

# OFF THE SHELF

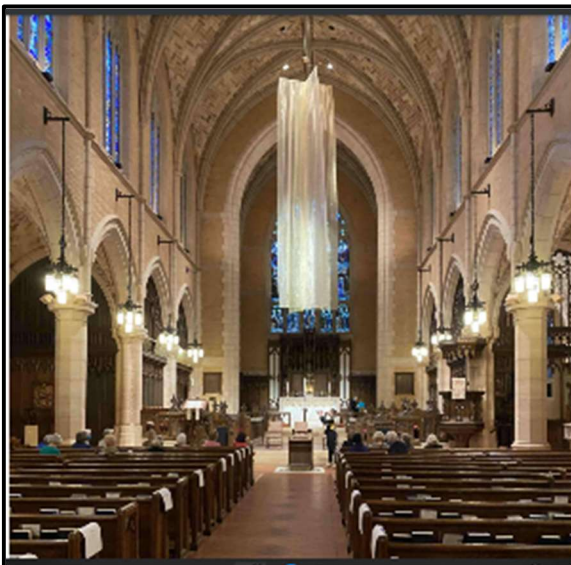
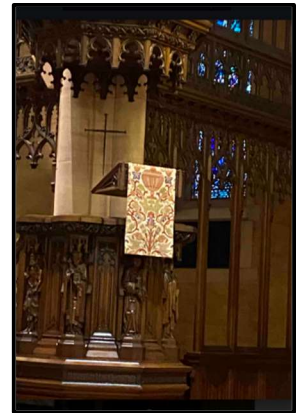


**Mission Statement:** To energize church library ministry through education, resource sharing, spiritual encouragement, and fellowship.

Summer 2022

## SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Heavy rain on the morning of April 30 didn't stop 20 members of TCACLA from gathering in person for the first time since October 12, 2019. We enjoyed coffee, pastries, fellowship, and the always popular book swap table. Co-President Jeanne Schleh and Vice-President Emily Hoch, librarian at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, welcomed us. Emily led us on a tour that included the sanctuary, the labyrinth, and the library.



See more on p. 5-6.

### General Information

The **Twin Cities Area Church Library Association (TCACLA)** is a non-profit support organization serving church librarians. Membership is open to individuals and churches of all denominations that desire to network with others on church library development and enrichment.



### **TCACLA BOARD**

#### **Grace Kurtz, Co-President**

651-631-3726

gkurtz61@gmail.com

#### **Jeanne Schleh, Co-President**

612-729-6041

jerebob@aol.com

#### **Emily Hoch, Vice-President**

612-508-4934

ejhoch@gmail.com

#### **Leslie Kallas, Secretary**

612-978-9572

ljallas@gmail.com

#### **Roberta Shaw, Treasurer**

651-206-6334

roberta.shaw@yahoo.com

#### **Historian**

Vacant

#### **Off the Shelf Editor**

**Laura Dirks**

otseditor@gmail.com

#### **Website**

www.tcaccla.com

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Members: 25 churches, 1 individual

01/01/2022 \$2,695.93 **Beginning Balance**

\$40.00	<i>Off the Shelf</i> Subscriptions
-\$195.48	<i>Off the Shelf</i> Printing & Postage
-\$164.60	Spring Meeting Expenses
-\$27.97	Bank Expense-New Checks
<u>-\$13.00</u>	Website Fee

07/31/2022 \$2,334.88 **Ending Balance**

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During the annual business meeting this fall, we will be electing a new President and Secretary for the 2023-2024 term. If you, perhaps along with a friend, are interested in filling one of these positions, please contact any of the board members listed on this page.

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### **HOST CHURCH NEEDED**

The board is looking for a host for the Spring 2023 Meeting. Whether your library has 200 books or 2,000, we'd love to see it. TCACLA pays all of the expenses and the board plans the program. Contact anyone listed on this page for more information.

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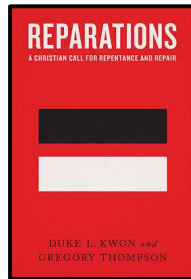


## WHAT CHURCHES ARE READING

The following books were recently added to the libraries of TCACLA member churches or reviewed in Christian publications. You are encouraged to share what your church is reading on a regular basis. Please e-mail book titles and authors to [otseditor@gmail.com](mailto:otseditor@gmail.com).

