

# OFF THE SHELF



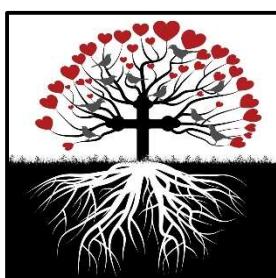
Mission Statement: To energize church library ministry through education, resource sharing, spiritual encouragement and fellowship.

Fall 2025

Inside This Issue	
Treasurer's Report	
President's Letter	2
What Churches Are Reading	3-4
More About the Fall Meeting	5-6
Registration Form	7
Friends of Henn. County Library	8

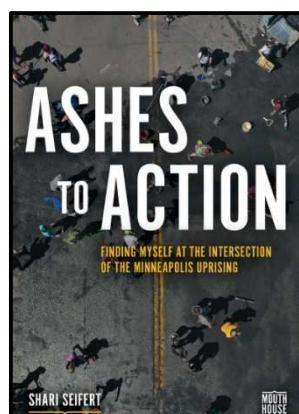


**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
2730 East 31st St  
Minneapolis



## TCACLA Fall Meeting Holy Trinity Lutheran Church October 4, 2025 8:30-12:30

Our keynote speaker is Shari Seifert, author of the book ***ASHES TO ACTION; Finding Myself at the Intersection of the Minneapolis Uprising***, a first-person account of the events following the murder of George Floyd. Seifert is vice president of the European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice, a member of the ELCA Minneapolis Synod racial justice table, her congregation's Race Equity Committee, and the organization Multifaith Anti-Racism, Change and Healing (MARCH).



Calvary Lutheran Church is one block away from 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago. After May 25, 2020, Shari joined others in the Calvary community to show up, listen, and ask what was needed in the moment. As the lines between her congregation and neighborhood blurred, the way toward a faithful response became clearer. Her personal narrative stays rooted in the context of community, immersing readers in the months following the uprising.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Meeting information continued on p. 5

## 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.



### **Janet Howard, President**

Plymouth Congregational Church  
651-276-5918  
Janethoward797@gmail.com

### **Vice President**

Vacant

### **Wayne Albertson, Secretary**

Richfield United Methodist Church  
612-214-4521  
wfalbertson@gmail.com

### **Roberta Shaw, Treasurer**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
651-206-6334  
roberta.shaw@yahoo.com

### **ADVISORY BOARD**

**Laura Dirks, *Off the Shelf* Editor**  
Henn. Ave. United Methodist Church  
612-378-3026  
otseditor@gmail.com

**Jeanne Schleh, Past President**  
St. Peder's Lutheran Church  
612-227-1728  
jerebob@aol.com

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

# **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Members: 21 Churches

01/01/2025	\$1,437.91	<b>Beginning Balance</b>
	\$375.00	Membership Renewals
	\$315.00	Meeting Registration
	-\$150.70	<i>Off the Shelf</i> Expenses
	-\$296.67	Meeting Expenses
	-\$35.17	Website Fee
	-\$400.00	Insurance
09/10/2025	\$1,245.37	<b>Ending Balance</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Friends:

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer! Time to be with family and friends at our favorite locations or in our backyards.

Please plan to save the date for the morning of October 4th at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis. We will hear an interesting speaker who experienced some of the ramifications of the George Floyd murder in her neighborhood. We will also hear about resources available through Augsburg Publishing.



We will be electing two officers at our short business meeting - Vice President and Treasurer. We are still looking for a nominee for our Vice President position. The board is generally involved in planning our spring and fall events, mostly online. It is a great way to share ideas and work together collaboratively. Please think about whether you might be able to share your talents with our board and association. We need your talent and good ideas!

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our October 4th event.

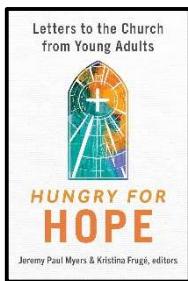
*Janet Howard, President*

## WHAT CHURCHES ARE READING

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

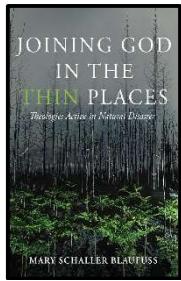
*“Maybe this is why we read, and why in moments of darkness we return to books: to find words for what we already know.”* — Alberto Manguel

**HUNGRY FOR HOPE; Letters to the Church from Young Adults** edited by Jeremy Paul Myers and Kristina Frugé, Eerdmans, 2025.



