



Book of Faith Talking Points

KEY PURPOSES OF THE BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE

1. To encourage us to open the Bible and discover anew the many ways the Bible is the source and norm of our faith
2. To make a commitment as individuals, congregations, and institutions to talk together, to join in Bible-centered conversations
3. To increase Bible literacy and fluency in the church
4. To deepen our understanding of the Lutheran insights that ground our faith and shape our approach to the Bible
5. To renew and enliven the whole church through a deeper engagement with the Bible

PRINCIPAL GOALS OF THE BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE

1. 75 % of congregations and institutions of the church making a commitment to being part of the initiative
2. 15,000 lay and rostered leaders trained --
Watch for training events to begin in early 2009!
3. Dramatically increase the number of people participating in regular engagement with the Bible
4. Act locally ... active local initiatives throughout the ELCA, feeding the larger initiative
5. Learn from each other ... widespread sharing of good ideas though the website and within synods

RESOURCES

Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study, Spring 2008

- Discusses use of the Bible from a Lutheran perspective and includes sample text studies that apply the method described
- Opportunity for Synod attendees to receive a free copy at Augsburg Fortress assembly store when they sign up for resource e-updates
- Contains “assessment tools” for individuals to assess Bible usage, needs, and hopes; and for group conversation regarding practices and needs of the faith community
- Downloadable study guide will also be available.



Other resources

- Book of Faith bookmarks are available for the cost of shipping only from Augsburg Fortress (each voting member will have received a bookmark with his/her assembly material)
- Introduction to the Bible Course published by Augsburg Fortress in Fall 2008
- *Lutheran Study Bible* published by Augsburg Fortress in Spring 2009
- New Adult Bible studies available from Augsburg Fortress in Spring 2009
- More resources to come in the future.

BOOK OF FAITH SYNOD ADVOCATES

Each synod will have a Book of Faith Advocate. (The NC Synod Advocate will be introduced at Synod Assembly. The contact information will be listed on this site.)

The Book of Faith Synod Advocate will serve as a synodical point person for the book of Faith initiative by

- Encouraging movement in the synod toward our primary goal of getting 75% of congregations to commit to being Book of Faith congregations by 2010
- Will serve as the primary link between churchwide *Book of Faith* staff and the synod, its congregations and organizations
- Coordinate planning for 2009 teacher training events in the synod, working with existing structures in the synod for resourcing and lifelong learning (we are not asking this person to invent an entirely new synod infrastructure for *Book of Faith*) and will attend a synod advocates meeting in Chicago on August 15-16, 2008, at no cost to participants.

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

1. Decide to encourage your congregation to “Open Scripture” and “Join the Conversation” by making a commitment to engage the Book of Faith Initiative and by registering that commitment at www.elca.org/bookoffaith
2. Plan to collaborate with your synod’s Book of Faith Advocate to increase the number of people participating in regular engagement with the Bible in your synod
3. For information about Augsburg Fortress Book of Faith resources, go to www.augsburgfortress.org/bookoffaith

An initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

