

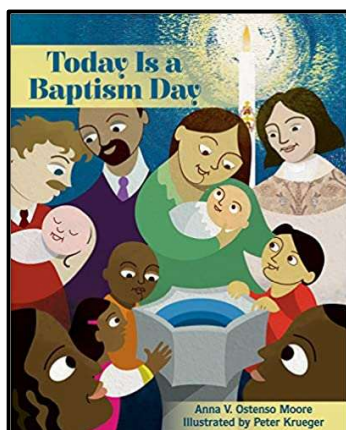
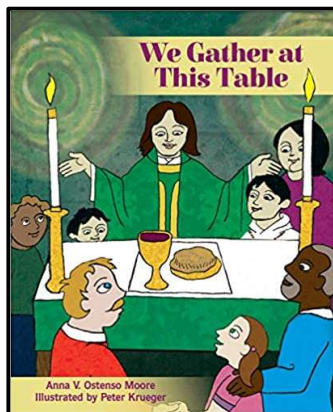
# OFF THE SHELF



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

Winter 2022

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TCACLA Spring Meeting  
Saint Mark's Episcopal  
Cathedral  
April 30, 2022

Save  
the  
Date!



The featured speaker is the Rev. Anna V. Ostenso Moore, an Episcopal priest, storyteller, and author. She is currently the Associate Priest for Family Ministry at St. Mark's. While spending years reading a picture book in worship every Sunday, she wondered where God was within the words and images. She has written the picture books ***Today is a Baptism Day*** and ***We Gather at This Table*** to reflect the beauty of the families with whom she works.

**Note:** While we all long to return to the days of book swaps, conversations over coffee, library tours and more, we will gather in person only if we can do so safely. The program that is being planned for April 30 will work on Zoom instead if needed.

### 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.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Members: 23 churches, 2 individuals

01/01/2021 \$2,936.50 **Beginning Balance**

-\$119.40

*Off the Shelf* Printing & Postage

-\$90.00

Non-profit Filing Fee MN

-\$31.17

Website Expenses

12/31/2021 \$2,695.93 **Ending Balance**

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**Helen Heitz** passed away peacefully on November 2, 2021 at age 81. Per her obituary, "She was an enthusiastic member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church her entire adult life...Although Helen dealt with MS for more than 40 years, she resolved to do as much as she could with her remaining abilities." This was certainly true relative to her participation in TCACLA. While confined to a wheelchair, Helen served as our Vice President in 2015 and hosted a meeting at her church. She always had a good book with her to enjoy while she waited for Metro Mobility to pick her up.

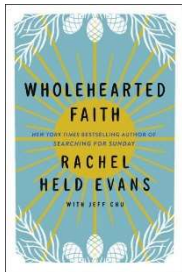


## WHAT CHURCHES ARE READING

Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this column. Please send book titles and authors to [otseditor@gmail.com](mailto:otseditor@gmail.com).

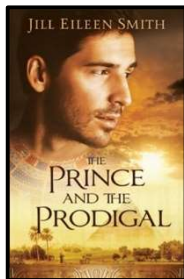
*"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive."* — James Baldwin

**WHOLEHEARTED FAITH** by Rachel Held Evans  
with Joe Chu, HarperCollins, 2021.



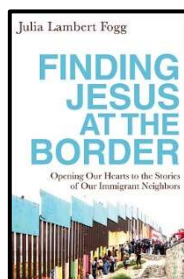
When she died in 2019, Evans was working on a book about wholeheartedness. With the help of her close friend and author Jeff Chu, that work-in-progress has been woven together with some of her other unpublished writings into a rich collection of essays. This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness as well as those who have been hurt by the Church but can't seem to let go of the story of Jesus.

**THE PRINCE AND THE PRODIGAL** by Jill Eileen Smith, Revell, 2022.



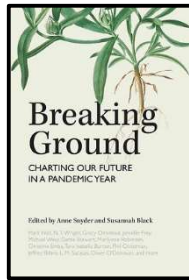
Joseph is the pampered favorite son of the patriarch Jacob. When his brothers sell him to slave traders and deceive their father about his fate, they think their troubles are over. But Judah is haunted by what he's done, while Joseph must somehow find a way to forgive. After decades apart, the brothers come face-to-face in a stunning role reversal that sees Joseph in a position of great power while Judah begs for mercy. Will forgiveness or vengeance win the day? Smith has won multiple awards for her well-researched Biblical fiction.

**FINDING JESUS AT THE BORDER; Opening Our Hearts to the Stories of Our Immigrant Neighbors** by Julia Lambert Fogg, Brazos Press, 2020.



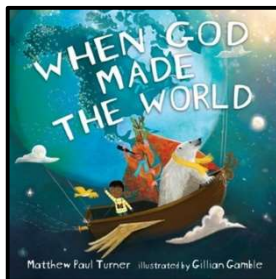
Interweaving biblical narratives of border-crossing with recent stories of immigrants at the US-Mexico border, Fogg, a pastor and New Testament scholar, invites Christians to reconsider the plight of their neighbors and respond with compassion to the present immigration crisis. While putting a human face on the immigration debate, she argues that Christians must step out of their comfort zones and learn to cross social, ethnic, and religious borders - just as Jesus did - to become the body of Christ in the world.

