



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

INFORMATION SHEET

VISION

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, and empowered and sent by the Word.

KEY PURPOSES

1. To encourage us to open the Bible and discover anew the many ways the Bible is the source and norm of our faith
2. To make a commitment as individuals, congregations, programs, agencies, and institutions to talk together, to join in Bible-centered conversations
3. To increase Bible literacy and fluency in the church
4. To deepen our understanding of the Lutheran insights that ground our faith and shape our approach to the Bible
5. To renew and enliven the whole church through a deeper engagement with the Bible

PRINCIPAL GOALS

1. 75 % of congregations and institutions of the church register a commitment to join of the initiative by December 31, 2010
2. 15,000 lay and rostered leaders trained through teaching enrichment events in synods, beginning in 2009
3. Dramatically increase the number of people participating in regular engagement with the Bible, tracked through survey research
4. Act locally to develop plans for engagement with the initiative and to ensure grassroots ownership of the initiative
5. Learn from each other ... widespread sharing of good ideas though the website and within synods

RESOURCES

Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study, Spring 2008

- Discusses use of the Bible from a Lutheran perspective and includes sample text studies that apply the method described
- Contains “assessment tools” for individuals to assess Bible usage, needs, and hopes; and for group conversation regarding practices and needs of the faith community
- Downloadable Leader Guide is available.

Other resources available from Augsburg Fortress

- Book of Faith bookmarks, in packets of 25, for only the cost of shipping
- *Opening the Book of Faith* courses, in August and September 2008
- *Lutheran Study Bible*, in Spring 2009
- *Book of Faith Forty Day Lenten Journey* for personal daily readings and small groups during the Lenten season in Lent 2009
- New Adult Bible studies, in Spring 2009
- New Sunday School resources planned
- More resources to come

BOOK OF FAITH SYNOD ADVOCATES

Each synod will have a Book of Faith Advocate. The Book of Faith Synod Advocate will serve as a synodical point person for the book of Faith initiative by

- Encouraging movement in the synod toward the goal of getting 75% of congregations to commit to being Book of Faith Initiative congregations by 2010
- Serving as the primary link between churchwide staff and the synod, its congregations and organizations
- Coordinating plans for 2009 Bible teacher enrichment training events in the synod, working with existing structures in the synod for education (advocates are not asked to invent an entirely new synod infrastructure for *Book of Faith*)

INTEREST LEVELS HIGH

- Great enthusiasm reported among participants at synod assembly workshops and other events for introducing the initiative
- 49 synods adopted a grass-roots developed resolution about becoming a Book of Faith Initiative synod
- 19,000 synod assembly attendees signed up for information about the initiative and as of mid-July welcome emails had been distributed by Augsburg Fortress (AF) to 16,655 attendees. As of mid-July, 38.4 % of welcome email recipients opened links (a “page view”) contained in the email to Book of Faith Initiative (BFI) web pages vs. average page views of 29.6% generated by other email messages from AF. 38.9% of recipients clicked on multiple BFI web pages vs. average multiple page views of 9.9% generated by other AF email messages.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: www.bookoffaith.org. (accessible also by re-direction from www.elca.org/bookoffaith and from www.augsburgfortress.org/bookoffaith)

Email: BookofFaith@elca.org

Director: Dr. Diane Jacobson

Email: diane.jacobson@elca.org

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