



## **The Book of Faith Initiative 2010 Report**

The Book of Faith Initiative in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod is being revitalized under the direction of the Christian Education team, which has taken on the role of the Book of Faith Initiative steering team. Ed Seykowski, chairperson, and the team are passionate about assisting congregations, families and individuals to Open Scripture and Join the Conversation. The team also works closely with LACE (Lutheran Association of Christian Educators).

Pr. Rudy Mueller and Carol Ann Webb, Synod Book of Faith Advocates, attended a February gathering of and training session for churchwide Advocates in Chicago. We came back energized by the synergy, ideas and questions that were shared, including:

- Bible reading plans taking 90 days (barebones essentials) to one year (basic, abridged and everything)
- Mutual Invitation No-Prep Bible study, designed for groups of 4 -6 participants
- Opening every – every – church meeting with Bible study, such as a 10 minute Dwelling in the Word Moment (read the scripture, each reflects on what the passage means in the context of the group, each shares what it means to me)
- What keeps us from feasting on the Word?
- Sharing Bible bytes:
  - Share your favorite Bible verse with someone (even at church) and why it is meaningful to you
  - Share when you received your first Bible
- Encourage godparents to highlight their favorite Bible verse, using a separate colored highlighter for each godparent. When the Bible is presented, give the confirmand her own color for highlighting.
- Hold a BYOB Sunday – Bring Your Own Bible, and encourage using it during the service and the sermon.
- For every chapter read by parishioners, the church gives \$1 to Lutheran World Relief. (Or perhaps for every book of the Bible read during a specific time frame, such as Advent, Lent or Eastertide.)
- How do we share the Word with the non-literate, multi-cultural and multi-generational society in which we live?
- What does it really mean to be a Book of Faith congregation?

Your Synod Book of Faith team and advocates are resources for you and your congregation as, alone or in groups, we approach the reading and study of the Word, seeking the Spirit's help and Christ's presence.

Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,  
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation,  
saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.  
Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,  
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,  
Word of truth to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us. (ELW, #510)

Submitted by Pr. Rudy Mueller and Carol Ann Webb, Synod Book of Faith Advocates

## **The Book of Faith Initiative Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.**



### **What is the Book of Faith Initiative?**

The Book of Faith initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word. This is an initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### **The Bible is a book of faith.**

The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ, the incarnate Word and center of our faith. The Bible invites us into a relationship with God, making demands on our lives and promising us life in Christ. The Bible tells the stories of people living their faith over the centuries and, through its demands and promises, forms us as a people of faith.

### **The language of Scripture is our first language of faith.**

The language of the Bible becomes our language. It shapes how we think and speak about God, about the world, and about ourselves. We become renewed, enlivened, and empowered as the language of Scripture forms our hearts, our minds, our community conversation, and our commitments.



### **We have a calling as the people of God.**

Part of our calling is to know, hear, share, and be rooted in Scripture. We are renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.



As we live into our calling as people who are formed by Scripture, we become renewed in our faith, enlivened through the Spirit, and empowered through the cross of Christ to serve God and neighbor.

You are invited to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative.