(author\)](#)
[Images for How to Share Your Faith: Greg Laurie](#)

How to Share Your Faith with Someone

Sharing the gospel with others is a natural part of exercising a mature faith.

Here We Stand Student Book - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8604/Here-We-Stand-Student-Book>

[Images for How to Share Your Faith with Someone](#)

[Images for Sharing the gospel with others is a natural part of exercising a mature faith.](#)

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111 best sharing my faith images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/whitfield92/sharing-my-faith/>

[Images for sharing my faith Pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/itsjens/sharing-my-faith/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/deidrecvest/sharing-your-faith/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/aroundtheco0119/share-your-faith/>

[Images for share-your-faith](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/messiahmech/family-faith-sharing-roots-wings/>

[Images for family-faith-sharing-roots-wings](#)

Share: Make Christ Real to Others [Joel Comiskey]

The gospel is the best news on the face of this earth. Many believers, however, don't have a clear understanding of what that good news is nor how to share it. *Share!* offers practical insights to help a believer boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

This book is not only designed to equip a believer individually to share his or her faith, but it also instructs a small group how to witness to those outside the Christian faith.

Share! will especially help believers **develop relationships** with non-Christians by following the example of Jesus Christ, who was a "friend of sinners." This book can be used in a classroom setting or one-on-one.

Share! forms part of a five-book series that equips a person to become a fruitful disciple of Jesus Christ.

<http://www.amazon.com/Share-Make-Christ-Real-Others/dp/0975581945>

<http://store.joelcomiskeygroup.com/share.html>

<http://joelcomiskeygroup.com/download/LIVE-ENCOUNTER-GROW-SHARE-LEAD.pdf>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1935789082>

<https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/joelcomiskey>

<https://www.amazon.com/Joel-Comiskey/e/B001K7U4JO>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/385938.Joel_Comiskey

[Images for joel comiskey \(author\)](#)

[Images for Share: Make Christ Real to Others \[Joel Comiskey\]](#)

Sharing Faith

Sharing Faith is designed for groups of 8-12 people who share a meal, get to know one another and share stories of faith through engaging questions.

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

[Images for Sharing Faith](#)

Sharing Faith Quotes (13 quotes) - Goodreads

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/sharing-faith>

[Images for faith sharing quotes](#)

Sharing the Faith That You Love: Four Simple Ways to Be Part of the New Evangelization by John Boucher (Author), Therese Boucher (Author)

You might be wondering, "How could I communicate God's loving presence or share my faith, if I am not always sure of what I believe? How could I bring anyone back to God or to the church? I am not an expert or an evangelist and I don't want to knock on doors!" Fear not! We will help you see the details of your everyday life in the light of a lived faith. We will help you move from accidental kindnesses and invisible beliefs towards intentional acts of faith that enable others to experience Jesus in new

ways. This book encourages Christians to have a deeper awareness of the spiritual needs of those you meet in your everyday life. It also goes one step further by affirming the gifts you are given by God so that you can respond to the spiritual hungers of family, friends and co-workers. Finally, we offer practical skills for sharing your faith through four simple steps: prayer, caring, sharing and inviting.

<https://www.amazon.com/Sharing-Faith-That-Love-Evangelization-ebook/dp/B00IICDW1G>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20836139-sharing-the-faith-that-you-love>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/sharing-the-faith-that-you-love-john-therese-boucher/1117165617>

<https://bookstore.wau.org/Sharing-the-Faith-that-You-Love-Four-Simple-Ways-to-be-Part-of-the-New-Evangelization-P234.aspx>

https://wau.org/resources/article/re_sharing_the_faith_that_you_love1/

https://fellowshipofcatholicchristianwomen.org/media/Current_Study/Notes_on_Sharing_the_Faith_You_Love_presentation_2_Kathy_Bitschenauer.pdf

<https://www.21stcenturycatholicsevangalization.org/books.html>

<https://www.comcenter.com/product/WDAM-252519/Sharing-the-Faith-That-You-Love/>

<https://www.johnandthereseboucher.com/boucherbooklist>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8917630.John_Boucher

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1214901.Therese_Boucher

[Images for John Boucher \(Author\), Therese Boucher \(Author\) images](#)

[Images for Sharing the Faith That You Love: Four Simple Ways to Be Part of the New Evangelization by John Boucher \(Author\), Therese Boucher \(Author\)](#)

Sharing Your Faith Without Embarrassment or Coercion | Small Groups

There are seven activities I have found helpful in the process, some of which will look different depending on our current relationship with the person we are witnessing to.

<https://www.smallgroups.com/articles/2010/sharing-your-faith-without-embarrassment-or-coercion.html>

[Images for Sharing Your Faith Without Embarrassment or Coercion | Small Groups](#)

<https://www.ivpress.com/the-good-and-beautiful-community>

<https://www.amazon.com/Good-Beautiful-Community-Demonstrating-Apprentice/dp/0830835334> The Good and Beautiful Community: Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love by James Bryan Smith (Author)

[Images for Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love](#)

The Book of Acts: How to Experience and Share God

1. **Sharing faith** is necessary to grow depth and excitement in your own faith. Acts 2:44-46, Acts 4:31
2. **Sharing faith** grows the number of believers. Acts 2:4, 2:47, 13:41, 17:12
3. The Holy Spirit is always behind spiritual and numerical growth. Acts mentions the Spirit 57 times. Acts 1:1-15
4. Christians planned on spreading faith and they were *prepared to speak and act as believers*.
Peter's talks in Acts 2 and 3, Acts 8:26-40, 17:22-34
Paul's talks in Acts 22 and 26
5. Sharing faith *always* brought unforeseeable, unavoidable, and uncontrollable surprises and *changes*.
Enemy #1, Saul, believed. Gentiles believed. Great changes in churches and practice resulted.
6. Cost may accompany effective **faith sharing** and growth. Acts 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, 21
7. Conflict inevitably came with the growth and changes.
Conflicts among believers. Acts 6
Conflicts between Christians and unbelievers. Acts 17
8. **Faith sharing** gives:

Widespread ignorance about Christianity exists, even among Christians. People follow competing beliefs. And so, carefully targeted, clear, compelling explanation of faith is essential.

Pastor Will Mowchan - Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Superior WI

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[Images for 1. Sharing faith is necessary to grow depth and excitement in your own faith. Acts 2:44-46, Acts 4:31](#)

[Images for 2. Sharing faith grows the number of believers. Acts 2:4, 2:47, 13:41, 17:12](#)

[Images for Pastor Will Mowchan - Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Superior WI](#)

<https://plcsuperior.org/staff-directory/>

THE MANICURE and other stories about fearless faith sharing – Laurie Skow-Anderson

If we take Jesus seriously, then we will GO and make disciples. If we love Jesus and our church, then we most likely will want to share this love with others. There are plenty of people to share it with in our own neighborhoods and family. (Fifty percent of the persons that live in the counties in our synod have no church/fait connection.) HOWEVER, there are several factors that make faith sharing terrifying. Fearless faith sharing is possible with a few tools and practice. This workshop will provide tools and ideas for sharing your faith fearlessly even if you are a shy Lutheran.

Full List of Workshops and Times

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/Workshops_for_Web_Updated-2.pdf

[Images for stories about fearless faith sharing – Laurie Skow-Anderson](#)

WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

<http://nswi.org/walking-together>

<http://nswsi.org/about-us/our-staff>
info@nswsi.org
<https://www.facebook.com/lkowanderson>
<https://twitter.com/lkowanderson>

The Three Secrets to Sharing the Faith by Trent Horn - Catholic Answers Shop

Want to tell others about your Catholic faith, but don't know where to start? Afraid you're not smart enough, knowledgeable enough, outgoing enough?

Don't worry, says Catholic Answers apologist Trent Horn. With a few simple tips and a little practice, *anyone* can be an effective apostle and evangelist. In *The Three Secrets to Sharing the Faith*, Horn draws on his long experience dialoguing about religion and life issues (with people ranging from politely curious to downright hostile) to identify for you the most important steps to initiating such discussions—and making them fruitful.

In clear language illustrated with real-life examples, Trent explains: Why you don't need to know all the right answers—just how to ask the right *questions*; How to control the direction of an argument when you get stumped; Keys to finding and building common ground with even the most argumentative opponent; How to keep discussions civil and positive—whether they're with family at the dinner table or strangers on Facebook...and many more insights that will take you from hesitant to confident. You don't need to be tongue-tied anymore. Watch *The Three Secrets to Sharing the Faith* today and become a more fluent champion of God's Church and his truth.

<http://shop.catholic.com/the-three-secrets-to-sharing-the-faith.html>
<http://brandonvogt.com/3-secrets-to-sharing-the-faith-so-powerful/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmuHKFIMg64> "The Three Secrets to Sharing the Faith" DVD – Trailer – YouTube
<https://www.leafletonline.com/the-three-secrets-to-sharing-the-faith-dvd>
<http://www.reasonablecatholic.com/the-three-secrets-to-sharing-the-faith-by-trent-horn-dvd-review/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/490962796859726204/>
<http://taylormarshall.com/2014/07/3-secrets-sharing-faith.html>
<https://trenthorn.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/TrentHornCatholicApologist/>
<https://www.catholic.com/profile/trent-horn>
<http://catholicexchange.com/author/trent-horn>
<https://focusoncampus.org/content/30-under-30-intellectuals>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/defense4thefait> Trent Horn - YouTube
<https://www.amazon.com/Trent-Horn/e/B00ESKK21A>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/7220002.Trent_Horn
Images for Trent Horn, author
Images for The Three Secrets to Sharing the Faith by Trent Horn

What Does the Bible Say About Sharing Faith? - OpenBible.info

https://www.openbible.info/topics/sharing_faith
Images for Bible and Sharing Faith
<http://biblereasons.com/sharing-faith/>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Sharing-Faith/>
<https://unlockingthebible.org/2016/08/afraid-to-share-your-faith/>
<https://unlockingthebible.org/2016/08/seven-reasons-to-not-fear-sharing-your-faith/>
Images for unlocking the bible/seven-reasons-to-not-fear-sharing-your-faith
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-sharing/>
<https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>
<https://www.endtime.com/blog/5-bible-verses-sharing-word-god/>
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2017/december/want-to-share-your-faith-start-with-words-from-bible.html>
Images for share-your-faith-start-with-words-from-bible
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/1-9/1-thessalonians-sharing-faith-4-session-study.html>
<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/sharing-your-faith-10-bible-verses-on-how-to-evangelise-well/88916.htm>
Images for share your faith christianity today
<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/effective-sharing-faith/>
Images for effective-sharing-faith

4) Lydia

On 6 Easter C 2016, I preached on the first reading:

Paul and Silas in Philippi

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a

worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

oremus Bible Browser: Acts 16:9-15

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Acts+16:9-15>

[Images for Paul and Silas in Philippi](#)

1st Reading Acts 16:9-15 Commentary by Mitzi J. Smith – Working Preacher

Lydia is the head of her household, it appears. She is an independent business woman; we need not assume that she is a widow. Lydia is also a worshiper of God (*sebomene ton theon*) who leads her household in worship on the Sabbath (Acts 16:13-14).

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2829

[Images for Lydia the head of her household Acts 16:9-15](#)

Resources

Leading like Lydia Feb 19, 2016 by Carol Howard Merritt - The Christian Century

Because women are culturally rewarded for deep listening, listening tends to be a part of communities planted by women. "Church planters today are about listening to the cultural context and the neighborhood, and listening for what the Spirit is doing," Spellers said. She describes church planting as someone gathering a community of people together to listen for the Spirit moving in their particular place.

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2016-02/leading-lydia>

[Images for Leading like Lydia Acts 16 by Carol Howard Merritt](#)

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2016-01/harvest-due-time>

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2015-12/called-together>

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2015-11/knee-deep-renewal>

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

Lydia of Thyatira - Wikipedia

Lydia of Thyatira (Greek: Λυδία) is a woman mentioned in the [New Testament](#) who is regarded as the first documented convert to [Christianity](#) in [Europe](#). Several Christian denominations have designated her a [saint](#). The name, "Lydia", meaning "the Lydian woman", by which she was known indicates that she was from [Lydia](#) in Asia Minor. Though she is commonly known as "St. Lydia" or even more simply "The Woman of Purple," Lydia is given other titles: "of Thyatira," "Purpuraria," and "of Philippi ('Philippisia' in Greek)." "[Lydia's] name is an ethnonicon, deriving from her place of origin".^[1] The first refers to her place of birth, which is a city in the Greek region of Lydia. The second comes from the Latin word for purple and relates to her connection with purple dye. Philippi was the city in which Lydia was living when she met St. Paul and his companions. All these titles expound upon this woman's background.

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

[Images for Lydia of Thyatira](#)

Paul encounters Lydia | Over All Things

Who was Lydia? It looks like Lydia was a well-to-do business woman. She dealt in purple cloth which probably means she was connected to the upper income segment of the population. She was probably Paul's first European convert.

<https://radicalcall.wordpress.com/2009/07/19/paul-encounters-lydia/>

[Images for Paul encounters Lydia](#)

Among other things, I was drawn to the text because my grandmother on my mother's side was named Lydia. I did not know her personally because she died when I was young. I learned about her from family recollections and from a family account in the Sheridan Daybreak – Sheridan County, Montana.

Morten and **Lydia** Norager by the Norager Family

Mother, Lydia Scheie, was the daughter of Thore and Malena Scheie, born July 11, 1892 at Strand Sogn, Stavanger, Norway. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Stavanger, coming to Radcliffe, Iowa from Norway in 1912.

She worked after arrival in the United States in Sioux City, Iowa; Bismarck, North Dakota; and Minot. We remember her telling what a trial it was, not knowing the English language. She helped with the cooking and baking in the hospital at Bismarck and Minot, and she remembers the confusion of a teaspoon and tablespoon measurement, when she was learning to read a recipe in English.

Mother was active in the Highland Lutheran Church of Outlook, and its Women's Missionary Federation having her life membership pin presented from that group. We all remember her as a wonderful cook and seamstress for her five girls.

In about 1937, she and Doris visited her's and dad's people in Norway and Denmark. In the early years, the folks had Ida Rogness, a teacher in the Hamley school rooming and boarding in our home.

Sheridan Daybreak – Sheridan County, Montana: A Story of Sheridan County and its Pioneers compiled and collated by Magnus Aasheim

While attending a conference at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN on 4/18/2016, I looked at a bulletin board next to the conference room and saw a poster telling about [LydiaPlace](#).

LydiaPlace Collaborative Communities

Welcome to [LydiaPlace](#). We are a collaborative community centered in Saint Paul's Creative Enterprise Zone along the University Avenue Green Line light rail and Raymond Avenue. Our mission is to nurture relationships around faith, work, and daily life. For more information, call Scott Simmons at 612.859.1134 or email scott@lydiaplace.com

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

<http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4497> From Consumption to Collaboration by Center for Stewardship Leaders – Luther Seminary

[Images for LydiaPlace Collaborative Communities](#)

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

I was reminded also of hearing about St. Lydia's: A Dinner Church in Brooklyn, New York while attending the God's Mission and Worship Mid-Winter Convocation on January 29-31, 2014 at the Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN.

