

The following slides are from a number of presentations
Given by Diane Jacobson in 2008.
They can be used as they are or adapted for your own presentations.
Feedback or supplementation is welcome.



Vision of the *Book of Faith* Initiative



**That the whole church 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**

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Questions


- Yesterday– What challenges are we facing today?

Challenges We Face

- Busy-ness and multiple demands
- Scripture can be *moralistic*
- Reading the Bible can be scary *confusing REALLY boring!*
- Reading itself can be scary
- Shame
- Considered irrelevant
- Literalist Culture
- Secularist Culture
- Individualistic and Consumer Culture
- The violence and inconsistencies
- Theological language is confusing
- Other?

Key Purposes of the Book of Faith Initiative


- ❖ Experience the power of the Word
- ❖ Know the Bible better
- ❖ Get more folks engaged with the Bible
- ❖ Explore Lutheran approaches to the Bible
- ❖ Engage in a churchwide conversation
- ❖ Renew and enliven the whole church



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Achieving Our *Book of Faith* Goals Together


- ❖ Act locally
- ❖ Learn from Each Other
- ❖ Become a *Book of Faith* congregation
www.elca.org/bookoffaith
- ❖ Consider using *Opening the Book of Faith* and future resources:
 - ❖ 2 Fall 2008 Intro Courses
 - ❖ Spring 2009 Adult Bible Study
 - ❖ Lutheran Study Bible
 - ❖ Youth and Children's Resources
- ❖ 2009 Book of Faith Enrichment & Training Events
- ❖ Bring the Bible into the heart of your family and congregational life



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Some Ideas

- ❖ Use the assessment tools and make a congregational contract
- ❖ Begin all meetings with Bible study
- ❖ Get more folks engaged with the lectionary texts
- ❖ Listen to common texts on i-Pod
- ❖ Explore many web conversations and tools
- ❖ Hook up with companion congregation



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A Three Fold Understanding of the Word
From the ELCA Constitution

2.02. This church confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

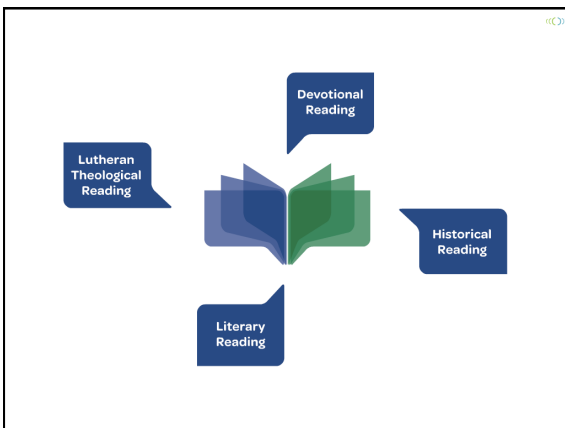
a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.




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Devotional Reading

- **Lectio Divina, T.R.I.P., Swedish Marking Method, etc.**
- **What word or phrase strikes you?**
- **What images come to mind?**
- **What delights you?**
- **What confuses or challenges you?**
- **What memories does this passage stir in you?**
- **What is God calling us to do?**



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Historical Reading



- What insights from history would be helpful to know in order to hear, read, study, or understand the plain meaning of this passage more accurately?
- Do we know anything about the author, about who wrote the passage?
- Are there implied political and social realities that could shed light on this passage?
- Do we know where this text was written or takes place and anything about that ancient part of the world?



Literary Reading



- First Steps on Type and Theme
- Literary Context
- Setting: Spatial, Temporal, & Social
- Character Analysis
- Points of View
- Important Themes



Reading Scripture as a Lutheran *faithfully, humbly, mindfully*



*“The Holy Scriptures require
a humble reader
who shows reverence and fear
toward the Word of God,
and constantly says,
‘Teach me, teach me, teach me....
The Spirit resists the proud.’”*

(Luther’s Works, vol.54, 379; Table Talk, 5017)