

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 4 Preaching

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Reflections and Resources

1) Between the No Longer and the Not Yet

Interim Pastor Paul Svingen began an interim assignment on 9/1/2019 and on 9/8 preached a sermon entitled "Between the No Longer and the Not Yet." As a self-described "temporary shepherd" he used Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 – A Time for Everything as he covered the past in "No Longer" and the future in the "Not Yet" while inviting the assembly gathered in the present "Between" time to be open to discerning God's direction.

First Lutheran Church | Welcome!

Sunday, September 8, 2019 "Between The No Longer and the Not Yet" Interim Pastor Paul N. Svingen

<https://firstdaynr.org/sermons> Worship Sermons

https://www.firstdaynr.org/content.cfm?id=213&download_id=481

https://firstdaynr.org/content.cfm?id=3150&download_id=481#attached_content

[Images for First Lutheran Church | Welcome! Sunday, September 8, 2019 "Between The No Longer and the Not Yet" Interim Pastor Paul N. Svingen](#)



http://www.nemnsynod.org/uploads/2/5/8/8/25887261/pastor_paul_n._svingen.pdf

<https://www.facebook.com/paul.svingen.3>

Intentional Interim Ministry (Phase I)

Oct. 29-Nov. 2

The National Association for Lutheran Interim Pastors (NALIP) basic education curriculum is designed for clergy and lay professionals to introduce participants to the practice of intentional interim ministry. Although focusing on Lutheran theology and polity, the event is open to all lay leaders and clergy desiring or called to this special ministry in congregations during a pastoral transition.

This course is designed in three phases (planting, cultivating and harvesting), covering a period of about six months. The Phase III class will be held May 13-17, 2019, at Mt. Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn. Costs for housing and meals at that phase will be shared during the October class. For a full description of the three-phase intentional Interim Ministry training course, visit <http://nalip.net/education.asp#Basic>

Instructors: Paul N. Svingen, ELCA interim consultant and educator, served as intentional interim pastor in the Minneapolis Area Synod and the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA. He has more than 20 years of experience as a trainer of interim pastors.

Tim Drom, ELCA pastor, served as intentional interim pastor in the Pacifica Synod and the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA.

Susan Baldwin, Licensed Insights Practitioner; President, PineStone Pathways, LLC

https://www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/kairos/2018_KAIROS_Catalog.pdf

[Images for Paul N. Svingen, ELCA interim consultant and educator](#)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/paul-svingen-0180a421>

2) Address transitional nature of the interim period

Preaching and worship are central to the life of the congregation. When the assembly gathers for services of worship, the interim pastor can address the transitional nature of the interim period. Two biblical metaphors from the Old Testament for the transition period include Jacob's wrestling match (Genesis 32:24) and the wandering in the wilderness (Genesis 32:24), while the metaphor from the New Testament of John the Baptist who prepares the way (Matthew 3:1-3) holds promise.

Resources

How Interim Ministry Works in the United Methodist Church

Among those still serving full-time, some accept one or two-year appointments **guiding critically conflicted congregations through their "wilderness wanderings" to the Promised Land of a joyful new future.**

http://www.gbhem.org/site/c.lskSL3POLvF/b.3852799/k.D915/How_Interim_Ministry_Works_in_The_United_Methodist_Church.ht
[Images for Interim Ministry guiding critically conflicted congregations through their "wilderness wanderings" to the Promised Land of a joyful new future](#)

Preaching During the Interim - Preaching Magazine

"Biblical Precedents"

<http://www.preaching.com/resources/articles/11563501/>

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[Images for Preaching During the Interim - Preaching Magazine "Biblical Precedents"](#)

[PDF] When a Pastor leaves... Enabling pastoral transitions in the local church - London Baptist Association

Biblical resources for the transition time

The Bible is a rich source of resources for the times of change. Below some useful biblical passages are outlined.

<http://www.londonbaptist.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/WAPL.pdf>

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[Images for enabling pastoral transitions in the local church](#)

[Images for Biblical resources for the transition time](#)

At one assignment in 2008, I preached a sermon series based on the recently adopted mission statement and the established identity statement of the congregation.

Because God first loved us, we reach out to make Christ known to as many people as possible.

This mission statement for the congregation adopted by the Congregation Council and the Relocation Taskforce at a joint July 25 meeting will be the overall theme for a September sermon series.

September 7 – *Open Hearts and Doors*. Focused on faith in Christ, the people of this congregation commit to opening our hearts and doors, to be supportive, nurturing, and welcoming. We will actively build partnerships between our congregation and the community at large.

September 14 – *A welcoming community of faith*, called to invite and embrace all people as we join together in hearing and living the Gospel of Jesus.

September 21 – *A caring community of faith*, where all people can find love, acceptance, help, forgiveness, and encouragement.

September 28 – *A serving community of faith*, reaching out in partnership with God and others to meet the needs of our neighbors locally and globally.

At another assignment on the Sundays of 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11 Pentecost A 2014, I preached a sermon series on transition dynamics based on the Revised Common Lectionary. The preaching series was interrupted on 9 Pentecost by a joint worship service with a neighboring congregation at the county fair. Brief sermon notes are provided to show how I used the texts for the day to address the theme. The notes are not intended to be used as ready to use outlines, but simply as a demonstration that a sermon series on transition dynamics can be done. I have also included songs that might be used for any such preaching series.

Transition Dynamics			
Reflection			
Heritage	Past	Where have we been?	
Identity	Present	Where are we at?	
Vision	Future	Where is God leading?	
Action			
Mission	Definition	What is God's purpose for this congregation?	
Leadership	Operation	How is God's purpose to be carried out?	
Connections	Cooperation	Who are the partners in mission God provides?	
• Heritage	appreciate how the past of the congregation informs the present		
• Identity	discover who the congregation is in the current context		
• Vision	discern what it is this congregation understands God is calling this congregation to be		
• Mission	define purpose and direction for the congregation in God's mission		
• Leadership	engage people of the congregation in God's mission		
• Connections	explore all the relationships a congregation shares beyond itself		
Heritage	The goal of heritage preaching is to <i>appreciate the past</i> in such a way so that it informs the present and inspires the future.		
Identity	The goal of identity preaching is to bring an informed understanding of the local context to the message in order to most effectively <i>shape Christian identity</i> .		
Vision	The goal of vision preaching is to <i>lift up the questions</i> : "What is God calling this congregation to be and to do? Where is God leading this congregation?"		
Mission	The goal of mission preaching is to <i>empower the assembly</i> to live out the intent of the Dismissal – Go in peace. Proclaim the good news. Serve the Lord.		
Leadership	The goal of leadership preaching is to <i>invite a partnership in the gospel</i> in order to make Christ known.		
Connections	The goal of connections preaching is to <i>lift up walking together</i> for the sake of the gospel.		

For those who do not use the Revised Common Lectionary, here are some options for texts for a sermon series on transition dynamics.

Pastoral Transitions - Great Plains UMC

Scripture for a season of transition

- [Genesis 28:15-17](#)
- [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)
- [Jeremiah 29:4-7](#)
- [Matthew 6:33](#)
- [Matthew 10:39](#)
- [Matthew 18:18-20](#)
- [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

- [Ephesians 2:10](#)
- [Philippians 4:4-8, 11b-14](#)
- [1 Peter 5:7](#)
- [Revelation 3:20](#)

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/pastoraltransitions>
 Images for Scripture for a season of transition

Heritage

First Reading	Deuteronomy 26:5-11
Second Reading	Psalm 105
Gospel	Matthew 1:1-2, 16-17

What Does the Bible Say About Heritage? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/heritage>
 Images for Bible and Heritage
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Heritage>
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/heritage/>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Heritage/>
 Images for Bible-Verses-About-Heritage
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Heritage/>
<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-79-godly-heritage-genesis-481-22>
 Images for godly-heritage-genesis-481-22
<https://bible.org/seriespage/5-heritage>
<http://biblehub.com/topical/h/heritage.htm>
<http://www.yourbiblicalheritage.com/about-the-covenant-heritage-series/book-one/>
 Images for biblicalheritag/about-the-covenant-heritage

Identity

First Reading	Psalm 100
Second Reading	Ephesians 2:11-23
Gospel	Mark 8:27-38

What Does the Bible Say About Identity? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/identity>
 Images for Bible and Identity
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-our-identity-in-christ/>
<https://www.soulshesherding.org/identity-in-christ-verses-in-the-bible/>
 Images for identity-in-christ-verses-in-the-bible
<https://www.cru.org/us/en/blog/life-and-relationships/identity/who-am-i-a-new-way-to-define-identity.html>
<https://www.desiringgod.org/topics/identity-in-christ>
<http://www.hopefortheheart.org/identity-who-are-you/>
<https://www.onlygirl4boyz.com/17-bible-verses-that-will-remind-you-of-your-identity-in-christ/>
 Images for identity in christ

Vision

First Reading	Proverbs 29:18
Second Reading	Acts 9:3-6
Gospel	Matthew 17:1-9

What Does the Bible Say About Vision? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/vision>
 Images for Bible and Vision
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-vision/>
 Images for bible verses about vision
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Vision>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Vision/>
<https://jesusculture.com/posts/1450-the-power-of-a-vision/>
<https://www.differentspirit.org/opinion/christian-vision.php>
 Images for christian-vision
<https://bible.org/seriespage/communicating-vision>
 Images for communicating vision

Mission

First Reading	Genesis 12:1-3
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Second Reading Acts 17:22-34
Gospel Luke 10:1-12

What Does the Bible Say About Mission? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/missions>

https://www.openbible.info/topics/mission_work

[Images for Bible and Missions](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Bible-Mission-Christian-Witness-Postmodern/dp/0801027713>

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

[Images for gods mission](#)

<https://www.9marks.org/answer/what-local-churchs-mission-according-bible/>

[Images for church's mission](#)

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/bible-studies/biblical-basis>

<https://www.compellingtruth.org/mission-of-the-church.html>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Mission,-Of-Jesus-Christ>

[Images for mission of jesus christ](#)

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-116-our-mission-and-how-fulfill-it-luke-2444-49>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2015/11/01/top-7-bible-verses-about-missions/>

[Images for bible verses about mission](#)

Leadership

First Reading Exodus 2:23-3:6
Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11
Gospel Matthew 20:24-26

What Does the Bible Say About Leadership? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/leadership>

https://www.openbible.info/topics/being_a_good_leader

[Images for Bible and Leadership](#)

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-leadership/>

[Images for bible verses about leadership](#)

<https://ministryadvice.com/leadership-bible-verses/>

<https://newspring.cc/articles/what-the-bible-says-about-leadership>

<http://www1.cbn.com/books/what-does-the-bible-say-about-leadership%3F>

<https://ftc.co/resource-library/blog-entries/5-distinctives-of-biblical-leadership>

[Images for biblical leadership](#)

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/church-leadership-seven-biblical-models>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/1-characteristics-godly-leaders>

[Images for godly leaders](#)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-marks-of-a-servant-leader>

[Images for servant leader](#)

<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/top-7-bible-verses-about-leadership/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2007/july-online-only/le-040329.html>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Being-A-Leader>

<https://letterpile.com/inspirational/Great-Leaders-of-the-Bible>

[Images for leaders of the bible](#)

Connections

First Reading Acts 2:1-21
Second Reading 1Corinthians 12:12-31
Gospel Matthew 28:18-20

What Does the Bible Say About the Body of Christ? - OpenBible.info

https://www.openbible.info/topics/the_body_of_christ

[Images for Bible and Body of Christ](#)

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

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Body-Of-Christ.-The-Church>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/body-of-Christ.html>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-The-Body-Of-Christ/>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/nature-and-body-christ-session-41>

<http://www.bibleanswers.ie/short-bible-studies/58-the-church/153-body-of-christ>

[Images for church body of christ](#)

Lectionary A 2014

Heritage

Texts – 5Pentecost A 2014

Isaiah 55:10-13

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Children's Message – I found a Sunday School picture from 1957, made photocopies, handed them out to the children, and talked about the children who had come before them and how the faith has been passed down.

Sermon

Intro – God's word is our great heritage (Isaiah 55:10-11) (Hymn - God's Word is our Great Heritage)

An Invitation to Abundant Life

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

oremus Bible Browser: [Isaiah 55:10-11](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=252700224)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=252700224>

[Images for Invitation to Abundant Life](#)

Body – God calls people into faith through the word. (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 – The Parable of the Sower)

Congregation – This congregation has gathered around Word and Meal for all these years. I then shared selected portions from the church history.

Community – It just so happened that my second weekend there and the start of the preaching series was the weekend of the community celebration called Heritage Days. I related my learning about the community from my reading and from attendance at the Heritage Days community celebration.

Conclusion – I spoke appreciatively of how God called people of faith through the word and how people had responded to the word down through the years as they sought to live in the local context.

Songs

God of Our Fathers

God's Word is our Great Heritage

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

The Church's One Foundation

Identity

Texts – 6 Pentecost A 2014

Isaiah 44:6-8

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Children's Message – I used the song "Kids of the Kingdom." Another possible song is "I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N."

Sermon

Isaiah 44:6-8 – God's identity.

God's Blessing on Israel

Thus, says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

oremus Bible Browser: [Isaiah 44: 6-8](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=268372245)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=268372245>

[Images for God's Blessing on Israel](#)

Romans 8:12-25 – Identity as children of God.

Life in the Spirit

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For

all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

oremus Bible Browser: Romans 8:12-17

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Romans+8:12-25>

[Images for Life in the Spirit](#)

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 – The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat - Context

Songs

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
This Little Light of Mine
We Are an Offering

Vision

Texts – 7 Pentecost A 2014

1 Kings 3:5-12

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Children's Message – What does God want us to do?

Message

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

At Gibeon, the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

oremus Bible Browser: 1 Kings 3:5-12

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=174184462>

[Images for Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom](#)

Verse 6	heritage
Verses 7-8	identity
Verse 9	vision

God's Love in Jesus Christ

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

oremus Bible Browser: Romans 8:26-39

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Romans+8:26-39&version=nrsv>

Images for God's Love in Jesus Christ

Verses 26-27	Intercession of the Spirit
Verses 28-30	Promise
Verses 38-39	Assurance

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 - Parables of the coming kingdom of heaven – Vision of the kingdom

Songs

Be Thou My Vision
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
God of Grace and God of Glory

Mission

Texts – 8 Pentecost A 2014

Isaiah 55:1-5	Invitation
Romans 9:1-5	Anguish
Matthew 14:13-21	And he had compassion on them

Message from Youth – Youth had just returned from a mission trip to Cincinnati and gave personal reflections.

Message These lessons lent themselves very easily to mission. Isaiah 55:1-5 – an invitation to abundant life and a “witness to the peoples.” Romans 9:1-5 – Paul’s anguish for those who do not know Jesus.

An Invitation to Abundant Life

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

oremus Bible Browser: [Isaiah 55:1-5](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=273728294)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=273728294>

[Images for Invitation to Abundant Life](#)

God's Election of Israel

⁹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people,⁺ my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah,⁺ who is over all, God blessed for ever.⁺ Amen.

oremus Bible Browser: [Romans 9:1-5](http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Romans+9:1-5)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Romans+9:1-5>

[Images for God's Election of Israel](#)

Feeding the Five Thousand

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and

buy food for themselves.”¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

oremus Bible Browser: [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrv&passage=Matthew+14:13-21>

[Images for Feeding the Five Thousand](#)

I pointed to an identity statement at the entrance to the fellowship hall. “Strong in faith. Together in mission.”

I shared my personal mission statement – “Motivated by the love of Jesus, I spread goodwill.”

I affirmed the mission trip participants on their efforts.

I used the image of “Beyond Our Doors.”

[Beyond our Doors: Congregational Mission Planning](#)

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

Resources

View the Missional Toolbox

Beyond Our Doors

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/beyond_our_doors_rev.pdf

info@nwswi.org

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

[Images for Beyond our Doors: Congregational Mission Planning](#)

I shared a section from the Ministry Site Profile

[\[PDF\]Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

The mission of a congregation or organization is found at the intersection of its purpose, giftedness, and context. That is, a clear sense of mission will grow directly out of an assessment of your identity and purpose, your resources and gifts, and your understanding and the needs and trends within your community. Please offer the thoughtful responses to the following questions.

Purpose

How does this congregation understand its reason for being in light of God's call to mission and service? Who are you?

Why are you here?

Giftedness

What are your gifts and resources for fulfilling this purpose? What are the congregation's top three assets and how are they being used? Are there obstacles that must be overcome to be able to use these gifts and accomplish the mission?

Mission

In the light of the way you have described your ministry context in this Ministry Site Profile, what are the top three mission priorities which, if accomplished, hold the most promise for the continued development of this ministry?

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

[Images for Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

Songs

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

O Zion Haste

Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word

We All Are One in Mission

We Are Called

Leadership

Texts – 10 Pentecost A 2014 [I reached ahead one week to use the second reading for 11 Pentecost A 2014.]

The New Life in Christ

¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,¹³ by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual¹⁴ worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world,³ but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.⁴

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

oremus Bible Browser: [Romans 12:1-8](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Romans+12:1-8>

[Images for New Life in Christ](#)

I told how I met with the women for their bible study and noticed that the next study would be on transformation. [Verse 2]

Bible studies | Women of the ELCA

Transforming Life and Faith

Gather's 2014-2015 Bible Study

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/bible-studies-pages-55.php>

[Images for Transforming Life and Faith](#)

There was a baptism that day in which the child was named Tennyson because the mother liked the poet. This quote fit the occasion and Romans 12:3.

Alfred Lord Tennyson Quotes - BrainyQuote

No man ever got very high by pulling other people down. The intelligent merchant does not knock his competitors. The sensible worker does not work those who work with him. Don't knock your friends. Don't knock your enemies. Don't knock yourself.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/alfred_lord_tennyson.html

[Images for Alfred Lord Tennyson Quotes](#)

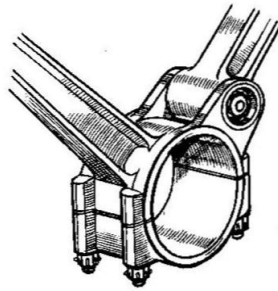
I also talked about how in baptism parents are the leaders in the home.

Spark plugs, connecting rods, and crankshafts. Richard Bruesehoff presented what he called a John Deere Theory of Leadership at the 1990 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Church Council Leadership Training event on the functions of a Congregation Council to demonstrate how it takes different kinds of people operating in different ways to make an engine run. The idea occurred to him while he was tearing apart and rebuilding the engine on his 1945 John Deere B. He offered that some people function like spark plugs in generating new ideas, others operate like connecting rods in taking the ideas and figuring out how to make them work, while still others function like crankshafts in putting the ideas into action.

As it turned out, a new family visited worship that morning. The father stated to me afterwards that it just so happened that he and his father collected and refurbished old John Deere tractors and any church where the pastor talks about tractors has to be alright. I introduced him to the Congregation Council president who just so happened to work as a mechanic at the local John Deere dealership and had done so for the last 40 years. The young family later joined, and I officiated at the baptism when a new child was born to them.



spark plugs



connecting rod



crankshaft

Spark plug - Wikipedia

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

[Images for spark plug](#)

Connecting rod - Wikipedia

A connecting rod is a shaft which connects a piston to a crank or crankshaft in a reciprocating engine. Together with the crank, it forms a simple mechanism that converts reciprocating motion into rotating motion.

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

File: Articulated connected rods (Autocar Handbook, 13th ed, 1935).jpg

From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Articulated_connecting_rods_\(Autocar_Handbook,_13th_ed,_1935\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Articulated_connecting_rods_(Autocar_Handbook,_13th_ed,_1935).jpg)

[Images for connecting rod](#)

Crankshaft - Wikipedia

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

[Images for crankshaft](#)

Songs

God of Grace and God of Glory
Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak
Rise, Shine, You People!
Rise Up, O Saints of God

Resources

Are you a Connector? - Malcolm Gladwell

What makes someone a Connector? The first—and most obvious—criterion is that Connectors know lots of people. They are the kinds of people who know everyone. All of us know someone like this. But I don't think that we spend a lot of time thinking about the importance of these kinds of people. I'm not even sure that most of us really believe that the kind of person who knows everyone really knows everyone. But they do.

<http://gladwell.com/are-you-a-connector/>

Images for connectors know lots of people

<https://personalitylingo.com/connector-personalitylingo/>

<http://www.vault.com/networking/article/networking/be-a-connector-helping-people-in-your-network>

<https://techcrunch.com/2011/10/23/9-skills-super-connector/>

Images for skills super connector people

<https://medium.com/swlh/how-becoming-a-super-connector-and-making-great-introductions-will-upgrade-your-career-170b4aaec119>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/cherylsnappconner/2013/09/06/four-secrets-from-a-champion-super-connector/#2c2b0e48445b>

<https://www.fastcompany.com/3035568/the-dawn-of-the-superconnectors-20-people-who-are-taking-networking-t>

<https://www.inc.com/scott-gerber-ryan-paugh/how-to-become-a-superconnector-it-has-nothing-to-do-with-linkedin.html>

<https://hiring.monster.com/hr/hr-best-practices/hr-events/past-hr-events/monster-employee-super-connector-webinar.aspx>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/sally-horchow/10-life-changing-tips-fro_b_183163.html 10 Life-Changing Tips From Top

Connectors | HuffPost

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/222707> Forget Networking. How to Be a Connector - Entrepreneur

<https://www.productiveflourishing.com/maven-connector-or-salesperson-whats-your-archetype/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/20130619133031-7668018-ultimate-cheat-sheet-on-super-connecting>

<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/communication/know-your-strength-for-more-success-are-you-a-connector-a-maven-or-a-salesman.html>

<https://thenextweb.com/entrepreneur/2013/12/20/7-networking-tips-successful-super-connectors/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Superconnector-Networking-Building-Business-Relationships/dp/0738219967>

<https://www.mediavillage.com/article/six-meaningful-reasons-to-become-a-super-connector/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/my-super-connector>

<https://communitytable.parade.com/20635/heatherhuhman/can-becoming-a-super-connector-help-your-career/>

<https://www.slideshare.net/ixtlan/the-role-of-a-super-connector>

Images for connector people

How a Crankshaft Works | DoItYourself.com

A crankshaft is a fundamental feature in a vehicle's engine. It is the system that converts linear energy into rotational energy.

This enables the wheels to drive the [car](#) forward. All the pistons in the engine are attached to the crank which is also connected to the flywheel. The crank works in association with other engine components to achieve a synchronized motion.

This process, which enables the vehicle's engine to run, is explained below.

<http://www.doityourself.com/stry/how-a-crankshaft-works#b>

Images for How a Crankshaft Works | DoItYourself.com

Images for crankshaft person makes things turn

<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=crankshaft>

<https://www.explainthatstuff.com/cranks-and-cams.html>

[PDF]The Spark Plug: A Leader's Catalyst for Change leading from the middle

Spark plug is my term for someone who, because of high energy, good humor and people skills, and a can-do attitude, helps leaders realize important objectives. The spark plug is the catalyst that triggers good team chemistry. Personally, without a spark plug's support, many of my leadership efforts might have faltered. So, who are these people? What is a spark plug person? How do they contribute so much? Why are they essential to leaders? And, what can leaders do to encourage them?

<https://journals.tdl.org/llm/index.php/llm/article/download/1771/1046>

Images for The Spark Plug: A Leader's Catalyst for Change leading from the middle

<https://leadstar.us/books/spark/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Catalyst-Leader-Essentials-Becoming-Change/dp/1400276691>

<http://powersresourcecenter.com/are-you-a-catalyst-leader/>

<https://www.jmlalonde.com/become-catalyst-leader/>

Images for become-catalyst-leader

Connections

Texts – 11 Pentecost A 2014

Children's Message – I talked with the children about the word synod means "walking together." We walked together up and down the aisle to demonstrate that it is possible to walk together.

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

oremus Bible Browser: [Matthew 16:13-20](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=275477240)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=275477240>

[Images for Peter's Declaration about Jesus](#)

Sermon Notes - I talked about the historical divide between Roman Catholics and Protestants on what is meant by the "rock" with Roman Catholics speaking of the Petrine Office [papacy] giving unity to the church, while Protestants believe the rock refers to Peter's declaration about Jesus. I admitted growing up in a Scandinavian Lutheran enclave without much connection to the Roman Catholics. I went on to relate how at the seminary, some of the professors spoke of the ecumenical dialogues which turned out to lay the foundation for our agreements and relationships today. Then I shared how at a recent assignment, our Lutheran youth went Christmas caroling with the Roman Catholic youth and priest. Both are able to do activities together even though the theological stances may differ. From there I talked about our connections as close as the congregation down the street to our companion parish in Malawi and including, among other congregations in the community, the conference, synod, churchwide, and around the world.