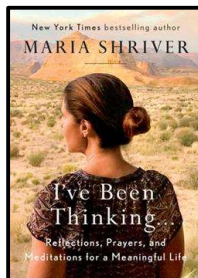
*"The greatest gift is a passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you the knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is a moral illumination."* - Elizabeth Hardwick

***REPARATIONS; A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair*** by Duke L. Kwon and Gregory Thompson, Baker Publishing, 2021.



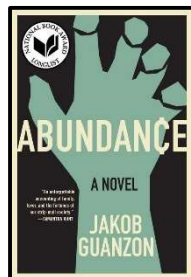
Christians are awakening to the legacy of racism in America like never before. This award-winning book explores the church's responsibility for the deep racial brokenness at the heart of American culture, investigates the Bible's call to repair it, and offers a vision for the work of reparation at the local level. The authors lead readers toward a moral imagination that views reparations as a long-overdue and necessary step in our collective journey toward healing and wholeness.

***I'VE BEEN THINKING...; Reflections, Prayers, and Meditations for a Meaningful Life*** by Maria Shriver, Pamela Doorman Books, 2018.



As a prominent woman juggling many roles, Shriver knows how surprising, unpredictable, and stressful everyday life can be. In this book, she shares inspiring quotes, prayers, and reflections designed to get readers thinking, get them feeling, get them laughing, and help them in their journey to what she calls The Open Field, a place of acceptance, purpose, and passion--a place of joy. Aimed at readers who have it all together as well as those who feel like their lives are falling apart.

***Abundance*** by Jakob Guanzon, Graywolf Press, 2021.

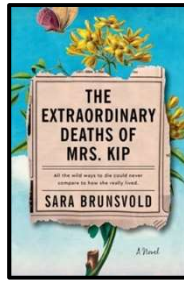


A wrenching novel about the causes and effects of poverty in the US. Evicted from their trailer on New Year's Eve, Henry and his son have been reduced to living out of a pickup truck. Guanzon trawls the fluorescent aisles of Walmart and the booths of Red Lobster to reveal the inequities and anxieties around work, debt, addiction, incarceration, and health care in America today. In an ingenious structural approach, the author organizes the book around the amount of cash in Henry's pocket.

***Longlisted for the National Book Award for Fiction***

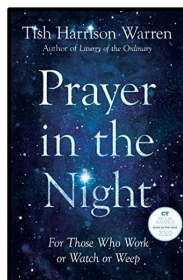


***THE EXTRAORDINARY DEATHS OF MRS. KIP;***  
***a Novel*** by Sara Brunsvold, Revell, 2022.



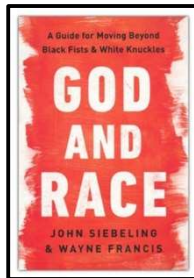
When a cub reporter is assigned to write an obituary for an unremarkable woman who's just entered hospice care, she learns that there's more to Clara Kip than meets the eye. The spirited septuagenarian may be dying, but she's not quite ready to cash it in yet. Never one to shy away from an assignment herself, she can see that God brought the young reporter into her life for a reason. And if it's a story Aidyn Kelley wants, that's just what Mrs. Kip will give her.

***PRAYER IN THE NIGHT: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep*** by Tish Harrison Warren, IVP, 2021.



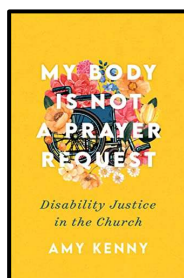
Warren offers a prayerful and frank approach to the difficulties in our ordinary lives at work, at home, and in a world filled with uncertainty. She explores themes of human vulnerability, suffering, and God's seeming absence. When she navigated a time of doubt and loss in her life, the nighttime prayer of Complaine was grounding for her. She writes that practices of prayer "gave words to my anxiety and grief and allowed me to reencounter the doctrines of the church not as tidy little antidotes for pain, but as a light in darkness, as good news." ***Christianity Today* Book of the Year**

***GOD AND RACE; a Guide for Moving Beyond Black Fists and White Knuckles*** by John Siebeling and Wayne Francis, HarperOne, 2022.



The authors, a White pastor in Memphis and a Black pastor in New York City, have each built racially diverse congregations. They examine the White-Black tension from both perspectives and answer all the uncomfortable questions we're afraid to ask—regarding ourselves, our families, our work and relationships, and the church. Most importantly, they provide practical steps anyone can take to become an agent of reconciliation and change. Study guides with videos are also available.

