

VIDEO /DVD /Film

- **The Nooma Films** - this series of 10-12 minute films by Rob Bell uses the experiences of life to teach forgiveness, discipleship, unconditional love and more
- **Celebrate What's Right with the World** - photography and dialogue about beauty and how we look at the world
- **Differences** - a short film that makes provocative comments about difference
- **The Rapture Racket** - informed and thoughtful presentation about the book of Revelation
- **Babette's Feast** - Isak Dinesen's tale of Babette and the meal she prepares for a pious congregation isolated on the coast of Denmark
- **The Gods Aren't Angry** - Rob Bell's discussion of our struggle to define God and the origins of religion
- **Everyday Creativity** - inspiring ways for fostering creativity and seeing the extraordinary in the ordinary
- **Making the Connections: Worship and Evangelism** - Gordon Lathrop and Walter Kallestad discuss the relatedness of worship and outreach
- **Sacred Stories** - three storytellers, Maya Angelou, Frederick Buechner, and James Carroll, reveal the power of faith and the presence of God in the stories of their lives.
- **The Rabbi's Gift** - an unforgettable allegory about a community's longing for Christ's presence
- Elie Wiesel's **Greatest Figures of the Bible** - beautiful "tellings" of the big stories, based in part on Wiesel's *Messengers of God* and *Biblical Portraits and Legends*
- **Everything is Spiritual** - for Jesus and his tradition, all of life is spiritual
- **The Overwhelming Love of God** - a passionate and persuasive confession of God's grace and love by Brennan Manning
- **How Do We Help? The Goal of Christian Ministry** - insightful observations about the purpose of Christian life and ministry
- **A Second Chance** - a short film about grace and forgiveness

Nourished and Sustained

Celebrating Faith and Life

Among the many privileges of the work I do is the opportunity to explore resources from a wide spectrum of writers, producers, and publishers. To this rich mix, add the bonus of regular conversations with colleagues, pastors, and teachers whose passion for learning and teaching is contagious. The result continues to be an almost insatiable appetite on my part for reading and learning, hearing and viewing books and tapes, lectures and presentations, travel related to study, and opportunities of all kinds for continuing education.

You will find here a "working list" of some resources which continue to be life-giving and faith-stretching! These people, themes and metaphors, films and books celebrate paradox, mystery, ambiguity. Even more than providing a new lens through which to experience God's presence, the resources described here are well-springs of grace and truth that continue to nourish and sustain. These extraordinary people and their enduring gifts of interpretation can help us experience the mystery of God's love and the wonder of being human.

The Resource Center functions as a center for learning, a crossroad for sharing best resources and best practices. It's a deep well! I hope you will "dig deeply" so that this center helps serve as a creative source for your life and ministry.

Julie K. Aageson
Director, The Resource Center
Coordinator, ELCA Resource Centers

Christ the path and Christ the door,
Christ the bread and welcome cup,

CD's

- **Turn My Heart: A Sacred Journey from Brokenness to Healing** by Susan Briehl and Marty Haugen
- **Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith** by Rob Bell
- **Our Search for the Living God** by Elizabeth Johnson
- **In God's Eyes, We're All Minorities** by Krister Stendahl
- **A Christian Theology of Religious Pluralism** by Krister Stendahl
- **The Gods Aren't Angry** by Rob Bell
- **The Rise and Fall of Christendom** by Douglas John Hall
- **A New Vision of the Parish** by William Willimon
- **Bread from Heaven** by Richard Hays
- **How Shall We Worship** by John Westerhoff

THEMES AND METAPHORS

- grace and gratitude
- emerging church
- God resting on our eyelids
- God's work, our hands
- liturgy and learning
- the book and the meal
- learning to be "we"
- the book and the bath
- faith practices
- tree of life
- God as indiscriminate host
- Body of Christ
- worship as rehearsal for bearing the reign of God to the world
- bread of life
- original blessing

Christ the beginning and the end,
Christ our life and Christ our home.

by Samuel Torvend

LITURGY AND LEARNING

- Go to www.LifelongFaith.com for the very best resources for Christian education and lifelong faith formation. We subscribe to the journal, *Lifelong Faith*, available for loan.
- ***Liturgy and Learning Through the Life Cycle*** by Westerhoff and Willimon
In this classic study linking liturgy and learning, the authors provide a framework for parish life that celebrates the essential acts of the church as nourishing and enduring anchors of faith.
- ***The Religious Potential of the Child*** by Sophia Cavalletti
This groundbreaking approach to faith formation is based on encounter with the mystery of God in liturgy, scripture, and life and is as important for adults as for children.
- ***To Dance with God*** by Gertrud Mueller Nelson
Rhythms and rituals of Christian life are described in this beautiful celebration of Christian life as it is shaped by the seasons of the church year.
- ***Holy Things*** and ***Holy People*** by Gordon Lathrop
Both books are a feast of riches about the power of the liturgy to renew and transform the church.
- ***Worship Matters Series*** Each of these little booklets from Augsburg Fortress provides rich insights into all aspects of worship.