Songs

All Are Welcome
Blest Be the Tie that Binds
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
In Christ, There Is No East or West
Rise, O Sun of Righteousness
The Church's One Foundation
We Are All One in Christ
We Are Called
Where True Charity and Love Abide
Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

At another assignment on the Sundays of 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 after Pentecost B 2015, I preached a sermon series on transition dynamics. Brief sermon notes are provided to show how I used the texts to address the theme.

Lectionary B 2015

Heritage

Text – 9 Pentecost B 2015

The Greatness and Goodness of God

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.
The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.
The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

oremus Bible Browser: [Psalm 145:10-18](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=109554364)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=109554364>

[Images for Greatness and Goodness of God](#)

Psalm 145 - The Text This Week

<http://www.textweek.com/writings/psalm145.htm>

Images for Psalm 145 - The Text This Week

Sermon Notes – I invited the assembly to live in the spirit of the Psalmist especially in the words of the Psalm:

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

I also stated that the words of the hymn **God's Word Is Our Great Heritage** tell how the word of God spoke creation into existence, Jesus Christ came as God's word, and the Holy Spirit makes the word present. In addition I reminded the assembly of the Reformation heritage as well as the commemoration of **MARTYR-KING OLAF OF NORWAY** (July 29).

From there I made references to the centennial history. I emphasized thankfulness and inspiration. I also related how I had taken in 2 nights of lumberjack demonstration and contest that week to get a flavor of the community heritage. I concluded by again appealing to the spirit of the Psalmist that this assembly might be characterized by the words of the Psalm:

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Identity

Text – 10 Pentecost B 2015

Unity in the Body of Christ

⁴I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." ⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 4:1-16

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=213721816>

[Images for Unity in the Body of Christ](#)

Ephesians 4:1-16 Commentary by Mark Tranvik - Working Preacher

Paul begins our section by reminding his listeners that he is a "prisoner in the Lord" (4:1). However, as Paul sees it, his frequent stays in prison are never without purpose. He does not simply refer to himself as a prisoner but as a "prisoner in the Lord" (compare 3:1). We might consider imprisonment to be a "waste" of time because it inhibits our freedom to do what we want to do. But Paul has a different perspective. Even confinement does not diminish his energy for his mission in life: to proclaim Christ. Indeed, he even reports to the church of the Philippians that his imprisonment serves to spread the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:12-14). Perhaps there are two lessons that might be drawn from Paul's example.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1348

[Images for Apostle Paul a prisoner in the Lord](#)

Sermon Notes— Paul identifies himself as a "prisoner of the Lord." I transitioned by saying that this time of year reporters ask football coaches about the identity of their team. Coaches usually give some variation of "smart, disciplined, tough." What are the marks of the Christian faith community? I then picked out four marks and spoke on them, while acknowledging that there is enough material in this one passage to make for an entire series as did a prominent Baptist preacher in Minneapolis, MN **Messages on Ephesians 4 | Desiring God** Worthy – Unity – Ministry – Maturity. I then related how I visited a timber museum and a tourism museum in the community in the previous work and how that helped me to gain a flavor for the congregation and the community.

I also related how, though the congregation may have been a neighborhood congregation in its beginning, it had now become a regional congregation.

On a lighter note, I recounted being asked to visit a member living by a lake 30 miles north. From 40 previous congregations, I thought I knew how to find my way around, but I met my match. My first clue was the member saying, "Forget about **Official MapQuest - Maps, Driving Directions, Live Traffic**, and **Google Maps**, because they don't work up here. After I finally found the place, I sighed, "I grew up in Montana and Iowa where the roads are laid out like a checkerboard. This ain't Iowa, and it sure ain't Montana."

I concluded by saying that I looked forward to the partnership in the gospel for the "building up the body of Christ."

Elijah Flees from Jezebel

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' ⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' ⁶ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' ⁸ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

oremus Bible Browser: 1 Kings 19:4-8

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=1+Kings+19%3A4-8>

[Images for elijah flees from jezebel](#)

1 Kings 19:4-8 Commentary - Working Preacher

What Elijah receives are practical, tangible provisions that enable him to go "in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights" (verse 8). What is given, then, is sufficient and strengthening. The gospel lectionary for today identifies Jesus as the living bread that came down from heaven (John 6:51). Certainly, the bread of Jesus gives us strength for the journeys in our lives, however difficult or overwhelming they may be.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1429

[Images for Prophet Elijah strength of that food 40 days](#)

Sermon Notes— Elijah flees from Jezebel and asks God that he might die, but an angel of the Lord says to him, "'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' ⁸ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God." The journey seemed too much for Elijah, but God called, led, and fed him.

I recounted how I went to see the children's community theatre production of "Into the Woods" the previous Sunday afternoon **CCT cast and crew head 'Into the Woods'** and expanded on the journey theme. In the end, the survivors banded together to move forward.

Prologue into the Woods Lyrics - Metro Lyrics

[LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD]

Into the woods

And down the dell,

The path is straight,

I know it well.

Into the woods,

And who can tell

What's waiting on the **journey**?

Into the woods

To bring some bread

To Granny who

Is sick in bed.

Never can tell

What lies ahead.

For all that I know,

She's already dead.

But into the woods,

Into the woods,

Into the woods

To Grandmother's house

And home before dark.

<http://www.metrolyrics.com/prologue-into-the-woods-lyrics-into-the-woods.html>

From there I spoke of Diana Butler Bass and her spiritual memoir *Strength for the Journey: A Pilgrimage of Faith in Community* and how I heard her speak at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. **2012 Mid-Winter Convocation - The Great Religious Recession - Diana Butler Bass**

Strength for the Journey: A Pilgrimage of Faith in Community by Diana Butler Bass (Author)

In *Strength for the Journey*, Diana Butler Bass illustrates the dynamic strength and persistence of mainline Protestantism.

While many baby boomers left the church, only to come back later in life, Bass was a "stayer" who witnessed the struggles and changes and found much there that was meaningful. Offering thought-provoking portraits of eight parishes she attended over two decades, she explores the major issues that have confronted mainline denominations, congregations, and parishioners during those years--from debates over women clergy to conflicts about diversity and community to scrimmages between tradition and innovation.

<http://www.amazon.com/Strength-Journey-Pilgrimage-Faith-Community/dp/0787974250>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/496471.Strength_for_the_Journey
https://books.google.com/books/about/Strength_for_the_Journey.html?id=Fxw4DwAAQBAJ
<https://eewc.com/strength-for-the-journey/> Book Review
<http://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/blogs/spiritually-speaking/standing-together-on-our-shared-journey-strengthens-community-1.9711740>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana_Butler_Bass
<http://dianabutlerbass.com/books/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Diana-Butler-Bass/e/B001HCYT84>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/135053.Diana_Butler_Bass
[Images for diane butler bass](#)
[Images for Strength for the Journey: A Pilgrimage of Faith in Community by Diana Butler Bass \(Author\)](#)

On a lighter note, I related how **Garrison Keillor** of **A Prairie Home Companion** with **Garrison Keillor** speaks of how powdermilk biscuits “give shy people the strength to get up and do what needs to be done.”

A Prairie Home Companion - Wikipedia

The show is “sponsored” by the fictitious product “**Powdermilk Biscuits**”, whose slogan is: “Made from whole wheat raised in the rich bottomlands of the Lake Wobegon river valley by Norwegian bachelor farmers, so you know they’re not only good for you, but also pure, mostly”, which “give shy persons the strength to get up and do what needs to be done. Heavens, they’re tasty and expeditious.” Powdermilk Biscuits has its own theme song, sung by Keillor every week.^[5]

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

[Images for Prairie Home Companion](#)

Powder Milk Biscuits ad from A Prairie Home Companion 30th Anniversary - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TV_ypixEB8&list=RD9TV_ypixEB8

[Images for Powder Milk Biscuits ad from A Prairie Home Companion 30th Anniversary - YouTube](#)

Promise for the journey – Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.” The crucified and risen Christ is made present in the bread and wine of the meal. The assembly in Gathering–Word–Meal–Sending lives out its journey of faith.

Mission

Text – 12 Pentecost B 2015

Wisdom’s Feast

- 9 Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- ² She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
- ³ She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
- ⁴ ‘You that are simple, turn in here!’
To those without sense she says,
- ⁵ ‘Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
- ⁶ Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.’

oremus Bible Browser: Proverbs 9:1-6

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Proverbs+9:1-6>

[Images for Wisdom’s Feast](#)

Proverbs 9:1-6 Commentary by Sara Koenig – Working Preacher

The **wise person’s life**—though the call is to the one who is simple and who lacks sense—is to dwell in Wisdom’s house, where there are ample provisions and life, in contrast with the house of Folly with its lesser offerings and its death. As the beginning of Proverbs tells us, though, wisdom can always increase even among the wise (Proverbs 1:5). Thus, more than a final destination, to dwell in the house of Wisdom is a process that continues throughout the life of the one who answers her invitation.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=370

[Images for wise person’s life](#)

Proverbs 9:1-6 Commentary by Wil Gafney - Working Preacher

Wisdom’s table is a metaphor for the acquisition of wisdom. But what is wisdom? It is more than innate intelligence or sense; for it can be gained by those who lack it. In Biblical Hebrew, wisdom is as much technical expertise or craft(wo)manship as it is intellectual knowledge. I tell my students that it is heart-and-hand knowledge -- for the Israelites, the heart (not the head) was the source thought and choice.

The women (Exodus 35:26) and men (Exodus 31:6) who craft the Tabernacle in the wilderness are all called wise; if Israel keeps the Torah they will be a "wise and understanding people" in Deuteronomy 4:6; the wise woman who led her city seems to be the governing official who saves her people from certain death by shrewd and lethal political dealing in 2 Samuel 20:22, and of course the wisdom of Solomon was legendary, 1 Kings 4:29. So wisdom is craft: statecraft, Torah-craft, craftwomanship, craftsmanship and craftiness.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1360
[Images for wise and understanding people](#)

Sermon notes - The gift of wisdom. The difference between wisdom and information. Information overload. The church offers the message that God is the source of true wisdom.

The invitation is given near and far.

My personal mission statement is – *Motivated by the love of Jesus, I spread goodwill.*

I acknowledge the mission statement of the congregation developed during an earlier visioning process with an outside consultant –

A congregation of Christ's baptized people being led by the Spirit to serve God within our broader community by:

Celebrating the presence of God;
Cultivating the spiritual growth of members;
Caring for the needs of all people; and
Communicating Christ to all.

My philosophy of worship is "invite and involve."

A mission orientation is to reach beyond in order to share the good news.

I thank God that you have answered the invitation to come to the meal where Jesus is present in bread and wine.

I thank God that this congregation sets the table and offers the meal to three different gathered assemblies each weekend of members, attenders, newcomers, and guests.

I thank God that this congregation sets the table and offers a meal at the community supper each Wednesday.

Leadership

Text – 10 Pentecost B 2015

Unity in the Body of Christ

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 4:11-16

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=213721816>

[Images for Unity in the Body of Christ](#)

Equipping the Saints - Equipping Faithful Disciples

From this passage, I want to ask four questions:

Who should be Equipped for the Ministry?
What is involved in this Equipping?
What is the purpose of the Equipping?
What is the result of this Equipping?

<http://www.equipsaints.org/equip.htm>

[Images for Equipping the Saints - Equipping Faithful Disciples](#)

I stated the mission statement of the congregation developed during an earlier visioning process with an outside consultant –

A congregation of Christ's baptized people being led by the Spirit to serve God within our broader community by:

Celebrating the presence of God;
Cultivating the spiritual growth of members;
Caring for the needs of all people; and
Communicating Christ to all.

And focused on [Celebrating the presence of God; Cultivating the spiritual growth of members;]

Celebrating the presence of God

Worship in whatever musical style is intended to celebrate the presence of God, but what about the other 167 hours in the week?
One of the books in the church library with a local connection was

All Nature Sings: Creation and New Creation through the Eyes of Scripture by J. Robert Jacobson

In his book *All Nature Sings* (Franciscan Press, Quincy University, 2002), former Lutheran bishop of Alberta J. Robert Jacobson notes that God's desire for us is that we truly live out the new kinship with all God's creation which was restored to us through the cross of Jesus Christ.

<http://www.amazon.com/J.-Robert-Jacobson/e/B001KI3CT2>

<http://www.albertasynod.ca/FCKeditor2FC1/UserFiles/File/Bishops%20Letters/Bishop's%20E-Message%20for%20July.%20August%202009.pdf>

<http://www.eastwestreport.org/articles/ew11201.html> What Lutherans and Other Protestants Can Learn from Orthodox Christians
[Images for All Nature Sings: Creation and New Creation through the Eyes of Scripture by J. Robert Jacobson](#)

Another was

Developing the Leader Within You by John C. Maxwell (Author)

God has called every believer to influence others, to be salt and light. *Developing the Leader Within You* will **equip** you to improve your leadership and inspire others.

<http://www.amazon.com/Developing-Leader-Within-John-Maxwell/dp/0785281126>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/183554.Developing_the_Leader_Within_You

https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/developing-the-leader-within-you-john-c-maxwell/1116693447#

<http://www.harpercollins.com.au/9781400201822/>

<https://www.thomasnelson.com/developing-the-leader-within-you-4>

<https://www.johnmaxwellacademy.com/p/the-leader-within-you>

<https://books.google.com/books?id=t7OIJNV6G34C>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0785266666>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_C._Maxwell

<https://www.amazon.com/John-C.-Maxwell/e/B001H6NROC>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/68.John_C_Maxwell

[Images for John C. Maxwell \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Developing the Leader Within You by John C. Maxwell \(Author\)](#)

"[Barth] recalls that 40 years ago he advised young theologians to take your Bible and take your newspaper and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible." [Quotes by Barth - Princeton Theological Seminary Library]

I related my experience of the previous week in looking for the presence of God in the local newspaper. Even as I recite the Creed each worship service in which I profess my faith in the Creator God, an article on monarch butterflies helped me to appreciate God's handiwork. When I looked at the terse depictions in the On Patrol column, I was first reminded of the Jack Webb character of Joe Friday on *Dragnet* (TV Series 1951–1959), but on deeper reflection I realized that God is using human instruments to keep peace and order. I made mention of the courthouse and law enforcement nearby, as well as the ambulance service, forest ranger station, and National Guard armory all in the neighborhood. I reflected on Martin Luther's explanation to the first article of the Creed and also the explanation to the "daily bread" petition in the Lord's Prayer. In addition, I lifted up an article about a Boy Scout project on the church grounds of a prayer chapel for people to meditate.

Resource for Celebrating God's Presence

[PDF] Celebrating God's Presence

Let every encounter with another human being be an encounter with a being bearing the image of God. Let every act of help and charity be to Jesus in the person before us. Decorate our home and workplace with things that will remind us of God's presence; a small cross, an inspirational poster, a Christian theme screen-saver, a plaque with Bible verses or the Bible placed in a prominent place.

<http://www.kairos2.com/Celebrating%20the%20Presence%20of%20God.htm>

[Images for Celebrating God's Presence](#)

Resources for Cultivating the Spiritual Growth of Members

Cultivating Spiritual Growth | Stewardship of Life

What do gardening and the Christian life have in common? For one thing, they both involve cultivation and tending. If you plant a garden, you don't simply walk away and come back at the end of summer to harvest the fruits and vegetables. If you do, you won't find much there aside from a patch of overgrown weeds and dried up sickly plants. One must water, fertilize, train vines, attend to pests and diseases, pinch off dead leaves and stems, and keep away hungry critters that would steal and devour the plants and their tender, young fruits. It is hard but rewarding work. To plant a garden is to invest in the future of one's well-being and bountiful table. Such work requires love, attention, care, and commitment.

<http://www.stewardshipoflife.org/2012/07/cultivating-spiritual-growth/>

[Images for Cultivating Spiritual Growth](#)

Joyce Rupp - The Art of Cultivating Spiritual Growth

I always ask people to introduce me as a farmer's daughter, because the older I get and the longer I write, the more I see that my writing really comes out of my roots on the farm. I am very wedded to the earth; that's where I find a lot of spiritual connectedness, with nature.

<http://www.joycerupp.com/Interview.html>

Images for spiritual connectedness with nature

I told of two resources I use. One is **Faith 5 - Faith Inkubators** Share-Read-Talk-Pray-Bless in Confirmation. This practice is expanded in his book - **The FAITH5: Holding Your Family Together (5 Simple Steps to Help Bring Your Family Closer to God and Each Other)** by Dr. **Rich Melheim** that families can also use. Another is "Liturgy as a Model for the Christian Life" that I offer to people preparing for marriage [see Chapter 2. Worship. Appendix – Occasional Services.]

At the end, I told how the transition period is also a time of discernment to ascertain the vision and mission of the congregation in order to determine what leadership characteristics are most desired in a new installed pastor in order to carry out the partnership of the gospel in this place.

Conclusion – Leadership equips and builds.

Connections

Text – 8 Pentecost B 2015

One in Christ

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh, he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 2:11-22

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Ephesians+2:11-22>

[Images for one in christ](#)

Sermon notes – I started out with the various metaphors Paul uses to show how people of faith are connected to each other.

Ephesians 2:11-22 - Working Preacher

It is a sad fact that, even though the world is shrinking, and we have possibilities of communication like never before, the world is fragmented into so many different groups and camps. The **church can model the barrier-free life** that Christ has brought.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=345

[Images for church can model the barrier-free life](#)

I told an example of extreme disconnectedness in the world by relating how I attended a seminar for teachers, law enforcement, and clergy on "Why Teens Kill" by **Phil Chalmers** who has been studying youth culture for 25 years, as well as juvenile homicide and juvenile mass murder for 20 years. The world needs the gospel message the church offers.

I then reviewed the transition dynamics.

I commended the congregation for being connected in the community and to the larger church.

Partnership Ministries of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Below is a partial list of partnership ministries that reveal the breadth and depth of our ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ.

http://www.nwswi.org/our_faith_in_action/partnership_ministries.phtml

[Images for Partnership Ministries of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

Lectionary C 2016

At another assignment on the Sundays of 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16 after Pentecost C 2016, I preached a sermon series on transition dynamics. (On 15PentecostC, I focused on Faith in Daily Life as a part of Labor Day weekend.) Brief sermon notes are provided to show how I used the texts to address the theme.

My first Sunday 9PentecostC, A Litany for Welcome of a New Interim Pastor was used. The Gospel text (Luke 10:38-42) on Martha and Mary welcome to Jesus lent itself nicely. In addition, I pointed ahead to the sermon series on transition dynamics by suggesting that

Mary and Martha demonstrate reflection and action.

Heritage

Text: 11PentecostC 2016

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' ¹⁴But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' ¹⁵And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" ¹⁸Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

oremus Bible Browser: Luke 12:13-21

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Luke+12:13-21>

[Images for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions](#)

Parable of the Rich Fool - Wikipedia

The Parable of the Rich Fool is a [parable of Jesus](#) which appears in [Luke 12:13-21](#). It reflects the foolishness of attaching too much importance to wealth.

The parable has been depicted by artists such as [Rembrandt](#).



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

[Images for Parable of the Rich Fool](#)

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.'

A rabbi is enjoined to help settle a family dispute over an inheritance. As Jesus often does, he takes a presenting situation and makes it a learning occasion. The question can be asked, "What is the true inheritance?"

My father died in 2014, and it could be said that the division of the inheritance was not without its challenges. I appreciate the assets I inherited from my father. But more than that, I appreciate the heritage of faith that he handed down.

My father, a man of faith and a carpenter asked that I say a few words at his funeral. I recalled his bumper sticker on the refrigerator:

My Boss is a Jewish Carpenter. He put this saying above his bed at the nursing home, so I concluded it was more than a cute saying. It was a statement of faith. I figured he did not want me to extol his virtues but to give a statement of faith urging people to build their life on a sure foundation, that is Jesus Christ our Lord.

(It just so happened that the one congregation regularly used a Norwegian Service at an old Norwegian church outside of town the last Sunday of July, so I began the sermon series with heritage on that Sunday. I read the following from their Diamond Jubilee history book:)

In 1872 and 1873 the first Norwegian Pioneers began to settle in this community. As years went by more settlers and their families moved in – friends they used to know in Norway. Others came because they wanted to be near people who spoke the same language as was spoken in their native land.

They were few in number and poor in worldly goods, but they brought along, from when they came, a precious **heritage** which they were concerned in keeping and passing on to their children. This heritage was the word of God.

(I also talked about the heritage of worship that has been passed down as I used the Norwegian Rite of 1889. [See Chapter 3. Worship. Worship Planning and Resources (2).])

Identity

Text: 12PentecostC 2016

The covenant with Abraham

¹⁵After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' ²But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' ³And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' ⁵He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count

them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD ⁷reckoned it to him as righteousness.

oremus Bible Browser: Genesis 15:1-6

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Genesis+15:1-6>

[Images for covenant with Abraham](#)

Faith **identity** can be traced to Abraham who is the patriarch for the three major religions.

Abrahamic religions - Wikipedia

As of 2005, it was estimated that 54% (3.6 billion people) of the world's population considered themselves adherents of an Abrahamic religion, about 32% adherents of other religions, and 16% adherents of no organized religion. Christianity is the largest Abrahamic faith, with 33% of the world's population, Islam is second with 21%, and Judaism has 0.2%. ^{[12][13]}

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

[Images for Abrahamic religions](#)

On a lighter note, a children's song talks about how Father Abraham had many sons. Although there are actions associated with this song, I will not ask you to do them.

Father Abraham - Child Bible Songs

Father Abraham had many sons

Had many sons had Father Abraham

I am one of them

And so are you

So, let's just praise the Lord

[Yell "right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg, chin up, turn around, sit down" and move all, as if marching. Sit down at the end.]

<http://childbiblesongs.com/song-27-father-abraham.shtml>

[Images for Father Abraham - Child Bible Songs](#)

Christianity holds that the promises made to Abraham are fulfilled in Jesus. Followers of Jesus are called Christians.

Christianity - Wikipedia

Christianity^[note 1] is an **Abrahamic monotheistic^[1] religion** based on the **life** and **teachings** of **Jesus Christ**. It is the **world's largest religion**,^{[2][3]} with over 2.4 billion adherents,^{[4][5][6][note 2]} known as **Christians**.^[note 3] Christians believe that Jesus is the **Son of God** and the **savior of humanity** whose coming as the **Messiah** (the **Christ**) was prophesied in the **Old Testament**.^[7]

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

[Images for Christianity](#)

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in her columns for *The Lutheran* and now *Living Lutheran* insists that the core **Lutheran identity is theological and not cultural**.

Resources

ELCA presiding bishop offers four emphases in understanding church

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), introduced four emphases that she has invited leaders to consider in their work as an understanding of this church.

During her Feb. 28 report to the ELCA Conference of Bishops, an advisory body of the church that includes 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop and secretary, **Eaton defined these understandings: "We are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and we are church for the sake of the world."**

As she expounded on each of the four emphases, Eaton said that at the center "of our life together is worship, and at the center of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. We are in the faith formation business; not to get more members, not to get more market share, but to know Christ and Christ crucified."

<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7649>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zEi8p1ZwNI> We Are Church Together -ELCA Synod Assembly 2014 – YouTube

[Images for ELCA presiding bishop offers four emphases in understanding church](#)

[Images for "We are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and we are church for the sake of the world."](#)

What is 'Lutheran'? We have a particular way of understanding the Jesus story - The Lutheran Magazine

STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON

If culture and cuisine don't define us, our theology must. Lutherans have a very particular way of understanding the Jesus story. It's not a movement from unbridled freedom to submission. Rather, it's the story of God redeeming us from sin, death and the devil, setting us free from our bondage to sin so that, liberated and alive, we may serve God by serving the neighbor. And it's not about our effort or goodness or hard work. It's about God's gracious will to be merciful.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12786

[Images for What is 'Lutheran'? We have a particular way of understanding the Jesus story - The Lutheran Magazine STORY BY](#)

[ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/category/from-the-presiding-bishop/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/elizabeth-a-eaton/>

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

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

<https://www.elca.org/About/Leadership/Churchwide-Officers/Presiding-Bishop>

[Images for Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton](#)

What it means to be Lutheran - Living Lutheran

Neither culture nor behavior define what is distinctive about the Lutheran movement. It's our understanding of the gospel. The gospel word creates faith. The gospel word is judgment and promise. Faith created by this gospel word sets people free to serve the neighbor. The church's proper work is to proclaim the gospel word. You know, in the end, it's all about God's fierce and tender love that drives us to the cross, and there, at the very point of death, gives us life. The world deserves to hear the gospel—when the spotlight is on us, and when it is not.