St. Lydia's: A Dinner Church in Brooklyn, New York > About St. Lydia's

Who Are We?

St. Lydia's is a Dinner Church. We gather every Sunday and Monday night to cook and share a sacred meal. Our congregation is looking for an experience of the Holy that is strong enough to lean on, deep enough to question, and challenging enough to change us.

Our life together is founded on three pillars:

Sharing the Meal: Our worship takes place at the table around a big, delicious meal that we cook together. Communion is made as we share

Telling Our Story: Jesus told a lot of stories, and so do we. We tell the story of Christ's dying and rising, and through it, uncover the daily dyings and risings that comprise our lives food and ourselves by exploring scripture, singing, and praying together.

Working Together: When you arrive at St. Lydia's, you'll be put straight to work preparing dinner or setting the table.

Working together unites us as a community and brings us closer to God.

<http://stlydias.org/about.php>

[Images for St. Lydia's: A Dinner Church in Brooklyn, New York](#)

<https://twitter.com/StLydias>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq9yNljJN6w> St. Lydia's Dinner Church – YouTube

[Images for St. Lydia's Dinner Church - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yZ6sVdaENg> St. Lydias - Step Right Up! - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3494eHnEyE> Eucharist with St. Lydia.MPG - YouTube

http://www.episcopalcafe.com/daily/evangelism/dinner_church.php

<http://www.nyspirit.com/issue/168/spirit-interview/hungry-for-a-connection>

<http://sitandeat.typepad.com/blog/>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/missionalshift/2012/07/dinner-church-at-st-lydias-video/>

<http://www.faithandleadership.com/features/articles/dinner-and-the-gospel-served-st-lydias>

<http://divinity.yale.edu/st-lydias-dinner-church>

<http://vimeo.com/55391754> "A Holy Table" by Sean Flynn

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=682872258410369&id=549102085120721

<http://rachelheldevans.com/blog/why-christian-women-follow-friday>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053> Mid-Winter Convocation - YouTube

While the 2015-16 Continuing Education for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Lay School of Ministry focused on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the 2016-17 continuing education focused on the Acts of the Apostles because it was thought that the early church has much to say to this era of post-Christendom.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Lay School of Ministry

<http://nswi.org/lay-school-of-ministry>

[Images for Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Lay School of Ministry](#)

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

http://www.layschoolofministry.org/15-16_ContinuingEd.html 2015-16 LSM Cont Ed Faculty/Topics In Preparation for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

http://www.layschoolofministry.org/16-17_ContinuingEd.html 2016-17 LSM Cont Ed Faculty/Topics The Book of Acts

5) Transact or transcend?

I recall a setting where the church was located in a village with a population of 212. I resided in a rooming host formerly a bar and motel. Most of the young people moved away after graduating from high school, while those who were left behind worked on the farms or in the factories. The area had been settled by Norwegian and German emigrants, but the population became predominantly Hispanic

many of whom worked at the nearby meat packing plant. Many of those who attended services of worship did so at the Spanish speaking service at the Roman Catholic Church in the neighboring city of 2,310. The Congregation Council president at the only church in the village personally walked up and down the streets to invite the children to the Wednesday after-school program. She taught Sunday School and assisted with Confirmation, ushered and read the lessons. She contributed financially more than any other member. Her two daughters had moved away but had not joined a congregation and attended services of worship only when they came back home to visit the folks. In this context, council members were told by an official at a council meeting that the secret for reaching young people is, first, to accept the fact that young people want to change the world and then, second, to ask them how the church can help them achieve their goal. If the church cannot help them achieve their goal, they want nothing to do with the church. In other words, the church is urged to transact with young people so that, in exchange for their participation in the church, the church will help them achieve their goal to change the world.

Transactional or Transformational Church Leadership? | SamRainer

Transactional leaders utilize a social exchange to accomplish their goals.

<http://samrainer.com/2008/08/transactional-or-transformational-church-leadership/>

[Images for Transactional or Transformational Church Leadership? | SamRainer](#)

I admit that there is a certain matter-of-fact contextual correctness about the statement in a society that has moved from duty to discretion, and, if this advice had been framed in terms of helping young people to discern their call to a sense of vocation as a part of God's work in this world, I would be more open, but, if the church is simply urged to be, in effect, one more human potential movement reacting to a rising tide of entitlement, the question has to be asked, "What is distinctive about the church?" It is my contention that the Holy Spirit working through the early church turned the world upside down, not because the early church helped people to realize their goal to change the world but because people were invited to become involved in something bigger than themselves. God's mission for the church transcends personal agendas no matter how commendable such personal agendas might be.

Resources

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

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

In *Soul Searching*, Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton found that American teenagers have embraced a "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism"--a hodgepodge of banal, self-serving, feel-good beliefs that bears little resemblance to traditional Christianity. But far from faulting teens, Dean places the blame for this theological watering down squarely on the churches themselves. Instead of proclaiming a God who calls believers to lives of love, service and sacrifice, churches offer instead a bargain religion, easy to use, easy to forget, offering little and demanding less. But what is to be done? In order to produce ardent young Christians, Dean argues, churches must rediscover their sense of mission and model an understanding of being Christian as not something you do for yourself, but something that calls you to share God's love, in word and deed, with others. Dean found that the most committed young Christians shared four important traits: they could tell a personal and powerful story about God; they belonged to a significant faith community; they exhibited a sense of vocation; and they possessed a profound sense of hope. Based on these findings, Dean proposes an approach to Christian education that places the idea of mission at its core and offers a wealth of concrete suggestions for inspiring teens to live more authentically engaged Christian lives.

Persuasively and accessibly written, *Almost Christian* is a wake-up call no one concerned about the future of Christianity in America can afford to ignore.

<https://www.amazon.com/Almost-Christian-Teenagers-Telling-American/dp/0195314840>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7592534-almost-christian>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/48993.Kenda_Creasy_Dean

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/almost-christian-kenda-creasy-dean/1102261471>

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<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/29/how-to-reach-children-with-faith/>

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<http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Almost-Christian-Kenda-Creasy-Dean>

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<http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0042/5174/AlmostChristianinaNutshell.pdf>

<http://kendadean.com/almost-christian/>

<http://youthandreligion.nd.edu/research-findings/books/almost-christian-what-the-faith-of-our-teenagers-is-telling-the-american-church/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WonTFMpOomQ> MORALISTIC THERAPEUTIC DEISM - KENDA CREASY DEAN EXPLAINS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcrtvvGxeus> Lesson #11 - Kenda Creasy Dean (Almost Christian) – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ6Kfvo4jc> Almost Christian: Whatever It Takes - YouTube
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moralistic_therapeutic_deism
<https://ministryincubators.com/about/who-are-we/kenda-dean/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Kenda-Creasy-Dean/e/B001IOF5BG>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/48993.Kenda_Creasy_Dean
 Images for Kenda Creasy Dean (Author)
 Images for Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church by Kenda Creasy Dean (Author)

Moralistic therapeutic deism - Wikipedia

Author's analysis

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

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

The authors believe that "a significant part of Christianity in the United States is actually only tenuously Christian in any sense that is seriously connected to the actual historical Christian tradition, but has rather substantially morphed into Christianity's misbegotten step-cousin, Christian Moralistic Therapeutic Deism."^[9]

CNN online featured an article, "More Teens Becoming Fake Christians" on Kenda Creasy Dean's 2010 book *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church*. (Oxford University Press, 2010). She writes, "The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe, namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people..." She goes on to say that "if churches practice MTD in the name of Christianity, then getting teenagers to church more often is not the solution (conceivably it could make things worse). A more faithful church is the solution.... Maybe the issue is simply that the emperor has no clothes."^[10]

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

Images for Moralistic therapeutic deism

Chapter 9 ...And Then You Die

The only way to be comfortable with death is to understand and see yourself as something bigger than yourself; to choose values that stretch beyond serving yourself, that are simple and immediate and controllable and tolerant of the chaotic world around you. This is the basic root of all happiness. Whether you're listening to Aristotle or the psychologists at Harvard or Jesus Christ or the goddam Beatles, they all say that happiness comes from the same thing: caring about something greater than yourself, believing that you are contributing component in some much larger entity, that your life is but a mere side process of some great unintelligible production. This feeling is what people go to church for; it's what they fight in wars for; it's what they raise families and save pensions and build bridges and invent cell phones for: this fleeting sense of being part of something greater and more unknowable than themselves.

Page 206

The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F**k: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life by Mark Manson (Author)

In this generation-defining self-help guide, a superstar blogger cuts through the crap to show us how to stop trying to be "positive" all the time so that we can truly become better, happier people.

For decades, we've been told that positive thinking is the key to a happy, rich life. "F**k positivity," Mark Manson says. "Let's be honest, shit is f**ked and we have to live with it." In his wildly popular Internet blog, Manson doesn't sugarcoat or equivocate. He tells it like it is—a dose of raw, refreshing, honest truth that is sorely lacking today. The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F**k is his antidote to the coddling, let's-all-feel-good mindset that has infected modern society and spoiled a generation, rewarding them with gold medals just for showing up.

Manson makes the argument, backed both by academic research and well-timed poop jokes, that improving our lives hinges not on our ability to turn lemons into lemonade, but on learning to stomach lemons better. Human beings are flawed and limited—"not everybody can be extraordinary, there are winners and losers in society, and some of it is not fair or your fault." Manson advises us to get to know our limitations and accept them. Once we embrace our fears, faults, and uncertainties, once we stop running and avoiding and start confronting painful truths, we can begin to find the courage, perseverance, honesty, responsibility, curiosity, and forgiveness we seek.

There are only so many things we can give a f**k about so we need to figure out which ones really matter, Manson makes clear. While money is nice, caring about what you do with your life is better, because true wealth is about experience. A much-needed grab-you-by-the-shoulders-and-look-you-in-the-eye moment of real-talk, filled with entertaining stories and profane, ruthless humor, *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F**k* is a refreshing slap for a generation to help them lead contented, grounded lives.

<https://www.amazon.com/Subtle-Art-Not-Giving-Counterintuitive/dp/0062457713>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/28257707-the-subtle-art-of-not-giving-a-f-ck>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-subtle-art-of-not-giving-a-f-ck-mark-manson/1123517507>
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<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/authors/pw-select/article/74350-indie-author-mark-manson-finds-his-niche.html>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yd4zeF3NUZs> The Subtle Art of Not Giving A f*ck: An Animated Book Summary – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTWXKU3CZSM> Subtle Art of Not Giving a Fuck by Mark Manson - Book Review - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQpbA52pZcg> MARK MANSON - THE SUBTLE ART OF NOT GIVING A F*CK: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQpbA52pZcg> MARK MANSON - THE SUBTLE ART OF NOT GIVING A F*CK: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life – YouTube
<https://theartofcharm.com/podcast-episodes/mark-manson-counterintuitive-approach-episode-547/>
<https://www.nyjournalofbooks.com/book-review/subtle-art-not-giving-fck>
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<https://www.facebook.com/Mark-Manson-The-Subtle-Art-of-Not-Giving-1069028063233242/>
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<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-Manson/e/B00BIJOMOC>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/15815787.Mark_Manson
[Images for Mark Manson \(Author\)](#)
[Images for A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life by Mark Manson \(Author\)](#)

Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker: A Theological Vision for Discipleship and Life Together by Andrew Root (Author)

The youth ministry focus of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life is often forgotten or overlooked, even though he did much work with young people and wrote a number of papers, sermons, and addresses about or for the youth of the church. However, youth ministry expert Andrew Root explains that this focus is central to Bonhoeffer's story and thought. Root presents Bonhoeffer as the forefather and model of the growing theological turn in youth ministry. By linking contemporary youth workers with this epic theologian, the author shows the depth of youth ministry work and underscores its importance in the church. He also shows how Bonhoeffer's life and thought impact present-day youth ministry practice.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer on a weekend trip with confirmands in the spring of 1932.
From the German Federal Archive via Wikimedia Commons.

<http://www.bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/bonhoeffer-as-youth-worker/344780>
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<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/bonhoeffer-as-youth-worker-andrew-root/1118484988>
<https://www.logos.com/product/46625/bonhoeffer-as-youth-worker-a-theological-vision-for-discipleship-and-life-together>
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=103 Reexamining Relational Youth Ministry: Implications from the Theology of Bonhoeffer
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/andrew-root-take-it-bonhoeffer-there-no-christian-youth>
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https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=aaroot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7I4gHCKElw> How We Talk About Sin in Youth Ministry - Dr. Andy Root - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XooM-FychY8> Youth Ministry Interview: Andrew Root (Pt 1) - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lurli6pZ6fl> Andrew Root- a theology of youth ministry beyond youth ministry - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuEM4-77Jqc> Andrew Root- boundaries in relational youth ministry - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjkfm-tPzSewE84-kMFS6oAuR6rxZAakK3> Youth ministry - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd8AZSL0LG2NsMCpmFfqxBoNyXfxKVI6-> Trusted Relationships and Nurturing Communities - YouTube
<http://andrewroot.org/partial-curriculum-vitae/>
https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=aroot
<http://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/andrew-root>
<https://www.amazon.com/Andrew-Root/e/B001JS9RFQ>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/941745.Andrew_Root
 Images for Andrew Root (Author)
 Images for Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker: A Theological Vision for Discipleship and Life Together by Andrew Root (Author)

End of Youth Ministry? (Theology for the Life of the World) by Andrew Root (Author)

What is youth ministry actually for? And does it have a future? Andrew Root, a leading scholar in youth ministry and practical theology, went on a one-year journey to answer these questions. In this book, Root weaves together an innovative first-person fictional narrative to diagnose the challenges facing the church today and to offer a new vision for youth ministry in the 21st century.

Informed by interviews that Root conducted with parents, this book explores how parents' perspectives of what constitutes a good life are affecting youth ministry. In today's culture, youth ministry can't compete with sports, test prep, and the myriad other activities in which young people participate. Through a unique parable-style story, Root offers a new way to think about the purpose of youth ministry: not happiness, but joy. Joy is a sense of experiencing the good. For youth ministry to be about joy, it must move beyond the youth group model and rework the assumptions of how identity and happiness are imagined by parents in American society.

