

OFF THE SHELF



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

Winter 2019

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**TCACLA Spring Meeting
April 27, 2019**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis will be our host for the Spring meeting. Per its website, the church "is a diverse community of open-minded believers striving together to learn what it means to follow the way of Christ. The people of Holy Trinity have wide-ranging beliefs on various matters of faith and life. We are knit together by a shared passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and by a belief that God's love is a gift given freely to all people regardless of class, race, age, gender, sexuality, or any other social distinction. Therefore, we are committed to welcoming all people, with no exception, to the full life of this community of faith."



2730 E 31st Street, Minneapolis



Holy Trinity has a strong commitment to helping provide affordable housing in its community. The congregation has developed two apartment buildings on the church's property, is a member of the Metropolitan Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing and has worked on over 25 homes for Habitat for Humanity.



The keynote speaker for the meeting has not yet been finalized. Look for updates on TCACLA's social media (see page 7) and in the Spring issue of *Off the Shelf*.

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

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Members: 25 churches, 1 individual

01/01/2018	\$1,607.13	Beginning Balance
	\$1,119.00	Meeting Registration
	<u>\$650.00</u>	Membership Dues
	\$1,769.00	Income
	\$1,074.78	Meeting Costs
	\$107.21	<i>Off the Shelf</i> Printing & Postage
	\$28.68	Scrapbook Supplies
	\$13.00	Website Fee
	<u>\$23.95</u>	New Checks
	\$1,247.62	Expenses
12/31/2018	\$2,128.51	Ending Balance



2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM

If your church hasn't renewed its membership for 2019 yet, you have received a renewal form with this issue of *Off the Shelf*. For just \$20.00, any number of people from your church can attend all TCACLA events at the member rate.

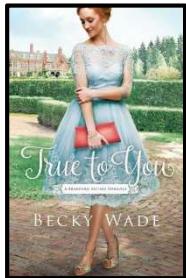
Please complete both sides of the form, then send it to the Treasurer with your check by no later than **March 31, 2019**.

WHAT CHURCHES ARE READING

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 2018 award winners. For a complete list, including information on all the finalists in each category, go to www.christyawards.com.

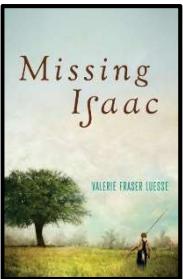
“The world does not need more Christian literature. What it needs is more Christians writing good literature.”
– C. S. Lewis

TRUE TO YOU (Bradford Sisters Romance Series #1) by Becky Wade, Baker Publishing, 2017.



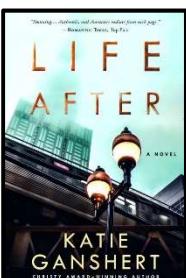
After a devastating heartbreak, genealogist Nora has buried herself in her work and her books. John, a former Navy SEAL, is focused on the here and now. When diagnosed with an inherited condition, he's forced to dig into the secrets of his past. He asks Nora to help him find his birth mother. The two could not be more opposite, yet they find themselves attracted to each other. **Winner: Book of the Year and Contemporary Romance**

MISSING ISAAC by Valerie Fraser Luesse. Baker Publishing, 2018.



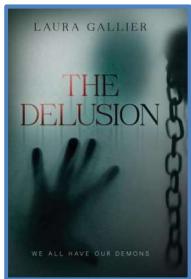
A novel set in Alabama during the race related issues of the 1960's. Isaac Reynolds is a black field hand who works at a family cotton farm. White, wealthy young Pete McLean's family owns the farm. Isaac did all he could do to save Pete's father from a farming accident, so when Isaac goes missing, Pete will stop at nothing to find him. Before it's over, Pete and the people he loves most will have to blur the hard lines of race, class and religion. **Winner: First Novel**

LIFE AFTER; a Novel by Katie Ganshert, Crown Publishing, 2017.



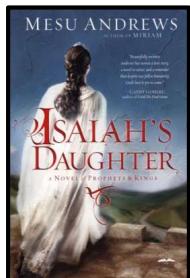
Moments after Autumn Manning boards a commuter train, a bomb explodes. Twenty-two lives are lost; hers is spared. One year later, she still can't recall that horrific day. Autumn is tormented by guilt and wrestles with questions about suffering and God's will. Unable to put it to rest, she contacts the families of the victims, but this may be creating more pain for them. Diverse ways in which people deal with sadness are presented. **Winner: General Fiction**

THE DELUSION: We All Have Our Demons by Laura Gallier, Tyndale House, 2017.