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: bishop@elca.org.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/06/17390/>

[Images for What it means to be Lutheran – Living Lutheran](#)

Upcoming week is 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Theme is an identity statement.

Churchwide Assembly - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Freed and Renewed in Christ

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. Finding ourselves in Christ, the fourteenth Churchwide Assembly will be a time for us to be the living body of Christ guided by the Spirit and conformed to God's will.

When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf the entire church.



<https://www.elca.org/en/CWA-2016>

[Images for Churchwide Assembly – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

I shared from a 125th anniversary booklet responses to the question: What do you like best about your church?

I like a country church (small, rural church, know most of the people)

It is a caring church. You feel right at home.

The friendliness among fellow parishioners.

The peaceful, quaint location.

It feels like a second home.

It's a beautiful country church full of families that have worshipped together since I can remember.

I related that attending community fairs helps me to get a feel for community and area. I told about attending 4 such fairs in 3 weekends.

I talked about the call process and the ministry site profile.

[PDF]Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository

PART I WHO WE ARE

1. Name and Location

CONGREGATION/ MULTIPLE POINT PARISH/ ORGANIZATION NAME CONG ID

CITY, STATE, ZIP COUNTRY

SYNOD TYPE OF MINISTRY SITE YEAR ORGANIZED

SIZE OF COMMUNITY

Date Completed:

2. Contact Information

ADDRESS LINE I ADDRESS LINE II CITY, STATE, ZIP COUNTRY

E-MAIL WEB SITE PHONE FAX

Chairperson of Congregation or Head of the Organization

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

3. Demographics

Language Spoken
In the congregation/ organization
PRIMARY LANGUAGE SECOND LANGUAGE THIRD LANGUAGE
In the surrounding community
PRIMARY LANGUAGE SECOND LANGUAGE THIRD LANGUAGE
Race/ Ethnicity (In the Congregation)
LARGEST (%) SECOND (%) THIRD (%) FOURTH (%)
Race/ Ethnicity (Surrounding Community)
LARGEST (%) SECOND (%) THIRD (%) FOURTH (%)
Gender comparison Age distribution
MALE (%) FEMALE (%)
19 YEARS OR YOUNGER (%) 20 - 34 (%) 35 - 49 (%) 50 - 65 (%) OVER 65 (%)
Number of Paid Staff
CLERGY
LAY ROSTERED
OTHER LAY PROFESSIONALS
SECRETARIAL SUPPORT
CUSTODIAL SUPPORT
OTHER
Congregational Information
AVE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AVE ATTENDANCE IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PARISH TYPE
Distance members live from church facilities:
1/2 MILE OR LESS (%) 1/2 - 1 MILE (%) 1 - 3 MILES (%) MORE THAN 3 MILES (%)
Community Type
o Bedroom community o College or University o Farming
o Inner City o Mining/logging o Ranching
o Industrial o Resort o Retirement

4. Budget of the Congregation/ Organization

LAST FISCAL YEAR
TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE LAST FISCAL YEAR
TOTAL DEBT OF THE CONGREGATION/ ORGANIZATION AT THE END OF THE LAST FISCAL YEAR
MISSION SUPPORT TO THE ELCA/ SYNOD FOR THE LAST FISCAL YEAR
TOTAL SAVINGS, RESERVES, ENDOWMENT AT THE END OF THE LAST FISCAL YEAR

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

Characteristics

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

Context

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

Trends

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

Programs

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

Goals

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

Energy

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

Partnership

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

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Sample_Ministry%20Site%20Profile.pdf
[Images for Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository PART I WHO WE ARE](#)

Conclusion – Abrahamic, Christian, Lutheran, congregation, community

A cloud of witnesses

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

oremus Bible Browser: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=144573019>

[Images for cloud of witnesses](#)

This past week athletes have been competing in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. They have trained for years with their eyes on the prize.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games: Usain Bolt: I hope to run the race of my life

When the 2016 Olympic Games kicks off on August 5, Usain Bolt will be thinking about one thing and that is running the fastest he ever has.

<http://www.marca.com/en/olympic-games/2016/07/31/579dc90a46163fde4f8b459f.html>

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

[Images for Rio 2016 Olympic Games: Usain Bolt](#)

Paul uses an athletic metaphor for encouraging endurance.

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Commentary by Amy LB Peeler – Working Preacher

From the miraculous to the macabre, the faithful of Israel's past provide the encouragement this congregation needs to keep **running their own race of faith**.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2944

[Images for running their own race of faith](#)

How to Run a 1600 M Race (with Pictures) - wikiHow

Start strong and beeline for lane one. Avoid getting boxed in. Moderate your pace for the first lap. Cruise your second lap and focus on form. Plan your speed by turn. Surge with other runners if it puts you at an advantage. Prepare yourself mentally for lap three.



<http://www.wikihow.com/Run-a-1600-M-Race>

[Images for How to Run a 1600 M Race](#)

This past week the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly convened in New Orleans and, among other things, addressed Called Forward Together in Christ.

Called Forward Together in Christ - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The ELCA is a young church at only 28 years old. It is a good time to take a look at where we are as God's people and try to understand what God has in store for us. And we think it is an exciting time to be looking forward together as we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. We want to create a **vision** for the future ELCA – as a church with solid foundations sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and making a difference in the world locally and globally. And as a church that we can be proud to pass on to our children.

We want to discover how we can continue to faithfully serve God's mission in the years ahead and reach a shared understanding among church leaders about the ministries that are most important. And we want to assess whether the structures that were set up for this church are right for the future, and as part of this consider how we use our resources in the best possible way. There are many challenges.

Called Forward Together in Christ

<https://www.elca.org/future>

<https://www.elca.org/en/Future-Direction/The-Process>

<https://www.elca.org/en/Future-Direction/Timeline>

<https://vimeo.com/156902052> Called Forward Together in Christ from ELCA on Vimeo

[Images for Called Forward Together in Christ – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

Transition Dynamic

Vision	Future	Where is God leading?
Vision	discern what it is this congregation understands God is calling this congregation to be	

The front cover on newsletter for this month showed an art piece with Christ on the cross with the words: Look back and thank God. Look forward and trust God. "Look back and thank God" speaks to heritage, while "Look forward and trust God" speaks to vision. The mission statement is at the bottom of the page: "Our mission is to share the love of Christ with each other, our community, and the world." Various elements of identity, leadership, and connections become apparent inside the newsletter.

I shared from a 125th anniversary booklet responses to the question: What are your hopes for the future of (congregation)?

My hope is that (congregation) will remain faithful to God's word and sacrament and continue to be a witness to the gospel, to the community all around us and beyond.

I pray that we continue to thrive as a church and community of God's people.

I hope (congregation) goes on forever. In my life time, I had a lot of adversity and (congregation) was my life line. Good Church – Good People!

May (congregation) continue to provide a spiritual home for many years to come.

I hope the church gets even better at sharing the love of Christ with each other, our community, and the world.

My hope for the future of (congregation) is that many more generations will be able to feel the love of God and family in a very special place.

Task forces at each congregation will begin work on the Ministry Site Profile.

[PDF]Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository

PART II: OUR VISION FOR MISSION

6. Ministry Site Characteristics

AS A COMMUNITY

A LOT
LIKE US

We tend to be formal and programmatic.

We have clearly defined goals and plans for our future.

We are racially and economically diverse.

A LITTLE
LIKE US

A LOT
LIKE US

o o o o We tend to be informal and spontaneous.

o o o o We have no stated goals or plans.

o o o o We are demographically homogeneous.

A LITTLE
LIKE US

OUR LEADERSHIP STYLE

We welcome ideas that are provoking and challenging.

We rely on our leaders for directions.

We have learned how to use conflict constructively.

o o o o We prefer ideas that are tried and true.

o o o o We rely on group decision-making.

o o o o We tend to perceive conflict as something destructive.

OUR PROGRAMMING

Our facilities are often used by community groups.

We train people to minister outside our walls.

We focus on ideas and beliefs.

o o o o Our facilities are only used for our activities.

o o o o We train people to minister inside our walls.

o o o o We focus on skills and action.

OUR THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

We are obviously Lutheran in identify and practice.

We participate in synod and ELCA activities.

We focus on Biblical studies and doctrine.

o o o o We are less obvious about our Lutheran heritage.

o o o o We are not very active in the synod and ELCA.

o o o o We focus on contemporary issues and topics

7. Purpose, Giftedness and Mission

Purpose

How does this congregation or organization understand its reason for being in the light of God's call to mission and service?

Who are you? Why are you here?

Giftedness

What are your gifts and resource for fulfilling this purpose? What are the congregation's or organizations top three assets and how are they being used? Are there obstacles that must be overcome to be able to use these gifts and accomplish the mission?

Mission

In light of the way you have described your ministry context in this Ministry Site Profile, what are the top three mission priorities which, if accomplished, hold the most promise for the continued development of this ministry?

8. Summary Description

Please describe your ministry setting and position opening in 75 words or less. This is the brief description that will be publicized.

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

[Images for Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository PART II: OUR VISION FOR MISSION](#)

Mission

Text: 14PentecostC 2016

The service the Lord desires

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noon-day. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; ¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

oremus Bible Browser: Isaiah 58:9-14

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Isaiah+58:9-14&version=nrsv>

[Images for service the Lord desires](#)

Your light shall rise in the darkness

Sabbath is for worship and rest.

Worship is Gathering – Word – Meal – Sending.

The gathered assembly is fed by the word and the meal and then sent forth to shine a light in the darkness.

Resources

Isaiah 58:9b-14 Commentary by Brian C. Jones - Working Preacher

[The Moral Imperative of Sabbath Rest](#)

http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1756

[Images for Moral Imperative of Sabbath Rest](#)

Isaiah 58:9b-14 Commentary by James Limburg - Working Preacher

One of the marks of the [Jews](#) during this time was [observation of the Sabbath](#).

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2954

[Images for Jews observation of the Sabbath](#)

Transition Dynamic

Mission

Definition

What is God's purpose for this congregation?

Mission

define purpose and direction for the congregation in God's mission

At the recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton talked about worship and service.

[ELCA presiding bishop reflects on work of the church and looks to future priorities](#)

As a church for the sake of the world, Eaton said, "Some of the most important words that are spoken in a liturgy are: Go in peace, serve the Lord. So, we're sent out each worship time to be engaged in the world, understanding that we're nurtured by the sacraments and the word but that we are called to serve this world and not to see people as problems to be solved."

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7851>

[Images for ELCA presiding bishop reflects on work of the church and looks to future priorities](#)

She also spoke of the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

ELCA presiding bishop reflects on work of the church and looks to future priorities

In her report, Eaton also reflected on the upcoming 15th anniversary of the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, sharing the story of an ELCA chaplain in New York who anointed with oil the sign of the cross on firefighters as they entered the World Trade Center.

"In baptism, we have all been marked with the cross of Christ and are all called not to run away but to run to those dark and deadly places, bringing the light and life of Christ," she said.

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7851>

[Images for ELCA presiding bishop reflects on work of the church and looks to future priorities](#)

The mission statement of this congregation is "Our mission is to share the love of Christ with each other, our community, and the world." Within that mission statement, what specific purpose and direction is God calling this congregation to participate in God's mission?

The Ministry Site Profile asks questions regarding OUR VISION FOR MISSION.

[PDF]Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository

PART II: OUR VISION FOR MISSION

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

[Images for Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository PART II: OUR VISION FOR MISSION 6. Ministry Site Characteristics](#)

This Little Light of Mine - The Steeles - VAGALUME

Chorus:

This little light of mine,

I'm going to let it shine.

<https://www.vagalume.com.br/the-steeles/this-little-light-of-mine.html>

[Images for This Little Light of Mine](#)

Leadership

Text: 15PentecostC 2016

Concluding admonitions

Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show **hospitality to strangers**, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' ⁶So we can say with confidence,

'The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?'

⁷Remember your **leaders**, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

oremus Bible Browser: Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Hebrews+13:1-8,15-16>

[Images for hospitality to strangers](#)

Transition Dynamic

Leadership	Operation	How is God's purpose to be carried out?
Leadership		engage people of the congregation in God's mission

Leadership	Operation	How is God's purpose to be carried out?
------------	-----------	---

- mutual love
- hospitality to strangers
- remember those in prison
- hold marriage in honor
- as for money, be content

Leadership	engage people of the congregation in God's mission
------------	--

- remember your leaders
- imitate their faith

- praise to God
- do good
- share

Resources

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Commentary by Amy Peeler – Working Preacher

The instructions and the grounds for those instructions combine to create a template for ethics, a picture of how this community might live until they **finish the race of faith (Hebrews 12:1)** and enter God's heavenly city (Hebrews 12:22–24).

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2946

[Images for finish the race of faith \(Hebrews 12:1\)](#)

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Commentary by Bryan J. Whitfield – Working Preacher

How do we go about living as Christians in a society where we find ourselves increasingly on the margins?

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=658

[Images for living as Christians](#)

Hebrews 13:7 Commentary - John Gill's Exposition of the Bible

Remember them which have the rule over you

Christ's church is a kingdom, and he is King in it; pastors of churches are subordinate governors; who rule well when they rule not in an arbitrary way, according to their own wills, but according to the laws of Christ, with all faithfulness, prudence, and diligence. The word may be rendered "guides" or "leaders"; for such point out the way of peace, life, and salvation to men, and direct them to Christ; and guide them into the understanding of the Scriptures, and the truths of the Gospel; and lead them in the paths of faith and holiness and are examples to them. The Greek word, here used, is what the Jews call Christian bishops by; and (hgemonia), is, by Maimonides ^{E23}, said to be the same as (twdyqp) , "a bishopric": to "remember" them is to know, own, acknowledge, and respect them as their governors; to obey them, and submit to them; to treasure up in memory their doctrines and exhortations; to be mindful of them at the throne of grace, to pray for them; and to take care of their maintenance and outward supply of life:

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/hebrews-13-7.html>

[Images for remember them which have the rule over you](#)

Parents are leaders

[I officiated at a baptism that day, so it seemed natural to talk about responsibilities parents assume in baptism.] Martin Luther spoke in high regard of the position of mothers and fathers in 1522 as “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.” [Martin Luther, *Sermons on the Gospel*, trans. E. Schmid and D. M. Martens, vol. 1 (Rock Island: Augustana, 1871), vii.]

Remember Your Baptism

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Baptism Page 231

God has called you in baptism to be God’s very own. In baptism, you have been given a name and sealed with the sign of the cross. The gift of the Spirit is promised to you through this act of water and word. This great and wonderful gift assures you of Christ’s continued presence. As you live in your baptism, you grow in faith.

At the start of Sunday School, Confirmation, and youth activities this fall, this letter comes as a reminder to parents of the responsibilities assumed in Holy Baptism:

to live with them among God’s faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice in peace.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Baptism Page 228

We are glad for the Sunday School teachers and staff who will be working with our children to help them grow in faith. As pastor, I will be working with the Confirmation students on the basics of the Christian faith. Please come as families to worship. As a gathered people of God, young and old alike, we remember our baptism!

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

Leaders in the congregation

Installation of Elected Parish Officers – Occasional Services

Rostered leaders

[PDF]Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository

PART III: LEADERSHIP NEEDS

10. The Leader We Seek

Roster Type:

o Associate in Ministry o Deaconess o Diaconal Minister o Ordained Clergy o In Candidacy/First Call
POSITION TYPE EDUCATION FULL TIME/PART TIME

Language Proficiencies

PRIMARY LANGUAGE (PROFICIENCY) SECOND LANGUAGE (PROFICIENCY)

THIRD LANGUAGE (PROFICIENCY)

11. Top Five Ministry Tasks

o Administration	o Building a Sense of Children's Ministry
o Campus / Young Adult Ministry	o Chaplaincy
o Children's Ministry	o Christian Education
o Communications/ Media	o Community Organizing
o Conflict Management	o Counseling/ Social Work
o Early Childhood Administration	o Ecumenical Work
o Evangelism/ Mission	o Financial Management
o Global Service	o Innovation / Creativity
o Interim Ministry	o Interpret Theology
o Inter-personal Climate	o Ministry in Crisis
o Ministry in Daily Life	o Ministry with Seniors
o Multicultural Ministry	o Music / Worship / Arts
o Outdoor/ Camping Ministry	o Parish Nurse / Health
o Participant in the Larger Church	o Pastoral Care and Visitation
o Preaching / Worship Self Care/Family Life	o Public Policy/Advocacy
o Recruit and Equip Leaders	o Self Care / Family Life
o Small Group Ministry	o Social Ministry
o Spiritual Formation / Direction	o Stewardship

o Strategic Mission Planning	o Teaching
o Volunteer Coordination	o Youth and Family Ministry
<u>12. Gifts for Ministry</u>	
Experience:	
o 0-3 years	o 4-9 years o 10 -15 years o 16- 20 years o 21 + years
Top Priority	Very Helpful
Help people develop their spiritual life. Help people understand and act upon issues of social justice. Provide care and nurture. Be active in visitation of members and non-members. Be effective in working with children. Build a sense of community among the people with whom he/she works. Help others develop their leadership abilities and skills for ministry. Be an effective administrator. Be an effective communicator. Be an effective teacher. Encourage support of the Church's wider mission. Work regularly in the development of stewardship growth. Be active in ecumenical relationships. Be effective in working with youth. Organize people for community action. Be skilled in planning and leading programs. Have a strong commitment and loyalty to the Lutheran Church. Understand and interpret the mission of the Church from a global perspective. Deal effectively with conflict. Bring joy and good humor to relationships. Be able to share leadership and work in a team. Be creative and innovative about his or her tasks. Be able to use technology and media. Appreciate cultural diversity in language and customs. Have talents in the areas of music, arts and writing.	

13. Mutual Expectations

Please list the five primary areas of activity or focus that you wish your newly-called rostered leader to give special attention to during the first year of his or her ministry at this congregation or organization:

Please list the five ways that this congregation / organization will support and encourage the rostered leader during the first year in order to help her or him accomplish these responsibilities:

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

[Images for Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository PART III: LEADERSHIP NEEDS 10. The Leader We Seek](#)

Connections

Text: 17PentecostC 2016

Gratitude for Mercy

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

oremus Bible Browser: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=1+Timothy+1:12-17>

[Images for Gratitude for Mercy](#)

Transition Dynamic

Connections

Cooperation

Who are the partners in mission God provides?

Connections

explore all the relationships a congregation shares beyond itself

From Persecutor to Connector

I started out with Paul's account of his transformation from a persecutor.

1 Timothy 1:12-17 Commentary by Eric Barreto - Working Preacher

Last, this narrating of **Paul's call by Jesus** is a study in sharp contrasts. Paul was "a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence," and yet Jesus gives mercy and a call. Paul had "acted ignorantly in unbelief" while the "immortal, invisible, the only God" acted with grace and patience. Sinners -- that is, those who have denied the glory and honor due to God -- are not lost in hopelessness but delivered by Jesus Christ himself. A sermon may therefore invite us to imagine what sharp contrasts delineate a life of faith today. How has "the grace of our Lord overflowed" for you and for me? And how has that overwhelming grace empowered us and called us to turn to our neighbor and our God in love?

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3034

[Images for Apostle Paul's call by Jesus](#)

I went on to speak of the whole of his ministry as a missionary who started many churches.

What were the different missionary journeys of Paul?

Answer: The New Testament records Paul taking three missionary journeys that spread the message of Christ to Asia Minor and Europe. The apostle Paul was a well-educated, leading Jew named Saul. Living in Jerusalem just after Christ's death and resurrection, he did his best to destroy the Christian church. He even participated in the execution of the first Christian martyr, Stephen ([Acts 7:55–8:4](#)).

On his way to Damascus to find and imprison more Christians, Paul met the Lord. He repented, turning in faith to Jesus Christ. After this experience, he attempted to persuade Jews and Christians about his life-changing conversion. Many doubted and shunned him. Christians such as Barnabas, however, accepted and spoke up for him. Paul and Barnabas became missionary partners.

On three separate missionary journeys—each several years in length—Paul preached the news of Jesus in many coastal cities and trade route towns. The following is a brief chronicle of these missionary journeys:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/missionary-journeys-Paul.html>

[Images for missionary journeys of Paul](#)

I spoke of Paul as a connector referring to the following publication:

Connected - Bible Study Book: My Life in the Church by Thom Rainer (Author)

Connected: My Life in the Church Leader Kit by Dr. Thom S. Rainer provides a biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ through a study of the Book of Ephesians. This study moves us to see that God has placed us in our local churches to serve others, care for them, pray together, learn together, and grow together—all for the glory of God. This group Bible study is a great companion or follow-up to Dr. Rainer's *I Am a Church Member*. Group Member Book includes a small group experience for six sessions, applicable Scripture, key word study, and a life application section called "Live It Out." Purchase one for each member. Use with Bible Studies for *Life: Connected: My Life in the Church* Leader Kit. This release is part of Bible Studies for Life™ small group series, equipping you to understand how faith impacts your family, your career, and your struggles. And all the while challenges you to live out your faith, right where you are.

Session titles:

1. Connected in Christ—Ephesians 2:17-22
2. Connected in Unity—Ephesians 4:1-6
3. Connected in Growth—Ephesians 4:11-16
4. Connected Through Words—Ephesians 4:25-32
5. Connected in Service—Ephesians 5:15-21
6. Connected through Prayer—Ephesians 6:18-22

<http://www.lifeway.com/Product/connected-bible-study-book-P005672342?intcmp=MTX-Rainer-PAPage-Button-Connected-20140108>

<http://storage.cloversites.com/maysvillebaptistchurchinc/documents/ya1ldr.pdf>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5da49NH_syE Connected by Thom Rainer (Trailer) - YouTube

<http://thomrainer.com/connected/>

<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-how-to/176672-thom-rainer-you-want-a-long-tenure-as-pastor-thom-rainer-has-10-traits-you-can-t-ignore.html> #3, #8

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomrainer>

<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B001IGLMVG>

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

[Images for thom rainer author](#)

[Images for Connected - Bible Study Book: My Life in the Church by Thom Rainer \(Author\)](#)

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton also urged the churchwide assembly on being church together.

ELCA presiding bishop reflects on work of the church and looks to future priorities

Focusing on **being church together**, Eaton said it is important members understand that church goes beyond the four walls of their congregations to include synods and the whole of the ELCA.

"But it's not just the ELCA. We are part of The Lutheran World Federation where we are church together, with churches from all across the world. And we're not just Lutheran," said Eaton referring to the ELCA's six full communion partners.

"We just can't somehow ignore that we live in an interreligious culture right now and that we need to work together, particularly at this time in this country when there's so much fear of the other, particularly of people of other religious traditions," she said.

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7851>

[Images for ELCA presiding bishop being church together](#)

17PentecostC 2016 fell on 9/11, so I touched on that event and related the words of ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton.

ELCA presiding bishop reflects on work of the church and looks to future priorities

In her report, Eaton also reflected on the upcoming 15th anniversary of the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, sharing the story of an ELCA chaplain in New York who anointed with oil the sign of the cross on firefighters as they entered the World Trade Center.

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7851>

[Images for ELCA presiding bishop 15th anniversary of the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001](#)

The Ministry Site Profile asks about the connection of the congregation to the churchwide and synod.

[PDF]Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository

PART I WHO WE ARE

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

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

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

[Images for Ministry Site Profile Sample - ELCA Resource Repository PART I WHO WE ARE 1. Trends in the community Context of the Congregation or Organization](#)

Let the Children Come

I showed the children (and the assembly) 8X10 photos of children from other countries as a part of a photo album taken on my travels (West Africa, Philippines, Central America, South America), sang the following song with the children (and the assembly), and explained that the invitation, "Let the children come" came from Jesus' words in Matthew 19:14.