<https://www.amazon.com/End-Youth-Ministry-Parents-Theology/dp/1540961397>
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<https://www.facebook.com/andrew.root>
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<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/andrew-root/280524/>
<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/authors/andrew-root/1345>
https://twitter.com/RootAndrew?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor
<https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/aroot/>
<http://andrewroot.org/bio/>
https://www.amazon.com/Andrew-Root/e/B001JS9RFQ%3Fref=dbs_a_mng_rwt_scns_share
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/941745.Andrew_Root
 Images for End of Youth Ministry? (Theology for the Life of the World) by Andrew Root (Author)

REVISITING RELATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root

Relational youth ministry, also known as incarnational ministry, can feel like a vicious cycle of guilt: "I should be spending time with kids, but I just don't want to." The burden becomes heavy to bear because it is never over; adolescents always seem to need more relational bonds, and once one group graduates there is a new group of adolescents who need relational contact. It may be that the reason these relationships have become burdensome is that they have become something youth workers do, rather than something that youth workers enter into. In *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry*, Andrew Root explores the origins of a dominant ministry model for evangelicals, showing how American culture has influenced our understanding of the incarnation. Drawing from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose work with German youth in troubled times shaped his own understanding of how Jesus intersects our relationships, Root recasts relational ministry as an opportunity not to influence the influencers but to stand with and for those in need. True relational youth ministry shaped by the incarnation is a commitment to enter into the suffering of all, to offer all those in high school or junior high the solidarity of the church.

<https://www.amazon.com/Revisiting-Relational-Youth-Ministry-Incarnation/dp/0830834885>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2074614.Revisiting_Relational_Youth_Ministry
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/revisiting-relational-youth-ministry-andrew-root/1112134343>
<https://www.bookdepository.com/Revisiting-Relational-Youth-Ministry-Andrew-Root/9780830834884>
<https://www.ivpress.com/revisiting-relational-youth-ministry>
<https://www.pcabookstore.com/p-7383-revisiting-relational-youth-ministry.aspx>
<http://andrewroot.org/books/>
<https://faithinformationlearningexchange.net/adolescent-books.html>
<https://www.youthsource.com/2008/10/03/review-revisiting-relational-youth-ministry/>
<https://thirstyones.com/2010/08/01/book-review-revisiting-relational-youth-ministry-by-andrew-root/>
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=2745 Review
<https://www.gcs.edu/mod/page/view.php?id=4436>
 Andrew Root, Relationships in Youth Ministry – Grace Communion Seminary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0sT1dvANTM> Lesson #9 – Andrew Root (Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry)-YouTube
[Images for REVISITING RELATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root](#)

TAKING THE CROSS TO YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root

Synopsis: You know that the ideas of sin and salvation are central to our faith, but how do you effectively teach these concepts to teenagers? In *Taking the Cross to Youth Ministry*, Andrew Root will help you re-imagine how you present the power of the cross to students as you journey with Nadia, a fictional youth worker wrestling with this question.

<https://www.amazon.com/Taking-Ministry-Theological-Journey-Through/dp/0310670780>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13700571-taking-the-cross-to-youth-ministry>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/taking-the-cross-to-youth-ministry-andrew-root/1109486476>
<http://www.zondervan.com/taking-the-cross-to-youth-ministry>
<http://andrewroot.org/books/>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=031058664X>
[Images for TAKING THE CROSS TO YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root](#)

TAKING THEOLOGY TO YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root

Synopsis: Have you ever wondered, “What’s the point of youth ministry?” In *Taking Theology to Youth Ministry*, Andrew Root invites you along on a journey with Nadia—a fictional youth worker who is trying to understand the “why” behind her ministry. Her narrative, along with Root’s insights, helps you explore how theology can and should influence the way you do youth ministry.

<https://www.amazon.com/Theology-Ministry-Theological-Journey-Through/dp/0310670764>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13700570-taking-theology-to-youth-ministry>
<http://andrewroot.org/books/>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Taking_Theology_to_Youth_Ministry.html?id=jGhnDpT8UdUC
<https://youthspecialties.com/product-category/youth-worker-dev/youth-worker-development-veteran/>
<http://englewoodreview.org/andrew-root-four-books-on-theology-and-youth-ministry-part-1/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/147774431494036503/>
<http://andrewroot.org/books/>
<https://www.regent-college.edu/faculty/part-time-and-visiting/andrew-root>
[Images for TAKING THEOLOGY TO YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root](#)

THE THEOLOGICAL TURN IN YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root, Kendra Creasy Dean

What haunts your youth group? So often we avoid talking about doubts and fears because we feel inadequately equipped to address them in any meaningful way. The crisis of existence can't be answered with pat Sunday school formulas or a few Bible verses, let alone another relay race. The questions our youth have are often the same ones that perplexed the great theologians, driving them to search for God in the places God didn't appear to be--places of brokenness, suffering and confusion. What if we let these questions drive our search for God too? Andrew Root and Kendra Creasy Dean invite you to envision youth ministries full of practical theologians, addressing the deep questions of life with a wonderfully adolescent mix of idealism, cynicism and prophetic intolerance for hypocrisy. Follow them into reflection on your own practice of theology, and learn how to share that theology through rich, compassionate conversation and purposeful experience.

<https://www.amazon.com/Theological-Turn-Youth-Ministry-ebook/dp/B005LMTZ94>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12032297-the-theological-turn-in-youth-ministry>
<https://www.ivpress.com/the-theological-turn-in-youth-ministry>
<https://www.christianbook.com/the-theological-turn-in-youth-ministry/andrew-root/9780830838257/pd/838257>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/theological-turn-in-youth-ministry-andrew-root/1102118568>
<http://andrewroot.org/books/>
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Theological_Turn_in_Youth_Ministry.html?id=HdpGvdnH2vgC
[Images for THEOLOGICAL TURN IN YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root](#)

UNLOCKING MISSION AND ESCHATOLOGY IN YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root

Synopsis: In *Unlocking Mission and Eschatology in Youth Ministry* Root argues that youth ministers should teach teens to recognize that as Jesus' disciples they are participating in the very action of God to bring forth the future of God. He

argues that our service to him on this earth (mission) is a sign of the new reality that Jesus will bring when he returns (eschatology).

<http://andrewroot.org/books/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Unlocking-Mission-Eschatology-Ministry-Theological/dp/0310670810>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16182671-unlocking-mission-and-eschatology-in-youth-ministry>

<http://www.harpercollins.com.au/9780310589549/unlocking-mission-and-eschatology-in-youth-ministry/>

<http://www.zondervan.com/unlocking-mission-and-eschatology-in-youth-ministry>

<https://www.christianbook.com/unlocking-mission-eschatology-youth-ministry-ebook/andrew-root/9>

<https://www.importital.co.za/Unlocking-Mission-and-Eschatology-in-Youth-Ministry-A-Theological-Journey-Through-Youth-Ministry-ap-0310670810.html>

<http://englewoodreview.org/andrew-root-four-books-on-theology-and-youth-ministry-part-1/>

<https://www.rootedministry.com/blog/reclaiming-the-beauty-of-adolescence/>

[Images for UNLOCKING MISSION AND ESCHATOLOGY IN YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root](#)

UNPACKING SCRIPTURE IN YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root

Synopsis: *Unpacking Scripture in Youth Ministry* focuses on how to teach and present the Bible in the lives of teenagers. Andrew Root argues that teens are constant interpreters — always asking the questions, who am I? and what do others think of me? — and so youth ministers must teach them to interpret the actions of God as revealed in the Bible. This view is different than teaching biblical knowledge — memory verses and Bible facts — and it's different than teaching them to interpret the Bible themselves. Rather, they are to view the Bible as a tool for interpreting God's actions and then respond with their own actions.

<http://andrewroot.org/books/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Unpacking-Scripture-Ministry-Theological-Journey/dp/0310670799>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16182670-unpacking-scripture-in-youth-ministry>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310586704>

<https://www.paperplus.co.nz/author/andrew-root-283112>

<https://www.pinterest.com/youthdynamics/youth-ministry/>

[Images for UNPACKING SCRIPTURE IN YOUTH MINISTRY by Andrew Root](#)

How the Early Church Viewed Martyrs | Christian History Magazine

In the second century, then, *martyr* became a technical term for a person who had died for Christ, while *confessor* was defined as one who proclaimed Christ's lordship at trial but did not suffer the death penalty.

<https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/how-early-church-viewed-martyrs/>

[Images for How the Early Church Viewed Martyrs | Christian History Magazine](#)

Our Mission · Concordia College

We welcome students from a variety of backgrounds who seek to understand what it means to live in a global society and are passionate about making a difference in their communities.

The purpose of Concordia College is to influence the affairs of the world by sending into society thoughtful and informed men and women dedicated to the Christian life.

Written more than 50 years ago, the Concordia College Mission Statement continues to be a guiding force that connects our past to our future.

<https://www.concordiacollege.edu/about/our-mission/>

[Images for Our Mission · Concordia College](#)

Should Church Be Welcoming? – Living an Ecumenical Life

Becoming part of a faith community requires commitment. It is a commitment shared by the entire community, together. **A faith community does not offer what people "want"**, as if we as human beings had any idea if what we want is actually good or what we need.

<https://ecumenicallife.com/2013/11/04/should-church-be-welcoming/>

The Delusion of Passion: Why Millennials Struggle to Find Success by David Anderson (Author), Mark Nathan (Author, Cover Design), James C. Hart (Editor), Meredith Nathan (Editor)

Life doesn't begin when you find your passion, it is happening right now in every decision you make! Authors David Anderson & Mark Nathan separate fact from delusion surrounding our understanding of what it means to live a life of passion...which is never discovered, it is created. A brilliantly written, simple, and practical guide to develop a life that you are truly excited about living!

We've all grown up hearing statements that sound like There are more important things in the world than money...follow your passion or When you find your true passion, you'll never feel like you're working a day in your life.

In our culture, there is a premium placed on finding our passion, as though somehow once we've found it, our lives will finally start to come together as we've always imagined. We've held onto these beliefs about passion and have made daily and even life-changing decisions based on the principle of following our passion.

Is passion important in living a fulfilled life? Absolutely. But as the famous adage goes, It's not the things that you don't know that hurt you... It's the things you think are true that aren't that really mess you up.

Unfortunately, there are a number of beliefs we have about trying to find our passion that are creating more questions, frustrations and confusion in our lives. Of course, something in these beliefs must be true (or they wouldn't resonate with us so strongly), but how do we separate fact from delusion? Instead of hoping to find a life of passion, how do we CREATE a life we are passionate about living?

The Delusion of Passion: Why Millennials Struggle to Find Success was written to clarify truth from delusion in our commonly held beliefs about passion, and to put people in the driver's seat, creating a life they are passionate about living. It is written for Millennials and by Millennials to help our generation tap into new levels of productivity and intentionality in everything we do, and in our pursuit of personal excellence. Even those not in our generation have gained insights from this book into the Millennial mind, on how to work with Millennials effectively, and helping to clarify their own personal journeys as well.

<https://www.amazon.com/Delusion-Passion-Millennials-Struggle-Success/dp/1533480915>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30839060-the-delusion-of-passion>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-delusion-of-passion-mark-nathan/1123937164?type=eBook>

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/638849>

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

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

<http://lyfestylewin.com/delusion-passion-david-anderson-mark-nathan/>

<https://www.audiobooks.com/audiobook/the-delusion-of-passion-why-millennials-struggle-to-find-success/265935>

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x50erqd_pdf-the-delusion-of-passion-why-millennials-struggle-to-find-success-popular-collection_lifestyle

<http://newinceptions.com/aol-023-recognizing-the-delusion-of-passion-with-mark-nathan/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4znhJZJTZ4> Pre-Launch Announcement - The Delusion of Passion: Why Millennials Struggle to Find Success – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmQX8HkJBu4> Images for The Delusion of Passion: Why Millennials Struggle to Find Success – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsuk03FC9qY> David Anderson & Mark Nathan Interview - FOX News Chicago – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsuk03FC9qY> The Delusion of Passion: Why Millennials Struggle to Find Success Audiobook

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/88875792626225455/>

<https://www.thedelusionofpassion.com/the-authors>

<https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/DavidAnderson>

<http://www.networkingtimes.com/nt/15/05/3761.phtml>

<http://www.made-magazine.com/podcast-jasmine-browley-talks-biz-renaissance-man-david-anderson/>

<http://50action50.com/Committee/David-Anderson/>

[Images for David Anderson \(Author\) the delusion of passion](https://www.thedelusionofpassion.com/the-authors)

<https://soundcloud.com/newinceptions/recognizing-the-delusion-of-passion-helping-millennials-find-true-freedom-mark-nathan-aol->

<http://marknathan.me/>

<http://www.fastleader.net/marknathan/>

[Images for mark nathan \(author\)](https://www.thedelusionofpassion.com/the-authors)

[Images for The Delusion of Passion: Why Millennials Struggle to Find Success by David Anderson \(Author\), Mark Nathan \(Author, Cover Design\), James C. Hart \(Editor\), Meredith Nathan \(Editor\)](https://www.thedelusionofpassion.com/the-authors)

To Make a Difference (video) with Dr. Peter Steinke

According to the early Christians, the church did not exist to provide a place where people could be religious. Nor did it exist to provide a safe haven in which people could escape the world. The purpose of the church is clearly stated in the New Testament: God reveals that he is a loving and just creator; that through Jesus he has freed people enslaved in sin; that by His Spirit he is at work to renew the whole creation.

All mission in which church people invest their gifts and energy flow from the reality of "God so loved the world." Because of "God's mission," the church exists. The mission is what the church is there for. So, the church is a community enabling people of faith to make a difference in the lives of others.

Today's church finds itself in a radically new context. It is being challenged to rethink and redo how it can best serve God's mission. This DVD portrays the dilemma and the opportunity. God said to the exiles in Babylon – "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find welfare" (Jeremiah 29:5-7).

How can the church seek the welfare of the city? What difference could it make in our particular setting?

<https://newvisionpress.wordpress.com/products/>

[Images for To Make a Difference \(video\) with Dr. Peter Steinke](https://newvisionpress.wordpress.com/products/)

What does the Bible say about youth ministry? - GotQuestions.org

Answer: Although youth ministry is a fixture in the modern church, there is no biblical model for such a ministry. However, biblical principles can and should be the model for all ministries in the local church, including ministry to youth.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/youth-ministry.html>

[Images for bible and youth ministry](https://www.gotquestions.org/youth-ministry.html)

6) On motivation

I was driving late one night when an interview came on public radio about how Bart Campolo told his father the progressive theologian Tony Campolo at a Thanksgiving Dinner that he had turned secular humanist. Bart (named after the theologian Karl Barth) claimed after his de-conversion that he was motivated by an inner gratefulness for life. Tony claimed that he continued to be motivated by the outward love of God in Jesus Christ.