***BREAKING GROUND: Charting Our Future in a Pandemic Year*** edited by Anne Snyder and Susannah Black, Plough House, 2022.



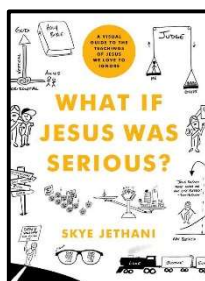
A public health and economic crisis provoked by Covid-19. A social crisis cracked open by the filmed murder of George Floyd. A leadership crisis laid bare in a country suffocating in political polarization. In the spring of 2020, a joint publishing project was created to tap the resources of the Christian humanist tradition. This volume, written in real time, provides a wealth of proposals and reflections on what should come after: how we can truly renew our civilization. Contributors include N. T. Wright, Marilynne Robinson, and Mark Noll.

***WHEN GOD MADE THE WORLD*** by Matthew Paul Turner, Convergent, 2020.



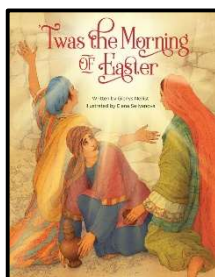
A young boy and all his animal friends go on an epic adventure to discover the secrets of the universe. Curious minds will adore the breathtaking illustrations by Gillian Gamble and the adorable, rhyming text that explore the depths of belief, science, wonder, and the beginning of all things. Glimpse the divine that God created and celebrate the complex and purposeful way He created our vast universe. Ages 3-7.

***WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS? A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore*** by Skye Jethani, Moody Publishers, 2020.



Daily devotions for people who hate daily devotions. Jethani is an award-winning author and co-host of the Holy Post Podcast. When he started doodling and writing up some of his thoughts about God, his Twitter account blew up. His book is a compilation of all-new material and art. In it, he looks at some of Jesus' most demanding teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and pushes readers to ask whether they're really hearing what Christ is saying. The book is aimed at people who've traditionally been dissatisfied with Christian devotional resources but love to learn about Jesus and think deeply.

***TWAS THE MORNING OF EASTER*** by Glenys Nellist, Zondervan, 2021.



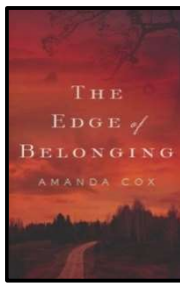
Borrowing the familiar rhythm of Clement Moore's *The Night Before Christmas*, Nellist reveals the joy and beauty of the Easter story. Children will enjoy the rhythmic lilt each page offers as they trace the events following Good Friday through Resurrection Day. Parents will recognize the familiar wording and timing as they read aloud. Illustrator Elena Selivanova contributes atmospheric digital art, rich in chiaroscuro and subtle texture. A follow-up to ***Twas the Evening of Christmas***. Ages 4-8.





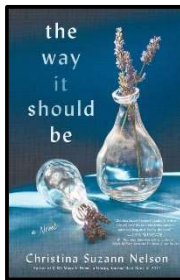
The Christy Award™ was established in 1999 to acknowledge the value and impact of the novel of faith in contemporary culture. The awards honor and promote the best accomplishments of writers who write from a perspective of faith and who create stories with matters of belief at their core. The following books are some of the 2021 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 EDGE OF BELONGING*** by Amanda Cox,  
Baker Publishing, 2020.



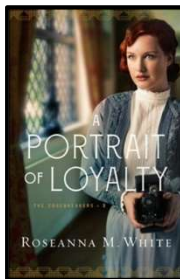
A dual-time story about love, loss, and letting go. When Ivy Rose returns to her hometown to oversee an estate sale, she discovers that her grandmother left her a path to the truth behind her adoption. Shocked, Ivy seeks clues to her past, but a key piece to the mystery is missing. Twenty-four years earlier, Harvey James finds an abandoned newborn who gives him a sense of human connection for the first time in his life. His desire to care for the baby runs up against the fact that he is homeless. He knows he must keep the baby a secret or risk losing the only person he's ever loved. **Winner: Book of the Year and First Novel**

***THE WAY IT SHOULD BE; a Novel*** by Christina  
Suzann Nelson, Baker Publishing, 2021.



When Eve's troubled lifestyle causes the state to take custody of her children, she contacts her estranged twin sister, Zara, and her husband, asking them to consider foster care. Eve may have a real chance to start over this time with the help of Tiff, who's dedicated to helping women everyone else has given up on after facing a heartbreaking tragedy in her own family. Can the three women redefine their expectations of how life should be to find the hope they so desperately need? **Winner: General Fiction**

***A PORTRAIT OF LOYALTY*** by Roseanna White,  
Bethany House, 2020.



Set in London during World War I, this is the third book in White's Codebreakers series. A friendship blossoms into love after Zivon Martin, a Russian cryptographer in exile, meets photographer Lily Blackwell. But both have secrets they're unwilling to share and neither is entirely sure they can trust the other. When Zivon's loyalties are called into question, proving him honest is about more than one couple's future dreams - it becomes a matter of ending the war. **Winner: Historical Romance**

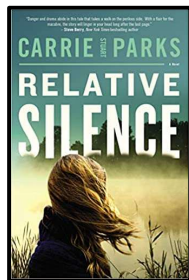
***MORTAL SIGHT*** by Sandra Fernandez-Rhoads, Enclave, 2020.