Jesus loves the little children song and lyrics from KIDiddles

Chorus

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Black and yellow, red and white
They're all precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

<http://www.kididdles.com/lyrics/j007.html>

[Images for Jesus loves the little children](#)



Faith and Hope Refugee Camp near San Salvador, El Salvador. 1985.
Photo by Lowell Bolstad

Lectionary B 2018

Heritage

Text: 9PentecostB 2018

12 **remember** that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:12-13

[oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 2](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Ephesians+2>

[Images for remember that you were at that time without Christ](#)

Identity

Text: 10PentecostB 2018

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **citizens** with the saints and also **members** of the household of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21 In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Ephesians 2:19-22

[oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 2](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Ephesians+2>

[Images for you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God](#)

Vision

Text: 11PentecostB 2018

15 But speaking the truth in love, we must **grow** up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16

[oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 4](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Ephesians+4>

[Images for we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ](#)

Mission

Text: 12PentecostB 2018

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, 2 and **live in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Leadership

Text: 13PentecostB 2018

15 Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as **wise**, 16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil. 17 So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:15-16

[oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 5](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Ephesians+5>

[Images for live in love, as Christ loved us](#)

[Images for Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise](#)

Connections

Text: 14PentecostB 2018

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19 **Pray also for me**, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Ephesians 6:18-20

[oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 6](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Ephesians+6>

[Images for Pray also for me \(Apostle Paul\)](#)

3) Lectionary reading and presenting situation coincide

At times, a lectionary reading comes up at just the right time. Such was the case on 13Pentecost A 2014.

Reproving another who sins

15 'If another member of the church¹⁵ sins against you,¹⁶ go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸Truly

I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

oremus Bible Browser: Matthew 18:15-20

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Matthew+18:15-20>

[Images for reproving another who sins](#)

The following are some of the resources I used for Jesus' words on resolving conflict and achieving reconciliation.

Resources

FREE TO BE: A Handbook to Luther's Small Catechism [James A. Nestingen and Gerhard O. Forde]

Chapter 8 Fencing the Heart - The Eighth Commandment

Page 62

<http://www.amazon.com/FREE-Handbook-Luthers-Small-Catechism/dp/B001CS8AKG>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/james-nesting>

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

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/626337.James_Arne_Nesting

[Images for James A. Nestingen, author](#)

<http://fortresspress.com/author/gerhard-o-forde>

<https://www.amazon.com/Gerhard-O.-Forde/e/B001JS8B12>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115013.Gerhard_O_Forde

[Images for Gerhard O. Forde, author](#)

[Images for FREE TO BE: A Handbook to Luther's Small Catechism \[James A. Nestingen and Gerhard O. Forde\] Chapter 8 Fencing the Heart - The Eighth Commandment](#)

Hide a knife behind a smile [\[edit\]](#)

(笑裏藏刀／笑里藏刀, Xiào lǐ cáng dāo)

Charm and ingratiate yourself to your enemy. When you have gained his trust, move against him in secret.

Thirty-Six Stratagems - Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty-Six_Stratagems#Hide_a_knife_behind_a_smile

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Thirty-Six_Strategies

[Images for Hide a knife behind a smile](#)

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

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

***C15.01.** Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of the congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of the congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15–17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary: a) private counsel and admonition by the pastor, b) censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, c) written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and d) written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by paragraphs a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

https://www.elca.org/constitution_2019_Model_Constitution_for_Congregations

https://download.elca.org/>ELCA_Resource_Repository/>Model_Constitution

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

[Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository Chapter 15. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION](#)

The Lutheran Handbook: A Field Guide to Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff, and the Bible [Kristofer Skrade, James Satter]

How to Resolve Interpersonal Conflict

Page 118

How to Avoid Gossip

Page 114

The essential field guide for all things Lutheran. Confirmants or anyone hiking the trails of life's adventures and challenges will want to pack this handy illustrated field guide to Lutheran theology and culture. This enjoyable, easy-to-read, reliable, all-in-one collection helps you understand the essential information about our theology, culture and Lutheran way of life. Organized by Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff and Bible Stuff with how-to's like "How to Forgive Someone" and lists like "The Top-10 Bible Villains." Encapsulates essential principles of the Christian life, making many of the complexities of our religious tradition accessible for contemporary seekers.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Lutheran-Handbook-Church-Everyday/dp/0806651792>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/317165.The_Lutheran_Handbook
<https://www.logos.com/product/125780/the-lutheran-handbook-a-field-guide-to-church-stuff-everyday-stuff-and-the-bible>
<http://www.christianbookstoreandchurchsupplies.org/item/augsburg-fortress/the-lutheran-handbook/19692.html>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/lutheran-handbook-augsburg-fortress-publishers/1100072853?type=eBook>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451403216>
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Lutheran_Handbook.html?id=83TIDLqjxrsC
https://books.google.com/books/about/Lutheran_Handbook.html?id=XRiVOA9aA8sC
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TphMbMc6Z3A> Christian Book Review: The Lutheran Handbook: A Field Guide to Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff, and the Bible – YouTube
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/481885228849122188/> The essential field guide for all things Lutheran. Confirmants or anyone hiking the trails of life's adventures and challenges will want to pack.
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kristofer-skrade-44913416>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/182371.Kristofer_Skrade
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/182369.James_Satter
[Images for Resolve Interpersonal Conflict](#)
[Images for Avoid Gossip](#)
[Images for The Lutheran Handbook \[Kristofer Skrade, James Satter\]](#)

4) Bible Stories on Conflicts

An interim pastor in the NW Synod of WI preached a Lenten series on communal conflicts in the Bible and how God brought forgiveness, healing, and new life.

Raising Abel: Stories of Conflict, Healing and Hope from the Bible

Our Wednesday evening Lenten services will focus on some of the greatest and most entertaining stories in the Bible. Through these stories we will have to opportunity to enter into profound personal, family and communal conflicts and see how God used these situations to bring about forgiveness, healing and new life. Wednesday Lent services will be held at Our Saviour's at 5:30 and at Grace at 7:00 PM.

Ash Wednesday Feb 14 - Cain and Abel: Sibling rivalry goes nuclear Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 12:18-24

Wednesday Feb 21 - Jacob and Laban, Leah and Rachel: Just one big dysfunctional family Genesis 29:15-30; Genesis 31:25-55

Wednesday Feb 28 - Search for a scapegoat is the easiest of all hunting expeditions Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9:11-15

Wednesday March 7 - Haman and Mordecai: What goes around comes around Esther 4-7

Wednesday Mar 14 - Hebrews and Hellenists: How to have a successful church fight Acts 6:1-7

Wednesday March 21 - Paul and Barnabas: Breaking up is hard to do Acts 14:8-20; Acts 15:36-41

See you in church, Pastor Peter

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Newsletters

<http://oslcwhitehall.org/docs/February2018Messenger.pdf>

[Images for Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Whitehall, Wisconsin](#)

Page 1

"What are Lutherans good for?" Pastor Peter Jonas

Now that the dust has settled following the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, it seems an appropriate time to take stock and raise the question, "What are Lutherans good for?" Or more tactfully, what gifts do Lutherans bring to the witness of Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and are these gifts still needed today? The dynamism of the Lutheran Reformation was grounded in the rediscovery of the Biblical teaching that believers are saved by grace and not works of the law. Some have made the case that because modern people are not gripped by guilt and the fear of an angry God in the same way that medieval people were, that this emphasis has lost relevance. In the 1960's Bishop John A. T. Robinson famously wrote, "The world is not asking 'How can I find a gracious God?' It is asking 'How can I find a gracious neighbor?'" Subsequent history has certainly reinforced the importance of wrestling with Robinson's assertion. The deepest crisis of faith I have experienced was the result of coming to believe that religion has the capacity to make people worse, rather than better. Now to anyone who watches the news this seems like an obvious truism. But my personal crisis came from the recognition that this was true not just of other religions or other forms of Christianity that I judgmentally consider "unenlightened" but of my own Lutheran tradition. My "dark night of the soul" came from the recognition that as a preacher I lose control of words once they leave my mouth and that people can and do interpret those words in ways that reinforce tribalism, prejudice, violence and resentment. It was a heavy thing resentment. It was a heavy thing to recognize that as a religious leader, I am part of a process that can in fact make people worse.

My crisis of faith was healed through two realizations: First, I was able to let go of my own illusion of moral purity. I participate in and contribute to corrupt systems that sometimes make people worse, just like the rest of the human race. Second, I stepped back and gained a bit of perspective. Yes, religion, even Lutheran Christianity can and does make some people worse than they would be without it. But it also makes people better—more empathetic, more compassionate, more willing to see the humanness of all people. And truthfully, the practice of religion by imperfect people does both of these things at the same time in the same people, including me. I do think Lutheranism has something unique to offer when we consider all religions' potential for good or evil in the modern world. When we claim that salvation is through grace and not works of the law, the logical consequence of this is that the appropriate human response to this truth is gratitude. And my belief is that the posture of gratitude is the key to the healing of the nations. The first Psalm

speaks of two ways. I believe the fundamental choice one faces in life is whether a person sees his or her life as a series of accomplishments and achievements that he or she has earned and deserves, or as a series of miracles and blessings that result in a profound sense of wonder and gratitude. One way leads to resentment and judgment toward those who are undeserving and underachieving. The other way leads to a life of discipleship that is always looking for new ways to say, "thank you". One way leads to bitterness, the other leads to joy. All is grace. When we grasp this, the rest of the pieces all come together.

[PDF]The Messenger - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
<http://oslcwhitehall.org/docs/March2018Messenger.pdf>
[Images for Pastor Peter Jonas OSLC Whitehall, WI](#)

Page 1

5) Preaching from the Pastoral Epistles

As I look back on my preaching during interim ministry, I realize that I may be preaching more from the pastoral epistles that come up in the lectionary than I might otherwise if I was serving in a long-term installed pastorate. The pastoral epistles remind me that many of the presenting situations are nothing new because the early church struggled with many of these same issues.

6) For everything a time and a place

An interim pastor during the interim period prior to the previous pastor some 15 years earlier dealt with a Congregation Council who determined to grant only 2 weeks of vacation to a seminary graduate rather than the 4 weeks specified in the synod guidelines. The interim pastor argued with them that 4 weeks should be granted but met with pushback. The pastor then took the matter up in a sermon detailing the synod guidelines and admonishing the congregation to comply with the guidelines. The next week the president of the Congregation Council called the synod office to ask for a new interim pastor. As it turned out, the seminary graduate withdrew his name from consideration. As it turned out, an older pastor looking ahead to retirement who was willing to serve for below salary guidelines but who insisted on the allotted vacation took the call. In the end, there are some matters best left at the council table and out of the pulpit.

7) Sermon series

Those who do not follow a lectionary often use sermon series, but those who follow the lectionary less so. I noticed with interest in the newsletter from a neighboring parish that the pastor who normally followed the lectionary planned a summer sermon series.

June 2017 – The Messenger of Good News

Summer Sermon Series

Pastor's Ponderings

The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. – Psalm 33:11

Listed below are the lessons and preliminary message topics for this summer.

Date Text / Topic

Sun 11 June 2Corinthians 1:1-11 How to Console?

Sun 18 June Matthew 9:35-10:8 WITHEE DAYS / OS Service Only

Sun 25 June 2Corinthians 2:1-10 How to say tough things?

Sun 02 July 2Corinthians 4:1-15 How to speak about Jesus?

Sun 09 July 2Corinthians 4:16-5:10 How to speak about the unseen God?

Sun 16 July 2Corinthians 5:11-21 How do we reconcile?

Sun 23 July Acts 9 OWEN JR FAIR / OS Service Only

Sun 30 July 2Corinthians 8:1-15 How do we speak of generosity?

Sun 06 August Psalm 78 JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

Sun 13 August Ephesians 1:1-14 What does it mean to be in Christ?

Sun 20 August Ephesians 2:11-22 What does grace feel like?

Sun 27 August Ephesians 4:1-16 What does it mean that Christ descended?

Sun 03 Sept. Ephesians 6:10-20 How can we be strong in prayer?

Earlier, I had said we would have a series including Revelation, but in looking at the issues facing our parish, I thought the lessons from 2Corinthians and Ephesians will help us to look at where we need to go in the future. As we celebrate 500 years of the Church being Reformed, we should take time to prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do, what we are to be to our communities. Some questions will be difficult. Some conversations will be challenging. But I believe they will be worthwhile, and we will be better for it.

Let us be ONE in Christ,

Pastor Brian Robert Campbell

ONE in Christ Lutheran Parish Clark County, Wisconsin - Home

ONE in Christ June 2017 Newsletter.pdf

Page 2

http://www.oneinchristlutherans.com/uploads/4/8/0/5/48058347/one_in_christ_june_2017_newsletter.pdf

<https://sites.google.com/site/oneinchristlutheranparish/our-pastors>

Resources

Index of Sermon Series - LifeWay

You may find the topics and Scriptures from those **series** meet your preaching needs. Examine all the sermons in each series to determine how they might fit into your schedule.

<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/pastors-sermon-index-by-series>

[Images for Index of Sermon Series - LifeWay](#)

Series Ideas | Preaching Today

From the editors of CT Pastors, PreachingToday.com provides preachers with sermon illustrations, preaching articles, outlines, sermon ideas, graphics and series ideas.

<http://www.preachingtoday.com/sermons/seriesideas/>
[Images for Series Ideas | Preaching Today](#)

Series Index for Messages | Desiring God

Featured All Messages Topics Scripture Series Authors Dates

<http://www.desiringgod.org/series/with-messages>
[Images for Series Index for Messages | Desiring God](#)

8) Feed them enough

Feeding the Five Thousand

³⁷But he answered them, "You give them something to eat."

oremus Bible Browser: Mark 6.37

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Mark+6.37&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>
http://clipart.christiansunite.com/Pictures_of_Jesus_Clipart/Feeding_the_5000_Clipart/
[Images for Feeding the Five Thousand](#)

The Feeding of the Five Thousand and the Bread of Life Discourse are often used to speak of the Meal in the Gathering – Word – Meal – Sending of the services of worship, but they can also be used to speak of the Word in the Gathering – Word – Meal – Sending of the services of worship. A preacher does not need to present a smorgasbord each time, but the assembly needs more than a snack. The secret for the preacher is to give them something substantive and to feed them enough.

Break Thou the Bread of Life - Hymnary.org

1. Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page, I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O Living Word.

http://www.hymnary.org/text/break_thou_the_bread_of_life
[Images for Break Thou the Bread of Life](#)

9) Sermon-based small group study

I went to another church in the community for a ministerial meeting and saw handouts on a table for a sermon-based small group study. I picked up one of the Discussion Questions for Small Groups or Personal Study and then talked with the pastor about these small groups. He said a few small groups meet during the week and use the material he prepares for them.

Resources

How to Create a Sermon-Based Small Group Study - ChurchLeaders

Our small groups here at the Summit primarily study along with our pastor's sermon each week. This is a great study method, which you can read more about [here](#). This coming Sunday, Pastor J.D. is going to be teaching from Ephesians on Relationships. So here on the blog, I am going to walk you as a group leader through an exercise I think you can find immensely valuable: crafting a sermon-based small group study. I am even throwing out the challenge to our group leaders this week to use Pastor J.D.'s [manuscript](#) that he posts on Saturday night and the study we've already written on Ephesians to try to write one for their groups this next week. Structure: For our purposes, you have 3 parts to the discussion time: Intro, Dig, Apply

<http://www.churchleaders.com/smallgroups/small-group-how-tos/149712-how-to-create-a-sermon-based-small-group-study.html>
[Images for How to Create a Sermon-Based Small Group Study - ChurchLeaders](#)
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1378/sermon-based-small-groups>
<http://www.smallgroups.com/articles/2008/seven-advantages-of-sermon-based-small-groups.html>
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/Preview/171576> RightNow Media :: Post :: Sermon-Based Studies
<https://network.crcna.org/blog/why-i-sermon-based-small-groups>
<http://subiaco.church/sermon-based-small-groups/>
<https://groupministry.lifeway.com/2014/10/13/sermon-based-bible-studies-pros-and-cons/>
<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/bonnie-lee-on-sermon-based-small-groups>
<https://northcoasttraining.org/messages/5-the-seven-powerful-advantages-of-sermon-based-small-groups/>
<http://www.vinebranchcommunity.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/VineBranch-Sermon-based-Small-Group-Ministry-1.pdf>
<https://blog.smallgroupnetwork.com/the-nuts-bolts-of-sermon-based-curriculum-for-small-groups-podcast/>
<http://www.sapres.org/blog/tag/sermon-based-small-groups/>
<https://generationschurch.com/category/small-group-questions/>
<https://www.granthamchurch.org/small-groups/>
<https://www.compasschurch.org/messages/understanding-cbcs-sermon-based-small-groups-session-7/>

<https://timchester.wordpress.com/2016/03/21/following-up-the-sermon-in-small-groups/>
[Images for following-up-the-sermon-in-small-groups](#)

Sticky Church (Leadership Network Innovation Series) [Larry Osborne]

In *Sticky Church*, author and pastor Larry Osborne makes the case that closing the back door of your church is even more important than opening the front door wider. He offers a time-tested strategy for doing so: sermon-based small groups that dig deeper into the weekend message and tightly velcro members to the ministry. It's a strategy that enabled Osborne's congregation to grow from a handful of people to one of the larger churches in the nation—without any marketing or special programming. *Sticky Church* tells the inspiring story of North Coast Church's phenomenal growth and offers practical tips for launching your own sermon-based small group ministry. Topics include: Why stickiness is so important; Why most of our discipleship models don't work very well; Why small groups always make a church more honest and transparent; What makes groups grow deeper and stickier over time. *Sticky Church* is an ideal book for church leaders who want to start or retool their small group ministry—and velcro their congregation to the Bible and each other.

<http://www.amazon.com/Sticky-Church-Leadership-Network-Innovation/dp/0310285089>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4996888-sticky-church>

<http://larryosbornelive.com/books/sticky-church/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=031031299X>

<http://northcoasttraining.org/resources/>

<http://www.faithfulandfruitful.com/7-lessons-from-sticky-church-by-larry-osborne/>

<http://network.crcna.org/blog/why-i-sermon-based-small-groups>

<https://timchester.wordpress.com/2009/05/27/review-sticky-church/>

<https://vimeo.com/20576340> Larry Osborne- The Planter and His Team - Sticky Church

<https://www.amazon.com/Larry-Osborne/e/B0037MH222>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/357395.Larry_Osborne

[Images for Larry Osborne, author](#)

[Images for Sticky Church \(Leadership Network Innovation Series\) \[Larry Osborne\]](#)

<http://www.zondervan.com/leadership-network-innovation-series-pack>

<http://www.zondervan.com/catalog/pastor-resources/leadership-network-innovation-series>

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD8A36B5906464D98 Leadership Network Innovation Series - YouTube

<https://www.amazon.com/Leadership-Network-Innovation-Pack-16/dp/0310529972>

<https://www.librarything.com/series/Leadership+Network+Innovation+Series>

[Images for Leadership Network Innovation Series](#)

10) Catch a break

Pastors who serve on staff with 1 or more other pastors are able to share the preaching load. When a pastor serves a solo pastorate, such is not the case. Since most of my ministry has been in solo pastorates, I have figured out other ways to share the preaching load, not out of slothfulness, but in terms of sustainability. I take my allotted vacation Sundays and then think of other ways to share the preaching including the following: special speakers from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – on areas such as companion synod relationships, stewardship, and others; Lutheran Social Services; Luther Park Bible Camp or Luther Point Bible Camp; global missions; youth service; passion narrative on Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday and Good Friday; story sermons; and others.

11) Fight the good fight

Final directions

Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

oremus Bible Browser: 1 Timothy 6:12

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=152551117>

[Images for fight the good fight of the faith](#)

The Tuesday evening before 19 Pentecost C 2016, I attended a town hall meeting at the local high school on Hiding in Plain Sight informational meeting on methamphetamine in the county hosted by the Taylor County Drug Opposition Partners and visited the displays of information/resources before and after the meeting. The purpose of the Hiding in Plain Sight Mock Room was to educate parents/guardians on what can be hiding in plain sight in their child's room. The panel presentation by law enforcement, human services, and school personnel educated the attendees on methamphetamine in the community and presented a take home message on what can be done by parents, youth, church, schools, and community members. A young woman as well as a mother of a young son told moving personal stories.

The next Sunday, I related some of what I learned and offered a response by the church. The writer of the letter to Timothy in the second reading urges followers of Jesus to fight the good fight. In the case of drug abuse, prevention is the best cure. Then, since it was also First Communion at one congregation, I commended the responsibilities assumed by parents in Holy Baptism including "bring them to the word of God and the holy supper":

Holy Baptism

As you bring your *children* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with them among God's faithful people,

bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that your *children* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your *children* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

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

Page 228

I talked about how in Affirmation of Baptism, Confirmands are asked to "renounce" (no) and "profess" (yes).

Resources

Fight the Good Fight – 1 Timothy 6:12-16 - KevinPierpont.com

Can there be such a thing as a good fight?

<http://kevinpierpont.com/fight-the-good-fight/>

[Images for Fight the Good Fight – 1 Timothy 6:12-16](#)

What did Paul mean when he said he had fought the good fight? | GotQuestions.org

The Greek word *agonizomai*, translated "fought," means literally "to engage in conflict." The word was used in the context of competing in athletic games or engaging in military conflict. Considering that Paul was chained to a Roman soldier when he wrote this epistle, it would have been easy for him to make such an analogy.

<https://gotquestions.org/kept-the-faith.html>

[Images for What did Paul mean when he said he had fought the good fight? | GotQuestions.org](#)

12) Affirmation of Baptism

Some congregations hold Confirmation in the spring, others in the fall. At one congregation I served, Confirmation was held on 5EasterB 2014: 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8. Below is an outline of the sermon I preached.

Introduction

What do you mean this isn't graduation?

This is affirmation rather than graduation.

Body

A + B = C

5 marks of living in covenant of baptism.

Faith 5 – Share-Read-Talk-Pray-Bless.

FbF

Conclusion

Because/therefore

[Abide + Bear = Christian]

[Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Affirmation of Baptism. Page 236]

[Faith Inkubators approach used in class.]

[Choir anthem – "Forward by Faith"]

[We love God and others because God first loved us.]

13) Commencement address

I was impressed by a high school commencement address delivered decidedly different than the customary messages - "You can do anything you want if you put your mind to." The following is used with permission by Rev. Ron Stetzel from a handwritten manuscript.

Failing Well

(Luke 18:1-5)

I. Introduction

At graduations everywhere, speakers are going to tell young people how to succeed in life. Well, I'm not going to do that. I'm going to tell you how to fail.

First, though, here are a few words of wisdom.

1. Remember the words "Zantac", "Pepsid", and "Maalox." Sooner or later life will give you indigestion or acid reflux.
2. Dream all you want about getting rich but keep your day job. And most people get fired at least once in life. I did, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me.
3. The time will come when you will be lecturing your children about avoiding the behavior you thought was fine when you were their age.
4. If your children never say, "I hate you," or "You're a bad parent," you're not doing your job.
5. The true test of character is what you do when a salesperson gives you back too much change.

Thus, ends my words of wisdom. Now to the subject.

II. Real winners know how to fail.

Mickey Mantle who played outfield for the Yankees struck out 1,710 times and walked 1,734 times in his career. That works out to

about seven years without hitting the ball. He stuck with it and ended up being one of the greatest hitters of all time. Failure wasn't final.

A top business executive once told his employees to double their failure rate. Often, we achieve great ideas that way. (See Google, the company.)

The explorer, Ernest Shackleton, tried to be the first to get to the South Pole. He failed because someone beat him to it. He was to try again later but died in the attempt. He remains an example of perseverance and the focus of legends.

Finally, Abraham Lincoln failed in his first business in 1831. In 1832, he tried for a seat in the state legislature and lost. In 1835, his fiancé died. In 1836, he had a nervous breakdown. In 1838, he was defeated for the speaker of the state legislature. Then in 1846 he was elected to Congress, but lost re-election bid in 1848. In 1855, he was defeated in a race for U.S. Senate. In 1856, he missed his bid to be vice president. In 1858, he tried for the Senate again and lost. In 1860, he was elected president of the U.S. at the most critical time in our country. Failure wasn't final.

III. Conclusion

The Bible story about the widow and the tough judge just before I spoke to you was an example of what happens when you fail, get up, and keep trying.

There is one other example in the Bible of someone who failed and failed and failed his assignment to teach truth. In the end, he was killed for his failure to convince people who he was. He looked like the biggest failure of all time.

But three days later, he got up from his grace and walked away becoming the world's greatest success and savior of it.