Resources

Bart Campolo and the Future of Humanist Chaplaincy | HuffPost

Unlike most Religious Life or University Chaplain offices around the country, the Office of Religious Life at USC is not oriented around God, but rather around meaning and purpose, truth and identity, significance and authenticity, and the ultimate questions that make us human.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/varun-soni/the-future-of-humanist-chaplaincy_b_6258228.html

[Images for Bart Campolo and the Future of Humanist Chaplaincy | HuffPost](#)

<http://bartcampolo.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdaGtG5vY2Y> BART CAMPOLO, HUMANIST CHAPLAIN, FORMER EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN - YouTube

[Images for BART CAMPOLO, HUMANIST CHAPLAIN, FORMER EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN - YouTube](#)

Like father, unlike son Over a Thanksgiving dinner, Bart Campolo told his father, the evangelist Tony Campolo, that he no longer believed in God

In a new joint book, Bart — now a humanist chaplain — and Tony debate their beliefs and seek common ground

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2017/26-may/features/features/like-father-unlike-son>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/29/magazine/the-evangelical-scion-who-stopped-believing.html>

[Images for Bart Campolo no longer believes in God](#)

Pastor father, humanist son - Radio Times Radio Times | WHYY

At fifty years old, **BART CAMPOLO** told his prominent Evangelical pastor father, **TONY CAMPOLO**, that he no longer believed in God. The announcement, understandably, caused tension within the Campolo family, altering the relationships they had with each other, and with their faith. Tony was dismayed, and Bart felt guilty for disappointing the family he loved. But, through introspection and love, their bond endured and they have reached a sense of mutual admiration and understanding. They chronicled this experience and their thoughts on faith in their new book *Why I Left, Why I Stayed*, and they join Marty on the show today to tell us their story.

<http://whyy.org/cms/radiotimes/2017/02/17/pastor-father-humanist-son/>

[Images for At fifty years old, BART CAMPOLO told his prominent Evangelical pastor father, TONY CAMPOLO, that he no longer believed in God.](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Why-Left-Stayed-Conversations-Christianity/dp/0062415379>

[Images for Why-Left-Stayed-Conversations-Christianity](#)

<https://bartcampolo.org/why-i-left-why-i-stayed>

[Images for bartcampolo/why-i-left-why-i-stayed](#)

7) Does megachurch methodology work for town and country congregations?

I had been serving a congregation in a village with a population 216 and a congregation in the open country 10 miles to the north. The village congregation realigned with a congregation in a city with a population 3,660 on the 4-lane highway 26 miles west. I continued to serve the open country congregation and started serving a congregation in a village with a population 342 some 23 miles to the south from the open country church. The street going past the village church was gravel. Bars outnumbered churches 3 to 1. To be sure, there was room for outreach. The average worship attendance (AWA) at the open country church was 44, while the AWA at the village church was 40.

At the time, I came across a brochure for an event in a major city the upcoming summer featuring megachurch preachers and business professionals presenting in lecture and interview formats. One of the speakers preaches to an estimated 33,000 people each week, his television program is viewed by nearly one million each week, and his ministries' website is accessed by at least a million downloads per month. The other speaker preaches to nearly 24,000. For those who could not travel to the original campus, the activities would be simulcast to over 500 telecast locations nationwide.

First, I have gained helpful insights from some of these mega church preachers and have included resources in this website, yet these methods do not automatically transfer to rural ministry.

Ministry in Rural America

Many pastors across America face a similar struggle. It revolves around a desire to embrace current, seemingly foolproof methods of church growth and the reality of a rural context that does not always fall into lockstep with conventional wisdom regarding the church growth movement.

http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/201502/201502_012_01_Rural_America.cfm

[Images for Ministry in Rural America](#)

Second, questions can be raised about the attitude toward small churches.

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

Megachurch Pastor Andy Stanley preached a sermon last Sunday that criticized people who attend small churches, calling them "stinking selfish."

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

[Images for Megachurch Pastor Andy Stanley criticized people who attend small churches](#)

Resources

Andy Stanley's Apology, and Some Mega-questions for the Megachurch - Patheos

Almost immediately after I published my last post on Andy Stanley's unfortunate choice of words in a recent sermon, comments and messages came pouring in, informing me that he apologized, and that we should all just forgive him. So, he apologized. Good. But his apology does nothing beyond admitting his rant was offensive and insensitive. For that insensitivity, we should be willing to forgive him, yes. But there's a deeper problem, a greater offense. The issue isn't that he painted with a broad brush, but that he's unabashedly committed to the superiority of the megachurch model.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ponderanew/2016/03/11/andy-stanleys-apology-and-some-mega-questions-for-the-megachurch/>
Images for Andy Stanley's Apology, and Some Mega-questions for the Megachurch

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/andy-stanley-apologizes-for-saying-people-who-go-to-small-churches-are-so-stinkin-selfish.html>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/dear-andy-stanley-small-church-failure-megachurch.html>

https://shanekestler.typepad.com/pastor_shanes_blog/2016/08/in-defense-of-the-small-church-in-response-to-andy-stanley.html

Andy Stanley's Statement on Smaller Churches** (Stanley's Response)

In three minutes, Andy Stanley said that my church is comprised of selfish adults, that our ministry is causing young people to hate the church and leave the church when they get to college, and by extrapolation, that my ministry is damaging to the young people who attend Southern Hills Baptist Church. If Andy is right, we need to repent of our sin this coming Sunday, close the doors of our church, and join with the nearest big church – because they are the only ones doing God's work. If Andy is wrong, then his arrogant dismissal of the small church needs to be confronted.

<http://sbcvoices.com/andy-stanley-says-im-worthless-and-damage-young-people/>

Images for Andy Stanley's Statement on Smaller Churches

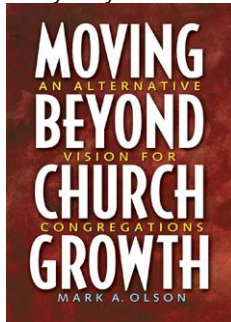
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/march-web-only/megachurch-pastor-andy-stanley-explains-controversial-remark.html>

Third, the late Mark A. Olson, who at one time served as pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, raised challenging questions about the church growth philosophy.

Moving Beyond Church Growth: An Alternative Vision for Congregations by Mark A. Olson

Mark Olson believes that trying to meet unrealistic expectations for church growth, along with expectations that pastors be all things to all people, has resulted in low morale, even burnout, among clergy and dissension within congregations. Olson's book argues that church-growth models exemplify and exacerbate the tendencies of the modern age and Constantinian Christianity, holding the church hostage to technique and marketing. These assumptions set up pastors and churches for disappointment and failure. But they also, in his opinion, miss an opportunity to envision a faithful alternative to the consumeristic church.

Olson's valuable book calls church leaders to faithful, bold, and courageous rethinking of congregational life and witness in substance, purpose, and style. His own 20 years of ministry in rural, suburban, and urban congregations inform an alternative rooted deeply in the past and anchored in strong leadership and worship, but also profoundly compassionate and engaged in the surrounding community. In this model, pastors' primary responsibilities are not to fix everything and everybody but to enable people to be present to each other and to provide hope.



<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/6548/Moving-Beyond-Church-Growth>

<https://www.amazon.com/Moving-Beyond-Church-Growth-Prisms/dp/0806643463>

<http://fortresspress.com/product/moving-beyond-church-growth-alternative-vision-congregations>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/6548/Moving-Beyond-Church-Growth-An-Alternative-Vision-for-Congregations>

<http://www.christianbook.com/growth-alternative-vision-congregations-slightly-imperfect/9780806643465/pd/34466DA>

[https://www.carnevalemanfredonia.it/christian_books/christian-living/2252-moving-beyond-church-growth-\(prisms\)-mark-a-olson-download-epub.html](https://www.carnevalemanfredonia.it/christian_books/christian-living/2252-moving-beyond-church-growth-(prisms)-mark-a-olson-download-epub.html)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451413661>

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3359 Review by Paul E. Lutter

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/39-4_Telling_The_Story/39-4_Mattes.pdf Page 230

https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1005&context=soc_fsp Page 39

<https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1323&context=dmin> Page 126

https://www.criswell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/SP17-Syllabus_Meraz_EMS-102-Church-Evangelism-L00.A-1.pdf 17

https://www.austingrad.edu/images/Resources/student/basic_bibliography.html Ministry
<https://revandylittle.com/growing-beyond-numbers-project/the-development-of-ecclesiology/> Footnote [5]
https://www.amazon.com/Mark-A.-Olson/e/B001K7U78W/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1
<http://fortresspress.com/author/mark-olson>
<http://www.leadertelegram.com/Features/Religion/2016/01/02/Religion-Notes-1-2-16.html>
[Images for Moving Beyond Church Growth: An Alternative Vision for Congregations by Mark A. Olson](#)

Fourth, Roy Oswald insightfully states the challenges of leading a church from small to large.

How To Minister Effectively in Family, Pastoral, Program, and Corporate-Sized Church by Roy M. Oswald

I would say it takes an unusually gifted pastor to shepherd a congregation from its birth to a large corporate size. Few clergy have the flexibility required to accomplish all those necessary shifts in style. More is required than simply changing one's behavior. Since not only clergy but members, too, get stuck at each stage of growth, every time there is a shift in size clergy need to convince the congregation's leaders that a change in their behavior is warranted. Pastors of missions often take a congregation up to a certain size only to reach a plateau at that level. The failure to grow is rarely a conscious choice. Usually there are demographic factors that can be blamed. But at an unconscious level the pastor has concluded that this is about as many people as s/he can handle. The congregation, also at an unconscious level, has colluded with that decision.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54c7d7ede4b03a45e09cd270/t/5aa00b43652dea8c73c46299/1520438089615/HowToMinisterEffectivelyInFamilyPastoralProgramandCorporate-SizedChurches.pdf>
[Images for How To Minister Effectively in Family, Pastoral, Program, and Corporate-Sized Church by Roy M. Oswald](#)
<https://www.amazon.com/Roy-M.-Oswald/e/B001K8KQ1Q>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/152452.Roy_M_Oswald
[Images for roy oswald, author](#)

Fifth, I attended the Rural Ministry Conference - Wartburg Theological Seminary for many years and related learnings in the booklets included in Rural Ministry Resources.

Rural Ministry Conference - Wartburg Seminary

Where leaders in rural communities and congregations gather to gain insight and inspiration, to network and neighbor that our ministries might be empowered. This ecumenical conference includes worship, keynote speakers, workshops, and Bible study, and offers participants a unique opportunity to network with others who are active in and concerned about rural ministry.

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/rural-conference/>
[Images for Rural Ministry Conference – Wartburg Seminary](#)
<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/event/rural-ministry-conference/>
<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/rural-ministry-resources/>
<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/center-for-theologies-land/>

Sixth, other conferences, events, and resources may lack the luster of the mega church events but convey helpful insights and inspiration.

Resources

Energizing Smaller Churches Network Launches Conference Series to Train and Encourage American Church Leaders

Although it's the churches with thousands of members that make the news, the truth is the majority of church-going Americans attend a church with fewer than 100 members, according to a study by the Barna Group.

To help leaders in those churches, the Energizing Smaller Churches Network (ESCN) will present a series of two-day workshops called "Releasing the Power of the Smaller Church" in 11 cities in 2007.

The conference will include plenary sessions that will affirm the value of the smaller church and equip smaller church leaders and volunteers for effective ministry. In addition, specialized workshop sessions will offer step-by-step instructions, specific tools, and helpful resources for smaller church ministry.

<http://www.christiannewswire.com/news/396302151.html>

[Images for Energizing Smaller Churches Network Launches Conference Series to Train and Encourage American Church Leaders](#)
[Images for Releasing the Power of the Smaller Church](#)

Grasping at Growth

Grasping at church growth models

The logic seems reasonable: What works in one city or town will work in another. But this is not necessarily true. Adoption of a certain model — or a hybrid of several models — offers temporary relief at best. The introduction of a new growth model and a new banner may cause short-term excitement. It is not a long-term solution, however.

I will be the first to admit I am guilty of grasping at models. Like most pastors, I want to see the local church thrive. I attend conferences and read books to further my passion for the local church. Inherent in the good desire for Kingdom expansion is a temptation to grasp at the latest trend or church growth product offered.

A healthy church does not ignore trends and church growth models. The visionary pastor constantly looks for equipping tools to build people. When a particular idea or product seems useful, the pastor and leaders investigate what makes it successful.

They also consider whether it will work within the God-given vision of that local church. If the program obviously benefits the central vision, they **adapt it to fit the needs of that local context**. It is not just a photocopied vision.

http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/201502/201502_044_Grasping_Growth.cfm
[Images for adapt to fit the needs of that local context](#)

Intentional Ministry in a Not-So-Mega Church: Becoming a Missional Community by Dennis Bickers

Intentional Ministry in a Not-So-Mega Church is designed to help leaders of smaller churches guide their people in making their primary focus ministering to and meeting the needs of those outside their church. Drawing from more than twenty years of experience as a small-church pastor, Dennis Bickers explores the qualities of transformational leadership and explains what it takes for leaders to create a climate in their churches that promotes and facilitates necessary change. From willingness and vision to risk-taking and commitment, Bickers challenges leaders to become the agents of change their churches need as they seek to answer and act on the question: Who are we here for? How can a small church reach out to meet the needs of the greater community and positively impact today's culture? An experienced bi-vocational pastor, Bickers insightfully discusses maintenance vs. missional mentalities; explains and explores transformational leadership; and reveals how to capture God's vision, create a climate of change, understand our world, and more.

<https://www.amazon.com/Intentional-Ministry-Not-So-Mega-Church-Missional/dp/0834124343>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6693532-intentional-ministry-in-a-not-so-mega-church>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/intentional-ministry-in-a-not-so-mega-church-dennis-bickers/1112143381>
<https://christianbook.com/intentional-ministry-church-becoming-missional-community/dennis-bickers/9780834124349/pd/124349?event=CBCER1#CBD-PD-Description>
<https://www.thefoundrypublishing.com/intentional-ministry-in-a-not-so-mega-church-9780834124349.html>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/bickers-intentional-ministry-in-a-not-so-mega-church.html>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/tag/christian-leadership?currentPage=16>
<https://vimeo.com/160091316> 2016 Pastors Conference - Keynote Address: Dennis Bickers
https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Intentional_Ministry_in_a_Not_so_Mega_Ch.html?id=37rJOgAACAAJ
<http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/dbickers>
http://www.judsonpress.com/author.cfm?author_id=769
<https://caskeycenter.com/ministry-bibliography/>
<http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/doctoral/345/>
<https://www.nph.com/nphweb/html/nph/innerpage.jsp?c=NPH-CR&cs=BIVOC&sc=NA&ss=NA>
<http://bivocationalministry.blogspot.com/>
<http://thoughtsfromdrt.blogspot.com/2012/06/book-review-guest-post-from-dennis.html>
<https://twitter.com/dennisbickers?lang=en>
<http://www.abcgrr.org/bivocation/bnwsltr/1oct07.htm>
<https://www.amazon.com/Dennis-W.-Bickers/e/B001JS7ICU>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/1335619.Dennis_Bickers
[Images for dennis bickers \(author\)](#)
[Images for Intentional Ministry in a Not-So-Mega Church: Becoming a Missional Community by Dennis Bickers](#)

Seventh, I attended a conference for small membership congregations filled with practical ideas for ministry in such settings.