Christ the word and cleansing bath,
Christ the robe and Christ the fire,

EMERGING CHURCH

- ***The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church*** and ***Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*** both by Diana Butler Bass
Both books offer compelling descriptions of vital congregational life and new birth among Christians. See also www.dianabutlerbass.com
- ***A New Kind of Christian*** and ***Finding Our Way Again*** (and others) by Brian McLaren, a voice to be reckoned with as the church continues to wrestle with ongoing reformation. See also www.brianmclaren.net
- ***Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith*** by Rob Bell
An edgy, insightfully honest look about what it means to be Christian. See also www.rob主bell.com

REFLECTIONS ON FAITH

- ***Turn My Heart: A Sacred Journey from Brokenness to Healing*** by Briehl and Haugen
This collection of music, poetry and texts is for all of us who at one time or another are broken and longing for healing and hope.
- ***Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*** by Sara Miles
“A love song to the feast at the altar and the feast of a food pantry . . .” A truly stunning story of Christian conversion. See also www.stgregorys.org
- ***An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*** by Barbara Brown Taylor
There are not two worlds—secular and sacred—God is present everywhere. God’s kingdom is here and now. See also www.barbarabrowntaylor.com
- ***Traveling Mercies*** by Anne Lamott
A raw and compelling confession of faith that graphically illustrates the light of Christ and its persistent ability to penetrate darkness.

- ***Radical Amazement: Contemplative Lessons*** by Judy Cannato
Pay attention to the universe we’re part of—it speaks of God at every turn.
- ***Under the Tree of Life—the Religion of a Feminist Christian*** by Gail Ramshaw
This lovely confession echoes much of my own faith journey and struggle. Ramshaw’s elegant use of language and her scholarly yet common insights about corporate Christian life are profound and truthful.
- ***Sacrament of Life, A Life of the Sacraments*** by Leonardo Boff
Taking ordinary elements of daily life—a journey, a mug, his father’s cigarette butt, water—Boff illustrates God’s presence in this beautiful little study of sacramentality.
- ***Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*** by Joan Chittister
Following the Rule of St. Benedict, Chittister clearly describes the richness of daily life when guided by attention to St. Benedict’s common sense reverence for God, self, and others.
- ***Original Blessing*** by Matthew Fox
Fox’s daring view of historical Christianity and his theologically sound basis for celebrating the goodness of God’s creation is life-giving and grace-filled.
- ***A Metaphorical God*** by Gail Ramshaw
A feast of images for God!
- ***I Asked for Wonder—A Spiritual Anthology—Abraham Joshua Heschel*** ed. by Samuel Dresner
I first read Heschel thirty years ago. This collection of his most vivid observations about God’s presence and our meager interpretations is a jewel.
- ***Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*** by Parker Palmer
Compassionate and compelling meditation about vocation and call
- ***Stories of Faith*** by John Shea
Shea the storyteller has an uncanny gift for cracking open scripture to unleash the transforming power of the biblical stories.

Christ the dawn and blazing sun,
Christ the light and Christ the star,

- ***The Preaching Life*** by Barbara Brown Taylor
“You will find an altar in nearly every paragraph of this book . . . she works with God’s word, God’s people, God’s gifts, God’s hope for the world.”
- ***Listening for God—Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith I&II***
This uncommon collection of short stories by some uncommon writers addresses the convergence of faith and life in memorable and graphic storytelling.
- ***In Search of Belief*** by Joan Chittister See also www.benetvision.org
A challenging and profoundly thoughtful confession of faith
- ***Rapture Exposed*** by Barbara Rossing
An important contribution to conversations about end times and the book of Revelation
- ***Treasures Old and New: Images in the Lectionary*** by Gail Ramshaw
A collection of 40 images most used in the lectionary texts