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Questions for the New Year



Question No. 1: Which one of you, overseeing a flock of 100 sheep in the wilderness or 100 children under your care in a major city, would leave the 99 all alone to go looking for that lost one until you located him or her (Luke 15:4)?

Now look, I've just started administering this little test and already see a hand up in the back. No, it doesn't say you have any assistants or helpful bedouins to aid in your search or watch the others. You leave the 99, OK? Unprotected and all alone.

And which one of you, having set out on such an insane enterprise (oops, editorializing) ... which one of you would keep looking high and low, night and day, interminably, if needed?

Read [the article](#) from Living Lutheran.



Self-Care: A Diagnostic Checklist for Ministry Leaders

Self-care, rightly understood, is a realistic view of how to take care of the only bodies we have in this life; bodies which house our minds and our souls.

Self-care is the physical, emotional, and spiritual equivalent of automobile maintenance. Change the oil, check the transmission fluid, check the air-pressure, and get weird noises checked out, then your car or truck should last. Ignore the "clunk, clunk" or the smoking tailpipe long enough and expect a costly repair later.

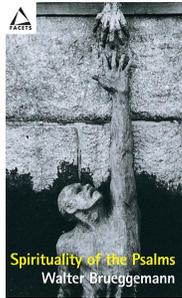
Review the self-care [checklist](#) for the new year!



ELCA Presiding Bishop Responds to Anti-Semitic Incidents in New York

Twenty-five years ago, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America joined other Lutheran Christians worldwide in repudiating anti-Judaism within our own tradition. In our 1994 "Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community" we affirmed that "we recognize in anti-Semitism a contradiction and affront to the Gospel, a violation of our hope and calling, and we pledge this church to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us."

Read the full article [here](#).



Good Reads

Title: Spirituality of the Psalms

Author: Walter Brueggemann

The seasons of our lives change. Using a model of *orientation—disorientation—new orientation*, Brueggemann explores how the genres of the Psalms can be viewed in terms of their function. This results in fresh readings of these ancient songs that show their spiritual depth. The voices of the Psalms come through in all their bold realism.

[Available from Augsburg Fortress](#)



Retreat News: Save the Date!

Diakonia Midwest Regional Gathering
July 30 - 31, 2020
Carthage College
Kenosha, WI

Friday: 10:00 AM – Saturday – 5:00 PM
4 meals + snacks

Plenary Sessions led by Dr. Steve Bouman (diakonia™ founder)
and Dr. Kurt Hendel (LSTC professor)

More information to come!

We Need You!

[Send us](#) photos from your class!

Are you interested in being featured in or submitting a Servant Story for a future issue of The Tool Box? Are you an instructor who would like to share a bit of yourself in "Instructor Focus?" Are you a site coordinator who would like to give us a peak into your program? Do you have observations to share from your a class?

We can all learn from each other's journeys before, during and after the program.

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