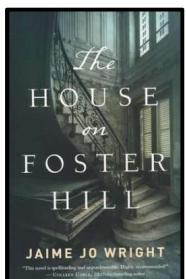
Gallier, a popular speaker and advocate for Christian values, attempts to capture the unseen world of sin through the eyes of a high school student. By March of Owen's senior year, 11 students have committed suicide. He has remained level-headed, until a near death experience brings on hallucinations. Suddenly he sees Creepers who are preying on his girlfriend and classmates. When they are oblivious to these evil forces, he feels it is his duty to warn everyone and save the people he loves, whether they believe him or not. **Winner: Young Adult**

ISAIAH'S DAUGHTER; A Novel of Prophets & Kings by Mesu Andrews, Crown Publishing, 2018.



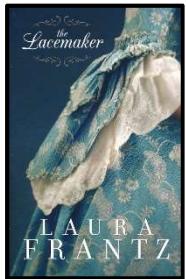
Ishma comes to the prophet Isaiah's home after her family is killed by Israelite soldiers and she has been living as a captive. There she meets young Prince Hezekiah, who has also suffered, watching the sacrifice of his brother to a pagan god. The shared pain of the children eventually turns to a lasting love. As adults, Ishma – who Isaiah has renamed Hephzibah, delight of the Lord – and King Hezekiah face many challenges as they strive to be obedient to Yahweh. Each chapter starts with an applicable Bible verse. **Winner: Historical**

THE HOUSE ON FOSTER HILL by Jaime Jo Wright, Baker Publishing, 2017.



When Kaine Prescott's husband died two years ago, her pleas for an investigation fell on deaf ears. In need of a fresh start, she purchases her grandfather's old house in Wisconsin. This quickly turns into a nightmare. A century earlier, Ivy Thorpe questioned another suspicious death on that property. Per *Library Journal*, the book is "a lushly detailed time-slip novel that transitions seamlessly between past and present leading to the revelation of some surprising family secrets that someone would kill to protect." **Winner: Mystery/Suspense/Thriller**

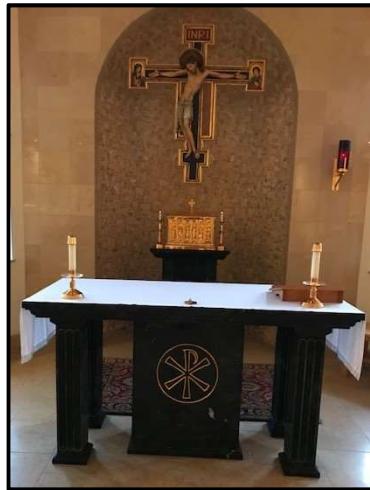
THE LACEMAKER by Laura Frantz, Baker Publishing, 2018



In 1775 Williamsburg, Lady Elisabeth "Liberty" Lawson is a 23-year-old lace maker and daughter of the British lieutenant governor of the Virginia Colony. Her life is in order. She is a part of the finer society and anticipating a marriage of financial stability but not love. When her fiancé leaves her, suspecting she is a British spy, no one comes to her aid save the Patriot Noble Rynallt. Liberty struggles to choose between her father's British political beliefs and the colony's independence. **Winner: Historical Romance**

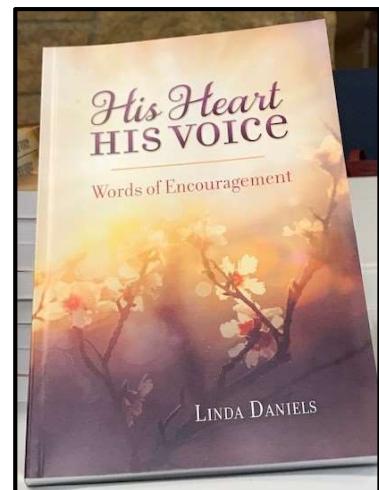
TCACLA FALL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Members and friends of TCACLA gathered at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church in St. Paul on the morning of Saturday, October 13, 2018. After Mary Ksiazek warmly welcomed us on behalf of the library team, Fr. Timothy Cloutier led us in devotions.



Author Linda Daniels talked about the evolution of her book, ***His Heart, His Voice: Words of Encouragement***, and led us in an exercise on hearing Jesus talking to us.

During a break, there was an opportunity to visit the beautiful church library.



Roberta Shaw from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church led a workshop on marketing our libraries. Her background at the Luther Seminary bookstore gives her a different perspective on how church libraries can “sell” their product. Some of her key points were: (1) Put the word “library” in front of people as often as possible. Invite a teen who reads a lot to write book reviews. (2) Know what you are promoting. Do you have a product that people want? Bring in a fresh pair of eyes to look at the library. (3) Take the books to where the people are – gathering places on Sunday mornings, adult forums, etc.



Everyone received a list of creative shelf triggers to attract readers to specific sections of the library. For example: “Sometimes Life is Hard” near books on grief, “Find a Good Poet,” “Some Interesting Folks to Know” in the biography section, and your editor’s favorite, “Anything Interesting Down Here?” to attract readers to the oversized books on the lower shelf. Be sure to visit her library at the Spring meeting to see some of her ideas in action.