Rev. Ron Stetzel

Used with permission

Resources

Best graduation speeches of all time - Business Insider

From Steve Jobs to Toni Morrison, Kurt Vonnegut to John F. Kennedy, here are the speeches you wish you'd heard on your graduation day.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/best-graduation-speeches-of-all-time-2015-5>

[Images for Best graduation speeches of all time - Business Insider](http://www.graduationwisdom.com/speeches/topten.htm)

<http://www.graduationwisdom.com/speeches/topten.htm>

<https://www.vox.com/a/greatest-graduation-speeches>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/kicker/the-15-best-graduation-speeches-of-2016_b_10226422.html

<http://www.keepinspiring.me/7-motivational-graduation-speeches-that-will-inspire-you/>

<https://medium.com/@tommygiglio/do-s-and-don-ts-of-writing-a-graduation-speech-259f1ba84c9b>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-write-a-graduation-speech-1857496>

<https://blog.oup.com/2015/05/how-to-write-graduation-speech/>

<http://blog.connectionsacademy.com/write-great-graduation-speech/>

www.graduationwisdom.com/speeches/how-to-write-a-graduation-speech.htm

[Images for how-to-write-a-graduation-speech](http://www.graduationwisdom.com/speeches/how-to-write-a-graduation-speech.htm)

<https://www.wikihow.com/Deliver-a-Graduation-Speech>

<https://filmora.wondershare.com/family-n-business/how-to-deliver-a-graduation-speech.html>

[Images for deliver a graduation speech](https://filmora.wondershare.com/family-n-business/how-to-deliver-a-graduation-speech.html)

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/what-makes-great-graduation-speech/3848182.html>

<https://www.realsimple.com/work-life/graduation-speech-ideas>

[Images for graduation speech ideas](https://www.realsimple.com/work-life/graduation-speech-ideas)

www.jostens.com/grad/grad_cp_hs_grad_guide_graduation_speech.html

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jonyoushaei/2017/06/14/16-tips-youll-never-hear-in-a-graduation-speech-but-should/#54f02bef6b1b>

<https://www.amazon.com/Graduation-Day-Americas-Commencement-Speeches/dp/0688160336>

[Images for Graduation-Day-Americas-Commencement-Speeches](https://www.amazon.com/Graduation-Day-Americas-Commencement-Speeches/dp/0688160336)

The Best Commencement Speeches, Ever: NPR - NPR Visuals

Looking for some new words of wisdom? Check out our handpicked selection of commencement addresses, going back to 1774.

<https://apps.npr.org/commencement/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2014/05/20/314264067/the-best-commencement-speech-ever>

[Images for The Best Commencement Speeches, Ever: NPR - NPR Visuals](https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2014/05/20/314264067/the-best-commencement-speech-ever)

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2014/05/11/cnbc-12-best-commencement-speeches-of-all-time/8941633/>

<https://www.esquire.com/entertainment/g3344/best-commencement-speeches-of-all-time/>

<https://nerdist.com/the-13-best-commencement-speeches-of-all-time-ever-recently-so-far/>

<https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/university-news/7-best-celebrity-commencement-speeches-all-time>

<http://college.usatoday.com/2017/06/13/best-2017-commencement-speeches/>

<http://eloquentwoman.blogspot.com/2017/05/15-famous-commencement-speeches-by.html>

<https://www.deseretnews.com/top/3211/0/20-famous-college-commencement-speeches.html>

<https://people.howstuffworks.com/10-famous-commencement-speeches.htm>

<https://www.sporcle.com/games/ihatecilantro/famous-commencement-speeches>

<https://www.quantifiedcommunications.com/blog/what-can-leaders-learn-about-inspiring-audiences-from-famous-commencement->

[speeches](#)

[Images for famous commencement speeches](#)

<https://www.thesimpledollar.com/10-inspiring-college-commencement-speeches/>

<https://www.thecut.com/2015/06/25-powerful-commencement-speeches-by-women.html>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/cartercoudriet/2017/05/30/7-student-commencement-speeches-that-captured-higher-eds-biggest-stories/#35352ff63e46>

<https://www.ifc.com/2014/06/9-comedian-commencement-speeches>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/maurice-ewing-phd/how-to-give-a-great-commencement-speech_b_7471668.html

<http://newsfeed.time.com/2012/05/14/how-to-give-a-commencement-speech/>

<http://www.humanity.org/voices/commencements/writing-commencement-speeches>

<https://graduateland.com/article/commencement-address>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-05-02/how-to-write-a-killer-commencement-speech>

<http://guidetopublicwriting.weebly.com/commencement-speech.html>

www.publicwords.com/2016/06/16/how-to-write-a-commencement-speech/

[Images for how-to-write-a-commencement-speech](#)

14) Where's the meat?

Amy Grant sings about a fat little baby who gets his spiritual lunch, who sampled solid food once or twice.

Amy Grant - Fat Baby - YouTube

I know a man, maybe you know him, too
You never can tell; he might even be you
He knelt at the altar, and that was the end
He's saved, and that's all that matters to him
His spiritual tummy, it can't take too much
One day a week, he gets a spiritual lunch
On Sunday, he puts on his spiritual best
And gives his language a spiritual rest
He's just a faaa...
He's just a fat little baby!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3M6AZeQvVM>

[Images for Amy Grant - Fat Baby - YouTube](#)

Her song references Paul's letter to the church at Corinth.

Resources

On Divisions in the Corinthian Church

I have fed you with **milk**, and not with **meat**: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

1 Corinthians 3:2 King James Bible

https://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/3-2.htm

[Images for On Divisions in the Corinthian Church](#)

The Milk and Meat of the Bible - Bible Study

The word "milk" in the above quote (Greek *gala*, Strong's Concordance #G1051) means the **basic, elemental teachings of true Christianity** first learned by new believers. The word "meat" comes from the Greek word *Broma* (Strong's #G1033) and means the more solid, complete and deeper spiritual doctrines of the Gospel.

<http://www.biblestudy.org/question/what-is-the-milk-and-meat-of-the-bible.html>

[Images for The Milk and Meat of the Bible – Bible Study](#)

The converse is that, if a preacher only gives the assembly milk and not meat, they will remain fat little babies.

15) Community service of worship on Independence Day Weekend

I agreed to start one assignment at a two-point parish on July 1. On June 6, a leader from one of the congregations called to say that, following a long-standing tradition, their congregation joined together with members of other congregations and people of the community for a polka service on the Sunday morning of Independence Day Weekend. This member asked if I would give the message. This member stated more than once the desire that the message be "patriotic but not political." There was a nervous laugh associated with the request. I agreed to do so and then started thinking about the task at hand. The June issue of the *Living Lutheran* had just arrived, and I paged through the issue. I came upon an article "Serving the neighbor in charged times" by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, which proved to be instructive.

Serving the neighbor in charged times - Living Lutheran

In these charged times, it's helpful to consider two things: the relationship between church and state, and how Lutherans participate in civil society.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/06/serving-neighbor-charged-times/>

Images for Serving the neighbor in charged times - Living Lutheran

The following is a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

[PDF] the church in society: a lutheran perspective - Evangelical Lutheran in America

This statement, The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective, sets forth affirmations and commitments to guide this church's participation in society. It seeks to be true to this church's mandate to confess and teach both Law and Gospel as the whole Word of the triune God. This church witnesses to the living God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who in love creates, judges, and preserves the world and redeems, sanctifies, and brings it to fulfillment in God's reign.

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

[Images for the church in society: a lutheran perspective - Evangelical Lutheran in America](#)

<https://www.elca.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Church-in-Society>

[Images for elca/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Church-in-Society](#)

I asked that the following lessons be read at the community service of worship:

I Kings 3:5-9	Solomon's prayer for understanding
Psalms 138	All the kings of the earth shall praise you
1 Timothy 2:1-7	The Christian prays even for bad rulers
Luke 11:1-4	The Lord's Prayer

At the other congregation, I preached from the appointed gospel for the day and focused on the theme of *welcome*.

Lectionary Texts for July 02, 2017

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

https://www.workingpreacher.org/wp_print_all.aspx?lectionary_calendar_id=710&print_type=text&is_spanish=0

[Images for whoever welcomes you welcomes me](#)

The service of worship began with A Litany of Welcome for an Interim Pastor, so in the sermon, I thanked them for welcoming me into their midst for a partnership of the gospel and went on with the text taking my cues from Working Preacher.

Matthew 10:40-42 Commentary by Colin Yuckman - Working Preacher

Jesus concludes his mission instructions with an implied invitation to all those "anonymous" saints who occupy our churches: you may not be the ones going, but never forget you too are sent.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3333

[Images for Jesus concludes his mission instructions with an implied invitation to all those "anonymous" saints who occupy our churches](#)

I tied in the theme of *welcome* with the national symbol of the Statue of Liberty and particularly The New Colossus poem inside the pedestal's lower level.

The New Colossus - Wikipedia

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
MOTHER OF EXILES. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide **welcome**; her mild eyes command
The air-brided harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

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

[Images for New Colossus](#)

I then moved on to say that at the end of time, the Lord of heavens and earth issues an invitation to come into the kingdom prepared for the faithful.

The great judgment

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

oremus Bible Browser: Matthew 25:35-40

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=354871780>

[Images for great judgment](#)

In the meantime, the faithful continue to live out the life described in Matthew 10:40-42 and Matthew 25:35-40

16) On vocation

I confess that sometimes, thinking about attending a service of worship while on vacation seems more like duty than delight. Such was the case on a cold winter day. But I reminded myself that God is worthy of worship and has commanded me to do so in the third of ten commandments, no matter what I might feel about the matter. So, I headed for St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Seeing that I was early for the 8:30am service of worship, I stayed in the car to read the Sunday, 1/15/2017 *Parade* magazine that had slipped out of a newspaper onto the floor. I happened on a feature entitled "Sunday With..." The featured personality was **Veronica Roth**, and the subtitle was "On Sundays, the mega-best-selling author of dystopian blockbusters gets out of the house."

Parade recently talked to the millennial author about her writing routine, her favorite wine, and surviving Chicago winters.

Q: What do you typically do on Sunday?

A: I barely recognize days of the week, because I work from home. So, for me, Sunday is similar to every other day, except that we go to church. Incense, people in robes, a big choir – that kind of church. It's maybe the one appointment I have per week where I actually have to put on clothes.

Later in the interview, she was asked:

Q: You've talked about balancing good and evil in your books. Why is it so important to see both forces at work?

A: It results in more dramatic storytelling. It's important to have a strong villain – otherwise, what are we fighting against? You need to establish what the evil is in the world. You need those things to be in tension, otherwise improvement and progress are not possible.

After reading the article, I came into the church to realize that all the back pews were taken, not unlike Lutheran churches. The young priest welcomed the attendees and highlighted Ordinary Time after observing Advent and Christmas. Ordinary Time helps the faithful, he suggested, reflect on what it means to live the faith each day. He began his sermon by stating that there are ten words that can change a life and the world. These he took from the Responsorial Psalm. "Here am I, Lord. I come to do your will." He talked about the suffering servant from Isaiah 49:1-7 and about John the Baptist from John 1:29-42. He concluded his sermon by inviting the attendees to repeat these ten words throughout the week. Later during the intercessions, the leader included the Vocation Prayer printed on the inside of the front cover.

After attending the service of worship, I ate a pancake breakfast in the church basement served by the Knights of Columbus to raise money for a local homeless shelter.

What initially seemed like a duty to perform that Sunday morning turned out to be a delight to enjoy.

Resources

A Vocation to Preach | Duke Divinity School

The Duke Divinity School Office of the Dean will sponsor a day of reflection on preaching.

<https://divinity.duke.edu/events/vocation-preach>

[Images for Vocation to Preach | Duke Divinity School](#)

Luther and ministry "in crisis" - Living Lutheran

Our church has a current and growing crisis in terms of what is often called our "public ministry." Following Martin Luther's great insight on Christian **vocation**, we believe every one of us is a minister of the gospel. Nevertheless, the church needs those with special preparation who dedicate themselves full time to ecclesial service. Since we have more than one kind of public minister on the rosters, we refer to them collectively as "[rostered ministers](#)." And therein lies the crisis.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/06/23712/>

[Images for Luther and ministry "in crisis" - Living Lutheran](#)

Fortress Press's Foundations for Learning series prepares students for academic success through compelling resources that kick-start their educational journey into professional Christian ministry.

In *Exploring Practices of Ministry*, Pamela Cooper-White and Michael Cooper-White share insights from their extensive experience as parish ministers, church agency executives, and seminary educators in diverse multicultural and international contexts. Pamela, an Episcopal priest who teaches pastoral theology, care, and counseling, is also a pastoral psychotherapist with an extensive clinical background. Michael, a Lutheran pastor and seminary president, is also a pilot and flight instructor and has served as a chaplain with the Civil Air Patrol.

The authors share their wisdom with seminarians and other readers seeking to deepen theological reflection and expand skills as ministry practitioners. While not all readers are preparing to be ordained ministers, most will engage in many of the practices described in the book: preaching and public speaking, teaching, leading liturgies, conducting ceremonies, counseling and offering pastoral support for persons undergoing life transitions, and serving as organizational leaders in congregations, chaplaincies, social ministries, and in the public arena. This book is a companion journal for pilgrims on the way to becoming confident practitioners of ministry.

<https://www.amazon.com/Exploring-Practices-Ministry-Foundations-Learning/dp/1451488939>
[Images for Exploring-Practices-Ministry-Foundations-Learning](#)
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22340642-exploring-practices-of-ministry>
<http://fortresspress.com/product/exploring-practices-ministry>
<https://www.christianbook.com/exploring-practices-of-ministry/pamela-cooper-white/9781451488937/pd/488937>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/exploring-practices-of-ministry-pamela-cooper-white/1119640905>
<https://www.overdrive.com/media/2058259/exploring-practices-of-ministry>
<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/36710>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451488939>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Exploring_Practices_of_Ministry.html?id=DartAwAAQBAJ
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270892808_Exploring_Practices_of_Ministry
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2936620.Michael_Cooper_White
<https://www.amazon.com/Pamela-Cooper-White/e/B001JSAOCG>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/734164.Pamela_Cooper_White
[Images for Michael Cooper-White and Pamela Cooper-White](#)
[Images for Exploring Practices of Ministry, Pamela Cooper-White and Michael Cooper-White](#)
<https://utsnyc.edu/wp-content/uploads/CV.15.Cooper-White-7-28-15-UTS.pdf>
<https://www.logos.com/product/52086/foundations-for-learning-series>
<http://fortresspress.com/foundations>
[Images for Fortress Press's Foundations for Learning series](#)

Sermon on Religious Vocations by Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

Priests, as we say in our prayer for **vocations**, “who will stand before the altar, who will **preach** the Word of God; Brothers, who will assist the priests and who will ...

<http://www.cmri.org/01-fmb-godscall.html>

[Images for Sermon on Religious Vocations by Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI](#)

Upholding Gottesdienst: Preaching Vocation in Luther's Day and Ours

Martin Luther's teaching regarding the vocation — or calling — of all God's people to respond to God's grace by serving their neighbors within their own particular places in society is a key element of our heritage as Lutheran Christians.

[Upholding_Gottesdienst_Preaching_Vocation_in_L.docx](#)

download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Upholding_Gottesdienst_Preaching_Vocation_in_L.docx

[Images for Preaching Vocation in Luther's Day and Ours](#)

Vocation: From worship to the world - Living Lutheran

For Lutherans, though, vocation is deeply embedded in our history and theology.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/05/vocation-worship-world/>

[Images for Vocation: From worship to the world - Living Lutheran](#)

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

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

Vocation Sermons - Westwood Lutheran Church-ELCA

Series: Vocation: Faith as a Way of Life. Key Speaker: Pastor Tania Haber.

www.westwoodlutheran.org/vocation-sermons

[Images for Sermon Series: Vocation: Faith as a Way of Life.](#)

17) Sowing the seed

When I was a freshman at Waldorf College in 1971-72, I served on a deputation team that went out to present services of worship in local congregations. At one congregation, I encountered an older man who agreed to substitute teach a Sunday School class that day. He seemed discouraged and wondered aloud if he was up to the task and if the message would make a difference. I have spent the years since then pondering what I might have said. At the time, he probably only needed someone to listen.

The parable of the sower gives me encouragement.

Lectionary Texts for July 16, 2017 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost from Working Preacher.org

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow." ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!" ¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/wp_print_all.aspx?lectionary_calendar_id=712&print_type=text&is_spanish=0
[Images for Listen! A sower went out to sow.](#)

I took my cue from A Bible Study by Don Juel entitled "The promise of a harvest." He asserts that this parable assures a promise rather than makes a command. "We cannot control the coming of the kingdom. We cannot even insure that what is planted in us or in our children will germinate and bear fruit. We can only trust God's promises that it will—that the little sprinkle of water and the bit of bread and wine will suffice." [The Lutheran. February 17, 1988. Page 11.]

Walter Wangerin Jr. tells about the apple trees on his farm in Indiana in an article entitled "Of seeds & love & legacies" [The Lutheran. May 1995. Page 6.] A neighboring farmer tells him that he believes Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman planted the trees. "And everywhere he planted seeds. Sometimes he returned to prune old groves but always he moved on. And in the late 1830s he made his way to northern Indiana – where an old farmer declares that the apple trees scattered throughout the region are the work of "Jawunny." I am consoled to believe in this continuity of generations, that something done long ago benefits people the doer shall never know. Such giving is purely a gift, since the giver gets nothing back."

The back of an Augsburg Publishing House bulletin from many years ago states, "The Lord sent his disciples out to win the world for him with one simple tool: the Word, the story of God revealed in Christ. They were given no popular philosophy, no political organization, no military strategy. The disciples were simply to plant the seed by telling the story. Far from giving them a promise of blazing success, Jesus warned them that they would meet with indifference and often fierce opposition. The powers of darkness and evil would plot against their efforts. What happened is history. The disciples did meet opposition; many of them died for their faith. But the seed had power. It sank its roots into good ground and bore much fruit. Millions of lives have been reached by God, first throughout the Mediterranean region, then across oceans to the rest of the earth. There have been ups and downs, advances and reverses, but the seed continues to be planted; fields continue to flourish in many lands."

18) Congregation members in the pulpit

I took my first Sunday of allotted vacation at one site and arranged for a retired pastor who had preached at the congregation before to lead worship and deliver the message. At the next meeting of the Congregation Council, the president informed me that he wanted the Congregation Council to be informed so that, if possible, they could arrange for a congregation member to lead the service of worship and deliver the message to save money. There will most likely be more of these kinds of requests in the future. It would be helpful, though, if such members could possess some recognized ability and obtain training.

Resources

Equipping lay persons

From: Liz Bartsch [mail to: merry@nwsynod-wisconsin.ccsend.com] On Behalf Of Liz Bartsch
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2011 10:50 AM
To: pstrbolstad@gmail.com
Subject: Equipping Lay Persons

Dear Rostered Leaders and Congregational Presidents,

Some congregations find it difficult to secure a pulpit supply pastor to preach whenever their regularly called pastor goes on vacation. Thus, many congregations utilize lay persons who have gifts for speaking on those Sundays when the pastor is absent.

We would like to help equip those lay persons who occasionally preach, especially now that all pastors will be away from their congregations on Sunday, June 3rd for Synod Assembly (by Assembly decision, the annual gathering will be held on Saturday and Sunday, not Friday and Saturday). Our synod is piloting an online Biblical preaching course through Select Learning. Dr. David Lose, professor at Luther Seminary, put the course together, and those who register for this homiletical offering will be the first to use it.

Now is the time to register for "Foundations of Biblical Preaching" that will begin on February 2. The registration site is at http://www.selectlearning.org/store/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=107&products_id=570&zenid=q3gm0ouqv1u9vhtukmn6rcllu4.

I'd like to suggest that congregations supplement the cost of the course. Know that the number of participants is limited, and registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Identify those with gifts in your congregation and encourage them to register soon.

Blessings,

Duane Pederson, Bishop

NW Synod of WI - 944 24 ¼ Street - Suite #2 - Chetek, Wisconsin 54728

office: [715-859-6810](tel:715-859-6810) fax: [715-859-6812](tel:715-859-6812) www.nwswi.org

[Images for Equipping Lay Persons for Preaching](#)

From Pew to Pulpit: A Beginner's Guide to Preaching by Clifton F. Guthrie

A down-to-earth, practical introduction to the ins and outs of preaching for lay preachers, bi-vocational pastors, and others newly arrived in the pulpit.

Recent years have seen a considerable increase in the amount of financial resources required to support a full-time pastor in the local congregation. In addition, large numbers of full-time, seminary trained clergy are retiring, without commensurate numbers of new clergy able to take their place. As a result of these trends, a large number of lay preachers and bi-vocational pastors have assumed the principal responsibility for filling the pulpit week by week in local churches. Most of these individuals, observes Clifton Guthrie, can draw on a wealth of life experiences, as well as strong intuitive skills in knowing what makes a good sermon, having listened to them much of their lives. What they often don't bring to the pulpit, however, is specific, detailed instruction in the how-tos of preaching. That is precisely what this brief, practical guide to preaching has to offer.

Written with the needs of those for whom preaching is not their sole or primary occupation in mind, it begins by emphasizing what every preacher brings to the pulpit: an idea of what makes a sermon particularly moving or memorable to them. From there the book moves into short chapters on choosing an appropriate biblical text or sermon topic, learning how to listen to one's first impressions of what a text means, moving from text or topic to the sermon itself while keeping the listeners needs firmly in mind, making thorough and engaging use of stories in the sermon, and delivering with passion and conviction. The book concludes with helpful suggestions for resources, including Bibles, commentaries, other print resources and websites.

<https://www.amazon.com/Pew-Pulpit-Beginners-Guide-Preaching/dp/0687066603>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4370318-from-pew-to-pulpit>

<http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9780687066605#.WiaXsUqnGUk>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9780687066605/from-pew-to-pulpit/>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/from-pew-to-pulpit-clifton-f-guthrie/1110867365>

https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/from-pew-to-pulpit-a-beginners-guide-to-preaching_clifton-f-guthrie/1752300/#isbn=0687066603

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426735766>

https://books.google.com/books/about/From_Pew_to_Pulpit.html?id=IzOQXtBC97EC

http://www.abingdonpress.com/clifton_f_guthrie

<https://www.amazon.com/Clifton-F.-Guthrie/e/B001ITX7GG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/695958.Clifton_F_Guthrie

[Images for clifton f. guthrie, author preaching](#)

[Images for From Pew to Pulpit: A Beginner's Guide to Preaching by Clifton F. Guthrie](#)

Preaching Course

We encourage all **SAMs and Lay Preachers** to take advantage of this NEW resource available locally! In coordination with Select Learning and the Lay School of Ministry, lay preachers in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin have the opportunity to sharpen their preaching skills. As a church that highly values both WORD and SACRAMENT, we want to support our SAMs and lay preachers and equip them to be the best proclaimers of the good news that they can be!

Preaching sessions in 2019 will take place on February 9, March 9, and April 13, 12:00-2:30.

Cost: \$75.00 This cost covers the three in-person sessions at Lay School, which includes your lunches, for those who have already taken the online course. For those who are currently enrolled in the online preaching course, the cost will simply be the price of the three lunches, if you eat them.

Registration for the Select Learning Preaching Course: <https://www.selectlearning.org/category/Online%20Courses>

Registration for the three Lay School Preaching sessions or further details, contact: Rev. Greg Kaufmann Assistant to the Bishop Lay School of Ministry Director gkaufmann@nswi.org 715-579-1556

<https://files.constantcontact.com/0deff306001/eb2deb35-c1bc-47a4-b707-571454c71629.pdf>

[Images for Preaching Course SAMs and Lay Preachers](#)

Tell It Like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony by Lillian Daniel (Author)

Lillian Daniel shares how her congregation re-appropriated the practice of testimony one Lenten season, a practice that would eventually revitalize their worship and transform their congregational culture. The experience strengthened lay leadership, fostered more intimate community, and drew the congregation closer to God. The book features the testimonies worshipers heard and reflections from both those who spoke and those who listened to these stories about God at work in the world.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566996457/Tell-It-Like-It-Is-Reclaiming-the-Practice-of-Testimony>

<http://www.amazon.com/Tell-It-Like-Reclaiming-Testimony/dp/1566993180>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1730406.Tell_It_Like_It_Is

http://books.google.com/books/about/Tell_It_Like_It_Is.html?id=sAO0AAAACAAJ

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802862314>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996457>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1630871206>

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2007-01/secret-passage>

<https://www.faihandleadership.com/people-news/writers/lillian-daniel>

<https://www.amazon.com/Lillian-Daniel/e/B001JSZ3M>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/794945.Lillian_Daniel

[Images for Lillian Daniel \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Tell It Like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony by Lillian Daniel \(Author\)](#)

19) Whether children's messages

One of my interim assignments was to serve 2 congregations. One congregation was in the habit of children's messages, the other was not. I offered children's messages at the former but not the latter.

