

# OFF THE SHELF



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

Winter 2023

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## TCACLA Spring Meeting Gloria Dei Lutheran Church April 29, 2023



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation, was founded on June 4, 1908, as a mission congregation of First Lutheran Church, the first Lutheran congregation to take root in the Minnesota territory. Originally located in a small church building on Victoria and Hague in St. Paul, the church moved to its current location in 1951. Today this community of faith serves 2,500 members, its neighborhood, and local and global ministries.



700 Snelling Ave S  
St. Paul

Gloria Dei is fortunate to have a series of stained-glass windows that are a unique demonstration of the finest artistry in the field of ecclesiastical arts. The windows were designed by Robert Berg of St. James' Kiln and completed by Elizabeth Scott of Minneapolis. The process itself is an old-world technique, rarely – if ever – used in this manner in the US. The glass is an imported “fleche” glass which comes in double color. A painstaking etching process insures the deep richness of the reds and blues.

The featured speaker is William Kent Krueger, *New York Times* best-selling author of *This Tender Land, Ordinary Grace* (winner of the Edgar Award for best novel), and 18 acclaimed books in the Cork O'Connor mystery series, including *Desolation Mountain, Sulfur Springs, and Lightning Strike*. The latter was the most borrowed adult book in the Hennepin County Library system in 2022. He lives in St. Paul with his family.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## 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 OFFICERS

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## WEBSITE

[www.tcacla.com](http://www.tcacla.com)

Members: 25 churches, 1 individual

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

\$40.00	<i>Off the Shelf</i> Subscriptions
\$312.00	Fall Meeting Registration
-\$264.75	<i>Off the Shelf</i> Printing & Postage
-\$164.60	Spring Meeting Expenses
-\$632.66	Fall Meeting Expenses
-\$27.97	Bank Expense - New Checks
-\$13.00	Website Fee

12/31/2022 \$1,944.95 **Ending Balance**

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### **Dear fellow members of the Twin Cities Area Church Library Association:**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new president. I have volunteered at the Plymouth Congregational Library for about a year. I have enjoyed learning of the tremendous available resources within the church library system and through the assistance of our Tiny Cat software.

During my career I have worked in community and public health administration. Church library work has greatly enhanced my appreciation of spiritual reading and study. I am hoping that we can continue to provide valuable resources to all our members and assist potentially new members with their library collections or creation of new ones.

I would like to thank Jeanne Schleh and Grace Kurtz, our past co-presidents, and Leslie Kallas, our past secretary, for their service to our Board and to the Association, as a whole. For those of us who are new, we will appreciate their guidance as we make this transition. We would also like to welcome Wayne Albertson, who has volunteered to be our interim secretary and will formally be elected at our spring meeting on April 29, 2023. Please mark your calendars for our spring meeting.

I would also like to remind people of our [tcacla.com](http://tcacla.com) website and we are also available through Facebook.

Please let us know if you have any questions or ideas about how we can best serve our membership and potentially new members.

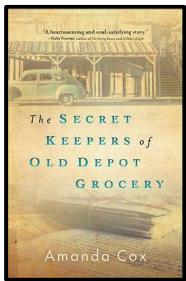
Looking forward to serving our Association.

*Janet Howard*



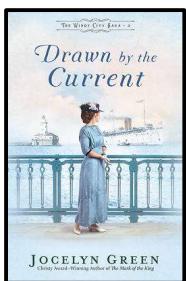
The Christy Award™ was established in 1999 to acknowledge the value and impact of the novel of faith in contemporary culture. The awards honor and promote the best accomplishments of writers who write from a perspective of faith and who create stories with matters of belief at their core. The following books are some of the 2022 award winners. For a complete list, including information on all the finalists in each category, go to [www.christyawards.com](http://www.christyawards.com).

**THE SECRET KEEPERS OF OLD DEPOT GROCERY** by Amanda Cox, Revel/Baker, 2021.



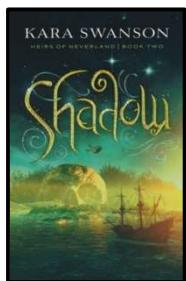
In a dual-timeline story, Cox explores the complexity of a mother-daughter dynamic, the way the secrets we keep shape our lives and the lives of others, and the healing power of telling the truth. In 1965, Glory Ann confesses to her family that she's pregnant with her deceased fiancé's baby and is pressured into marriage with a shopkeeper to preserve the family reputation. In the present day, Sarah Ashby returns to her childhood home determined to finally follow her long-denied dream of running Old Depot Grocery alongside her mother and grandmother. **Winner: Book of the Year and General Fiction**

**DRAWN BY THE CURRENT** by Jocelyn Green, Bethany House, 2022.



In 1915, a birthday excursion turns deadly when the *SS Eastland* capsizes with Olive Pierce and her best friend on board. Hundreds perish during the accident, and it's only when Olive herself barely escapes that she discovers her friend is among the victims. In the aftermath of the tragedy, she returns to her work at a Chicago insurance agency and is immersed in the countless investigations related to the accident. A story of sacrifice, protection, and redemption. Book #3 in the Windy City Saga series. **Winner: Historical Fiction**