***MY BODY IS NOT A PRAYER REQUEST; Disability Justice in the Church*** by Amy Kenny, Brazos Press, 2022.



Kenny, both a disabled Christian and a doctor, reflects on her experiences inside the church to expose unintentional ableism. She shows that until we cultivate church spaces where people with disabilities can fully belong, flourish, and lead, we are not valuing the diverse members of the body of Christ. Offering a blend of personal storytelling, biblical exegesis, and practical application, the book invites readers to participate in disability justice and create a more inclusive community in church spaces.

## MORE ON THE SPRING MEETING

### ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Until 1996, the room where the library is located was a chapel. This chapel was especially known for its 150-year-old Tiffany stained-glass windows, which are the only element to come from the original St. Mark's Cathedral building, built in the 1800s. The chapel was converted into a library in 1997 with the financial assistance of parishioners, whose names can be found on shelf plaques throughout the library.

The library was initially managed by a paid librarian and then later by a series of library teams. Emily Hoch took over as librarian in 2019 after she was approached by the ministry and cannon director. Since then, both the library's collection and space have gone through a refresh. The space was renovated in 2021 to make it a more customizable space with study areas and gathering spaces. The collection has also been updated to generate better accessibility through a bookstore-esque call number system; an online, searchable catalog; and the creation of a Teen book collection. The next step is to create a library website with resource guides and a link to the catalog.



### PROGRAM ON PICTURE BOOKS

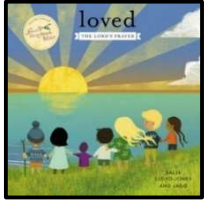


Our speaker, Anna V. Ostenso Moore, is the author of ***Today is a Baptism Day*** and ***We Gather at This Table***. Both are inspired by the beauty of the families with whom she works. Her educational background includes a BA in Chinese International Studies from Middlebury College, Vermont and an MA in Youth Ministry and Theological Education from King's College, London. She has served at churches in Surrey, UK and Minnesota. She is currently on the Episcopal Church in Minnesota's Racial Justice and Healing Formation Team.

Anna talked about several books in which all of God's children are represented. She recommended that the books be displayed at the child's eye level and suggested highlighting a book of the month to promote the library.

Go to [www.annavostensomoore.com/picturebookclub/](http://www.annavostensomoore.com/picturebookclub/) to subscribe to Anna's "mostly monthly recommendations of picture books exploring Christian sacred stories, faith, and God."

## PICTURE BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY ANNA

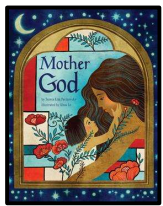
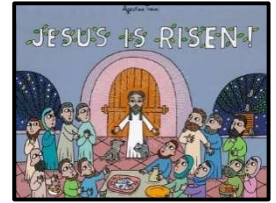


***Loved: The Lord's Prayer*** by Sally Lloyd-Jones, Zonderkidz, 2018.

A padded board book that reminds children that God will always love them with a Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love. Based on the Lord's Prayer, this story features a heartwarming, lyrical text paired with gorgeous illustrations from Jag. Ages 4-8.

***Jesus is Risen! An Easter Pop-Up Book*** by Agostino Traini, Sparkhouse, 2018.

From the empty tomb to Jesus' appearance to the disciples, the story of Jesus' triumph over death is told with vibrant pop-ups by renowned paper artist Agostino Traini. Ages 4-8.

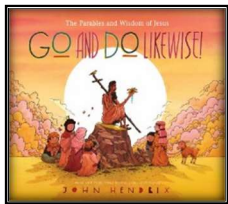
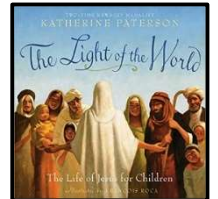


***Mother God*** by Theresa Kim Pecinovsky, Beaming Books, 2022.

Introduces readers to images of God inspired by feminine descriptions from Scripture. Children and adults alike will be in awe of the God who made them as they come to know her as a creative seamstress, generous baker, fierce mother bear, protective mother hen, strong woman in labor, nurturing nursing mother, wise grandmother, and comforting singer of lullabies. Ages 3-9.

***The Light of the World: The Life of Jesus for Children*** by Katherine Paterson, Arthur A. Levine, 2008.

Two-time Newbery Award-winning author Katherine Paterson tells the story of Jesus' life with extraordinary clarity and grace, accompanied by paintings as human and reverent as the text. Ages 4-8.

