

LWML List

Pentecost Greetings in Christ!

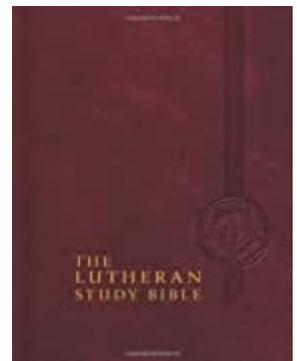
It goes without saying that as we continue the year none of us will ever forget, we would do well to foster and maintain spiritually meaningful relationships with God, one another, and our communities. One of the great gifts of faith we have received in our Baptism is membership in God's family, and as "kids of the King" there are certain things we participate in both individually and together...like **READING!**

This summer, consider going on a reading adventure as a way to explore more on your faith. Whether you are an avid reader or one who is new to this space, consider the LWML AD booklist below for some summer reading. Feel free to invite others to join you as well and connect with Christ and your fellow sisters.

A note for the list, if you are not one who is apt to pick up a paper copy or if you are one who is saddened by the temporary closure of libraries, consider using a digital resource such as kindle (electronic books) or audible (to listen to books) to broaden your horizon!

BIBLE READING STRATEGY

Did you know the Bible has 66 books? Pick any one and read it! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and to help you understand that which you do not know yet! One strategy recommendation from Deaconess Bolling, our Spiritual Resource Strategist, is to recall your confirmation verse and read the ENTIRE book of the Bible it comes from. This will provide context, meaning, and perhaps a new level of connection with this portion of God's Word for YOU!



BOOKS

Deepening Your Theological Knowledge



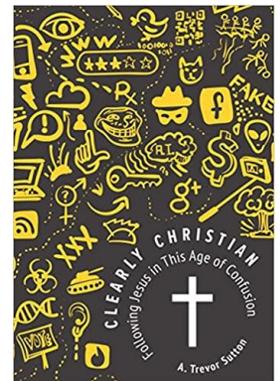
“Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up” by Matthew Richard

When’s the last time you took a hammer and a chisel to the Jesus of the Bible and formed Him into your own personal Jesus?

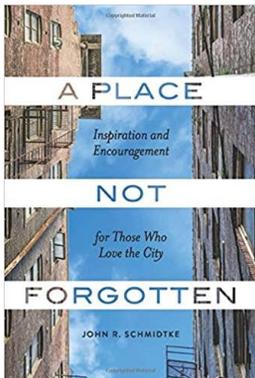
Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up? not only reminds us who the real Jesus of the Bible is, but it also reveals to us twelve false christs who are embraced, loved, promoted, and revered—even by well-meaning Christians.

“Clearly Christian” by A. Trevor Sutton

Clearly Christian takes the confusions and distractions we encounter in the world head-on. A. Trevor Sutton dispels one falsehood about Christianity after another. In this age of counterfeits and fakes, the world desperately needs clear Christianity: the real love and forgiveness of God, who is the Savior for real sinners.



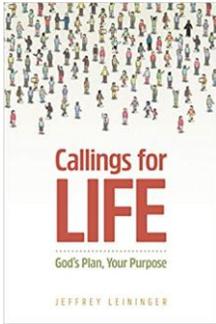
“A Place Not Forgotten: Inspiration and Encouragement for Those Who Care about the City” by John Schmidke



This inspiring collection of essays is told from the heart of a pastor with over 30 years in urban ministry. It is for anyone in ministry, no matter where God has placed you. The book is written with urban ministry workers in mind—and all those with a passion to partner in urban work. Each story is a powerful reminder of what can happen when Christ’s followers come together to love people in audacious ways and point them to the Savior! Readers will find strength from God’s promises throughout the book, as well as creative ideas, ministry approaches, and practical advice often learned the hard way over 30 years in the same community.

Strengthening Your Faith and Identity

“Callings for Life: God’s Plan, Your Purpose” by Jeffrey Leininger



What is God calling me to do? What is the *one thing* I was born to do? Am I truly doing what I am called to do?

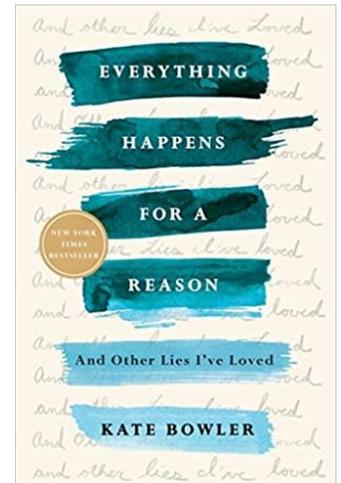
The truth is, there is no *one thing* that you’re meant to do. There are *multiple*. God gives you more than one calling in life, asking you to do many things in His plan for your life. Understanding your callings is difficult for all ages though: from recent graduates to adults in established careers. But no matter where you are in life, God wants you to see your callings and understand His plan for you.

“Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I’ve Loved” by Kate Bowler

Kate Bowler is a professor at Duke Divinity School with a modest Christian upbringing, but she specializes in the study of the prosperity gospel, a creed that sees fortune as a blessing from God and misfortune as a mark of God’s disapproval. At thirty-five, everything in her life seems to point toward “blessing.” She is thriving in her job, married to her high school sweetheart, and loves life with her newborn son.

Then she is diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer.

The prospect of her own mortality forces Kate to realize that she has been tacitly subscribing to the prosperity gospel, living with the conviction that she can control the shape of her life with “a surge of determination.” Even as this type of Christianity celebrates the American can-do spirit, it implies that if you “can’t do” and succumb to illness or misfortune, you are a failure. Kate is very sick, and no amount of positive thinking will shrink her tumors. What does it mean to die, she wonders, in a society that insists everything happens for a reason? Kate is stripped of this certainty only to discover that without it, life is hard but beautiful in a way it never has been before.

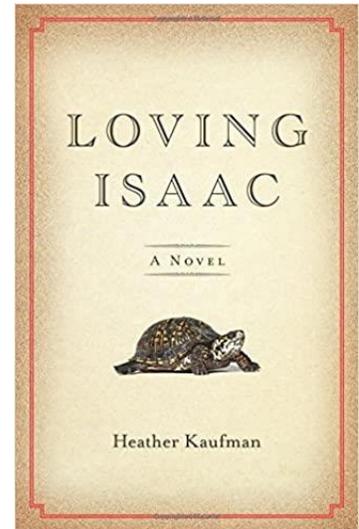


“Loving Isaac” by Heather Kaufman

Hana’s life is on pause. She’s between homes, between jobs, between a rock and a hard place. She and Isaac, her son with special needs, are running from a painful past, and she’s looking to the future with not much hope. And then she meets Pastor Matthew Schofield.

Matt loves his books, his writing, and his small Oklahoma congregation. His life is studious and predictable, just the way he likes it. When he meets Hana and Isaac, who are anything but predictable, his world is forever changed. As Matt forms a surprising bond with Isaac, Hana is challenged to view God and His promises in a whole new light.

Thoughtful and eloquent, *Loving Isaac* is a story of compassion and trust that will renew your faith in the power of God to work change in both big and small ways.



ONLINE RESOURCES (Blogs)

<https://blog.cph.org/>

This is the blog of the publishing house for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Blog categories are split into: Worship, Read, Study, Teach and Serve. Pick your passion! PSSSST! Deaconess Bolling is ALSO a new writer to the TEACH blog. Check it out!

<https://thred.org/covid-19/>

These are a solid collection of COVID specific blogs and vlogs (video blogs) that continue the open and honest conversations about life, faith and Jesus.