Seventeen-year-old Cera Marlowe wants a normal life; one where she and her mom can stop skipping town every time a disturbing vision strikes. But when a girl she knows is murdered by a monster she can't explain, Cera's world turns upside down. Suddenly thrown into an ancient supernatural battle, Cera discovers she's not alone in her gifting and vows to use her visions to save lives. But why does John Milton's poem *Paradise Lost* keep interrupting her thoughts? Colliding Line series.

**Winner: Young Adult**

***RELATIVE SILENCE*** by Carrie Stuart Parks, Thomas Nelson, 2020.



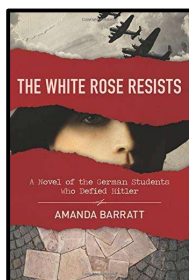
After personal tragedy, Piper Boone retreats to her childhood home – a secluded mansion for the wealthy Boone family who are practically American royalty. When catastrophe strikes, her family is put in the spotlight and the line between victim and suspect gets blurred. Forensic scientist Tucker Landry is drawn to Piper during the trauma, but the connections being made to her family might prove to be their undoing. With a hurricane beating down on the private island, there isn't much time to find answers. **Winner: Mystery/Suspense/Thriller**

***STAY WITH ME*** by Becky Wade, Bethany House, 2020.



Book #1 in Wade's new Misty River Romance series. When acclaimed Bible study author Genevieve Woodward receives an anonymous letter referencing her parents' past, she returns to her hometown in the Blue Ridge Mountains to chase down her family's secret. However, it's Genevieve's own secret that catches up to her when Sam Turner, owner of a historic farm, uncovers the source of shame she's worked so hard to hide. **Winner: Contemporary Romance**

***THE WHITE ROSE RESISTS; A Novel of the German Students Who Defied Hitler*** by Amanda Barratt, Kregel Publications, 2020.



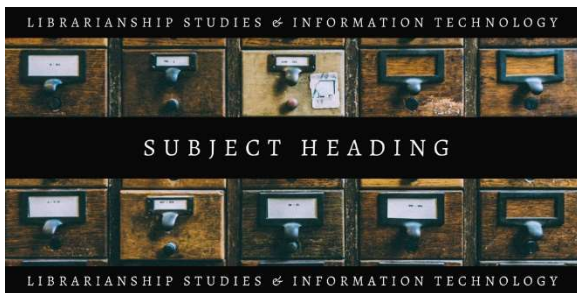
Inspired by a true story. The ideal of a new Germany swept up Sophie Scholl in a maelstrom of patriotic fervor - that is, until she realized the truth behind Hitler's machinations for the fatherland. Now she and other students in Munich, the cradle of the Nazi government, have banded together to form a group, the White Rose, to fight for the truth. Risking everything to print and distribute leaflets calling for Germans to rise up against the evil permeating their country, they tread a knife's edge of discovery by the Gestapo. **Winner: Historical**

## 2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM



If your church hasn't renewed its membership for 2022 yet, you have received a form with this issue of *Off the Shelf*. Please complete and return it as soon as possible. Although the dues have been waived, we need to update our membership information for the first time in 2-3 years. Note: The \$5.00 subscription price for more than one paper copy of the newsletter has not been waived.

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In December, the *StarTribune* featured a conversation with Katie Retterath Martin. A recent library school graduate, she is developing a database, OneShelf, “for identifying books with diverse characters using inclusive terms and headings.” She pointed out that the Library of Congress headings are slow to change and often no longer appropriate. For example, “illegal alien” didn’t become “illegal immigrant” until late last year. The goals of the database are to be more fluid in making changes and to be much more specific. To help

readers find more people who are like themselves, many aspects of a character will be included in the subject headings – racial identify, religious affiliation, physical abilities, etc. The database is currently in development but will ultimately be available to libraries.

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Although some of its members appear to have much larger libraries with much bigger budgets than ours, you may still find information you can use at the Church Librarians Network ([churchlibrarians.ning.com](http://churchlibrarians.ning.com)). CLN's mission is “to learn from each other as we seek to connect people with books and media which glorify God and transform lives.” Its website is a vehicle for church librarians throughout the US to connect with each other. Features include pictures of clever displays that members have created, Q&A sessions on various topics of interest, and special interest groups. There is no cost to join. An e-mail is sent every Monday with updates on new information on the site.



Library humor courtesy of Facebook



**TCACLA Spring Meeting  
April 30, 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 Facebook page, Twin Cities Area Church Library Association, and our website at [www.tcaccla.com](http://www.tcaccla.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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