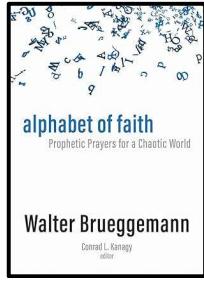
This book emerged from Augsburg University's Riverside Innovation Hub as a way to steward the wisdom gained from 5 years of collaboration between young adults, congregations, and communities. What are young adults' deepest concerns and hopes for the Christian church? Readers are invited to an honest, hopeful, and transformative exploration of the pressing challenges and opportunities facing the church today. Topics include climate catastrophe, mental health, and marginalization, and actionable insights for the church's journey toward renewal and relevance are suggested.

**JOINING GOD IN THE THIN PLACES; Theologies Active in Natural Disaster** by Mary Blaufuss, Cascade Books, 2025.



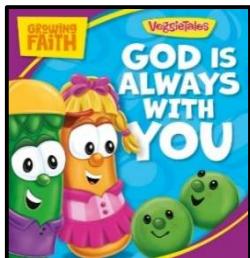
Accelerated climate change makes disasters more frequent, intense, and extended in duration than ever before. This adds urgency to interacting well with creation that is complex and continuing for the sake of well-being and flourishing. Those seeking practical ways to get involved will find them here. Examples include local and global response and rebuilding that demonstrate theologies of accompaniment, partnership, and solidarity seeking justice. Blaufuss has served on the United Church of Christ's national staff as team leader for national and global ministries in disaster, refugee, and global sustainable development.

**ALPHABET OF FAITH; Prophetic Prayers for a Chaotic World** by Walter Brueggemann, Fortress Press, 2025.



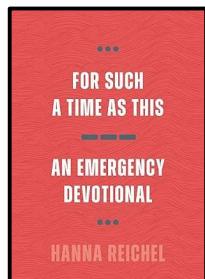
The list contains several groupings. The first and largest group concerns the substance and practice of biblical faith. A second group invites critical thinking about social power whereby readers may reflect on how to employ their best reasoning to avoid distorted ideology or self-illusion, with two prayers addressing Brueggemann's own church tradition. Eight of the prayers center on names - four of which are about contemporary scholars who have greatly impacted Brueggemann for good, and four characters in the biblical narrative - all of whom model for good or for ill the faith to be embraced.

**GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU** by Pamela Kennedy, Worthy Kids, 2025.



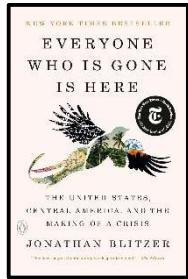
A VeggieTales board book that proclaims the comforting truth to little ones that God is always with us. No matter what, God's right there, cheering them on. God promises never to leave, no matter what we do. As children learn about God's presence, they're greeted by simple questions to engage their hearts and minds and help them better understand this core faith concept. Ages 1-4

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS; An Emergency Devotional** by Hannah Reichel, Eerdmans, 2025.



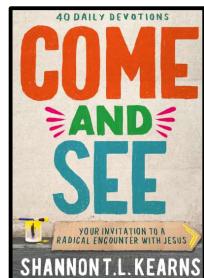
A thoughtful framework for discernment rooted in scripture, historical wisdom, and the core commitments of Christian faith. For anyone troubled by current political trends and searching for ways to disentangle faith in God from misplaced trust in political systems, Reichel offers both challenge and comfort. Readers will come away with practical wisdom for navigating our uncertain times, a deeper understanding of Christianity's resources for resistance, and renewed energy for the urgent tasks that faithful discipleship demands today.

**EVERYONE WHO IS GONE IS HERE; The United States, Central America, and the Making of a Crisis** by Jonathan Blitzer, Penguin, 2025.



An epic story of the people whose lives ebb and flow across the border, delving into the heart of American life itself. This vital and remarkable story has shaped the nation's turbulent politics and culture in countless ways—and will almost certainly determine its future. While weaving the stories of Central Americans whose lives have been devastated by chronic political conflict and violence with those of American activists, government officials, and the politicians responsible for the country's tragically tangled immigration policy, Blitzer reveals the full, layered picture of this vast and unremitting conflict.

**COME AND SEE; An Invitation to a Radical Encounter with Jesus** by Shannon T.L. Kearns, Hodder Faith, 2025.



During his time on Earth, Jesus chose to hang out with and work with the most unlikely people. As word spread about his amazing choices and teaching, the invitation was offered: "Come and see." Grounded in scholarly understandings of Scripture and opened up in a way that makes sense today, the book tackles questions of fairness, justice, inclusion, friendship, doing the right thing, and caring for community. There are reflections, journaling and action prompts that root the Bible teaching into real life and show how Jesus' message is just as revolutionary, exciting and relevant today.