I realize there is a debate over children's messages.

Children's Sermons? No! - Word & World - Luther Seminary

Children's sermons are in fashion in our churches these days, and to worry about them seems, at best, un-American or, at worst, unchristian. Nevertheless, I do worry about children's sermons, not so much because of practice as because of principle. Certainly, many fine children's sermons are given each Sunday, sermons which help attract some children to church; but a difficult theological issue is raised when the full gospel is directed specifically to the hearing of these little ones.

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/10-1_Catechism/10-1_Face_to_Face.pdf

Page 56

[Images for Children's Sermons? No! Sheldon A. Tostengard](#)

I say "yes" to children's sermons for three reasons: (1) They give children a "place" in the worship service. (2) They are a different kind of communication which does work with children. (3) In their different form, they also communicate to the whole congregation.

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/10-1_Catechism/10-1_Face_to_Face.pdf

Page 57

[Images for Children's Sermons? Yes! Michael Rogness](#)

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=37 Catechism and Lectionary (Winter 1990) - Word and World

I agree with Bishop Will Willimon on his assessment of children's sermons

A Peculiar Prophet: Let the Children Come

The Blog of Bishop Will Willimon of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church

Let the Children Come

A couple of decades ago, in a sincere attempt to make our churches more accessible and welcoming to children, some of our churches adopted an innovation: the children's sermon. **Today the children's sermon is, to my mind, a prime example of a noble effort but an unfortunate strategy.** I've heard lots of children's sermons. Tried a few myself. For what it's worth, here is my assessment of children's sermons. I sometimes say that I've only got two objections to children's sermons: they are not for children and are usually not sermons.

<http://willimon.blogspot.com/2010/06/let-children-come.html>

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

[Images for Peculiar Prophet: Let the Children Come](#)

and concur with the stance of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville, Minnesota.

Shhh! Don't tell anyone we're here...

We are different. We don't have a "children's message." We also don't have a "teen's message," a "young adult's message," a "middle adult's message," or a "geriatric message." Why divide the body of Christ? After all, people are people. So, let us be people of every race, age, gender, and ability, who worship together in community.

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

lcrelca.org - Home

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

[Images for Lutheran church of the resurrection roseville](#)

To me children's messages come under the rubric of entertainment evangelism, but I do my best when I am expected to give these messages. I seek to base the children's message on the text(s), keep it simple and short, and if possible conversational. Some of the best advice on children's messages I've come across is from Israel Galindo's **On children's sermons - Perspectives on Congregational Leadership**. As of the fall of 2016, I have taken the lead of *Sundays and Seasons*, and used the phrase *Let the Children Come* instead of children's message.

Resources

Children Sermons - Synod Resource Center

<http://synodresourcecenter.org/wma/worship/sermons/children/>

[Images for Children Sermons - Synod Resource Center](#)

Knuckleball Approach to Children's Sermons

My take on children's sermons? Aim for the plate. See where the Spirit and these special members of the body of Christ take the pitch. And don't take it too hard if a few wild pitches fly all the way to the backstop.

Nathan Aaseng - Working Preacher - Profile

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

[Images for Knuckleball Approach to Children's Sermons](#)

Making Children's Messages Memorable - Church Leaders

Sharing the children's message is one of the most important things you will do as a children's minister. You may feel

challenged by the time constraints and even experience concerns about where to start. Here are a few suggestions to help you as you build your skills in preparing and delivering the children's message.

<http://www.churchleaders.com/children/leading-your-kidmin-team/149111-making-childrens-messages-memorable.html>
[Images for Making Children's Messages Memorable - Church Leaders](#)

On children's sermons - Perspectives on Congregational Leadership

I received an e-mail from a pastor asking about children's sermons. He just accepted a call to a church at which he'll need to deliver a children's sermon as part of the worship service pastoral duties. I think that's a great thing. And I appreciate his seeking counsel on how to do it well. Below is the usual advice on children's sermons I give when this question comes up.

<http://perspectivesig.blogspot.com/2010/12/on-children-sermons.html>
[Images for On children's sermons - Perspectives on Congregational Leadership](#)

Sermons4kids

Free lectionary-based children's sermons and object lessons in English and Spanish. Over 300 sermons from which to choose.

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>
[Images for Sermons4kid](#)

7 Tips to Better Children's Sermons

You've probably seen a lot of children's sermons in your life and already have a sense of what passes for "good." And you've probably winced at a few bad ones over the years too. What's the difference between "good" and "wince"? I've delivered plenty of both! So, let me suggest these *7 Tips to Better Children's Sermons*... all of which could be placed under the category of "*Children First, Sermon Second*."

Children Sermon Helps from www.sundaysoftware.com
<http://www.sundaysoftware.com/articles/chsermon.htm>
[Images for Better Children's Sermons](#)

sundays and seasons - Augsburg Fortress

Let the Children Come

The church tells time with colors as well as with calendars. Colors mark the progression of days and seasons, an immediate signal that something different is happening. Like people of any age, children respond to color with interesting interpretations. And one color may contain many meanings. Invite children and their parents to meet the presiding minister after worship for a brief chat about the color for Advent. What does or could this deep blue signify? How does the color make you feel? Where do you see it in the worship space? Could we "wear the season" too?

November 29, 2015 First Sunday of Advent

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/SundaysAndSeasonsSample.pdf>
[Images for sundays and seasons - Augsburg Fortress Let the Children Come](#)

Page 33

The Children's Sermon: Moments with God [Rev. Janet S. Helme]

Written by an educator, minister, and writer of children's curriculum materials, this book provides easy-to-do and easy-to-understand methods for developing good children's sermons. Using appropriate scriptures for insight into our relationship with the children in our midst, author Janet Helme takes you step-by-step through the process of developing a successful children's sermon. Topics include: why you should do a children's sermon, how to craft it, what to do about the adults in the pews, tools, insights, and sample sermons.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Childrens-Sermon-Moments-God/dp/0827205228>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0827205236>
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/childrens-sermon-janet-s-helme/1100180407?type=eBook>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0827205236>
[Images for Rev. Janet S. Helme, author](#)
[Images for The Children's Sermon: Moments with God \[Rev. Janet S. Helme\]](#)

20) Walking together

I attended the [Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Synod Assembly 2017](#) on Saturday, April 29. The text for Sunday, April 30, 3EasterA, was the Walk to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-35. I focused on walking together from the Gospel text and from the context of the assembly.



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The word *synod*, from the Greek words *syn* and *hodos* means *walking together*, which describes the interdependent ministry relationships as we support mission partners, carry out synodical and churchwide initiatives, provide for education events and leadership training, respond to disaster and emergency needs, and heed the call to be a church engaged in all the world. This name of the 65 entities of the ELCA offers a good description of their purpose. In and through synods, congregations and various ministries walk together. Synods coordinate the work of congregations within their territories and plan for the Church's mission in their area. The Northwest Syn-

od of Wisconsin is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This synod is composed of 199 congregations, over 100,000 members, and nearly 300 clergy and rostered leaders. *Together We Make A Difference.* Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

**Walking together for the sake
of mission in God's world**

Luke 24:13-35 Commentary by Robert Hoch - Working Preacher

There are some walks that are longer than others -- not because of the miles or even because of the landscape, but because of the burdens. I suspect this was one of the latter type. It was a seven-mile walk, a walk you would notice in your ankles and calves. But the real path they were walking was vastly longer and more difficult -- it was the walk of hopes in shambles. It was the walk taken through the valley of disillusionment. It was a walk burdened with perhaps accusation or shame.

The Greek terms used by Luke suggest the intensity of the talk between the two disciples, according to David Lyle Jeffrey. For the conversation, the narrator uses three terms: *homileo* (from which we get homiletics or homily) and *antiballette* (a term from rhetoric and forensics, literally, "to put" or "place against"), translated in the NRSV in its gerund form, "discussing" (reflecting in its etymology the sense of a "concussive" exchange of words), and an "emotional" *syzeteo* (dialogue).¹

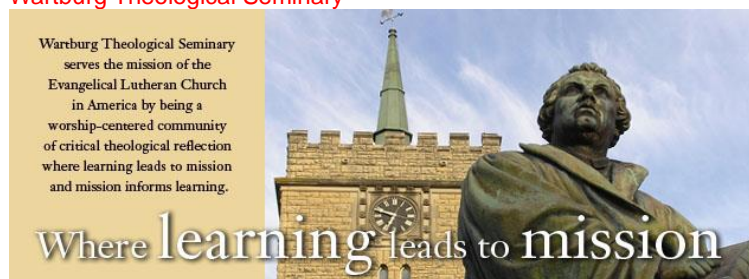
https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3234

[Images for Luke 24:13-35 Commentary by Robert Hoch - Working Preacher - Road to Emmaus](#)

21) Special preachers/speakers from partnership ministries

At one assignment, during the month of March, I invited a Wartburg Seminary student from the congregation to preach, as well as the Director of Church Relations for Luther Park Bible Camp on another Sunday, and the Senior Advancement Coordinator at Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin on still another Sunday. Normally, I don't plan on that many special preachers/speakers in one month, but it worked out that way. I have also invited synod staff to preach and present adult forums on anniversaries, call process, companion synod, and stewardship.

Wartburg Theological Seminary



<http://www.wartburgseminary.edu/>

[Images for Wartburg Theological Seminary](#)

Bulletin Inserts and other Forms for churches – Luther Park Bible Camp

<http://lutherpark.org/bulletin-insert>

[Images for Luther Park Bible Camp - Bulletin Inserts](#)

LSS Sunday

LSS Sunday is an opportunity to showcase the work your congregation is doing to serve individuals, families and communities through the innovative, unique and highly regarded programs and services of LSS. Your congregation can schedule an LSS Sunday on a date convenient for you. Donation envelopes and DVDs will be mailed to congregations that [register](#) for an LSS Sunday.

<http://www.lsswis.org/LSS-Sunday-Welcome.htm>

[Images for Lutheran Social Services Sunday](#)

22) Articles and quotes from churchwide magazine and devotional

As part of the illustrative material for preaching, I share articles or quotes from the churchwide magazine *The Lutheran/Living Lutheran* and the Augsburg Fortress devotional *Christ in Our Home*. The use of these and other materials also seeks to commend periodicals and publications provided by churchwide and the denominational publishing house.

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

Chapter 9.

ROSTERED MINISTER

***C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

- 1) **preach the Word;**
- 2) administer the sacraments;
- 3) conduct public worship;
- 4) provide pastoral care;

- 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
- 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;
- 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and
- 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> [2019 Model Constitution for Congregations](#)

<https://download.elca.org> > [ELCA Resource Repository](#) > [Model Constitution](#)

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

[Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository Chapter 9. ROSTERED MINISTER impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications](#)

Resources

Christ in Our Home - Augsburg Fortress

Christ in Our Home is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily.



<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286137/Christ-in-Our-Home>

[Images for Christ in Our Home - Augsburg Fortress](#)

The Lutheran Magazine



<http://www.thelutheran.org/template/index.cfm>

[Images for The Lutheran Magazine](#)

Living Lutheran



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

[Images for Living Lutheran](#)

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

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

Interestingly, *Living Lutheran* offered articles 3 issues in a row with connections to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.

The October 2016 issue featured Una Bonkrude, age 107, from Dallas, Wisconsin, in the feature, "I'm a Lutheran." I shared this article on All Saints Day, November 6, 2016. As it turned out, she died 11/20/2016.

I'm a Lutheran: Una Bonkrude - Living Lutheran

Congregation: Dallas Lutheran Church, Dallas, Wis.

Occupation: Retired elementary school teacher, piano instructor and church organist

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/10/im-lutheran-una-bonkrude/>

[Images for I'm a Lutheran: Una Bonkrude – Living Lutheran](#)

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/una-bonkrude-obituary?pid=1000000182718346>

The November 2016 issue featured former Assistant to the Bishop Todd Iverson as a Naval Chaplain in ASK THEM ABOUT THEIR STORIES: Caring for the new veterans By Erin Strybis. I shared this article on Sunday, November 13, 2016 when the service of worship included a Blessing for Veterans.

Living Lutheran November 2016 - Yudu

Navy Chaplain Todd Iverson reads from the Prayer Book for the Armed Forces. Chaplains play a critical role in supporting

active military and also support veterans through VA medical centers.

<http://content.yudu.com/web/y5b2/0A1qcub/LivingLutheranNov16/html/index.html?page=22>
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/11/ask-them-about-their-stories/>
[Images for Ask them about their stories - Living Lutheran](https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/11/care-package-connections/)
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/11/care-package-connections/>
<http://metrodelca.org/marking-veterans-day-in-our-faith-communities/>
<https://sites.google.com/site/immanuelca/meet-the-staff>

The December 2016 issue featured Chicken Coop Church of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, as its cover story, "The face of the church is changing." I shared this article on 2AdventA, December 4, 2016., in preaching on John the Baptist in the wilderness.

The face of the church is changing - Living Lutheran

Every Sunday evening, around 35 people gather for worship in a converted chicken coop at Chicken Coop Church in Grantsburg, Wis. "I'm not scared to tell a person Jesus loves you," said Peter Johnson, mission developer. "What's fun for me is that now I hear everyone who attends Chicken Coop emulating that same language."

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/12/study-guide-face-church-changing/>
[Images for The face of the church is changing - Living Lutheran](https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/12/study-guide-face-church-changing/)
[Images for Chicken Coop Church in Grantsburg, Wis.](https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/12/study-guide-face-church-changing/)

23) Sidestepping certain verses

The gospel for 3PentecostA 2017 was Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23]. It also happened to be Father's Day. In addition, both congregations were convening in special Congregation Meetings following the services of worship to vote on the nominee by the Joint Parish Call Committee for the position of installed pastor. Under other circumstances, I might have been willing to address 10:8b [You received without payment; give without payment.], but not when the members would be deliberating a proposed compensation package for a candidate, and I might have been willing to address 10:21 [Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death;] otherwise, but not on Father's Day when the service of worship included a litany on Blessing of Fathers and hymns such as Faith of Our Fathers and Children of the Heavenly Father.

24) The sermon does not have to do it all

I appreciate that I serve in a denomination, which values an order for the service of worship of Gathering – Word – Meal – Sending for a Service of Holy Communion and Gathering – Word – Thanksgiving – Sending for a Service of the Word. The sermon is a part of the Word, which in turn is part of the larger order for the service of worship. I believe there is more pressure on the preacher in those services of worship where it is the band and the preacher, the music and the message.

[PDF] Principles for Worship - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Background P-2A

Within the assembly, proclamation of the word includes the public reading of the scripture, preaching, teaching, the celebration of the sacraments, confession and absolution, music, arts, prayers, Christian witness and service.⁶³

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Principles_for_Worship.pdf Page 49
[Images for Principles for Worship - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Principles_for_Worship.pdf)

25) Keep 'em guessing

Early in my interim pastoral ministry in the 1990s, I was serving a two-point parish. The president and vice president of the larger congregation where I preached at the early service of worship headed to the other congregation for the later service of worship to meet with some of the congregation leaders afterwards. I decided to preach a completely different sermon at the second setting to see what they would say. Afterwards, they came up to me and wondered if they had not been paying attention at the first service of worship. I let them in on what I had done.

Another time, I was serving in a congregation with 1 service of worship on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. The praise team played once a month and sat behind and to the side of the pulpit. After the last service of worship on Sunday, 2 different team members complimented me on how I changed the sermon from service to service. I quipped to 1 member, "I wanted to make sure you didn't fall asleep." The member replied, "I wouldn't do that, but you kept me interested."

Resources

Billie Holiday: African American Quotes

I can't stand to sing the same song the same way two nights in succession, let alone two years or ten years. If you can, then it ain't music. It's close-order drill or exercise or yodeling or something, not music.

<http://www.africanamericanquotes.org/billie-holiday.html>
[Images for Billie Holiday: African American Quotes](http://www.africanamericanquotes.org/billie-holiday.html)

Billie Holiday - Wikipedia

Eleanora Fagan (April 7, 1915 – July 17, 1959), better known as Billie Holiday, was an American [jazz](#) singer with a career spanning nearly thirty years. Nicknamed "Lady Day" by her friend and music partner [Lester Young](#), Holiday had a seminal influence on jazz music and [popsinging](#). Her vocal style, strongly inspired by jazz instrumentalists, pioneered a new way of manipulating [phrasing](#) and [tempo](#). She was known for her vocal delivery and [improvisational](#) skills, which made up for her limited range and lack of formal music education.^[2]



At the Downbeat club, in New York.

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

[Images for billie holiday](#)

The Jazz of Preaching: How to Preach with Great Freedom and Joy by Kirk Byron Jones (Author)

What if preachers were as contagiously joyful in their preaching as Louis Armstrong was in his playing and singing? As rich in their sermonic renderings as Sarah Vaughan was in her musical vocals? As honest about heartache as **Billie Holiday** was every time she sang about the blues of life? As alluringly clear as the angelic voice of Ella Fitzgerald? As tenaciously uninhibited in the action of creating as Duke Ellington?

Of course, this is too much to ask of people, even those called by God. However, it is not too much to ask this question: Can preaching be enhanced through the metaphor of jazz? Can an understanding of the inner dynamics of jazz--its particular forms, rules, and styles--inform one's practice of preaching as well? Can jazz's simultaneous structure and spontaneity help preachers better understand their own art?

The answer to these questions, says Jones, is an unqualified yes. He explains how one can dramatically improve one's preaching through understanding and applying key elements of the musical art form known as jazz. No musical background is necessary; all examples are well explained and tied in with preaching. The key elements include innovation (what one commentator refers to as "the experimental disposition of jazz"), improvisation, rhythm, call and response, honesty about heartaches, and delight. After discussing the reality and role of each of these elements in jazz, and how they can be important for preaching as well, each chapter concludes with five exercises for applying the jazz element to preaching preparation and performance. Drawing on a deep love of jazz and enlivening the discussion with insights drawn from the realities of African American preaching, Jones introduces readers to rich and rewarding possibilities for constructing and delivering the sermon.

<https://www.amazon.com/Jazz-Preaching-Preach-Great-Freedom/dp/0687002524>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/529445.The_Jazz_of_Preaching

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/jazz-of-preaching-kirk-byron-jones/1102470518>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426720688>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Jazz_of_Preaching.html?id=oinHR6FDKbsC

<http://kirkbjones.com/article/The-Jazz-of-Preaching.html>

<https://www.soulpreaching.com/miles-davis-and-preaching-be-yourself-4>

<https://www.uccresources.com/products/the-jazz-of-preaching-how-to-preach-with-great-freedom-and-joy-jones>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kirk-byron-jones-0a539920>

<http://kirkbjones.com/About-Kirk-Byron-Jones.html>

<https://www.judsonpress.com/Author/Default.aspx?AuthorID=151735>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/kirk-byron-jones/335151/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Kirk-Byron-Jones/e/B0011YVCCC>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/292996.Kirk_Byron_Jones

[Images for Kirk Byron Jones \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The Jazz of Preaching: How to Preach with Great Freedom and Joy by Kirk Byron Jones \(Author\)](#)

Top 30 Songs Billie Holiday || Billie Holiday Playlist HQ/MP3 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3sUQQueDCY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZsrEq8kK4s> Lady sings The Blues - Billie Holiday [Full Album] (1956) – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRYFRvOUrvI> The Best of Billie Holiday | Jazz Music - YouTube

[Images for Best of Billie Holiday | Jazz Music - YouTube](#)

Gene Kelly - Wikipedia

In 1940 he got the lead role in [Rodgers and Hart's](#) *Pal Joey*, again choreographed by Robert Alton. This role propelled him to stardom. During its run, he told reporters: "I don't believe in conformity to any school of dancing. I create what the drama and the music demand. While I am a hundred percent for ballet technique, I use only what I can **adapt** to my own use. I never let technique get in the way of mood or continuity."^[1]



Kelly in 1943

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_Kelly
[Images for Gene Kelly](#)

[Singing in The Rain \(Gene Kelly\) \[HD Widescreen\] - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1ZYhVpdXbQ>

[Images for Singing in The Rain \(Gene Kelly\) - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aus1PA5-SyI> Gene Kelly tap dancing on roller skates – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vw-qlHuktJs> Gene Kelly Summer Stock Dance – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpCLxnVpgbo> “Gotta Dance” — Gene Kelly and Cyd Charisse, 1952 – YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWryDF_yyH0 Judy Garland & Gene Kelly - Ballin' the Jack – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZKNX1iKaMY> Gene Kelly & Jerry Mouse – “The Worry Song” (1945) - YouTube

26) Can improv improve preaching?

I was introduced to improv theatre by Anoo Tree Brod in her plenary session and workshop at the 2013 Interim Ministry Conference.

Plenary Session

Play, Laugh and Connect Without Judgment or Fear

Anoo Tree Brod

When you think of improvisational theater, you may think of the TV show “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” or perhaps a Friday night comedy performance. While both demonstrate aspects of improvisation, many are now learning that this is only one small slice of an activity that is inspiring people around the globe to think quickly and creatively and become strong, fearless leaders in a variety of fields. More and more businesses, corporations and congregations are learning the value of bringing improv into their organization. Students of improv note life changing lessons around communication, teamwork, flexibility, spontaneity and more. You will participate in activities that teach us to keep things simple, to be in the moment, to listen, and to respond from the heart. Find out two magic words that can immediately reduce conflict and increase creativity. Experience how to use a blend of improv and spirituality to reconnect with the heart of your ministry and your mission to serve. Page 4

Workshop

Improvisation and Leadership

Anoo Tree Brod

“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation” - Plato Can you truly become a better leader, communicator and team member through fun, simple to learn games and exercises? Many thriving corporations and businesses are discovering the power of improv to build successful teams, more satisfied employees and to foster innovative thinking in the workplace. Are you ready to release outmoded communication tools for inspired, present moment connectionmakers? Would you like to learn one easy and surprising way to shift power struggles into creative teamwork? Would you like your work environment to be a model for health, healing and happiness? Then this session is for you! Through fun activities that relieve stress, open up creative, right-brain thinking and promote deeper cooperation, you will begin to experience the power of improvisation to strengthen, energize and transform your ministry. Page 5

Anoo Tree Brod is a certified Life Coach/Spiritual Counselor and teacher of improvisational theater. She has been performing with the South's longest running professional improv troupe, Transactors Improv Company, since 1997. She teaches improvisational theater to people of all ages in a variety of venues from churches, to businesses, to schools, and art centers. She uses improvisation to teach, build and practice core leadership skills with the goal of helping people live more authentic and inspired lives. anootreemail@gmail.com Page 9



[\[PDF\] 2013 IMN Conference program.pub](#)

<http://imnedu.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2013-IMN-Conference-program.pdf>

[Images for Improvisation and Leadership Anoo Tree Brod](#)

<https://anootreebrod.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/anoo.tree>

Since then, I have been asking myself how an understanding of improv can improve preaching.

Resources

[An Improv State of Mind: Using the Art and Science of Improvisation to Succeed at Work...and at Life by Jennie Ayers \(Author\)](#)

Organizations depend on all employees to come up with fresh ideas. They depend on teams that can effectively collaborate.

And our facility to stay productive in the face of change is vital. We can do all of this...by using the art and science of

improvisation. Improvisation is an engaging learning tool that can help individuals and work groups be more adaptive and open to change, and create cohesive, trusting teams. An Improv State of Mind offers practical exercises -complete with debrief questions - for the improv novice and for coaches, trainers, facilitators, talent managers and OD professionals who are ready to embrace new ways to learn...and succeed.

<https://www.amazon.com/Improv-State-Mind-Science-Improvisation/dp/0692308229>

<https://www.amazon.com/Improv-State-Mind-Science-Improvisation/product-reviews/0692308229>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/an-improv-state-of-mind-jennie-ayers/1121811423>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennieayers>

[Images for An Improv State of Mind: Using the Art and Science of Improvisation to Succeed at Work...and at Life by Jennie Ayers](#)

Improvisation and the Art of Preaching - Rookie Preacher

Here are three things I look at when I compare the art of preaching to musical improvisation.