**SHADOW** by Kara Swanson, Enclave Publishing, 2021.

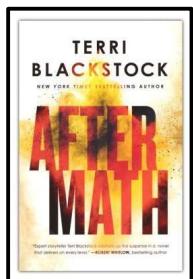


Peter Pan desperately tries to rescue Claire Kenton and the Lost Boys, while he unravels what tore his dreamland apart. Through each step, Peter is haunted by more of his own broken memories. Claire is chained to a pirate ship, watching the wreckage of Neverland rocked by tempests. When she finally locates her brother, Connor is every bit as shattered as the island. Claire may have pixie dust flowing in her veins, but the light of Neverland is flickering dangerously close to going out forever. Book #2 in the Heirs of Neverland series. **Winner: Young Adult**

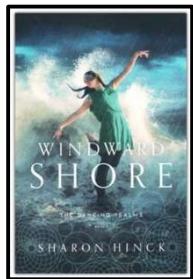
**UNTIL LEAVES FALL IN PARIS** by Sarah Sundin, Revell, 2022.



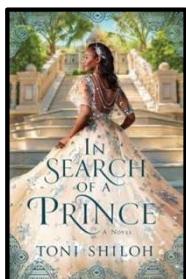
**AFTERMATH** by Terri Blackstock, Thomas Nelson, 2021.



**WINDWARD SHORE** by Sharon Hinck, Enclave Publishing, 2022.



**IN SEARCH OF A PRINCE** by Toni Shiloh, Bethany House, 2022.



As the Nazis march toward Paris in 1940, American ballerina Lucie Girard buys her favorite bookstore to allow the Jewish owners to escape. As she struggles to run the store, Lucie finds a way to aid the resistance by passing secret messages between the pages of her books. Widower Paul Aubrey wants nothing more than to return to the States with his little girl, but the US Army convinces him to keep his factory running and obtain military information from his German customers. Paul offers his own resistance by sabotaging his product and hiding British airmen in his factory. When Lucie and Paul meet, attraction ignites.

**Winner: Historical Romance**

When police stop Dustin Webb with a warrant to search his trunk, he knows there's been a mistake. He's former military and owns a security firm. But he's horrified when the officers find explosives, and he can't fathom how they got there. Criminal attorney Jamie Powell was Dustin's best friend growing up. They haven't spoken since he left for basic training, but she's the first person he thinks of when he's arrested. Jamie knows she's putting her career on the line by defending an accused terrorist, but she'd never abandon him. **Winner: Mystery/Suspense/Thriller**

In this conclusion to the Dancing Realm trilogy, the island world of Meriel faces an old adversary and a new danger. Storm clouds loom on the horizon as Carya and Brantley struggle to overcome wounds of the past and build a future together. The fragile new Order is on shaky ground, with too few dancers and sparse resources. Then trouble erupts—and now an insidious rebellion and a new foe threaten their entire world. When Carya uncovers an old enemy behind all the destruction, she realizes the past is not done with her. Will the reformed Order die before it has a chance to blossom? **Winner: Speculative**

Brielle Adebayo is fully content teaching at a New York City public school and taking annual summer vacations to Martha's Vineyard with her mother. But everything changes when her mom tells her that she is really a princess in the island kingdom of Olorø Ilé, off the coast of Africa, and she must immediately assume her royal position, since the health of her grandfather, the king, is failing. Distraught by all the secrets her mother kept, Brielle is further left spinning when the Olorø Ilé Royal Council brings up an old edict that states she must marry before her coronation. **Winner: Amplify Award for Christian Fiction (and Best Romance of 2022 by Oprah Daily)**

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OCTOBER 29 MEETING

Sherrie Nordquist, Director of Christian Education at Gustavus Adolphus, welcomed members to the church with a brief history of the congregation, which dates to 1889 and in the present building since 1959. Gustavus currently hosts 4 congregations, including 2 Spanish speaking congregations and a Hmong community; it shares the facility with Merrick Community Services. Gustavus hosts food trucks on Sundays for the neighboring community and provides a State Fair Park and Ride.



Carol Sandberg, a life-long member of the church and a library team member, offered the devotion from *The Lord's Prayer in My Life*, authored by a Gustavus visitation pastor.



The Business Meeting was called to order at 9:27 a.m. Vice President Emily Hoch thanked outgoing Co-Presidents, Grace Kurtz and Jeanne Schleh, and Secretary Leslie Kallas for their two terms of service.

The Secretary's Report from the 2021 Business Meeting was presented by Secretary Leslie Kallas and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Roberta Shaw and approved.

- The current balance is \$2,265.61. The balance reflects reduced spending on honoraria and meeting expenses during the time when we couldn't meet in person. This also allowed the board to waive the membership dues in those years.
- It was also reported that the Association has moved its bank account to Huntington Bank.
- A new church library has joined the Association: Richfield United Methodist Church.
- A request was made for membership rosters to be sent to the membership at large. Roberta will send the information by email.
- Roberta also encouraged members to view the association's Facebook page. She noted that messages via Facebook are a useful way for the membership to communicate between meetings.