DISCOVERING HOPE

Building Vitality in Your Congregation

A Conference for Small Membership Congregations

Sponsored by the Congregational Vitality Team, ELCA Domestic Mission

Saturday, February 3 | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
9:30 am: Registration, Gathering & Coffee B3750 State Hwy. 13, Spencer WI 54479

Pastor Nancy Nyland, the event leader, served multiple rural and small-town congregations in South Dakota and Nebraska for 21 years before joining the Domestic Mission Unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2011 as the Director for Evangelical Mission in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. As a former ELCA evangelism partner and member of the Discovering Hope initiative leadership, and now as a member of the ELCA Vitality Team, Pastor Nancy speaks at many state and regional conferences to bring a word of HOPE to small congregations.

Topics:

- Prayer: Letting Go and Letting God
- Worship: Building Community and Hope
- Making Disciples: Learning to Live Jesus' Way
- Evangelism: A Way of Life
- Caring Ministries: Serving as Jesus Served
- Leadership: Who's Driving the Tractor?
- Discovering the Gift of Place
- Mission: Possible — Discovering Hope for the Future

Calendar of Events

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Home

<http://nswi.org/home/calendar-of-events>

[Images for DISCOVERING HOPE Building Vitality in Your Congregation A Conference for Small Membership Congregations](#)

http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitoos/documents/discovering_hope-building_vitality_in_rural_congregations.pdf

<http://ecsw.org/event/discovering-hope-building-vitality-in-your-congregation/>

<http://www.pnwumc.org/event/discovering-hope-building-vitality-in-your-congregation/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/149041799143529/>

<http://nwmnsynod.org/2015-synod-assembly-recap/>

<https://iksynod.org/staff/rev-nancy-nyland/>

<https://iksynod.org/renewing-mission-table/>

<http://iksynod.org/strategic-mission-planning-resources/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nancy-nyland-8969b243>

Discovering Hope - YouTube

Building Vitality in Small Membership Churches and Multipoint Parishes with Pastor Nancy Nyland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEH7dG9Fzhg>

[Images for Discovering Hope - YouTube Building Vitality in Small Membership Churches and Multipoint Parishes with Pastor Nancy Nyland](#)

I have attended numerous learning events through the years, but her presentation, the book it was based on *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations*, her accompanying booklet *Discovering Hope: Catch the Spirit, Grow the Church – A Devotional Guide for Congregational Leaders*, “Building Hope” DVD, and handouts, together with resources e-mailed to attendees after the event as well as the Mission Planning Resources she offered as a Director of Evangelical Mission came as close to providing a framework for ministry in small membership congregations as I have ever seen. I worked with a seminary intern at the time who was scheduled to attend but stayed behind to officiate at a funeral service. I commended this approach to him as he looked forward to moving into the pastoral ministry as an installed pastor.

Resources

Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations by David Poling-Goldenne (Author), L. Shannon Jung (Author)

God’s Spirit is breathing new vitality into rural congregations! Hear what 26 effective rural congregations have to say about God’s activity in and through them. In these stories, you can explore the best practices for vital ministry and identify action steps for your own setting. Use *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations* on your own, in a group, or at learning events involving many congregations.

Discovering Hope is a process that helps rural and small town congregations rediscover their purpose and sense of mission. This resource celebrates the best practices of 26 rural and small town congregations highlighting their effective work in the areas of prayer, worship, discipleship, evangelism, congregational care and leadership.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/6363/Discovering-Hope-Building-Vitality-in-Rural-Congregations>

<https://www.amazon.com/Discovering-Hope-Building-Vitality-Congregations/dp/0806641479>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/discovering-hope-david-poling-goldenne/1112651732>

<http://www.pnwumc.org/event/discovering-hope-building-vitality-in-your-congregation/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/149041799143529/>

<http://www.christianbookpreviews.com/christian-book-author.php?isbn=0800636422>

<http://frenchcreeklutheran.org/tag/vital-rural-congregations/>

<http://lutheranmission.blogspot.com/2008/10/discovering-hope-resource-for-rural-and.html>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/church-leadership-strategies-small-churches.html>

http://www.circle-m.ca/resource-centre/book_reviews_pdfs/discovering_hope.pdf

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/jung-and-poling-goldenne-discovering-hope.html>

https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3ADavid%20Poling-Goldenne

[Images for David Poling-Goldenne \(Author\)](#)

<http://fortresspress.com/author/l-shannon-jung>

<https://www.amazon.com/L.-Shannon-Jung/e/B001H9Q2A0>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/387731.L_Shannon_Jung

[Images for L. Shannon Jung \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations by David Poling-Goldenne, L. Shannon Jung](#)

“Building Hope: How small town and rural congregations apply Discovering Hope’s six core values to build hope and joy inside their walls and outside into their communities;” filmed and edited by Jim Petersen; Brent Dahlseng; 2006; ISBN: 978-6-0002-0870-7.

“Discovering Hope: Stories of Hope in Rural Congregations;” filmed and edited by Jim Petersen; ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Program Unit; 2001; ISBN 978-6-0001-3326-9.

8) Shopping malls or shade trees?

More people are said to be going to the megachurches in this country, while fewer people are said to be going to other churches.

More Americans Flock to Mega-Churches - ABC News

While Americans have been shying away from religion, and church attendance has been slipping, at least one brand of worship has been bucking the religious trend, getting bigger in every way.

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=93111&page=1>

[Images for Americans Flock to Mega-Churches](#)

<https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Business/story?id=617341&page=1>

[Images for Mega-Churches Offer Prayer, Play, Shopping - ABC News](#)

<https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/TenWays/story?id=3740058>

[Images for What Is a Megachurch? - ABC News](#)

Many of these megachurches bear a distinct resemblance to shopping malls.

A Rural Pastor's Warning About Megachurches - LifeWay Pastors

There are megachurches that have abandoned the gospel and feel more like **shopping malls** than the body of Christ

<https://www.lifeway.com/pastors/2017/10/02/rural-pastors-warning-megachurches/>

[Images for A Rural Pastor's Warning About Megachurches - LifeWay Pastors](#)

<https://factsand Trends.net/2017/10/02/rural-pastors-warning-megachurches/>

As goes Shopping Malls, so goes the Church? | Hacking Christianity

Some reflection on the theory of **shopping malls** and how they relate to the future of "one stop shop for Jesus" megachurches.

<http://hackingchristianity.net/2015/05/as-goes-shopping-malls-so-goes-the-church.html>

[Images for As goes Shopping Malls, so goes the Church?](#)

<http://babylonbee.com/news/mall-shoppers-suddenly-realize-theyre-actually-megachurch/>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/dying-malls-are-being-transformed-into-churches-2017-6>

Megachurches and Shopping Mall Theology | thebereancall.org

As Americans like going to shopping malls for all their consumer needs in one spot, so self-styled mega-churches offer a one-stop spiritual supermarket.

<https://www.thebereancall.org/content/megachurches-and-shopping-mall-theology>

[Images for Megachurches and Shopping Mall Theology](#)

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/1452478/US-megachurches-bring-shopping-mall-theology-to-thirtysomethings.html>

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/rogereolson/2012/05/theological-thoughts-about-megachurches/>

Megachurches As Minitowns - The New York Times

New megachurches springing up in suburbs across country are not simply houses of worship, but rather sprawling villages where members can eat, shop, go to school, bank and work out as well as pray, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; reflect broad ... The church was deliberately designed like a mall.

www.nytimes.com/2002/05/09/garden/megachurches-as-minitowns.html

[Images for Megachurches As Minitowns - The New York Times](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/business/23megachurch.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/1995/04/16/us/where-religion-gets-a-big-dose-of-shopping-mall-culture.html>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1498515827>

Communication and the Global Landscape of Faith Page 92

On the other side of the world, some of the preaching points are shade trees in Africa.

Learning about Jesus under a Tree | David C Cook

A typical church in rural Africa: eager children, with willing adults to teach them, but little else. This group, meeting under the **shade of a big tree**, ...

www.globalchurch.com/learning-about-jesus-under-a-tree/

[Images for Learning about Jesus under a Tree | David C Cook](#)

[Images for church in rural Africa shade of a big tree](#)

The Lutheran church is growing fastest in countries on the African continent.

The growth of the Lutheran church in Africa - StarTribune.com

The fastest growing population of Lutherans is in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

www.startribune.com/the-growth-of-the-lutheran-church-in-africa/453898583/

[Images for growth of the Lutheran church in Africa](#)

<https://elca.org/News-and-Events/3071>

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Church/Global-Mission/Africa>

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/35612>

[Images for Tanzania sees largest Lutheran church expansion](#)

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/church-growth.in.africa.contributes.most.to.lutheran.membership.rise.in.2004/2153.htm>

<https://ilc-online.org/2016/07/21/rapid-growth-mozambiques-lutherans/>
[Images for rapid-growth-mozambiques-lutherans](#)
<https://www.upi.com/Lutheran-churches-growing-in-Africa/96711028832397/>
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/total-number-of-lutherans-reach-66-million-worldwide-2322/>
<https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/africa>

9) Are successful founding pastors of independent congregations the wave of the future?

It seems as if an increasing number of religious leaders in mainline denominations are looking to the founding pastors of independent congregations with their digital and print platforms as shining stars to provide guiding light. I find many of their insights useful and have included them in this website, but the meta-narrative for these personalities seems to be that independence from judicatories and reliance on church growth experts is the way to go.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), certain congregations disaffiliated following the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. A presenting reason seemed to be the vote on the social statement on human sexuality, but what I discovered is that certain congregations no longer wanted to associate with a denomination as such but chose to align with a loose association instead. Could it be that well-intentioned leaders in mainline denominations infatuated with the success stories of these founding pastors will unwittingly undermine the loyalty to the partnership of the gospel in the conference, synod, and churchwide, and their equivalents in other church structures in the process? The best-known founding pastor of all time is the Apostle Paul with biblical epistles that bear the names of those early churches.

How Many Churches Did the Apostle Paul Start?

He probably started close to 20 churches himself, with many more born out of those by his apprentice leaders.

<https://www.churchplanting.com/how-many-churches-did-the-apostle-paul-start/#.XI0szGhKiUk>
[Images for How Many Churches Did the Apostle Paul Start?](#)

10) With whom does the church most closely identify: A study in church architecture

I was studying the assigned reading in the Narrative Lectionary for 5/13/2018

Philippians 2:1-13

1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3420 ALL TEXTS
[Images for Imitating Christ's Humility](#)

and reading the commentary from Working Preacher

Philippians 2:1-13 Commentary by Amy Oden - Working Preacher

In the ancient world, a god who was "born in human likeness" (verse 7) was a self-demoting God, hardly the sort of God useful for human life. It's one thing for Zeus to become human for a day to play tricks, but it's quite another for the God of the universe to "empty himself taking the form of a slave" (verse 7), that is, to take on flesh, become fully human, suffer and die. Who needs a God like that? This God doesn't sound like a "winner," like a mighty deity who comes to the aid of powerless humans or like a super kick-butt-and-take-names deity we want on our side. In fact, ancient folks were unlikely to trust the judgment of a "loser God" who chooses this sort of downward mobility.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3420
[Images for Philippians 2:1-13 Commentary by Amy Oden - Working Preacher](#)

when it occurred to me to ask how church architecture reflects the intention of the church.

Cathedrals were built to look like royal palaces reflecting the age of Christendom when Christianity was the dominant religion,

Stimulating perceptions of kingship: royal imagery in the Cathedral of Monreale and in the Church of Santa Maria dell'Ammiraglio in Palermo 1

The majority of the churches erected in Sicily during the Norman period (1130–1189) are characterized by very elaborate decorative programmes. It was certainly a priority of the Norman kings to found churches and to embellish them with precious objects and complex decorative cycles.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0950311042000202515?src=recsys&journalCode=calm20>
[Images for royal imagery in the Cathedral of Monreale](#)
[Images for Church of Santa Maria dell'Ammiraglio in Palermo](#)

while today many megachurches are built to look like shopping malls reflecting the age of Moralistic Therapeutic Deism where God is regarded as the cosmic therapist and the divine butler.

House of Worship or Shopping Mall? The Drab Architecture of Megachurches

Compositionally, these photographs channel the typologists' focus on objective documentation over stylistic innovation — most are head-on shots of the churches framed by rectangles of sky and empty parking lots. This sense of remove and the buildings' blandness lends the images their intriguing dissonance: There's a visual irony in the fact that these uninviting, soulless structures are where millions of people go each weekend to nourish their souls. The name of a boxy, windowless gray megachurch in Bakersville, California — VBF Soul Factory — sums it up.

<https://hyperallergic.com/296928/house-of-worship-or-shopping-mall-the-drab-architecture-of-megachurches/>
[Images for House of Worship or Shopping Mall? The Drab Architecture of Megachurches](#)

Even as Jesus was “born in human likeness,” the question can be asked, “Going forward, what does the church look like that best communicates the faith?”

Resources

Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith [Diana Butler Bass]

For decades, the accepted wisdom has been that America's mainline Protestant churches are in decline, eclipsed by evangelical mega-churches. Church and religion expert Diana Butler Bass wondered if this was true, and this book is the result of her extensive, three-year study of centrist and progressive churches across the country. Her surprising findings reveal just the opposite—that many of the churches are flourishing, and they are doing so without resorting to mimicking the mega-church, evangelical style.

Christianity for the Rest of Us describes this phenomenon and offers a how-to approach for Protestants eager to remain faithful to their tradition while becoming a vital spiritual community. As Butler Bass delved into the rich spiritual life of various Episcopal, United Methodist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and Lutheran churches, certain consistent practices—such as hospitality, contemplation, diversity, justice, discernment, and worship—emerged as core expressions of congregations seeking to rediscover authentic Christian faith and witness today.

This hopeful book, which includes a study guide for groups and individuals, reveals the practical steps that leaders and laypeople alike are taking to proclaim an alternative message about an emerging Christianity that strives for greater spiritual depth and proactively engages the needs of the world.

