

Together in Faith . . .

. . . includes studies that connect with worship themes and follow the Revised Common Lectionary.

- God's Will for Life (Studies in Mark)
- God's Extraordinary Church (Studies in Ephesians)
- God's Standard or Gold Standard? (Studies in Proverbs)
- Songs of the Faithful (Studies in the Psalms)
- Great Expectations (Studies in Isaiah)
- Heaven on Earth (Studies in Matthew)
- Questions for Jesus: Studies in Mark
- Being the Body of Christ: Studies in 1 Corinthians
- From Beginning to End: Studies in Revelation
- Close Encounters of the Jesus Kind: Studies in Luke
- God's Own People: Studies in 1 Peter
- Signs of the Kingdom: Studies in Matthew
- Church in Waiting: Studies for Advent



Additional Bible Studies . . .

. . . appropriate for meeting openers, small groups, and for other short activities are available at www.augsburgfortress on the following topics:

- Deuteronomy 11:18-19 *with Norma Cooke Everist*
- Mark 4:2-3 *with F. Javier Goita Padilla*
- Psalm 111:2,10 *with Thulie N. Beresford*
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 *with Mark Powell* Jeremiah 17:7-8 *with Marty Stortz*
- Romans 8:37-39 *with Roy Harrisville*
- John 15:5 *with Craig Satterlee*
- Revelation 22:1-2 *with Susan McArver*
- Amos 5:24 *with Peter Nash*
- Matthew 25:35-36 *with Kristin Swanson*
- Mark 8:34-35 *with Mary Streufert*
- John 1:14,16 *with Erik Heen*
- Isaiah 55:1-11 *with Stan Olson*
- Augsburg Adult Bible Studies No Experience Necessary Bible Studies

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book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.



the **book of faith**
*faith as a window,
a lens for looking at the world*

German theologian Paul Tillich liked to speak of faith as a window, a lens for looking at the world. He challenged students to consider the Bible, prayer—even Jesus—as windows or ways of looking beyond the thing itself to what lies beyond it. Tillich warned against making the window itself—whether Scripture, prayer, or our own tradition—the objects of our devotion.

The biblical stories are remarkable wellsprings. Burbling up century after century, the insights and wisdom they offer continue to challenge, assault, comfort, and even frustrate listeners who find them both compelling and disturbing. These stories are windows for looking at the world and at our own lives. They help us see!

An ongoing ELCA initiative called the **Book of Faith** invites us to “open scripture and join the conversation.” It’s a way of helping Lutherans engage with the biblical stories. While we don’t make the Bible into an object of worship, the living Word is the lens through which we make sense of life and faith.

You will find here the **Book of Faith** collection of resources. They provide one way to engage in opening Scripture and whetting our appetites for the riches of the biblical stories. Open scripture! Join the conversations!

Julie K. Aageson

Julie K. Aageson
Director of the Resource Center
Coordinator, ELCA Resource Centers



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Introduction to the book of faith . . .

. . . is best described

- on their website www.bookoffaith.org,
- <http://www.bookoffaith.org/bibleresources.html> or
- at the social network site www.bookoffaithning.com

Augsburg Fortress has published the wide array of resources described here. Visit <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/search?ss=Book+of+Faith&c=-1>

You will also find preview copies of all the Book of Faith offerings in the EaND Synod Resource Center and at www.eandsynod.org/resource-center/recommended/biblical-resources-for-congregational-life.org

How did the Bible come to be our Book of Faith?

Try *Rediscovering the Book of Faith*, a DVD, leader guide, and participant book. (K164)

How can the Book of Faith renew our lives?

Try *Opening the Book of Faith*, a DVD, leader guide, and participant book that introduces four approaches: devotional, historical, literary, and theological. (K163)

What Bible might I use?

The Lutheran Study Bible (NRSV) provides hands-on tools for using the Bible—basic introductions to each book, background information, maps, charts, illustrations & more. It's a great place to begin!

Where might we begin?

Try *Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions about the Book of Faith* or *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* both by David Lose.

Bibles . . .

. . . include the following:

- *The Lutheran Study Bible* (NRSV)
- *Spark Story Bible* for children ages 2-2nd grade
- *Spark Bible—NRSV* for children 3rd-6th grade
- *Bibles on CD-Rom*
- Other Bibles



Additional Resources . . .

. . . can be found at <http://www.bookoffaith.org/bibleresources.html> where there are links for the following:

- A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
- A Beginner's Guide to Reading the Bible
- A Beginner's Guide to Studying the Bible
- A Beginner's Guide to the Books of the Bible
- About the Bible
- The Old Testament Story
- Fortress Introduction to the New Testament

Advent and Lent . . .

. . . will be enriched by a series of small books ideal for individual or group reflection.

For **ADVENT** *The Church in Waiting: Studies for Advent for Year B* by Clint Schnekloth; *Advent Reflections: While We Wait* by Ferdinandus, Fickenscher, Ruffcorn, Sherer; *Advent Reflections: Making All Things New* by Evensen, Mowchan, Krych, Marty, O'Neal; and *Advent Reflections: I Wonder as I Wander* by Schroeder, Reiquam, Hagen, Richter, O'Neal.

For **LENT** The 40 Day Journey books include *Lenten Journey: 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer* by Henry French together with titles about journeying with Joan Chittister, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Parker Palmer, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Julian of Norwich, and Madeleine L'Engle; *Marks of the Christian* by David Miller; *Seven Wonders of the Word* by Kathryn Kleinhans; and *Water Marks* by Diane Jacobson.

Books of Faith . . .

. . . include study books of the Bible with an eye toward historical, literary, devotional and Lutheran theological approaches to the text. There are leader guides and participant books for the following:

Genesis	Jonah	Luke	Galatians
Exodus	Jeremiah	John	Ephesians
Numbers	& Lamentations	Acts	Phillipians
1, 2 Samuel	Ruth	Romans	1 John
Daniel	Mark	1, 2 Corinthians	Hebrews
			Revelation

People of Faith . . .

. . . consists of four session studies that focus on major Old Testament characters:

- *A Gardener, Two Travelers, and a Cheat* (Adam, Abraham & Sarah, Jacob)
- *A Lamenter, a Dreamer and Two Pretty Good Leaders* (Rachel, Joseph, Moses, Joshua)
- *A Grandmother to a King, A King-maker, a King and a Royal Pain* (Ruth, Samuel, David, Elijah)
- *A Prostitute, Two Prophets and Poor Ol' Job* (Gomer, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Job)