## MORE ABOUT THE OCTOBER 4 MEETING



Since its founding in 1904, Holy Trinity has been a church deeply rooted in the diverse, immigrant-rich Longfellow neighborhood, in an appreciation for learning, in traditional worship, and in a commitment to social justice. Its history has been characterized by love, service, and responsibility for their community in a local and global context, including concerns for world hunger, homelessness, the elderly, migrants and refugees; racial inequities; the earth; and the political process. The congregation has always believed it is appropriate for the church to be involved in moral and ethical discourse about our society and its legislation and to influence, wherever possible, issues which are an affront to justice and peace within the global community. Inclusion is a given value at Holy Trinity and all are welcome without exception.

The church library opened on Nov 24, 1957, with 350 books. It operates under the auspices of the Adult Education Committee who decided that the library would, as much as possible, buy its books from independent bookstores or directly from the publisher. The librarians are Annie Hines, Caren Hyatt, and Roberta Shaw.



## WORKSHOP

Representatives from Augsburg Fortress Publishing will:



- Introduce us to Augsburg Fortress.
- Explain the several imprints -- adults, children's, academic, worship, and music.
- Talk about trends that they see in religious publishing, including what their readers are looking for.
- Talk about some of their better-selling youth, children's, and adult books.
- Make recommendations for books for libraries.

**BOOK SWAP** Your library may have a duplicate copy of a book or a gently used book that you no longer need. If so, consider bringing it to the meeting to share with others. Despite the word "swap," there is no requirement that you bring a book to take a book. If you bring a book that hasn't been taken by the end of the meeting, please take it home with you.



Many of us have friends who are members of churches that have libraries. If they aren't already a member of TCACLA, consider sharing this issue of *Off the Shelf* with them and inviting their church library teams to the Fall meeting.



# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2730 East 31st St  
Minneapolis

The church is located just off Hwy 55/Hiawatha Ave near the intersection of Lake St and Minnehaha Ave.



**Parking:** The entrance to a large parking lot is located on the south side of Lake St between 28th and 29th Aves, across from U.S. Bank. A sidewalk leads from the parking lot through a rain garden to the church (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  block). Parking is also available on the surrounding streets. For handicap access, use the cul-de-sac entrance, located on 31st St across from 28th Ave.

**Church Entry:** Use the door by the cul-de-sac. **Please arrive before 9:15.** After that time, the door will be locked for security reasons. You will need to call a posted phone number to gain access.



**Twin Cities Area Church Library Association Meeting  
Saturday, October 4, 2025**

*The book swap and church library will be open all morning.*

8:30	Registration
9:00	Welcome
9:10	Business Meeting
9:30	Shari Seifert Presentation
10:30	Break
10:45	Workshop
11:45	Lunch

\*\*\*\*\*

**TCACLA Fall Meeting**

**October 4, 2025**

**MEETING REGISTRATION FORM**

**Please pre-register by October 1.**

Your church name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of person(s) attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of registrants: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Payment of the fee is required even if you are not staying for lunch. There are other expenses for preparing and conducting a meeting besides the food.

Make checks payable to TCACLA. Mail the completed form and check(s) to:

Roberta Shaw  
940 Franklin Ter Apt 404  
Minneapolis MN 55406-1136



Some Friends Chapters of Hennepin County Library offer book sales throughout the year. Books sold at these venues are a combination of gently-used books from the library collection and books donated by library patrons. Each sale features a range of adult and children's fiction and nonfiction books in hardcover and paperback. Most books are priced at \$2 or less.

Volunteers who come for the packing up shift at the end of the sales are always needed. If you volunteer, you are welcome to take as many of the remaining books you'd like for free.

Upcoming book sales:

Excelsior Library: 9/20 and 9/22  
Linden Hills Library: 9/27  
Rockford Road Library: 9/27-9/8  
Nokomis Library: 10/25

Golden Valley Library: 10/25-26  
Edina Library: 10/25-27  
Plymouth Library : 11/15  
Pierre Bottineau Library: 11/22

For more information, go to [www.suporthclib.org/book-sales](http://www.suporthclib.org/book-sales).

---

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 to share with our members, send the information to [otseditor@gmail.com](mailto:otseditor@gmail.com).



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