<http://www.amazon.com/Christianity-Rest-Us-Neighborhood-Transforming/dp/0060859490/>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/231007.Christianity_for_the_Rest_of_Us
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/christianity-for-the-rest-of-us-diana-butler-bass/1100247640>
<https://www.harpercollins.com/9780060859497/christianity-for-the-rest-of-us/>
<https://dianabutlerbass.com/books/christianity-for-the-rest-of-us-how-the-neighborhood-church-is-transforming-the-faith/>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Christianity_for_the_Rest_of_Us.html?id=0w5ldotsGRC
<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/reviews/view/16427>
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-06-083694-8> Religion Book Review
<http://pomomusings.com/2007/05/23/christianity-for-the-rest-of-us-a-review/>
<http://www.standrewsumc.com/celebrate/christian-practice-bibliography>
<https://episcopalchurch.org/library/gallery/image/diana-butler-bass>
<http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/person/diana-butler-bass>
<https://www.librarything.com/work/1557852> by Diana Butler Bass - LibraryThing
http://day1.org/1358-dr_diana_butler_bass
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana_Butler_Bass
https://twitter.com/dianabutlerbass?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor
<https://www.amazon.com/Diana-Butler-Bass/e/B001HCYT84>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/135053.Diana_Butler_Bass
[Images for Diana Butler Bass, author](#)
[Images for How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith \[Diana Butler Bass\]](#)

Christianity for the Rest of Us Small Group: Study Guide

Chapter 3: The New Village Church. According to Bass, churches too often assume that because the people who attend are Christian they do not need any help to be, think, and pray like Christians. However, the primary mission of a church should be as a spiritual community that “forms people of faith.” It may seem like conventional wisdom to become more secular in order to appeal to a larger number of people and thus grow the congregation, but Bass argues that “mainline churches decline when they neglect scripture and prayer, discernment and hospitality, contemplation, and justice”(45).

Bass emphasizes more than once that mainline churches must be careful *not* to simply become a kind of Christian Rotary Club. Instead, churches should form a “trinity of vitality.” This trinity is:

Tradition, Not Traditionalism
Practice, Not Purity

Wisdom, Not Certainty

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

[Images for Christianity for the Rest of Us Small Group: Study Guide](#)

[Images for Tradition, Not Traditionalism Practice, Not Purity Wisdom, Not Certainty](#)

As for church architecture...

Resources

The Changing Nature of Church Design

Traditional design and ornate architecture are expensive and very labor intensive. Church architecture is becoming simpler and plainer due to tight budgets and the need to build more building for less money. Even large churches that can afford "nicer" buildings often choose to spend their money on space and technology rather than traditional design features.

<http://www.religiousproductnews.com/articles/2006-November/Feature-Articles/The-Changing-Nature-of-Church-Design.htm>

[Images for Changing Nature of Church Design](#)

The Church Needs to Stop Pandering to Trends - RELEVANT Magazine

Recent research from Barna Group and Cornerstone Knowledge Network has found that in reality, 67% of millennials say a quiet church is more ideal than a loud one; 67% say classic is more ideal than trendy; 77% would chose a sanctuary over an auditorium. As Dr. Clint Jenkin explained in the research, "Most millennials don't look for a church facility that caters to the whims of pop culture. They want a community that calls them to deeper meaning." Essentially, by pandering to trends they think millennials want, many churches isolate them further.

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/church-needs-stop-pandering-trends>

[Images for The Church Needs to Stop Pandering to Trends - RELEVANT Magazine](#)

<https://www.theaquilareport.com/why-churches-should-stop-pandering-to-millennials/> Why Churches Should Stop Pandering to Millennials – The Aquila Report

[Images for Why Churches Should Stop Pandering to Millennials](#)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/jesus-doesnt-tweet/2015/04/30/fb07ef1a-ed01-11e4-8666-a1d756d0218e_story.html?utm_term=.dfa4c6c1481c

Want millennials back in the pews? Stop trying to make church 'cool.'

[Images for Want millennials back in the pews? Stop trying to make church 'cool.'](#)

11) Stop the blame game

It seems all too popular to blame the church for failings that have given rise to people leaving, seminaries for failings to adequately prepare church leaders, and parents for failings to impart the faith to their children. Can the church, seminaries, and parents live out the mission of God in more faithful and effective ways in this post-Christendom era? Yes, but I submit that individuals make choices for better or worse, and each must take responsibility for choices. I can reach out and invite and welcome in the best possible way I know,

Exhortations to Charity and Zeal

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but **if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.**

oremus Bible Browser: Galatians 6:7-8

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Galatians+6%3A7-8&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>

[Images for Exhortations to Charity and Zeal in Galatians 6](#)

but I cannot take responsibility for other's responses.

Hearers and Doers of Jesus' Words

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

oremus Bible Browser: Matthew 7:13-14

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=173037496>

[Images for Hearers and Doers of Jesus' Words](#)

I can only trust

How Great Pastors Learn "Not to Care" - Will Mancini

God is the one who causes the growth, not any man's skill as an evangelist, teacher, or shepherd. Great pastors must learn not to care too much. It was a classic call to repent of the "messiah complex." Jesus is the only true rescuer.

<https://www.willmancini.com/blog/how-great-pastors-learn-not-to-care>

[Images for How Great Pastors Learn "Not to Care" - Will Mancini](#)

<https://twitter.com/willmancini/status/726395925103546369>

<https://www.amazon.com/Subversive-Spirituality-Eugene-H-Peterson/dp/0802842976>

[Images for Subversive-Spirituality-Eugene-H-Peterson](#)

the Holy Spirit to use my efforts for the advancement of the kingdom and to give the gift of faith to the hearers.

THE SMALL CATECHISM

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 calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth](#)

Resources

Are the parents really to blame? Q&A with Zoe Williams | Opinion | The Guardian

Nowadays, parents are routinely blamed for every ill that can befall a child's behavior.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/2011/sep/11/are-parents-really-to-blame>

[Images for Are the parents really to blame? Q&A with Zoe Williams | Opinion | The Guardian](#)

[Images for parents blamed for child's behavior](#)

Don't Blame Our Seminaries - Covered in the Master's Dust

If seminary is the place where we're trained in thinking theologically, and the local church is where we practice such thinking, being and doing, then the two worlds naturally depend on each other. You can't have one without the other!

<http://mastersdust.com/2011/07/25/dont-blame-our-seminaries/>

[Images for Don't Blame Our Seminaries](#)

5 Things People Blame the Church For...But Shouldn't - Carey Nieuwhof

So, in the hopes of clarifying a few things and helping us all move through whatever hang ups might be lingering here are 5 things people blame their church for... but shouldn't.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/5-things-people-blame-the-church-for-but-shouldnt/>

[Images for 5 Things People Blame the Church For...But Shouldn't - Carey Nieuwhof](#)

In Search of the Church: New Testament Images for Tomorrow's Congregations (Once and Future Church Series) by Keith A. Russell (Author)

We waste a lot of energy seeking someone to **blame** for congregational decline and depression.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995590>

Page 91

[Images for We waste a lot of energy seeking someone to blame for congregational decline and depression.](#)

Contents:

Preface

I. Introduction: In Search of the Church

II. Mark: An Alternative Community

III. Matthew: Households of Justice

IV. Luke: Signs of the Kingdom

V. Paul: Communities of Reconciliation

VI. 1 Peter: Homes for the Homeless

VII. The Apocalypse of John: Communities of Resistance

VIII. In Search of the Church: An Invitation

https://books.google.com/books/about/In_Search_of_the_Church.html?id=j4CXAwwAAQBAJ

<https://www.amazon.com/Search-Church-Testament-Tomorrows-Congregations/dp/1566991234>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/865586.In_Search_of_the_Church

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/in-search-of-the-church-keith-a-russell/1114288735>

<https://rowman.com/Action/SERIES/RL/RL3OFC>

<https://www.amazon.com/Keith-A.-Russell/e/B001K8FF60>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/446893.Keith_A_Russell

[Images for keith a. russell, author](#)

[Images for In Search of the Church: New Testament Images for Tomorrow's Congregations \(Once and Future Church Series\) by Keith A. Russell \(Author\)](#)

That cushy Bart Campolo profile: Why weren't the tough, logical questions asked?

Here's the essay for you to read for yourself. After reading Stetzer's column three times, I think he was trying to say this: *The word on the street is that lots of people are trying to blame Tony and Peggy Campolo for their son leaving the faith. However, the truth is a more complicated than that.* In other words, all kinds of people have children who struggle with their faith. At the end, **it's the child who decides.**

<https://www.getreligion.org/getreligion/2016/12/31/that-cushy-bart-campolo-profile-why-werent-the-tough-logical-questions-asked>

[Images for Tony and Peggy Campolo son leaving the faith](#)

[Images for it's the child who decides to leave the faith](#)

Why People Blame the Church - REACHRIGHT

People will always blame the church, but you shouldn't take the blame personally. Learn and grow from complaints when possible. Otherwise, just try to connect with and reach as many people as possible.

<http://reachrightstudios.com/people-blame-church/>

[Images for Why People Blame the Church - REACHRIGHT](#)

12) Offensive or inoffensive?

A group of pastors were discussing the increasing number of "nones", when one suggested, "Maybe, it's time to rethink our theology." This pastor went on to cite the theological argument emanating from certain academic circles to make faith more plausible and palpable to current sensibilities by separating the historical Jesus from myth and by regarding the resurrection as a parable.

I believe Jesus does not ask for minimal intellectual assent so much as he calls for personal and corporate discipleship.

Resources

On discipleship

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

[oremus Bible Browser: Mark 8:34-36](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Mark+8:34-36>

[Images for On discipleship in Mark 8](#)

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

[oremus Bible Browser: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=88450377>

[Images for Christ the Power and Wisdom of God](#)

In *The Cost of Discipleship*, the theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer states, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

Resources

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Wikiquote](#)

God honors some with great suffering and grants them the grace of martyrdom, while others are not tempted beyond their strength. But, in every case, it is one cross.

https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer

[Images for Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Wikiquote](#)

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Author)

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

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

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Cost-Discipleship-Dietrich-Bonhoeffer/dp/0684815001>

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2723088-nachfolge>

<http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Cost-of-Discipleship/Dietrich-Bonhoeffer/9780684815008>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Cost-Discipleship-Dietrich-Bonhoeffer/9780684815008>

<https://www.christianbook.com/the-cost-of-discipleship/dietrich-bonhoeffer/9780684815008/pd/83850>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Cost_of_Discipleship.html?id=ANfH1fmvBKIC

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Cost_of_Discipleship.html?id=druZyeBp30gC

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Cost_of_Discipleship.html?id=379qCgAAQBAJ

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cost_of_Discipleship
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer
http://www.prayerfoundation.org/books/book_review_cost%20of_discipleship_bonhoeffer.htm
<https://www.pinterest.com/bobwire2U/dietrich-bonhoeffer/>
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-cost-of-his-discipleship>
<https://acceleratebooks.com/book-summary-of-the-cost-of-discipleship-by-dietrich-bonhoeffer/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl-4CFwBm4A> The Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer – YouTube
[Images for Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer - YouTube](#)
<https://www.amazon.com/Dietrich-Bonhoeffer/e/B001H6WDKQ>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/29333.Dietrich_Bonhoeffer
[Images for Dietrich Bonhoeffer \(Author\)](#)
[Images for The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer \(Author\)](#)

13) Tossed salad or pea soup?

In a tossed salad, the ingredients retain their identity.

In pea soup, the ingredients are ground into the mixture.

Resources

[PDF] [From the Melting Pot to the Tossed Salad Metaphor - University of Hawaii at Hilo](#)

If this trend away from multiculturalism continues and coercive assimilation views become mainstream in America, I believe we will stifle our creative power and squelch the civil liberties that this country is built upon.

<https://hilo.hawaii.edu/campuscenter/hohonu/volumes/documents/Vol04x06FromtheMeltingPot.pdf>

[Images for From the Melting Pot to the Tossed Salad Metaphor - University of Hawaii at Hilo](#)

<https://prezi.com/jyvu8d3cabkr/melting-pot-or-salad-bowl/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/leana-gloor-55501547>

Pea soup - Wikipedia

Pea soup or split pea soup is [soup](#) made typically from dried [peas](#), such as the [split pea](#). It is, with variations, a part of the cuisine of many cultures. It is most often greyish-green or yellow in color depending on the regional variety of peas used; all are cultivars of *Pisum sativum*.



In Sweden and Denmark, pea soup is sold in plastic tubes for environmental as well as weight reasons.

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

[Images for pea soup](#)

Salad bowl (cultural idea) - Wikipedia

The salad bowl concept suggests that the integration of the many different cultures of [United States](#) residents combine like a [salad](#), as opposed to the more traditional notion of a cultural [melting pot](#). New York City can be considered as being a "salad bowl". In [Canada](#) this concept is more commonly known as the [cultural mosaic](#).^[1] In the salad bowl model, different American cultures are brought together — like salad ingredients — but do not form together into a single [homogeneous](#) culture. Each culture keeps its own distinct qualities. This idea proposes a society of many individual, "pure" cultures in addition to the mixed culture that is modern American culture, and the term has become more [politically correct](#) than *melting pot*^{[citation needed](#)}, since the latter suggests that ethnic groups may be unable to preserve their cultures due to [assimilation](#).



Various distinct components can combine to make a salad.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salad_bowl_\(cultural_idea\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salad_bowl_(cultural_idea))

[Images for Salad bowl \(cultural idea\)](#)

14) Envy or embrace?

Some Lutherans seem to envy the Episcopalians for their tradition of apostolic succession, while other Lutherans seem to envy the evangelicals for their philosophy of church growth. Why not embrace the distinctly Lutheran witness in this increasingly secular age?

Resources

Lutheran Trump Cards: Playing Our Best Hand in the 21st Century by Dave Daubert (Author)

Lutheran Christians may have as strong a hand to play as any faith tradition in today's world. Grounded in reality and committed to God's grace made real in Christ, Lutherans are able to be both hopeful and realistic in a way that is unique and life-giving. But to do that, we need to have a good idea what is in our hand and how to use the cards we have been dealt. In a clear, easy to read and useful style, Daubert gives 13 ideas (Ace through Two of our Lutheran "suit") as well as ideas on how these concepts help us understand and articulate our faith in today's world. Each chapter contains just one key idea and is short and to the point. Plus, chapters have questions for thought or discussion, making this an ideal book to read on your own or for a class or group setting as well. Lutheran Trump Cards (from Ace through Two) are: ACE: There is no way to God (period) KING: Jesus reveals that God is love QUEEN: Trusting God's grace allows us to hope for grace for others JACK: All the baptized have a vocation TEN: The priesthood of all believers NINE: Life is sacramental EIGHT: Worship is horizontal SEVEN: We love the Bible without worshiping it SIX: Perfection is not the point FIVE: Respond with freedom and gratitude FOUR: Faith forms the church THREE: We have an ecumenical heart TWO: We are always watching for change Perhaps no book is as accessible and useful for people who share a Lutheran background and want to make sense of our find ways to graciously share their faith in today's world. Pastor Lynn Bird said, "I got your book and took it home and read it that night. It was exactly the kinds of things we had been discussing for new members' classes. I want ten more copies for all my new members' bags here by next Sunday!"

http://www.day8strategies.com/Lutheran-Trump-Cards-Playing-Our-Best-hand-in-the-21st-Century/p2843442_12553868.aspx

<http://www.amazon.com/Lutheran-Trump-Cards-Dave-Daubert/dp/0991062108>

<https://books.google.com/books/about/Lutheran-Trump-Cards.html?id=g1xjtAEACAAJ>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/similar/43995260-lutheran-trump-cards-playing-our-best-hand-in-the-21st-century>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dave-daubert-6b59bb7>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/david-daubert/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4gRR_KQ3zE Dave Daubert Interview - YouTube

<https://www.amazon.com/Dave-Daubert/e/B001JSBV3C>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/648095.Dave_Daubert

[Images for Dave Daubert \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Lutheran Trump Cards: Playing Our Best Hand in the 21st Century by Dave Daubert \(Author\)](#)

Martin Luther: Confessor of the Faith by Robert Kolb - Google Books Result

Luther came to believe that he was following and completing the work of reformers such as Jan Hus and that God was renewing the clear proclamation of salvation in Christ through himself and his Wittenberg colleagues.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0191647470>

Martin Luther's thought continues to challenge people throughout the world in the twenty-first century. His paradigmatic shift in defining God and what it means to be human left behind a foundation for viewing human creatures that was anchored in Aristotle's anthropology. Luther defined the Revealed God in terms of his mercy and love for human beings, based not on their merit and performance but rather on his unconditioned grace. He placed 'fearing, loving, and trusting God above all else' at the heart of his definition of being human.