<https://rookiepreacher.com/improvisation-art-preaching/>

[Images for Improvisation and the Art of Preaching](#)

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/joe-hoagland-improvisation-and-the-art-of-preaching-2460?ref=>

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/articles/articles-about-preacher/?keyword=Preacher&ref=PreachingArticleSerps>

<https://charlesstone.com/how-an-improv-class-improved-my-preaching-and-enhanced-my-life/>

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=1907> How to Preach without Notes by Ted A. Smith - Craft of Preaching

https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=442&issue_id=44 An improv artist in the pulpit - Story Magazine

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/talkwiththepreacher/2012/01/18/the-rules-of-improv-anything-is-possible/>

<https://johnsmcclure.com/2013/05/29/extemporaneous-preaching-and-the-art-of-improvisation/>

[Images for preaching and art of improvisation](#)

<https://reverendally.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/improvisation-and-enacting-theology-in-all-age-worship.pdf>

<https://tomsimprovpages.wordpress.com/preaching-sharing/>

<http://blog.smu.edu/pcpe/a-control-freaks-encounter-with-chaos-what-one-preacher-learned-from-an-improv-comedian/>

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

[Images for preaching through improvisation](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCDp16mxOKs> How to strengthen your preaching through improv – YouTube

[Images for better preaching through improvisation](#)

Improvisation - Wikipedia

Skills and techniques

The skills of improvisation can apply to many different abilities or forms of communication and expression across all artistic, scientific, physical, cognitive, academic, and non-academic disciplines. For example, improvisation can make a significant contribution in music, dance, cooking, presenting a speech, sales, personal or romantic relationships, sports, flower arranging, martial arts, psychotherapy, and much more.

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

[Images for Improvisation](#)

27) Story sermons

Story sermons are sermons in which the story is the sermon. One of my favorites is the story of Martin Luther on Reformation Day. Another favorite is The Fisherman and His Wife by Jacob and Wilhelm Grim in texts related to possessions and faith. Both are included in my well-worn copy of [Speaking in Stories: Resources for Christian Storytellers by William R. White \(Author\)](#).

Resources

Martin Luther Biography - Facts, Birthday, Life Story

Theologian Martin Luther forever changed Christianity when he began the Protestant Reformation in 16th century Europe.

<http://www.biography.com/people/martin-luther-9389283#awesm=-oBKjIVEQnBnp7T>

[Images for Images for martin luther's 95 theses](#)

The Fisherman and His Wife - Wikipedia

There once was a poor fisherman who lived with his wife, Ilsebill, in a hovel by the sea. One day the fisherman catches a golden flounder who claims to be an enchanted prince. The fisherman kindly releases it. When his wife hears the story, she says he ought to have had the flounder grant him a wish. Ilsebill tells him to go back and ask the flounder to grant her wish for a nice house. The fisherman returns to the shore but is uneasy when he finds that the sea seems to be turning dark when it was so clear before. He makes up a rhyme to summon the flounder, and it grants the wife's wish. However, the wife gets greedy and makes increasingly outrageous demands: a castle so she can become queen, then empress and finally pope. The fisherman knows this is wrong but there is no reasoning with his wife. The flounder grants the wishes, but the sea grows increasingly stormy every time the fisherman goes to summon it. Eventually, the wife goes too far when she wishes to become equal to God. The flounder revokes everything it granted, and the fisherman and his wife are back in their hovel.



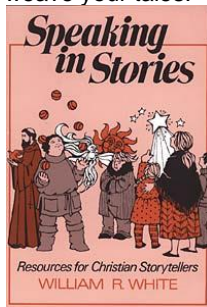
"The Fisherman and His Wife" illustration by [Alexander Zick](#).

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

[Images for "The Fisherman and His Wife" German fairy tale collected by the Brothers Grimm](#)

Speaking in Stories: Resources for Christian Storytellers by William R. White (Author)

Why do we all like a good story? Stories give us joy, hope, visions of wonderful grace at work, says William White. But how can we learn to tell Christian stories? How can we find good story ideas? How can we make our stories interesting? *Speaking in Stories* is full of practical ideas on how to begin, what to avoid, how to use stories in classrooms, camps, churches. White's many examples of stories - from the Bible, folktales, modern parables, for Christmas -- serve as a valuable resource as you weave your tales.



<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Speaking-Stories-Resources-Christian-Storytellers/dp/0806619295>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3869398-speaking-in-stories>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5396/Speaking-in-Stories-Resources-for-Christian-Storytellers?c=257625>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451420358>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Speaking_in_Stories.html?id=JiHq3fgVspwC

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/contributor/770/William-R-White>

<https://www.amazon.com/William-R.-White/e/B000APUXM0>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/242576.William_R_White

[Images for William R. White \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Speaking in Stories: Resources for Christian Storytellers by William R. White \(Author\)](#)

Stories for Telling: A Treasury for Christian Storytellers by William R. White (Author)

"Where can I find good, enjoyable stories that deal with Christian values?" "What can I use to communicate the gospel in story language?" Well-known storyteller William White here retells sixty fascinating stories and folktales, ideal for use in Christian preaching and teaching, at home, and at camps and retreats. The stories help communicate the gospel message by presenting issues of love and compassion, sin and grace, wisdom and foolishness, friendship and fidelity.

<https://www.amazon.com/Stories-Telling-William-R-White/dp/0806621923>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1856030.Stories_for_Telling

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5433/Stories-for-Telling-A-Treasury-for-Christian-Storytellers?c=257625>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451420366>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Stories_for_Telling.html?id=VfTD2y9I4gIC

[Images for Stories for Telling: A Treasury for Christian Story Tellers by William R. White \(Author\)](#)

Stories for the Gathering: A Treasury for Christian Storytellers by William R. White (Author)

For gatherings large or small, this new collection of stories assembled by the well-known William White will capture the imagination of listeners of all ages.

The author provides pastors and other Christian storytellers with more than fifty traditional and contemporary stories arranged under four themes: Christmas and Other Festivals; Lent and Easter; Faith, Hope, and Promise; Wisdom and Foolishness.

In addition to stories set in modern times, White includes several short fables by Aesop, Leo Tolstoy, and other classic storytellers.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5710/Stories-for-the-Gathering-A-Treasury-for-Christian-Storytellers?c=257625>

<http://www.amazon.com/STORIES-FOR-GATHERING-William-White/dp/080663345X>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/stories-for-the-gathering-william-r-white/1100072751>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=080663345X>

Stories for the Journey: A Sourcebook for Christian Storytellers by William R. White

Jesus chose parables and stories as his way of communicating with people. His words capture our imagination as well as our rationality. This book offers delightful material for "converting the imagination" of listeners today. The author provides Christian storytellers with retellings of more than 80 folktales in the practical sourcebook. Like his two previous books, this new collection offers a rich treasury of illustrations for use in Christian preaching and teaching.

<https://www.amazon.com/Stories-Journey-Sourcebook-Christian-Storytellers/dp/0806623640>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1829273.Stories_for_the_Journey

https://books.google.com/books/about/Stories_for_the_Journey.html?id=NI3NPQAACAAJ

[Images for Stories for the Journey: A Sourcebook for Christian Storytellers by William R. White](#)

28) Share the faith

If one of the goals of preaching is to encourage people to share the faith, then I suggest that a conversational style of preaching is more conducive than a manuscript style. Philip the disciple did not use a script when inviting Nathanael,

Philip and Nathanael

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

oremus Bible Browser : John 1:43-51

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

[Images for Philip and Nathanael](#)

nor did Philip the evangelist when witnessing to the Ethiopian eunuch.

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' 31 He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

34 The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

oremus Bible Browser: Acts 8:26-40

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Acts+8:26-40>

[Images for Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch](#)

Resources

Ministry Matters™ | Relational Preaching: Conversation and Collaboration in the Postmodern Sermon

We live in an era where people long for relationships in their spiritual journeys. When we reflect this sense of relationship in the sermon moment, we are responding to that yearning. The relational aspect of conversational preaching is far more important than the actual style of the sermon itself. A preacher need not redesign her entire preaching style to become more conversational and interactive while preaching. She shouldn't feel pressured to speak from a stool and high-top table, but neither should she feel restricted to a manuscript and a pulpit during the message time. Relational preaching can take place in any number of ways. Below are a few ways you might be able to move toward conversation and interaction in your preaching.

The Lutheran Handbook - Augsburg Fortress

How to Share Your Faith with Someone

Page 89

The essential field guide for all things Lutheran. Confirmants – or anyone hiking the trails of life's adventures and challenges – will want to pack this handy illustrated field guide to Lutheran theology and culture. This enjoyable, easy-to-read, reliable, all-in-one collection helps you understand the essential information about our theology, culture and Lutheran way of life.

Organized by Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff and Bible Stuff with how-to's like "How to Forgive Someone" and lists like "The Top-10 Bible Villains." Encapsulates essential principles of the Christian life, making many of the complexities of our religious tradition accessible for contemporary seekers.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/535/The-Lutheran-Handbook>

<https://www.amazon.com/Lutheran-Handbook-Kristofer-Skrade/dp/0806651792>

[Images for The Lutheran Handbook - Augsburg Fortress How to Share Your Faith with Someone](#)

29) No longer necessary

I came into a setting where the previous pastors wrote their sermons in long hand, and, afterwards, the church secretary or volunteers typed up a readable manuscript and mailed it to the homebound. When I stated in my initial conversation with the church secretary that I did not use a manuscript, she sounded relieved.

30) Bare essentials

A retired pastor 75+ years of age was asked about his availability for supply preaching. He agreed provided he only be expected to preach the sermon and speak the words of institution. There were not many baptisms in the congregations he agreed to preach in, but should a baptism come up, I would think it would follow that the preacher would administer the water and the word. The rest of service leadership would need to be led by the people. In addition, I believe it is appropriate for the preacher to speak the words of absolution "As a called and ordained minister..." Otherwise, the alternate confession and forgiveness that does not include these specific words would need to be used. As more older pastors are being pressed into duty because of the clergy shortage, this situation begs the question, "What are the bare essentials for a preacher in a service of worship?" Preaching done well requires ability and training and, so, the reason for the rostered minister. The administration of the sacraments does not necessarily require the kind of extensive training as does preaching, but this task is set aside for rostered ministers in order that things be done "decently and in good order."

Resources

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

Chapter 9.

ROSTERED MINISTER

- *C9.01. Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by [this congregation][the Congregation Council] to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.
- *C9.02. Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for the congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.
- *C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
 - a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care;
 - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;
 - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and
 - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
 - b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) relate to all schools and organizations of this congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline; and
 - 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> [2019 Model Constitution for Congregations](#)

<https://download.elca.org> > [ELCA Resource Repository](#) > [Model Constitution](#)

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

[Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository Chapter 9. ROSTERED MINISTER preach the Word; 2\) administer the sacraments; 3\) conduct public worship](#)

Rostered Ministers of the ELCA - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Doing God's work in the world calls for leaders who bring a variety of training, skills, interests and life experiences to the work they do in congregations, communities and partner organizations. Many of these leaders are called to serve as ministers on one of the rosters of the ELCA: Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service.

Rostered ministers carry out the work and mission of this church, sharing God's love with the world through the good news of Jesus Christ. The different types of rostered ministers in the ELCA include:

- Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Pastors, serve with active, courageous faith to **offer the hope of the sacraments and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in congregations and other ministry settings**. Some pastors are called to specialized ministries such as chaplaincy and campus ministry.

- Ministers of Word and Service. Deacons serve in congregations and other ministries of the ELCA, including family ministries, youth, administration, volunteer ministry, social services, music or parish nursing. Deacons connect the church with the needs of the world and work to equip others to lead a living, active and caring Christian life.

Every rostered minister goes through theological training and a candidacy process. The candidacy process raises up, prepares, certifies and places public leaders in the ELCA. Family, friends, congregations, ministry organizations, synods, seminaries and staff from the churchwide organization all play important roles in this process. Do you have a sense that God may be calling you to serve as a rostered minister in the ELCA? We welcome the opportunity to help you with your discernment, and explore what opportunities are available to you for preparation and serving in a leadership role.

<https://www.elca.org/About/Leadership/Rostered>

[Images for proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in congregations](#)

31) Files for sermon preparation

Through the years, I have hauled less and less books from assignment to assignment, but I still haul R-Kive boxes (otherwise known as "bankers boxes") – Lectionary A, Lectionary B, Lectionary C, Preaching & Worship. Beginning 1 Advent C 2015, I started 3 electronic folders for each of the lectionary years in which to place electronic files for each Sunday and commemoration. Beginning 1 Advent B 2017, I found myself in an assignment where the narrative lectionary was being used, so I started another electronic folder.



[Bankers Box R-Kive Heavy-Duty Storage Boxes, Letter/Legal, Woodgrain, 4 Pack \(0072506\)](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Bankers-Box-Heavy-Duty-Storage-Woodgrain/dp/B000DT87RQ>

[Images for Bankers Box R-Kive Heavy-Duty Storage Boxes, Letter/Legal, Woodgrain](#)

32) Overcoming the anxiety about being stumped

Early in my pastoral ministry I suffered anxiety about being stumped on a text. I prayed for guidance, studied the text for the week, reflected on the context, and worked to make the connection. I collected hard copy materials wherever I could. Now, I appreciate the wealth of resources on the internet at my fingertips to engage the task of preaching.

33) Preaching at three services of worship on Saturday and Sunday

I've served various mid-sized and large congregations where one service of worship is offered on Saturday late afternoon and two services of worship on Sunday morning. I've discovered the following rhythm for preaching at the three services of worship: warm up, nail it, wrap up. The Saturday evening service of worship is usually more relaxed and forgiving. I make adjustments after the Saturday afternoon service of worship in preparation for the Sunday morning services of worship. The early Sunday morning service of worship is usually more formal with higher expectations. Sometimes, this service of worship is recorded and broadcast. The late Sunday morning service of worship returns to being more relaxed and forgiving and becomes home, sweet home.

Chapel Service of Worship

Come to the chapel service of worship at 5pm. Meet old friends and make new ones.

Cathedral Service of Worship

Come to the cathedral service of worship at 8:30am and raise the roof with singing or at least shake the rafters.

Camp Service of Worship

Come to the camp service of worship at 10:30am as you are and leave with a song in your heart and on your lips.

34) Do no harm

I ran across a memorable quote and accompanying video clip by Barbara Brown Taylor on Working Preacher that emphasized the preacher's responsibility to respect the listener.

Preaching Moment 277: Barbara Brown Taylor - Working Preacher

"The main thing I love about a preacher is one who **does no harm**, who occupies his or her space with some awareness of how vulnerable I [as a listener] am."

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=2721>

[Images for preacher who does no harm](#)

Resources

Five Easy Principles? - Businessweek - Bloomberg

As a professional ethicist, however, my responsibility is not merely to explain what we ought to do, but, perhaps more importantly, to say why we ought to do it. My ethical obligation to you is to provide good reasons for how we ought and ought not to act.

For the next several columns, I will present an account of the five fundamental ethical principles that are the foundation of right conduct in any arena of your life. They are: **Do no harm**, Make things better, Respect others, Be fair, Be compassionate.

These principles reveal the secret to living a rich, satisfying, and happy life, and we have known about them for more than 5,000 years. Every religious tradition in the world teaches them, as do parents in every country. Without them civilization would be impossible because there would be nothing but chaos everywhere. These principles have a transforming effect on who we are and where we go in life, and for that reason, we can rightly refer to them as "life principles."

<http://www.businessweek.com/stories/2007-01-10/five-easy-principles-businessweek-business-news-stock-market-and-financial-advice>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2007-01-10/five-easy-principles-businessweek-business-news-stock-market-and-financial-advice>

[Images for Five Easy Principles? - Businessweek - Bloomberg - Do no harm](#)

<http://www.businessweek.com/stories/2007-01-18/principle-no-dot-2-make-things-betterbusinessweek-business-news-stock-market-and-financial-advice>

<http://www.businessweek.com/stories/2007-01-25/principle-no-dot-3-respect-others-part-1-businessweek-business-news-stock-market-and-financial-advice>

<http://www.businessweek.com/stories/2007-01-31/principle-no-dot-3-respect-others-part-2-businessweek-business-news-stock-market-and-financial-advice>

<http://www.businessweek.com/stories/2007-02-08/principle-no-dot-4-be-fair-part-1-businessweek-business-news-stock-market-and-financial-advice>

<http://www.businessweek.com/stories/2007-02-15/principle-no-dot-4-be-fair-part-2-businessweek-business-news-stock-market-and-financial-advice>

<http://www.businessweek.com/stories/2007-02-22/the-fifth-life-principle-be-lovingbusinessweek-business-news-stock-market-and-financial-advice>

[Images for do no harm](#)

Primum non nocere - Wikipedia

Primum non nocere (Classical Latin: [ˈpriːmũː noːn noˈkeːrɛ]) is a [Latin](#) phrase that means "first, do no harm." The phrase is sometimes recorded as *primum nil nocere*.^[1]

Non-maleficence, which is derived from the maxim, is one of the principal precepts of [bioethics](#) that all medical students are taught in school and is a fundamental principle throughout the world. Another way to state it is that, "given an existing problem, it may be better not to do something, or even to do nothing, than to risk causing more harm than good." It reminds physicians to consider the possible harm that any intervention might do. It is invoked when debating the use of an intervention that carries an obvious risk of harm but a less certain chance of benefit.

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

[Images for Primum non nocere](#)

35) Boundaries in the pulpit

Barbara Solsaa in Boundaries Workshop Take One – The Basics on 10/16/2017 at First Lutheran Church in New Richmond, Wisconsin included a slide in her PPT presentation on boundaries in the pulpit:

When you put on those robes/that collar, you are saying something about your role in the community.

Talk to family members before they become sermon illustrations.

Not to scold someone (it doesn't work)

Not used for therapy (overshare)

Not used to take a side on an issue the congregation is struggling with

When we use the passage for our own agenda, we have crossed the line

BOUNDARY TRAINING-PHASE ONE WITH BARBARA SOLSAA

October 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st

This workshop is intended to equip rostered as well as other church leaders, to **understand healthy boundaries in ministry relationships**. Boundary workshops are an expected part of your ongoing training as a rostered minister.

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

Resources

[PDF] Bishop Craig A. Satterlee's—Pulpit Boundaries - North/West Lower Michigan Synod ELCA

Preaching is another sacred trust for pastors. The pastor is responsible for the preaching of the Gospel in the community in which they serve. Therefore, preparations for the proclamation of the word are vital to its hearers. Bishops do not take kindly to reading on Facebook on Saturday evening, "Just looking at the Gospel for tomorrow. Hope the Spirit brings me a sermon." In the preaching of the word, these boundaries should be observed:

<http://mittensynod.org/docs/PulpitBoundaries.pdf>

[Images for Bishop Craig A. Satterlee's—Pulpit Boundaries - North/West Lower Michigan Synod ELCA](#)

[Images for pulpit boundaries](#)

Boundaries Training - Missouri Annual Conference

power and sexual boundaries; boundaries regarding gifts; ... and dual relationships; **boundaries for the pulpit**; transference and use of touch ...

<http://www.moumethodist.org/newsdetail/boundaries-training-6086214>

[Images for boundaries for the pulpit](#)

10 Reasons for Pollution in the Pulpit Today by Joseph Mattera

The following are ten reasons there is pollution in some pulpits today: ... Lacking these **boundaries** can result in pollution in the pulpit today.

<http://www.icaleaders.com/news/2017/1/19/10-reasons-for-pollution-in-the-pulpit-today-by-joseph-mattera>

[Images for 10 Reasons for Pollution in the Pulpit Today by Joseph Mattera](#)

[PDF] Why Do We Need Boundaries Training?

The **Pulpit**

Pastors have a great responsibility whenever we step into the pulpit. This is one of those places in which parishioners feel a great differential in power between themselves and the pastor. We need to take this responsibility very seriously while we joyously share the truth of the gospel.

http://www.icpresbytery.com/uploads/8/9/4/3/8943859/boundaries_manual.pdf

[Images for Boundaries Training - The Pulpit](#)

Page 9

36) Preaching in the pulpit or in the aisle?

I walked into one worship facility as I began an interim assignment and noticed the pulpit filled with music stands and a fan. I mentioned to the church secretary that it looked like the preacher did not use the pulpit. She said the preacher walked back and forth in the chancel and up and down the aisle.

Back in the early 1990s, I occasionally preached from the aisle. Then, I heard a veteran interim pastor present at a conference meeting in which he spoke of preaching from the aisle as invading people's space. The more I've thought about it, the more I think he's right, and I preach from the pulpit to respect the office rather than accent the person. At the above site, I preached from the lectern.

Resources

Homilies While Walking? - EWTN

Answered by Father Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University.

Q: During the homily after the Gospel, is the priest allowed to walk down the aisle while preaching?

— R.F., Bombay, India.

A: The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) is rather sparse regarding this point.

No. 136 says: "The priest, standing at the chair or at the ambo itself or, when appropriate, in another suitable place, gives the homily. When the homily is completed, a period of silence may be observed."

It would probably be an excess of legalism to interpret "standing" as meaning necessarily immobile or fixed in one place. The reason for mentioning "standing" is far more likely to distinguish the priest's posture from that of a bishop, who may preach while seated in his cathedra, or throne. Preaching while seated symbolizes the bishop's role as teacher and guide of his people. This was the customary posture of teachers since ancient times.

While perhaps the GIRM does not strictly forbid moving around while preaching the homily, it certainly indicates a preference on the part of the Church that the homily be preached from a stable position.

I personally do not favor the practice of **wandering around while preaching the homily, as it can give rise to theatrics that distract from the message**. Such theatrics are often inappropriate in the context of the entire celebration as there is a danger of converting the Mass into a kind of show.

Thus, once the homily is over it may be difficult for the people to recover their recollection and prepare themselves to participate in the sacrifice.

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/liturgy/zlitur45.htm>

[Images for Homilies While Walking?](#)

Jesus and John the Baptist

³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease."

oremus Bible Browser: John 3:30

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John+3%3A30&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>
[Images for Jesus and John the Baptist](#)

Pitfalls in Preaching - Richard L. Eslinger - Google Books

A major violation of the tacit norms as to the space in preaching as in **striding up and down the aisle – disrupts a congregation's necessary sense of security and emotional safety**. With a growing sense of threat and anxiety, the listeners will typically extend less openness to the preacher's message, not more! The space invader calls more attention to him or herself, all in the name of avoiding precisely such attention!

http://books.google.com/books/about/Pitfalls_in_Preaching.html?id=ALmoKACOm-YC
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802808204>

Page 135

Images for preacher striding up and down the aisle – disrupts a congregation's necessary sense of security and emotional safety
This informal yet substantive guidebook is designed to help clergy and pastors identify and avoid the major pitfalls that plague the preaching task. Richard Eslinger discusses with insight, humor, and concision what he sees as the most critical pitfalls in the various contexts of preaching and offers practical strategies for avoiding them. His book is also studded with highlighted quotations, pertinent references to a wide range of homiletical thinkers and concepts, boxed hints and suggestions, and brief bibliographies.

<https://www.amazon.com/Pitfalls-Preaching-Mr-Richard-Eslinger/dp/0802808204>
<http://www.preaching.org/category/pitfalls/>
<https://community.logos.com/forums/t/97832.aspx>
<https://www.amazon.com/Richard-L.-Eslinger/e/B001HMSPNY>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/695685.Richard_L_Eslinger
[Images for Richard L. Eslinger, author preaching](#)
[Images for Pitfalls in Preaching - Richard L. Eslinger](#)

37) Plodders or prancers?

In one assignment in 1993-94 and another assignment in a neighboring community in 2016-17, I heard hoofs on the pavement from the horses pulling wagons and buggies for the Amish while sitting in the pastor's study. When I looked out the window, some horses looked like plodders and others like prancers?

Resources

Chancel Prancer - Outer Rim Territories

None of my chancel prancing is a lie but instead is a reflection of our confession.

<https://ouerrimterritories.com/chancel-prancer>
[Images for Chancel Prancer](#)

Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: An Introduction edited by Elliott Oring

Some Lutheran pastors, sensitive to this distinction and resistant to elaborate liturgical rituals suggested by the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship in 1978, use the term **"chancel prancers"** to describe their peers who are more enthusiastic about high church ceremonialism.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=087421324X>
Oring's introductory folklore text consists of a series of essays by leading scholars that give the student a solid sense of major folklore topics and interpretive techniques. Since 1986, when it was first published, this book has met the need for good instructional material at a time of tremendous growth in folklore programs and introductory courses in colleges and universities around the world.
<https://www.amazon.com/Folk-Groups-Folklore-Genres-Introduction/dp/087421128X>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1932230.Folk_Groups_And_Folklore_Genres
https://books.google.com/books/about/Folk_Groups_And_Folklore_Genres.html?id=Rc29AwAAQBAJ
<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9350>
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt46nrb4>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/58908.Elliott_Oring
[Images for Elliott Oring, author folklore genres](#)

In Praise of Plodders by Warren W. Wiersbe (Author)

Plodders are those who labor with determination and drive--whether pastor, teacher, choir director, or counselor. Wiersbe offers workable solutions to problems encountered by these faithful ministers.

