

Lifelong Learning Resources

(A small sampling of available resources)

Online Newsletters/Blogs:

Transforming Church offers a regular online newsletter with helpful articles about the practice of missional ministry.
TransformingChurch.com – look for the gray button for subscribing to the free newsletter.

Center for Renewal Director Dwight DuBois writes a regular blog dealing with adult learning and spiritual practices, among other issues.

Alban Institute sends the Alban Weekly every Monday morning.

Resources for Preaching

- www.textweek.com– preaching, worship planning, Christian education.
- www.workingpreacher.org– preaching helps from Luther Seminary
- www.goodpreacher.com/festival- Annual Festival of Homiletics features “best preaching” from pastors across the church.
- www.congregationalresources.org– variety of resources including preaching.
- www.sundaysandseasons.com– includes preaching module with reference tools.

(from “Resources for Preaching” a publication of the Eastern ND Synod Resource Center, check out their resources and catalogue at www.eandsynod.org)

The following resource ideas were taken with permission from Eastern ND Resource Center publications (Director of Resource Center, Julie Aageson)

Studies for Small Groups:

- Grounded in Prayer by Brent Dahlseng (Augsberg Fortress)
Provides daily exercises for six weeks to deepen and

strengthen congregational and individual prayer. Includes small group training guide.

- That You May Have Life: A Study of the Gospel of John by Susan Briehl (GIA Publications) This exceptional study of John's gospel follows the readings of Cycle A and is accompanied by a collection of music by Marty Haugen.
- Lutheran Voice Series (Augsberg Fortress) Accessible books for study by Lutheran authors who inform, teach, inspire renew.
- Sing the Faith Series (Augsberg Fortress) Eight studies that explore the music, poetry and stories associated with well-loved hymns.
- Protecting our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People by Dorothy Bass (Jossey-Bass) Explores twelve Christian practices that address human needs and form a way of life rooted in community. Study guide included.
- The Cup of our Life by Joyce Rupp (Ave Maria) Six week study and prayer inviting consideration of the cup as a symbol of life, empty and full, broken and flawed, blessed. Daily readings, questions, journaling.
- A Spiritual Formation Workbook: Small Group Resources for Nurturing Christian Growth by James Bryan Smith (Renovare) Seven sessions that include readings, prayer, exercises and practices for deepening faith.
- Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread edited and compiled by Michael Schut. A collection of voices invite us to explore the meaning of meals and basic issues related to food. Study guide included.
- The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life by Joan Chittister (Eerdmans) Twelve excerpts from the Book of Ruth highlighting challenges like loss, change, aging and fulfillment. Accompanying video: "There is a Season."
- Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope by Joan Chittister (Eerdmans) An account of the way hope grows in us despite struggle, depression, and despair. Accompanying video of same title.
- Where Your Treasure Is: Psalms that Summon You from Self to Community by Eugene Peterson (Eerdmans) Eleven Psalms for small group discussion and prayer calling Christians to reexamine what it means to be the Body of Christ.
- God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time by Desmond Tutu (Doubleday) Eight short and profoundly moving reflections about love, forgiveness, humility, generosity and courage.

www.selectlearning.org now offers complete courses for continuing education and certificate learning using video tapes. Select Learning also offers a regular curriculum of online courses

Pastoral Leadership in Difficult Times

- Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times: Being Calm and Courageous No Matter What by Peter Steinke. Steinke's video "The Balancing Act" also helpful.
- Reinventing Leadership Rabbi Edwin Friedman describes how congregations become dysfunctional when gripped by anxiety.
- When God Speaks Through Change by Craig Satterlee is a "must read" for pastors and others who want to help congregations experience God's presence, grace, power and direction in challenging times.
- "You" and "Whirwind" are Nooma films that help address some of the anxiety of difficult issues.
- Stilling the Storm: Worship and Congregational Leadership in Difficult Times, by Kathleen Smith shows how difficult times affect the worship life of a congregation and how worship can be a key part of healing.
- Called to Deal with Difficult Issues is a four-session method for congregational theological reflection and decision making.

Visit the Eastern ND Synod resource center for more ideas at <http://www.eandsynod.org/resource-center/>.