This volume places the development and exposition of these key presuppositions in Luther's thinking within the historical context of late medieval theology and piety as well as the unfolding dynamics of political and social change at the dawn of the modern era. Special attention is given the development of a 'Wittenberg way' of practicing theology under Luther's leadership. It left behind a dependence on allegorical methods of biblical interpretation for a 'literal-prophetic' approach to Scripture. More importantly, it placed the distinction between the 'gospel' as God's unmerited gift of identity as his children and the 'law', the expression of God's expectations for the performance of his children in good works, at the heart of all interpretation of the Bible. This presuppositional framework for practicing theology reflects Luther's personal experience and his deep commitment to pastoral care of common Christians as well as his reading of the biblical text. It is supported by his distinction of two kinds of human righteousness (passive in God's sight, active in relationship to others), his distinction of two realms or dimensions of human life, and his theology of the cross. The volume unfolds Luther's maturing thought on the basis of this method.

<https://www.amazon.com/Martin-Luther-Confessor-Christian-Theology/dp/0199208948>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6275424-martin-luther>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Martin_Luther.html?id=z2nab6LBTx8C

[Martin Luther: Confessor of the Faith - Google Books Result](#)

[Martin Luther - Page 552 - Google Books Result](#)

https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/martin-luther-confessor-of-the-faith-christian-theology-in-context_robert-kolb/14001748/#isbn=0199208948

<https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1P3-2604026851/martin-luther-confessor-of-the-faith>

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/650095?journalCode=rq>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/robert-kolb/243509/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Kolb/e/B001ITRJ18>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/160016.Robert_Kolb

15) Purists or Sophists or Eclectics?

I recall a setting where rostered ministers were urged to avail themselves of continuing education events outside the Lutheran tradition, "After all, what we've been doing as Lutherans hasn't been working anyway." I avail myself of a wide variety of resources but am not willing to give up on the Lutheran heritage and simply go for whatever works. It is possible to speak appreciatively of insights from other perspectives without speaking so disparagingly of one's own tradition.

[PDF]Church Growth and Worship Issues

A prevalent attitude today is "whatever works", and what works on Sunday is what fills the pews. It does not matter so much who fills those pews (although many like to imagine they are filling them with the lost). In the end, all that really matters is that someone is warming the bench.

http://www.recus.org/resources/EvangelismOutreach/Church_Growth_and_Worship_Issues.pdf

Images for prevalent attitude today is "whatever works"

Resources

Eclectics - definition of Eclectics by The Free Dictionary

e-clec-tic. (ī-klĕk'tik) adj. 1. Selecting or employing individual elements from a variety of sources, systems, or styles: an eclectic taste in music; an eclectic approach to managing the economy.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Eclectics>

Images for Selecting or employing individual elements from a variety of sources, systems, or styles

Purist | Definition of Purist by Merriam-Webster

: a person who has very strong ideas about what is correct or acceptable and who usually opposes changes to traditional methods and practices

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/purist>

Images for strong ideas about what is correct or acceptable

Sophists

They were pragmatists trusting in whatever works to bring about the desired end at whatever the cost.

http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/INTRO_TEXT/Chapter%20%20GREEKS/Sophists.htm

Images for sophists

Images for pragmatists trusting in whatever works to bring about the desired end at whatever the cost.

16) Theologians or technicians?

Jesus did not give his disciples a list of techniques or a bag of tricks. He sent them out with the word in order that the hearer might have life in his name.

Purpose of the Gospel According to John

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

oremus Bible Browser: John 20:30-31

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John%2020:30-31&version=nrsv>

Images for Purpose of the Gospel According to John

Images for But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah

Resources

Southern Baptist Seminary 1859-2009 - Google Books Result

Gregory A. Wills - 2010 - Religion

What the churches needed above all was **theologians, not technicians**.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0199831203>

Images for churches need theologians, not technicians

The Pastor as Theologian | Desiring God

My topic is "The **Pastor as Theologian, Reflections on the Life and ... while pastors all become technicians** and managers and organizers, there ...

www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-pastor-as-theologian

Images for Pastor as Theologian | Desiring God

17) Imperative – Indicative – Optative

Welcome one another

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. ³For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, 'The

insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.' ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

oremus Bible Browser: Romans 15.1-7

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Romans+15.1-7>

[Images for welcome one another](#)

Matthew Skinner - in his plenary address on 2/2/2017 as a part of the Translating the Reformation: Table Talks Today at the 2017 Mid-Winter Convocation - Luther Seminary at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN – spoke of the imperative (verses 1-2), indicative (verses 3-4), and optative (verses 5-6) in Romans 15:1-7. He asserted that verse 7 is the climax of Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Resources

Imperative mood - Wikipedia

The imperative is a [grammatical mood](#) that forms commands or requests, including the giving of prohibition or permission, or any other kind of [advice](#) or [exhortation](#).

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

[Images for imperative mood](#)

What Is the Indicative Mood? (grammar lesson) - Grammar Monster

The indicative mood is a verb form which makes a statement or asks a question.

http://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/indicative_mood.htm

[Images for indicative mood](#)

Optative mood - Wikipedia

The optative mood /'ɒptətɪv/ or /ɒp'tetɪv/ (abbreviated OPT) is a grammatical mood that indicates a wish or hope.

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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optative_\(Ancient_Greek\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optative_(Ancient_Greek))

[Images for optative mood](#)

18) Invitation – Incorporation – Incarnation

Hollie Holt-Woehl - in her plenary address on 2/2/2017 together with Matthew Skinner as a part of the Translating the Reformation: Table Talks Today at the 2017 Mid-Winter Convocation at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN referenced the book *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation* by Stephanie Spellers and delineated invitation (assimilation), incorporation (inclusion), and incarnation (radical welcome).

[PDF] MOVING FROM INVITATION TO INCLUSION TO RADICAL WELCOME

<http://www.crc-canada.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/7-MOVING-FROM-INVITATION-TO-INCLUSION-TO-RADICAL-WELCOME.pdf>

[Images for MOVING FROM INVITATION TO INCLUSION TO RADICAL WELCOME](#)

Whereas, the “welcome” in “beyond welcoming to being inviting” above speaks of a more passive kind of welcome, the “welcome” that both Matthew Skinner and Hollie Holt-Woehl speak of is a more active kind of welcome.

Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation by Stephanie Spellers (Author)

Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation is a practical theological guide for congregations that want to move beyond mere inclusivity toward becoming a place where welcoming “the other” is taken seriously and engaging God's mission becomes more than just a catch-phrase.

The book is based on two years of work and over 200 interviews with people in urban, suburban, and rural congregations around the United States. Each chapter introduces specific congregations and their challenges and lays out the theological underpinnings of tackling fears head-on and embracing change as a welcome part of community life.

Contents include: The Radical Welcome Journey; Mapping the Way; God of Welcome, God of Grace; With Hearts Wide Open; Getting Real; Facing Our Fears and Embracing the Dream; The Joy in the Struggle.

<https://www.amazon.com/Radical-Welcome-Embracing-Spirit-Transformation/dp/0898695201>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/240542.Radical_Welcome

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/radical-welcome-stephanie-spellers/1124457720>

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

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0898695201>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0898697948>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Radical_Welcome.html?id=fMf1ISvCnBwC

https://books.google.com/books/about/Radical_Welcome.html?id=2AtiHO6KWAMC

<http://www.anglicantheologicalreview.org/static/pdf/articles/spellers.pdf>

<http://www.buildfaith.org/inviting-inclusion-and-radical-welcome/>

<http://www.ecfvp.org/vestrypapers/christian-hospitality-2/radical-welcome-embracing-the-other/>

<http://www.mnchurches.org/refugeeservices/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Refugee-Sunday-Materials-on-hospitality.pdf> Page 2
<http://inclusive-church.org/resources/radical-welcome-course>
<http://www.cbeinternational.org/resources/article/mutuality/god%E2%80%99s-radical-welcome>
<https://diosanjoaquin.org/radical-welcome-radical-sending/>
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2015/11/radical-welcome/>
<http://www.livingchurch.org/meet-canon-spellers>
<http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-news/house-interview-new-house-bishops-chaplain-stephanie-spellers>
<http://www.bobcornwall.com/2007/10/radical-welcome-review.html>
<http://www.buildfaith.org/radical-welcome-and-the-other/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZQJpgvO57o> Radical Welcome with Stephanie Spellers - YouTube
 Images for Radical Welcome with Stephanie Spellers - YouTube
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/rev-stephanie-spellers-named-canon-presiding-bishop-evangelism-and>
<http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/person/stephanie-spellers>
<http://www.bobcornwall.com/2007/10/radical-welcome-review.html>
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/rev-stephanie-spellers-named-canon-presiding-bishop-evangelism-and>
<https://www.facebook.com/sspellers>
<https://twitter.com/sspellers?lang=en>
<https://www.amazon.com/Stephanie-Spellers/e/B001JSB4KW>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/140763.Stephanie_Spellers
 Images for Stephanie Spellers (Author)
 Images for Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation by Stephanie Spellers (Author)

19) Micro decision and macro trust

A president of a Congregation Council in a small congregation also taught Sunday School before the service of worship and Confirmation after the service of worship. At announcement time during the Sending part of the service of worship, she often stood up and shared words of inspiration. Invariably, she thanked me for the message and said that she planned to share a story or illustration from the message the coming week with others. My guess is that she contributed financially a sizeable portion of the total receipts. As president of the Congregation Council, she related during the Caring Conversations at the start of one meeting that she shared morning devotions with a fellow worker at the bank in which she worked as Executive VP/CRA Officer. In thinking about the future of the congregation, she recalled privately how she brought her daughters to Sunday School and services of worship every Sunday, but then she looked away and her voice trailed off as she admitted, "Neither of them attend church anymore."

I was sitting with a group of quilters for mid-morning lunch when one of them looked at me and said, "I raised my kids to come to church, and now none of them do. It makes me so upset. What can we do?" One by one, around the table, each woman nodded. Then, a little later, another woman looked at me and asked, "Well, what can we do?" I replied, "Pray for them."

A parish pastor nearing retirement who attended every national youth gathering since he was a youth and who sent his daughter to a church college bemoaned the fact that her teachers deconstructed her Sunday school faith but never reconstructed an adult faith and that she got married outside the church and incorporated various kinds of New Age rituals in the ceremony.

When I consider the ever-increasing number of people falling away from the faith in Western Europe, Scandinavia, and North America, and, closer to home, when I look around at what happens to many young people even when household and congregation do their best to raise their sons and daughters in the faith, I am relieved I did not sire any offspring. The potential heartache from the increased odds of children separating themselves from God for now and for all of eternity proves to be more of a risk than I want to assume.

Luther's Regard for Children - ELCA

But the greatest good in married life, that which makes all suffering and labor worthwhile, is that God grants offspring and commands that they be brought up to worship and serve him. In all the world this is the noblest and most precious work, because to God there can be nothing dearer than the salvation of souls. Now since we are all duty bound to suffer death, if need be, that we might bring a single soul to God, you can see how rich the estate of marriage is in good works. God has entrusted to its bosom souls begotten of its own body, on whom it can lavish all manner of Christian works. Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel. In short, there is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children, for this authority is both spiritual and temporal. (LW 45:46)

<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/795>

Images for Luther's Regard for Children - ELCA

Resources

Faith That Lasts: Raising Kids that Don't Leave the Church by Jon Nielson (Author)

In a society where many young adults flee the church, Jon Nielson helps parents raise their children with a Christian faith that lasts. Through practical advice and five biblically based principles, Nielson provides guidance for people at all stages of parenting, for the church and for parents whose children have left the church.

<https://www.amazon.com/Faith-That-Lasts-Jon-Nielson/dp/1619582309/?tag=thegospelcoal-20>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30278964-faith-that-last>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/faith-that-last-jon-nielson/1124441993?type=eBook>

<https://www.wtsbooks.com/products/faith-lasts-jon-nielson-9781619582309?variant=9750073573423>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1619582317>

<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-youth-stay-in-church-when-they-grow-up>

<http://www.conversantlife.com/theology/how-many-youth-are-leaving-the-church>
<https://faithlit.wordpress.com/2016/08/20/raising-kids-that-dont-leave-the-church/>
<https://www.booksataglance.com/book-reviews/faith-lasts-raising-kids-dont-leave-church-jon-nielson/>
<https://www.clcpublications.com/shop/faith-that-lasts/>
<https://www.christianunion.org/ministries/universities/cornell/pray-for-cornell/1211-pray-for-cornells-nov-2015>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jon-nielson-157a543>
<https://www.clcpublications.com/authors/nielson-jon/>
<https://www.crossway.org/authors/jon-nielson/>
https://www.amazon.com/Books-Jon-Nielson/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3AJon%20Nielson
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3929897.Jon_Nielson
Images for Jon Nielson (Author)
Images for Faith That Lasts: Raising Kids that Don't Leave the Church by Jon Nielson (Author)

4 Top Questions About Pastors' Kids - LifeWay

1. How Can I Keep My Kids from Hating the Church?

<http://www.lifeway.com/pastors/2016/03/23/4-top-questions-about-pastors-kids/>
Images for Keep My Kids from Hating the Church

Rethinking Christianity in the 21st Century | Reflections

How should we respond to the shifting landscapes of the religious world? Let me offer four responses.

<http://reflections.yale.edu/article/new-voyages-church-today-and-tomorrow/rethinking-christianity-21st-century>
Images for Rethinking Christianity in the 21st Century
<http://divinity.yale.edu/faculty-and-research/yds-faculty/gregory-e-sterling>
<http://news.yale.edu/2012/03/01/gregory-e-sterling-notre-dame-named-next-dean-yale-divinity-school>
<https://www.amazon.com/Gregory-E.-Sterling/e/B001H6WMDQ>

Why do so many preachers' kids walk away from the faith?

Preachers' kids who leave the faith may do so for a variety of reasons.

<https://gotquestions.org/preachers-kids.html>
Images for Why do so many preachers' kids walk away from the faith?