### Election of 2023 Officers:

Jeanne Schleh placed in nomination for the position of President, Janet Howard, librarian at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. Jeanne introduced Janet, who, while new to the association and the library at Plymouth Congregational, will bring new ideas and energy to the Presidency. Janet was elected President by acclamation.

Jeanne Schleh opened the meeting to nominations for Secretary. None being put forward, the President announced that individuals interested could present themselves at any time during the meeting.

Vice President Emily Hoch and Treasurer Roberta Shaw will continue in their current positions.



President Jeanne Schleh directed the gathering to the association scrapbooks on display. The scrapbooks have been maintained by Jan Bolstad. The scrapbooks will not be updated but the membership is encouraged to continue taking and submitting photos of events and individuals.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

## WORKSHOP ON DONATED MATERIALS

Roberta Shaw led a lively discussion on donation policies and practices. While everyone agrees that it's good to have a written policy, many donations are dropped off anonymously without regard to the policy. It's preferable to have a conversation with the donor in advance and to send a thank you note as applicable. Some comments:

- Emily Hoch, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, said that her library has a one paragraph donation policy with instructions to contact the librarian regarding all potential donations. Materials that have sustained water damage, have a broken spine, or duplicate existing items are automatically rejected.
- Laura Dirks, Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, described receiving an overwhelming number of boxes of books donated during the COVID shutdown. The church has a thrift store but it will not accept religious books because they don't sell. Laura also raised the problem of lack of space to house and process large donations.
- Jeanne Schleh, St Peter's Lutheran Church, has a free table for unwanted books. Also, books are available at community dinners. The library does not have a policy regarding donations; donors are contacted to discuss what they hope for and what the library can manage.
- Mary Ksiazek, Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, recounted the donation of many books by a retired priest, many of which were duplicates, noting the time it takes to consider each item. The library is on the parish website, so donors are encouraged to check first to see if their item duplicates materials already in the collection.
- Ann Steen, Glen Cary Lutheran Church, will not accept any items over 25 years old. The church holds a sale every year which helps with unneeded items.
- Jeanne Weingart, St Michael's Lutheran Church, takes all donations. Donors are told that the library will decide what to keep and what to discard. The library has received a significant number of Christian romance novels - they are displayed with a sign to take and then pass along.
- Janet Howard, Plymouth Congregational Church, culls books and sends them to Half Price Books. If they can't sell them, they are at least recycled. The library also donates some to the Food Bank. There is a sign on the library door declining all book donations, yet books are still donated.
- Roberta Shaw, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, received several Christian mysteries which were put out for anyone to take.
- Wayne Albertson, Richfield United Methodist Church, requests that personalized books not be donated. These include books with underlining, highlighting, and personal dedications.



### 2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM

The 2023 membership form is enclosed with this issue. For just \$15.00, any number of people from your church can receive e-mailed copies of *Off the Shelf*.

Please complete both sides of the form. It should be mailed to the Treasurer with your check by no later than **March 31**.

## DAWN RUNDMAN – “LET’S TALK BRAINS, BOOKS, AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT”

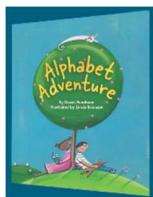
Dr. Rundman, who holds a PhD in Development Psychology, began her presentation with a description of the formation of the human brain to make the point that it's never too early start raising children in faith. Babies begin recognizing words at 6 months and have heard millions of them by the time they enter pre-school. Parents can influence this by reading to young children, introducing them to the beauty of music (babies have been shown to recognize music they heard before they were born), and frequently using faith-based words, including God and Jesus.



How this information impacts church libraries:

- When theology and architecture are in conflict, architecture always wins. If a church library is hard to find, it will be bypassed.
- To start the habit of children enjoying coming to the library at an early age, welcome them – a tent, fun chairs, fuzzy animals, giveaways on birthdays, toys, puzzles, advent calendars.
- Build relationships so parents see the library as a place for fellowship and support. Consider having a section in the library with resources for them on topics such as death, illness, moving, a new baby.
- Be watchful for out-of-date books. They should be culled from the collection.
- Church is an opportunity for children to hear acoustic music instead of the digital music that surrounds us on car speakers and in headphones.

To listen to Dawn's entire 60-minute presentation, go to <https://tinyurl.com/25jmp23m>.



She recently announced that her first book, **ALPHABET ADVENTURE!**, is being reissued. Written especially for preschoolers, the book teaches young children about Bible stories, worship, and communities of faith. Join Alfa the Ant on a search for words and pictures from Abraham to Zacchaeus. The book is available for purchase on her website at [www.dawnrundman.com](http://www.dawnrundman.com).

### THE GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH LIBRARY



*Leslie Kallas and Carol Sandberg made significant contributions to pages 5-7.*



## **TCACLA Spring Meeting**

### **April 29, 2023**

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 Facebook page, Twin Cities Area Church Library Association, and our website at [www.tcacla.com](http://www.tcacla.com).



Dulcie Campana is our social media administrator. She 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**

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