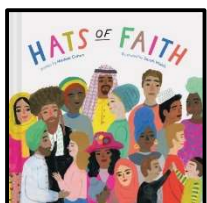


***Go and Do Likewise! The Parables and Wisdom of Jesus*** by John Hendrix, Henry Abrams, 2021.

Interweaving hand lettering with his signature, award-winning art style, Hendrix captures the spirit of Jesus' timeless message that will resonate with readers of any Christian faith. Preschool and up.

***We Are Little Feminists: Families*** by Archaa Shrivastav, Little Feminist Press, 2020.

Beautiful photos of real LGBTQ and ally families showcase all the wonderful forms of family, gender, and sexuality while poetic text builds both vocabulary and empathy. First board book to win an American Library Association medal. Ages 0-5.



***Hats of Faith*** by Medeia Cohan, Chronicle Books, 2018.

A simple and striking introduction to the shared custom of religious head coverings. With bright images and a carefully researched interfaith text, this thoughtful book inspires understanding and celebrates our culturally diverse modern world. Ages 2-4.



## SAVE THE DATE – FALL MEETING – OCTOBER 29, 2022

The TCACLA Fall Meeting will be on the morning of Saturday, October 29, at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in St. Paul.

Over 130 years ago, the formation of this congregation was a dream for a cluster of Swedish immigrants who saw the community need for a church in the growing Arlington Hills area. Beginning with a Sunday School to instruct children in the Christian faith and the Ladies Aid Society to assist families living in poverty, the dream was actualized on June 29, 1889. In 1959, the congregation moved to its current site, alongside Lake Phalen and at the boundaries of the city of St. Paul and the suburbs.



As part of its history, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church has served as a gateway of faith to the local community – first with the Swedish Lutheran community, and then supporting and ministering to the numerous waves of immigrant populations that have populated the East Side of St. Paul in the years following. Today that work includes an on-campus food shelf and job training, a weekly community meal program, supporting community partnerships that strengthen our community, and much more. In 2022, the church received the Spirit of Christ award from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.



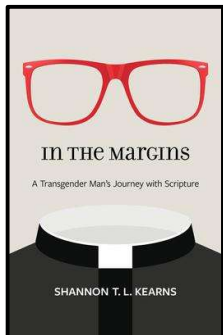
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You're invited...

St. Peder's Lutheran Church invites you to a book launch party at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, August 17 for its former Director of Faith Formation Shannon Kearns's book ***In the Margins: A Transgender Man's Journey with Scripture***. The event is at the church, 4600 E. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Minneapolis.

This special evening will include storytelling and reading from the book, time for Q&A, and live music from Kith + Kin Chorus, an uncommon Twin Cities choir striving to build community, spread joy and give in service of others through harmony. A reception and book signing will follow.

***In the Margins*** weaves stories from Shannon's life into reflections on well-known biblical narratives—such as Jacob wrestling with the divine, Rahab and the Israelite spies, Ezekiel and the dry bones, and the transfiguration of Jesus. In each chapter, he shows how stories have helped him make sense of his own identity, and how those same stories can unlock the transformative power of faith for those willing to listen with an open mind and stand alongside him in the in-between. Through scriptural reflection and personal stories about gender identity, an ordained priest moves the conversation beyond transgender inclusion to demonstrate the unique theological insights transgender Christians can provide the church.



St. Peder's is collaborating with Moon Palace Books for this event. If you order from them and use the code "stpeders," you'll receive 10% off your order. There is no charge for the event, but you are asked to register in advance. Go to <https://moonpalacebooks.com/events/18677>.



**TCACLA Fall Meeting  
October 29, 2022**

One of the missions of TCACLA is to provide a forum for church librarians to exchange information with each other. In addition to our meetings and our newsletter, we do this via our website at [www.tcaccla.com](http://www.tcaccla.com) and our Facebook page, Twin Cities Area Church Library Association.



Dulcie Campana, our social media administrator, is always looking for input from you. If you have an upcoming book event at your church, have had a special promotion for your library, want to recommend a new book, or have any other news that would interest our members, please send the information to her at [livingoutfaith@hotmail.com](mailto:livingoutfaith@hotmail.com).

**OFF THE SHELF**

c/o Laura Dirks  
333 8<sup>th</sup> St SE, Apt 206  
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1246