Co-President Grace Kurtz called the annual business meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. The Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports were distributed and approved. There being no Old Business, Grace called for the New Business, the election of a new Vice President and a Treasurer. Jan Nordin was elected Vice President by acclamation. Co-President Jeanne Schleh read the duties of the Treasurer and encouraged members to consider running for the open position.



Jeanne and Grace then thanked the outgoing officers, Treasurer Deanna Gordon and Vice President Lynn Tvedt for their service. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. During lunch, Jan offered to serve as the Treasurer too and was unanimously elected.



Secretary Leslie Kallas and Historian & Photographer Jan Bolstad made significant contributions to this section.



STRATEGIES AND CRITERIA FOR BOOK SELECTION

Most of us are familiar with the expression “so many books, so little time.” “So many books” is especially applicable to our libraries, with our limited spaces and budgets. How do you decide which books to purchase? Do you have a written selection policy? Are multiple people involved in the decision? Do you have different criteria for a book that is donated as opposed to a book that you buy? What sources do you use to locate books? How do you handle suggestions from your congregation?

These questions and more will be addressed in a panel discussion on book selection at the Spring meeting. If you are interested in participating in the panel to share your selection idea, contact Jeanne Schleh at jerebob@aol.com or 612-729-6041.

TCACLA AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Dulcie Campana, who has served as both our President and *Off the Shelf* editor, currently maintains our website (www.tcacla.com) and our Facebook account (Twin Cities Area Church Library Association). 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 other members would be interested in, please send the information to Dulcie at livingoutfaith@hotmail.com. Be sure to take advantage of the option on the website to sign up for e-mail notifications when new information has been posted. There is also a link to the Facebook account on the site.

Where are you on this issue?

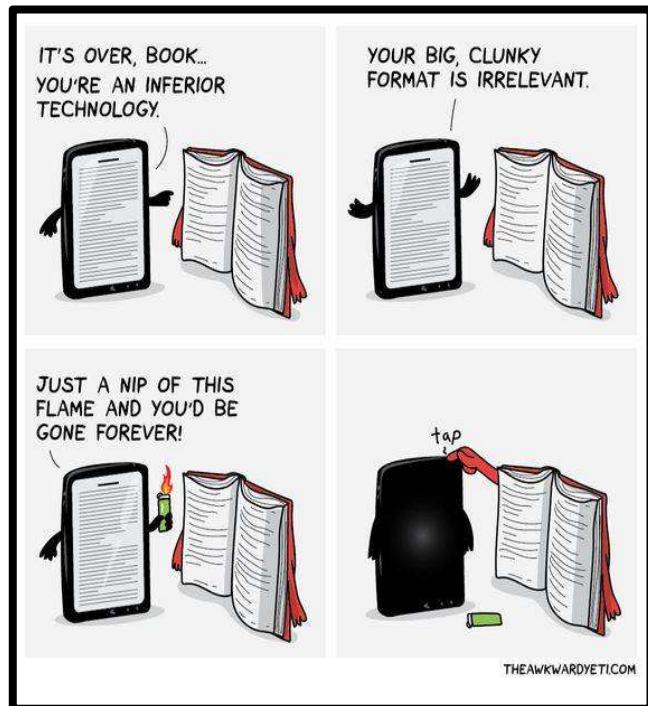
Traditional books are more tactile. It's satisfying to turn the pages. Books are decorative. Some studies show that paper readers retain more.

-or-

E-books can be read in the dark without an external light. The size of the font can be adjusted. They are more portable when traveling, you can carry your entire library with you.

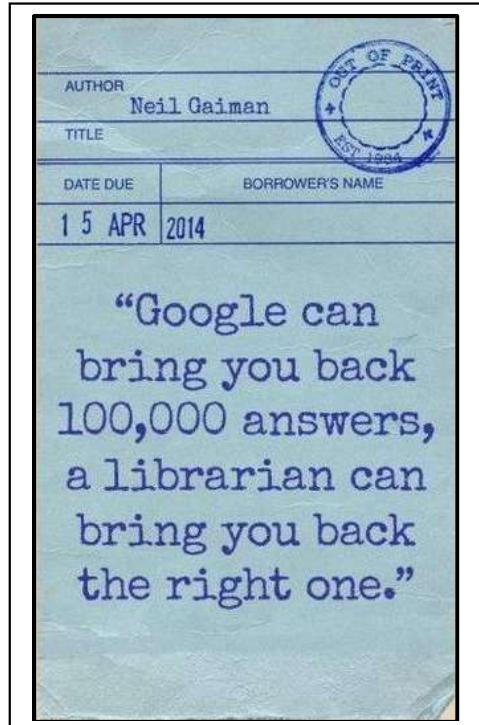
-or-

Both formats are great! It's nice to have options.





TCACLA Spring Meeting
April 29, 2019



OFF THE SHELF
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