<https://www.amazon.com/Praise-Plodders-Warren-W-Wiersbe/dp/0825440483>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4071936-in-praise-of-plodders>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0275967255>
<http://www.2prophetu.com/templates/print/details.asp?PG=resources&CID=32929>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/4396930.Warren_W_Wiersbe
[Images for Warren W. Wiersbe \(Author\)](#)
[Images for In Praise of Plodders by Warren W. Wiersbe \(Author\)](#)

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Passionate preaching | The Christian Century

But Old regards him as a sloppy theologian and weak preacher, a kind of **chancel prancer**, the sort of liturgical interior decorator careless about.

<https://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2012-03/passionate-preaching>

[Images for Passionate preaching | The Christian Century](#)

Quiet Hints to Growing Preachers in My Study by Charles Edward Jefferson

Eagles, Race-horses and **Plodders**. The climax of God's redeeming grace, according to Isaiah xl., 3 1, is found in the strength which enables men to plod. To soar like an eagle is difficult, to run like a race-horse is more difficult still, but to walk and not faint – this is the greatest feat which the power of God can enable any man to do.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=nulTAAAYAAJ>

Page 199

<http://www.christianstandard.com/2014/08/racehorses-plodders-and-mules/>

[Images for Quiet Hints to Growing Preachers in My Study by Charles Edward Jefferson](#)

Stop the Revolution. Join the Plodders. - Ligonier Ministries

What we need are fewer revolutionaries and a few more plodding visionaries. That's my dream for the church—a multitude of faithful, risk taking plodders. The best churches are full of gospel-saturated people holding tenaciously to a vision of godly obedience and God's glory, and pursuing that godliness and glory with relentless, often unnoticed, plodding consistency.

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/stop-the-revolution-join-the-plodders/>

[Images for Stop the Revolution. Join the Plodders. - Ligonier Ministries](#)

<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/glory-plodding/>

<http://thegodjourney.com/2010/08/27/plodders-sexy-revolutionaries-or-family/>

The Plodding Preacher

<http://theploddingpreacher.blogspot.com/>

[Images for Plodding Preacher](#)

Worship as Pastoral Care by William H. Willimon - Google Books Result

The same can be said for worship leaders who become liturgical dilettantes, "**chancel prancers**" as Luther called them, officious robots in the liturgy rather than officials of the community. The liturgy is not some pure, unspotted holy entity the ages have handed down to us for aesthetic enjoyment. The liturgy is "the work of the people," it is the action, the yearning, the heartbreak, and the outstretched hands of those who are gathered around the Table and the action, the yearning, the heartbreak, and outstretched hands of the God who deems to meet them in the flesh.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426753020>

<https://www.amazon.com/Worship-Pastoral-Care-William-Willimon/dp/0687463882>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1445375.Worship_as_Pastoral_Care

<http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9780687463886#.WSwneGiyuUk>

http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/books/1001206158;jsessionid=0B5C41104F2B0051B2EF9A421688AF5E.prodny_store02-atgap02

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/004057368003600433?journalCode=ttja>

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

http://www.abingdonpress.com/william_h_willimon

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

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/people-news/writers/will-willimon>

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

<https://divinity.duke.edu/faculty/william-willimon>

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

<http://li.cor.org/bishop-will-willimon/>

<https://www.amazon.com/William-H.-Willimon/e/B001IGHNA0>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/10467.William_H_Willimon

[Images for william h. willimon, author](#)

[Images for Worship as Pastoral Care by William H. Willimon](#)

38) Trusting in the word of God or resorting to gimmicks?

The family requested a former pastor to give the sermon at the memorial service. The preacher admitted at the beginning of his message, "Preachers sometimes resort to **gimmicks**." He then told how he brought a quilt to a mid-week Lenten service as a part of a round robin series and connected that with the deceased who made quilts.

I participated in a community Good Friday service of worship with other pastors at one assignment. The Reformed Church in America congregation hosted the service. The first call pastor spent the time before the service showing other pastors the new projection and sound system. When his part came in the service to share a word, he brought out a remote-control toy truck and drove it around the chancel to make his point that Good Friday can be a time to celebrate.

Resources

[9 Things That Worked in the Church A Decade Ago That Don't Today - Carey Nieuwhof](#)

4. **Gimmicks**

So true confession. A decade ago, we drove a car on stage to get people's attention.

We also built elaborate sets for every series hoping it would captivate people.

And all of this did. For a season.

But I also came to realize that whatever you use to attract people is what you need to use to keep people.

'Gimmicks' every week get old fast.

<https://careynieuwhof.com/9-things-worked-church-decade-ago-no-longer-work-today/>

Images for 9 Things That Worked in the Church A Decade Ago That Don't Today - Carey Nieuwhof 4. Gimmicks

Images for 'Gimmicks' every week get old fast.

T4G on Twitter: ""Pastors, do you believe the Word of God will ...

Pastors, do you believe the word of God will accomplish the work of God? If you don't, you will resort to gimmicks. —

@RevKevDeYoung.

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/kevin-deyoung/>

Images for T4G on Twitter: ""Pastors, do you believe the Word of God will ...

Images for Pastors, do you believe the word of God will accomplish the work of God? If you don't, you will resort to gimmicks. —

@RevKevDeYoung.

<https://www.amazon.com/Kevin-DeYoung/e/B001JSDD4M>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1091700.Kevin_DeYoung

Images for Kevin DeYoung, author

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

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

<https://www.gracechurch.org/leader/DeYoung/Kevin?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/kevindeyoung/>

<http://gospelreformation.net/author/kevin-deyoung/>

Worship Quote

I'm not against screens, or new songs, or innovation. I just don't like gimmicks. I want to know when worship is over that the leader's sole purpose was to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Charles R. Swindoll

Worship Quotes Page 3 - BrainyQuote

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/worship_3.html

Images for I just don't like gimmicks. I want to know when worship is over that the leader's sole purpose was to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Charles R. Swindoll

39) A cool index

If the criterion is to find what works with youth and young adults, then should I be working on my growing younger cool index?

Resources

Are You Chasing Cool in Youth Ministry? - ChurchLeaders

My lead pastor spent a decade in youth ministry, so he knew the trap that many youth pastors fall into when trying to hard to be cool.

<https://churchleaders.com/youth/youth-leaders-articles/162482-are-you-chasing-cool-in-youth-ministry.html>

Images for Are You Chasing Cool in Youth Ministry? - Church Leaders

Are you trying too hard to be cool? - Youth Ministry Media

Are you worried about being cool or relevant in order to reach students today?

www.youthministrymedia.ca/new/are-you-trying-too-hard-to-be-cool/

Images for Are you trying too hard to be cool? - Youth Ministry Media

Ignatius the Ultimate Youth Pastor - YouTube

Funny video of what a youth pastor shouldn't be.

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

Images for Ignatius the Ultimate Youth Pastor - YouTube

Should pastors try to be cool? : 9Marks

Many people assume that the best way to reach people is to be like them. So, if pastors want to reach cool people, they should try to be cool.

<https://www.9marks.org/answer/should-pastors-try-be-cool/>

Images for Should pastors try to be cool? : 9Marks

The Dangerous Pursuit of "Cool" | CT Pastors - Christianity Today

Looking back, it's very clear to me that the teachers and leaders I most respected and learned from were not the ones who were trying to be "cool," but rather the ones who were honest about who they were and willing to learn about who I was.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2010/september-online-only/dangerous-pursuit-of-cool.html>

[Images for The Dangerous Pursuit of "Cool" | CT Pastors - Christianity Today](https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/browse/)
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/browse/>

40) Entertain or engage?

Preaching in post-Christendom calls for the preacher to engage the listener. But, when the preacher seeks to entertain, it often becomes less about the message and more about the medium.

Resources

Everything Bad is Good for You... Including Preaching

But the **entertainment** industry is picking up on something about human nature: we do not just want to be amused; *we want to be meaningfully engaged*.

No media form is more uniquely suited for meaningful **engagement** than preaching. The content of our message demands the highest degree of intellectual wrestling: i.e., *There is One God in Three Persons*, or *a lordly figure has appeared from an ancient line of Kings to end cosmic tyranny*.

<http://hopefulrealism.com/2013/10/everything-bad-is-good-for-you-including-preaching/>
[Images for meaningful engagement in preaching](#)

Hopeful Realism | Should Preaching Be Entertaining?

What should most arrest our attention is truth. What should hold our concentration is a compelling vision of the Triune God.

What should awaken our interest is the urgency of sin and injustice. What should seize our minds and hearts should be Christ crucified and the cosmic scandal of a burst open tomb.

<http://hopefulrealism.com/2013/09/should-preaching-be-entertaining/>
[Images for Hopeful Realism | Should Preaching Be Entertaining?](#)

How to Design a Message Series that Engages Unchurched People – Carey Nieuwhof

Teaching and preaching becomes a very complex task of being 100% faithful to scripture and engaging your audience.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/02/how-to-design-a-message-series-unchurched-people-want-to-hear/>

[Images for How to Design a Message Series that Engages Unchurched People – Carey Nieuwhof](#)

<https://careynieuwhof.com/7-ways-grow-church-attendance-increasing-engagement/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/how-to-increase-church-engagement/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/6-sermon-myths-we-need-to-bust/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/how-to-craft-a-killer-bottom-line-for-your-next-talk/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/5-mistakes-most-preachers-make/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/bono-preaching/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/7-ways-ruin-otherwise-great-sermon-message-talk-fix/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Carey-Nieuwhof/e/B003GJCLCM>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey_Nieuwhof

[Images for carey nieuwhof \(author\)](#)

One Pastor's Top Three Sacred Cows in Desperate Need of Tipping

Sacred Cow #1: **Entertaining** Sermons

There is a real temptation in preaching today to pursue being liked by our congregations for the wrong reasons. We must seek to reveal God's glory, instead of pursuing being liked by those who may have itching ears (2 Tim. 4:3). Some church leaders want to be liked so much that they seek to entertain their hearers while preaching the Bible. Unfortunately, Scripture is often the garnish or the footnote, rather than being the main point of their entertaining sermons. The danger in seeking to entertain through our sermons is that we may be encouraging people to enjoy our sermons without enjoying Jesus—the One for whom they were created for (Col. 1:16-17).

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/jared-moore-one-pastors-top-three-sacred-cows-in-desperate-need-of-tipping-1691.asp>

[Images for One Pastor's Top Three Sacred Cows in Desperate Need of Tipping Sacred Cow #1: Entertaining Sermons](#)

Swinging for the Fences

Sometimes I catch myself swinging for the fences. It usually happens after a particularly effective sermon. I want the next one to be even better, and so I start looking for ways to knock this week's lectionary text out of the park. Usually, after a couple of ridiculous swings from the heels, I come to my senses and realize that **first task is to make contact**.

Nathan Aaseng - Working Preacher - Profile

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

[Images for Nathan Aaseng - Working Preacher - Profile](#)

The Seeker-Friendly, Purpose-Driven Cornucopia of False Doctrine

Simply put, this model of church starts with the idea that "normal" church is unattractive and can't bring in new people, so exciting new ideas must be implemented in order to get people in the door. Once people show up for the attractive and **entertaining** aspects, they'll eventually hear a gospel message and they'll "accept Jesus in their hearts" (or something to that effect).

<http://www.piratechristian.com/messedupchurch/2017/2/why-the-attractional-church-model-fails-to-deliver-the-true-gospel>

41) Is the preacher's job to make people happy?

If "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" is the right of every citizen, should not the church do its best to enable each person to achieve that state of happiness?

Pro

Victoria Osteen God wants you happy and Church is about you? - YouTube

Recent video of Victoria Osteen explaining that God just wants you happy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLWm48fhCGQ>

[Images for Victoria Osteen God wants you happy and Church is about you? - YouTube](#)

Con

Why People Get So Mad at Pastors | CT Pastors - Christianity Today

I have known pastors who fall into this trap all too often. They wrongly believe that it is their job to make people happy. So, they run themselves ragged trying to cater to the needs of people, or they push their staff to do this. It may sound strange, but there is a sense in which I can truthfully say that the church does not exist to help people. Our job is not to solve their problems or alleviate their disappointments. The primary reason the church exists is to worship God and to point people to Christ, the ultimate solution to their problems. Our work should draw attention to the one who has saved us, the one who has given us hope in place of our disappointment.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2013/spring/why-people-get-so-mad-at-pastors.html>

[Images for pastors wrongly believe that it is their job to make people happy](#)

42) What about sports banter?

I am aware that some preachers have become popular with their parishioners by engaging in sports banter from the pulpit. If I were to consider doing such, I would have to ask myself the following questions: Is this practice consistent with a theology of the cross or theology of glory? Is this practice pointing to the crucified Christ or pumping up my popularity?

The preacher has a sports addiction | Pastor Joe McKeever

The number one way pastors know they're keeping loyalty for their team in check is church members have no idea which is their favorite.

And the way you tell your love for your team has gotten way out of line is—pick one or more—a) your constant reference to it in conversation, b) your repeated reference to the game or the team in sermons, c) the displays on your office wall, d) the "stuff" in your home, e) the bumper stickers and other identifying items on your car, and f) the way you bob up or down emotionally depending on what your team did yesterday.

Pity the church whose pastor is in bondage to his love for a football team.

<http://joemckeeper.com/wp/preacher-sports-addiction/>

[Images for The preacher has a sports addiction | Pastor Joe McKeever](#)

<https://joemckeeper.com/wp/pastor-leave-sports-out-of-the-pulpit-heres-why/>

[Images for pastor-leave-sports-out-of-the-pulpit-heres-why](#)

43) It's not smart to be snarky

Leave the snarky talk to the talk show hosts, political pundits on either end of the spectrum, and judges of TV talent shows. Snarky talk is not becoming of the pastoral office.

Proclaiming Christ Crucified

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,² I did not come proclaiming the mystery² of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom,² but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

oremus Bible Browser: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=1+Corinthians+2:1-5>

[Images for Proclaiming Christ Crucified](#)

Proverbs

¹¹The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

oremus Bible Browser: Proverbs 10:11

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Proverbs+10:11>

[Images for mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life](#)

¹⁸Rash words are like sword thrusts,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

oremus Bible Browser: Proverbs 12:18

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Proverbs+12%3A18&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>

[Images for tongue of the wise brings healing](#)

15A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

oremus Bible Browser: Proverbs 15:1

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Proverbs+15:1>

[Images for soft answer turns away wrath](#)

⁴A gentle tongue is a tree of life,
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

oremus Bible Browser: Proverbs 15:4

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Proverbs+15:4>

[Images for gentle tongue is a tree of life](#)

21 The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction. 22 Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools. 23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction. 24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Proverbs 16:21-24 - Bible Study Tools

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/passage.aspx?q=proverbs+16:21-24>

[Images for pleasant words promote instruction](#)

Rules for the New Life

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 4:29

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=267774502>

[Images for words may give grace to those who hear](#)

Further Instructions

⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

oremus Bible Browser: Colossians 4:6

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Colossians+4:2-6>

[Images for Let your speech always be gracious](#)

Renounce Pagan Ways

⁴Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving.

oremus Bible Browser: Ephesians 5:4

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Eph+5%3A4&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>

[Images for Renounce Pagan Ways Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk](#)

THE SMALL CATECHISM

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not lie about, betray or slander our neighbor, but excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

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

[Images for THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.](#)

Resources

A Bee in the Mouth: Anger in America Now [Peter Wood]

America has gotten into ugly moods before, but never as today. In taking us on a guided tour of American acrimony, Peter Wood traces the roots of anger's triumph in our social and political world. He examines the liberating bromides of psychotherapists, the bellicosity of the war between the sexes, the broadsides of the ethnic separatists, and the jeremiads of fundamentalists of all stripes. *A Bee in the Mouth* is a provocative dissection of an alarming phenomenon.

<http://www.amazon.com/Bee-Mouth-Anger-America-Now/dp/1594030537>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11272.A_Bee_in_the_Mouth

<https://www.encounterbooks.com/books/a-bee-in-the-mouth/>

<http://www.solliday.org/book-review-bee-mouth-anger-america/>

<http://www.solliday.org/tag/peter-wood/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/23/AR2007032301589.html>

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/219621/angry-talk-stanley-kurtz>
<http://www.nationalreview.com/author/peter-wood>
<http://www.breakpoint.org/2007/04/anger-public-discourse/>
<http://www.breakpoint.org/2007/04/cherishing-anger/>
<http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/innovations/author/pwood>
<https://www.amazon.com/Peter-Wood/e/B001JP7PA8>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7243154.Peter_Wood
Images for Peter Wood, author a bee in the mouth
Images for A Bee in the Mouth: Anger in America Now [Peter Wood]

Attack Dogs of Christendom | Christianity Today

Is this how to bring grace and savor to a crumbling civilization?

A troll through the Internet reveals websites so drenched in **sarcasm and animosity** that an agnostic, or a follower of another faith tradition interested in what it means to become a Christian, might be permanently disillusioned.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2007/august/23.52.html>
Images for Attack Dogs of Christendom | Christianity Today
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/browse/>

Christ among the Dragons: Finding Our Way through Cultural Challenges [James Emery White]

"Here Be Dragons" When medieval mapmakers came to the end of the world as they knew it, they would write on the edges of their maps, "Here Be Dragons." Without a way to navigate, these areas were, at best, promising yet unexplored, and at worst, perilous. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, evangelical Christians have an equally unsettling map and a lack of unity in regard to how we will find our way through uncharted territory as we stray from core ideas and differ on key issues. How did we get here? How will we find our way back? In this book, James Emery White takes us on a journey beyond the dragon territory to discover the new world Christ is mapping for us.

<http://www.amazon.com/Christ-Among-Dragons-Cultural-Challenges/dp/0830833129>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8423919-christ-among-the-dragons>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/christ-among-the-dragons-james-emery-white/1112134506>
<https://www.ivpress.com/christ-among-the-dragons>
<https://www.icmbooksdirect.co.uk/product/12969/christ-among-the-dragons>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830833129>
http://books.google.com/books/about/Christ_Among_the_Dragons.html?id=vFZpr_b_oIOC
<http://sharperiron.org/article/book-review-christ-among-dragons>
<http://www.churchandculture.org/Blog.asp?ID=10520>
<http://www.churchandculture.org/book-sales>
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/james-emery-white/252350/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Emery_White
<https://www.amazon.com/James-Emery-White/e/B001JSD5G1>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/123352.James_Emery_White
Images for James Emery White, author
Images for Christ among the Dragons: Finding Our Way through Cultural Challenges [James Emery White]

Our Snarky Selves - Dr. James Emery White Christian Blog

Sometimes the right word comes along, and you instantly know that it fits. Like "snarky."

"Snarky" is a relatively new, mostly British slang adjective that means "critical," "cutting" or "testy." It can refer to a person, or mood. Or, in our case, a culture.

I used to feel the best descriptor of our interpersonal dysfunction was given by sociologist Deborah Tannen, who called ours an "argument culture." Her observation is that we no longer dialogue with each other, contending that there has been a system-wide relational breakdown. It is as if we approach everything with a warlike mentality, so we end up looking at the world – and people – in an adversarial frame of mind.

<http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/dr-james-emery-white/our-snarky-selves.html>
Images for Our Snarky Selves - Dr. James Emery Christian Blog

Simon Cowell: People.com

Gleefully **snarky** Simon Cowell notes that his first insult was directed at his own mother when he was only 4: He told his mum her white pillbox hat made her look like a poodle.

After bouncing through English schools that failed to handle him, he found work in the mailroom at EMI Records, where his father was an executive. By the time Cowell was 30, he was a bigwig at BMG, later signing top talent like 5ive and Westlife to his own label, S Records.

But it was his tell-it-like-it-is role as a judge on the British reality show *Pop Idol* that made him a household name in the U.K. When the U.S. version, *American Idol*, made its debut, Cowell found an even larger audience.

After nine seasons on the ratings juggernaut, Cowell **left Idol** for the American version of his U.K. hit, *The X Factor*. In 2013, he embarked on his biggest project yet – **fatherhood**, with socialite Lauren Silverman.

http://www.people.com/people/simon_cowell/

[Images for Gleefully snarky Simon Cowell](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUU4dsWFT0AqvKLgzYRc9iw> Simon Cowell - Topic - YouTube

[Images for Simon Cowell - Topic - YouTube](#)

Thanksgiving in an Age of Cynicism

Which means that for many of our contemporaries--the ones who are not here this morning - and perhaps also for many of us who are here this morning, Thanksgiving involves something of a stretch, as we try to translate this quintessentially "Norman Rockwell" occasion, into the realities of a "David Letterman" world. Something of a stretch, as we place our attitude--our irony, our cynicism--to one side, if for only a day, in order to discover what thanksgiving might mean for us. What it might mean for us, not only as Canadians who have a holiday tomorrow, but as Christians, who have a scripture that enjoins us in countless places (as Paul does in this morning's reading) to offer thanksgiving to God. Thanksgiving that may very well be the most perfectly natural thing for us to offer as human beings, and yet thanksgiving which (especially in an irony drenched culture) does not always come to us as naturally as we might like.

A Sermon on the Epistle for Ordinary 28 - Proper 23 - Year A

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/a-or28-foster.php>

[Images for Thanksgiving in an Age of Cynicism](#)

The Argument Culture: Stopping America's War of Words [Deborah Tannen]

The world's most famous linguist offers a completely original analysis of the way we communicate – and a revolutionary language to live by!

In her #1 bestseller *You Just Don't Understand*, Deborah Tannen showed why talking to someone of the opposite sex can be like talking to someone from another world. Now Tannen is back with another groundbreaking book, this time widening her lens to examine the way we communicate in public - in the media, in politics, in our courtrooms, and classrooms - once again letting us see in a new way forces that have powerfully shaped our lives.

The war on drugs, the battle of the sexes, political turf combat - in the argument culture, **war metaphors pervade our talk** and influence our thinking. We approach anything we need to accomplish as a fight between two opposing sides. In this fascinating book, Tannen shows how deeply entrenched this cultural tendency is, the forms it takes, and how it affects us every day - sometimes in useful ways, but often causing damage.

The Argument Culture is a remarkable book that will change forever the way you perceive - and communicate with - the world.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Argument-Culture-Stopping-Americas/dp/0345407512>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/261609.The_Argument_Culture

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-argument-culture-deborah-tannen/1112272306>

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/176446/the-argument-culture-by-deborah-tannen/9780345407511/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0307765539>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Argument_Culture.html?id=7BT2sANKwLYC

<http://www.deborahannen.com/the-argument-culture/>

http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/tannend/book_argument_culture.html

<http://www.petracaci.com/argpp1.pdf>

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/excerpts.php?id=13334>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZS8Lxr-JEuU> Education Book Review: The Argument Culture: Stopping America's War of Words by Deborah Tannen – YouTube

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?121902-1/the-argument-culture> Argument Culture, Mar 12 1999 | Video | C-SPAN.org

<http://www.helium.com/items/1355264-deborah-tannen-discussion>

<http://podcasts.personallifemedia.com/podcasts/212-living-dialogues/episodes/21645-deborah-tannen-beyond-argument-culture>

http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2012/03/16/mpr_news_presents

<http://www.stthomas.edu/artsandsciences/events/DeborahTannen.html>

<http://www.qotd.org/search/search.html?aid=1510> Deborah Tannen quotes from QOTD.org (page 1 of 2) - QOTD.org

<http://www.whyradioshow.org/Why/previousepisodes/episode95.aspx>

<http://www.paulagordon.com/shows/tannen/>

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Deborah-Tannen/e/B000AQ3YWU>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/44018.Deborah_Tannen

[Images for deborah tannen author](#)

[Images for The Argument Culture: Stopping America's War of Words \[Deborah Tannen\]](#)

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/explore/deborah-tannen/>

[Images for Deborah Tannen pinterest](#)

The Snark: My Personal Thoughts on Snarky Behavior

Snarky to me is an attempt to try and teach something to someone without being it. It is easier to criticize than to summon the courage to do. To me snarkiness is for second-raters who lack the courage or love to make or create. Snide and sarcastic behavior has the effect of stopping conversations, diminishes and tears down the work of others. It does create something dark and unpleasant.

<http://deep.bluedei.com/posts/the-snark-my-personal-thoughts-on-snarky-behavior/>

[Images for Snark: My Personal Thoughts on Snarky Behavior](#)