I realize that preachers' kids who fall away from the faith is nothing new as God anointed Samuel partly because Eli's sons had fallen away from the faith, and the people called for a king partly because Samuel's sons had fallen from the faith, but I am relieved that I did not sire offspring to potentially follow that path.

1 Samuel 2:12 Eli's sons were scoundrels

[New International Version](#)

Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD.

http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/2-12.htm
Images for Eli's sons were scoundrels

1 Samuel 8:3 But his sons did not follow his ways

[King James Bible](#)

And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/8-3.htm
Images for Samuel's sons did not follow his ways

At the same time, I trust in the Trinity.

I believe God created this world and exercises dominion over it.

THE SMALL CATECHISM

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.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>
Images for I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe Jesus Christ is the hope of the world for now and for all of eternity.

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 I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord](#)

I believe the Holy Spirit calls people to faith.

THE SMALL CATECHISM

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 I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church](#)

The words of Jesus keep me going:

Watchfulness and faithfulness

From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

oremus Bible Browser: Luke 12:48b

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=171739092>

[Images for watchfulness and faithfulness luke 12](#)

20) Christians and secular humanists

When secular humanists claim that this life is all there is and when a person is dead, death represents the period at the end of life,

Secular humanism - Wikipedia

The philosophy or [life stance](#) of secular humanism embraces human [reason](#), [ethics](#), [social justice](#), and [philosophical naturalism](#) while specifically rejecting religious [dogma](#), [supernaturalism](#), [pseudoscience](#), and [superstition](#) as the bases of [morality](#) and decision making.^{[1][2][3][4]}

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

[Images for secular humanism](#)

The Evangelical Scion Who Stopped Believing - The New York Times

For Campolo, admitting that he had totally lost his faith was oddly comforting — he could stop living a lie — but also confusing. He loved talking to people, caring for them, helping them. He loved everything about Christian ministry except the Christianity. Now that he had crossed the bridge to apostasy, he needed a new vocation.

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/29/magazine/the-evangelical-scion-who-stopped-believing.html?_r=0

[Images for The Evangelical Scion Who Stopped Believing - The New York Times](#)

<http://religionnews.com/2014/10/06/tony-campolos-surprise-reaction-son-came-humanist/>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/september/deconversion-some-thoughts-on-bart-campolos-departure-from.html>

<https://www.redletterchristians.org/about-my-humanist-son-the-challenge-of-those-who-follow-jesus-without-belief/>

<http://www.piratechristian.com/berean-examiner/2014/10/15/son-tony-campolo-became-agnostic-humanist>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2017/02/22/an-evangelical-icons-son-left-the-faith-now-theyve-written-a-book-discussing-their-differences/>

<http://bartcampolo.org/why-i-left-why-i-stayed>

<http://tonycampolo.org/store/all-books/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robashghar/2014/10/02/bart-campolos-heretical-and-liberating-leadership-journey/#769a9ae07e88>

<https://www.amazon.com/Why-Left-Stayed-Conversations-Christianity/dp/0062415379>
https://www.amazon.com/Bart-Campolo/e/B001K8L7K8/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_2
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bart_Campolo
<http://www.spiritblog.net/reviews/authors/bart-campolo/>
<http://www.mythicistmilwaukee.com/mythicistmilwaukeeblog/2017/2/26/from-faith-to-humanism-with-bart-campolo>
<Images for from-faith-to-humanism-with-bart-campolo>
<http://www.evangelicalsforsocialaction.org/resources/book-reviews/when-frames-conflict-look-to-the-poet-a-review-of-tony-and-bart-campolos-why-i-left-why-i-stayed/>
<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2017/26-may/features/features/like-father-unlike-son>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1418554367> Conclusion: The Future of the Middle-class Church
<https://truediscernment.com/2015/10/22/what-a-pointless-life-bart-campolo-son-of-tony-campolo-explains-his-atheism/>
<http://westlakechristian.org/deconversion-when-they-walk-away/>
<https://medium.com/@rickjohnston73/a-response-to-far-from-the-tree-does-a-preacher-lose-his-son-when-his-son-loses-his-faith-eb248baaa669>
<https://fr-fr.facebook.com/tcampolo/>
<http://asiacruisenews.com/news/Bart-Campolo-and-the-Future-of-Humanist-Chaplaincy>
<Images for Bart-Campolo-and-the-Future-of-Humanist-Chaplaincy>

am I being properly respectful to that perspective by countering that God will save everybody for eternity in the end anyway?

Universalism - Wikipedia

In [Christianity](#), [universal reconciliation](#) is the doctrine that all [sinful](#) and alienated human [souls](#)—because of [divine love and mercy](#)—will ultimately be reconciled to [God](#).^[2]

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

<Images for Universalism>

In the meantime, can there be a commonality in working together? The Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly as a part of the service of Affirmation of Baptism in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* states five characteristics. I am suggesting the highlighted parts are those ways Christians and humanists can work together.

Affirmation in the Presence of 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?

Each person responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7583/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition> Page 236

<Images for serve all people>

<Images for strive for justice and peace in all the earth>

21) At and As

My advisor, Marc Kolden - Faculty - Luther Seminary, stressed that the work of the people is both at the church *and* as the church. Liturgy is the work of the people, and vocation is the work of the people.

Resources

By Faith Alone: Essays on Justification in Honor of Gerhard O. Forde

[Earthly Vocation](#) as a Corollary of Justification by Faith – Marc Kolden

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802841368>

Page 267

<Images for Earthly Vocation as a Corollary of Justification by Faith – Marc Kolden>

The Lutheran confessions call the doctrine of justification by faith alone the "chief article" of the Christian faith. Clarifying and defending this article of faith have been the major concern of Lutheran theologians since the sixteenth century. It is not surprising, then, that one of today's most prominent Lutheran thinkers, Gerhard O. Forde, has chosen to devote most of his career to probing the depths and developing the implications of the doctrine of justification. And as this volume aptly indicates, Forde's teaching and publications, his public lectures and sermons, and his influence on ecumenical scholarship and debate constitute one of the most important contributions to a theological understanding of justification in the second half of the twentieth century.

By Faith Alone celebrates Professor Forde's distinguished career, but it also goes well beyond by offering a sustained and serious engagement with his theological motif. Written by twenty theologians from seven countries and several different Christian communions, the book provides a full-orbed, cutting-edge discussion of the doctrine of justification from a wide range of perspectives. The first set of essays explores the theological foundations of the doctrine of justification. The next set examines some key moments in the doctrine's historical development as well as its ecumenical trajectory. The last set of

essays asks how the doctrine of justification applies to church life today, including such ecclesiastical concerns as preaching and pastoral care.

A rich collection of lively and profound thinking, *By Faith Alone* is an ideal resource for teachers, preachers, church leaders, and all those pursuing a deeper understanding of Christian belief.

<https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Alone-Essays-Justification-Gerhard/dp/0802841368>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197430.By_Faith_Alone

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/by-faith-alone-marc-kolden/1111561948>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802841368>

By Faith Alone: Essays on Justification in Honor of Gerhard O. Forde

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=2882

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/26-3_Mission_Congregation/26-3_Reviews.pdf

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

[Images for By Faith Alone: Essays on Justification in Honor of Gerhard O. Forde](#)

Christian's Calling in the World by Marc Kolden (Author)

This book is the beginning of a series of books that address the yearning that people have to discover God's presence in the midst of their daily life.

A Christian's Calling in the World is a great little book that opens up the world of vocational history and molds it with creation to form a wonderful look at Christian calling and vocation in everyday life.

<https://www.amazon.com/Christians-Calling-World-Marc-Kolden/dp/0974228303>

<http://www.oldrosevillelutheran.org/news/5514/christians-calling-in-the-world-by-marc-kolden/>

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/3-4_Luther/3-4_Kolden.pdf

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=f87714b555c3d99c7d0e75341094d6424d3906301f40ebe4e805785f4e77737f> Marc Kolden - Profile - Working Preacher

<https://www.selectlearning.org/catalog/life-faith>

www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/208129/?fullname=rev-dr-marc-kolden

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Marc-Kolden/e/B001KHSQBC>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115017.Marc_Kolden

[Images for Marc Kolden \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Christian's Calling in the World by Marc Kolden](#)

[PDF]Luther on Vocation MARC KOLDEN - Word & World - Luther Seminary

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/3-4_Luther/3-4_Kolden.pdf

[Images for Luther on Vocation MARC KOLDEN](#)

<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/270> Gustaf Wingren on the Christian Life by Marc Kolden

[Images for Gustaf Wingren on the Christian Life by Marc Kolden](#)

<https://www.monergism.com/topics/vocation-work>

[Images for topics/vocation-work](#)

Kolden commended the writing of Gustaf Wingren on vocation.

Luther on Vocation by Gustaf Wingren (Author) Carl C. Rasmussen (Translator)

...[C]oncern about the [inherited doctrine of vocation and its relevance for modern life] was generated out of the complexities and frustrations especially of industrial life, and it has produced a voluminous literature of a popular and semi-popular kind which has served to drive home the problem of daily work upon the conscience of contemporary Christians, and also to provide certain resources for handling it. In addition to this varied literature, the last years have also seen a very general discussion of the question at every level of church life: in ecumenical conferences, in the curricular material of the major denominations, and in conferences and study groups of all kinds.

About the urgency and importance of the problem of vocation there is now no doubt. But now we find that the rather simple formulae in which we have been dealing with it do justice neither to the Biblical and Reformation inheritance, nor to the profound dilemmas that appear not only in industry, but in every area of professional and commercial life. The problem now is not only to equip our lay-people with fuller theological resources for the understanding of the meaning of discipleship, but to utilize their practical experience of day-to-day dilemmas and day to-day decisions.

...Gustaf Wingren's conscientious analysis of Luther's teaching on the matter...remains our prime resource for the understanding of the relation of faith and works.

Nothing could exceed the patience and thoroughness with which Wingren has combed through the Luther corpus.... [I]t will serve to put the full range of Luther's insight at the disposal of those who care for theology as part of their care of all the Churches.

Alexander Miller

Stanford University

<https://www.amazon.com/Luther-Vocation-Gustaf-Wingren/dp/1592445616>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1308062.Luther_on_Vocation

<https://wipfandstock.com/luther-on-vocation.html>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Luther_on_Vocation.html?id=WQVLAwAAQBAJ

<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/278> Gustaf Wingren's Luther on Vocation after Sixty-five Years - ELCA
<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/1015> Luther on Vocation - ELCA
<http://nc.ctsfw.edu/document.doc?id=270> [PDF] Study Notes for on Luther on Vocation by Gustaf Wingren
<http://www.ctsfw.net/media/pdfs/PlessWingrensLutherOnVocationCreationCross.pdf> [PDF]1 Gustaf Wingren's Luther On Vocation
<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2009/04/15/luther-on-vocation/>
<https://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=870> Life Library - Vocation - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
<https://gudribassakums.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/1999-luther-vocation-froehlich.pdf>
<http://lutherantheologystudygroup.blogspot.com/2011/04/critique-of-gustaf-wingrens-luther-on.html>
http://www.newcreationlibrary.net/books/pdf/427_Vocation.pdf
<http://www.cls.org.tw/lib/logia/journals/11-3%20Vocation.pdf> Page 29
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0820463396> Page 145
<http://alutheranbeggar.blogspot.com/2008/11/gustaf-wingren-creation-vocation-and.html>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vocation>
<https://reformedreader.wordpress.com/2013/08/29/luther-and-wingren-on-vocation/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Creation-Law-Gustaf-Wingren/dp/1592443044>
<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/9262/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Gustaf-Wingren/e/B001KCRRIK>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/157874.Gustaf_Wingren
[Images for Gustaf Wingren \(Author\)](#)
[Images for Luther on Vocation by Gustaf Wingren \(Author\)](#)

22) Bus Ministry

I ended one assignment on 4/15/2020, and the assignment I was scheduled to start on 4/16 fell through, so I ended up on leave from call. On 6/21 I listened to the service of worship involving the pastors serving the 4 local ELCA congregation on the radio at 9am as these congregations kept their doors closed in response to the COVID-19 threat. I attended the Wesleyan church at 11am for the 3rd of their 3 services on Saturday and Sunday as this church opened its doors. This church simulcasted their service to another location 40 mi away at 11am and was looking for other locations to expand. I ended up following their red bus into the parking lot.

Resources

Bill Wilson (pastor) - Wikipedia

Ministry

Bill Wilson returned to his home church and pioneered one of the first **bus ministries** in the United States. Each week, Wilson and his team picked up thousands of children from the projects of [St. Petersburg, Florida](#) and presented a weekly program that included games, music, puppets and a weekly message. After years of success in [Florida](#), Bill Wilson was invited by [Tommy Barnett](#) to replicate this ministry in [Davenport, Iowa](#). Within four years, Barnett and Wilson helped create one of the largest [Protestant](#) churches in America.

In 1979, Bill Wilson moved to one of the roughest areas of [Brooklyn, New York](#) – [Bushwick](#). In 1980, armed with a bull horn, a station wagon and [Yogi Bear](#) costumes, Bill created Metro World Child (formerly Metro Ministries).^[3] Once again, Wilson's concept of a bus ministry became extremely successful. Even with multiple weekend services, his congregation outgrew the former brewery that serves as his church in Bushwick. With no more room to house any new visitors to his Church, Wilson decided to take his Church to the streets. In 1988, he created the idea of a Sidewalk Sunday School, in which he converted trucks to serve as portable stages from whence his team of ministers could share their message.^[4] This concept became highly successful and these collective congregations now number more than 220 000 children in attendance each week globally in 24 countries.

Word of Bill Wilson's success in New York spread to other Churches and inner city ministries. The concept of a bus ministry and Sidewalk Sunday School has now been replicated in cities and towns all over the world. In an attempt to remain in touch with the people attending his congregation, Bill Wilson still lives in a building with the rest of the staff and Interns. He continues to walk through the often dangerous neighborhoods of Bushwick in an effort to carry on his work. Over the years, Wilson has been shot, stabbed, beaten and hospitalized numerous times and is adept at raising millions of dollars for the ministry telling stories of hardship. Yet he remains committed to the work. Bill Wilson still drives one of the hundreds of buses utilized by his ministry each week, when he is in town.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Wilson_\(pastor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Wilson_(pastor))

[Images for Bill Wilson \(pastor\) bus ministry](#)

The Bus Ministry Works - YouTube

The bus ministry has been responsible for bringing millions of people to church. But does it still work? Is the bus ministry still worth our time? Is it still worth our money? Is it still relevant? Find more information and additional testimonies at

<http://busministryworks.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dvQ8w6whnY>

[Images for Bus Ministry Works - YouTube](#)

I attended the Roman Catholic church at 5:30pm at one of their 5 masses on Saturday and Sunday as this church opened its doors. I also attended this church the previous Tuesday for the 5:30pm mass.